

**MINISTRY POSITION PROPOSAL**  
**DIRECTOR of ABC "BREAKING THE CHAINS" MINISTRIES**  
**A Collaboration Ministry of International, National and ABW Ministries**  
**Submitted by: Rev. Susan Omanson**

**BACKGROUND:** As American Baptists we are answering God's call to abolish modern-day slavery and human exploitation. Existing international ministries have strategically positioned our denomination at the forefront of this growing movement.

**My concern** is that while we have a strong international focus, there is a lack of understanding of the issues of human exploitation and trafficking in many churches as well as a need for "breaking the chains" ministries in the United States. I do not believe that targeted ministries and initiatives should be divided into international and national departments. This is a global issue. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we must embrace our global identity as partners and co-laborers with Christians from around the world and in many denominations. We are interdependent and must minister in unity and mutuality if we are to succeed in ending the scourge of human slavery and trafficking.

**MY CALL** is to:

- o raise awareness by speaking prophetically to the issues of human slavery
- o develop and support ministries in the United States that address the needs of trafficked and exploited persons
- o develop resources and models of ministry that can be adapted by local congregations and parachurch organizations
- o develop and lead mission encounters in the United States, Asia, Mexico, and Europe, that promote awareness and advocacy, increased mission support, and development of local ministries and lay teams
- o provide training for teams and individuals called to ministries of outreach, advocacy, rescue, restoration, and community transformation
- o provide on-site team building and counseling services for existing ministries and missionaries in the United States and other countries
- o build partnerships with coalitions, ministries, organizations and denominations addressing the issues of human exploitation and slavery

**QUALIFICATIONS and TRAINING:**

- o BSEd - the University of Colorado, Spanish minor
- o MDiv - North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls SD
- o MA Counseling - North American Baptist Seminary
- o Post graduate studies - International Baptist Theological Seminary, Prague and North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls SD
- o Life Coach - personal, congregational, ministry/parachurch ... candidate for certification in early 2008
- o Brief solution-focused counselor, specialist in prayer and healing ministry
- o Adjunct Faculty North American Baptist Seminary - Missions and Evangelism
- o Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist
- o MPT member - Jeff and Annie Dieselberg, prayer support

- Mission promoter - led or participated in mission teams to Cuba, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Dominican Republic, Thailand (4X), Nagaland (3X), New Orleans - Katrina relief, Reservations of South Dakota
- Partner with Cooperative Baptists in the Poverty Initiative on the Reservations of South Dakota
- Community leader - served on several commissions and co-founder of Heartland House, a transitional housing project for homeless families  
Recipient of 2004 Martin L. King Social Justice Award
- Founder of Elizabeth House, a ministry of rescue and restoration for at risk single women. 2007 recipient of ABW Breaking the Chains Grant
- Denomination leadership - Conference workshop presenter and speaker, Ministers Council, National Service Committee of Holy Spirit Renewal Ministries, committed supporter and advocate for denominational renewal
- Pastor at First Baptist Sioux Falls, SD for 14 years. Positions include:  
Christian Education Pastor  
Associate Pastor - areas of ministry include pastoral care, mission and outreach, education, evangelism, leadership development and ministry team facilitator and trainer
- Global awareness - My husband and I have led many group trips around the world as a part of his business, Omanson Tour and Travel, Inc. We feel called to bring a global perspective to the Christian community. I am comfortable in new cultures and adaptive to unfamiliar environments.
- **Speaker, social justice activist, transformation life coach, educator, trainer, facilitator, developer, counselor and visionary**

#### **PERSONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**November- January 2008** I will be returning to minister at NightLight in Bangkok focusing on team building, ministry coaching, personal counseling, prayer ministry, street outreach and volunteer/mission team training and coordination

**Sabbatical in Asia** - focus was sex trafficking and exploitation Partnered with Annie Dieselberg, NightLight Ministry - Bangkok Explored ministries in Cambodia, Nagaland, India, Thailand

**Currently** developing new ministries focusing on at-risk persons TREAD SF(prayer and street outreach), ELIZABETH HOUSE (rescue and restoration) The GAP (outreach, awareness and advocacy, building community coalitions) Member of the South Dakota Peach and Justice Coalition, Baptist Peach Fellowship Alliance, International Christian Alliance of Prostitution

**Isaiah 58:12** ... *WE are called to **repair the breach** and **restore the streets** we live in!*