FREE SUNDAY... LITANY

LEADER TO READ THE ITALICS CONGREGATION TO READ THE BOLD PRINT

We come from childhood dreams broken before dawn, where our lives became waking nightmares, requiring us to swallow anger and sit at tables with insatiable hunger and say grace. Becca Stevens

We pray for reimagination and new hope, to well up in the souls of survivors of sex trafficking. May they dream God's dream for them as they were being knit in their mother's womb.

We do not share the same experiences, but we have all been in need sometime in our lives. We stay grateful for when someone lifted us out of the ditch and offered us food, clothing, or shelter. I am grateful for my ditch, for it has led me here. Erica Rivero

We pray for those stuck in the ditch of sex trafficking rings. May you continue to send laborers out to these dark spaces to offer safety and relief.

She gave me more food and kept offering me a place to come and rest. It was the greatest example of hospitality I have ever witnessed. One day I crossed the street, made my way up the steps, and knocked on the door. Anonymous

As we come to You o' Lord with overburdened souls, give us Your rest. Then make our hearts ready to be spaces of refuge for survivors who need rest from their weariness.

I have a secret garden that I carry with me wherever I go. In my darkest days, this garden is where I go to feel deeply, more than ever before, the sweet, daily joy of being alive. Marlei Olson

God of the earth, break up the fallow ground of broken souls and plant seeds of joy; seeds that will grow beauty for ashes and a garment of praise for the spirit of despair.

I remembered being behind those bars myself so many times, incoherent, delusional, and damaged from the days of intoxication and substance abuse that failed to ease my pain. I remembered the chaos, confusion, not knowing how to feel, as well as the rejection of family and distrust of peers. That was the day I reached out my hand and began to reach back. Mimi Nickell

God of transformation, just like you formed Jacob into Israel, transform each individual connected to FREE partner ministries, from victim to survivor and healer.

This litany is partially adapted from a compilation of prayers from survivors and those committed to anti sex trafficking ministry. Adapted from Find Your Way: 20 Practices that Tie Us Together