

About...

## What price?

### ...how and why it was written

The statistics speak for themselves and are the inspiration between this song of lament and intercession for trafficking to end:

‘Today an estimated **27 million people** are held in **slavery**, with statistics estimating that **99%** are never rescued. **Trafficking in women** is the **second largest global organised crime**, and in some cases girls are forced to service as many as **40** men a day. (Source A21, 2012.)

I had been considering writing something for a while but the urgency of the issue got past my reticence to tackle something like this in the context of music and poetry because of friends working with those affected, and a documentary I watched in the summer of 2012 called *Nefarious*.

One day towards the end of the year a number of us were praying about trafficking at the Sanctuary as it was the issue in focus that day and the central idea of ‘paying a price’ for a person versus Jesus ‘paying *the* price’ came to mind.

Actually writing the song has been a bit of a struggle – needing several sessions to get there because singing it – let alone creating it – has been painful for me. Facing up to this issue is difficult – but it is essential. And nowhere is it more appropriate for us to talk about it than in the presence of God.

### ...how, where and when it could be used

This kind of specific lament and intercession song is outside the experience of most corporate sung worship, but there is no real reason why it couldn’t work as a led congregational song.

It will probably work best however sung over a congregation as part of a response to a message on this topic and/or as a stimulus to intercession.

### ...the dedication

This song is dedicated to Mollie and Steve Brown – friends from Mosaic Church, Leeds who are now in Cambodia working to help women and children who have been trafficked into the sex trade there with Iris Ministries. It is an immense privilege to know them and support them in prayer.

I believe one of the things our world most needs is more people like Mollie and Steve – ordinary people who have become extraordinary by loving God and others so much they’ve left friends, family and successful career prospects to work for justice and freedom.

### **...its place on the journey to where world and worship meet**

This song is simply another in a growing family of songs – written by the Sanctuary and other worship leaders – which seek to bring the injustices of our world into our worship. For this is where they belong – in the presence of God – for they were on his heart first. Here we can catch his compassion, his strategy, and are filled with the Spirit's strength so that we can partner with him – in prayer and action – to end modern day slavery and every other injustice that reduces precious unique individuals made in the image of God to commodities, numbers or disposable statistics.