

Church Notices – last item then pass on to....

1 _____ – (Act as if this is usual church notices) Hello every one I wanted to let you know we have some new items for sale today. We thought we would get with the 21st Century and start to supply you with some modern products.....

(Person 2) _____, could you please bring out our new items for sale, I think they are just behind the door there, please. Thanks

2 _____ - Ok, _____, I'll just get them now...(2. _____ moves to the door, opens it and brings out 1 child/ren marked 'cotton industry' **children can be dressed up as machines using boxes & masks etc**)..

Here is a lovely machine, may be you need a new shirt or jeans? Well this machine works for 18 hours a day and only cost £1! You don't need to worry about the factory conditions, it's such an obedient machine, it just does what you say. The good thing about this is that, it helps us to keep up with the latest fashion trend –and if it doesn't work hard enough, you just give it a kick, it'll soon work faster.

1 _____ - Wow ! that's what its all about, bargains and fast changing fashion trends!! I think I'll get one of those. Any more new products _____?

2 _____ – Well, yes (collecting other child/ren – marked coffee plantation workers) – here is the ultimate caffeine boost machine, it picks coffee beans for hours, it doesn't need much of a home and it'll run on limited fuel. No worries if it breaks down, there are plenty more cheep and easy replacements.

1 _____ – Is it expensive?

2 _____ – Well, the machine is very cheep – virtually free really. The coffee companies need to make their profits though, so they put a big mark up on things. I mean they need to keep up their good life styles, and the machines are not really important are they?

1 _____ – Oh right, well I suppose it's only a machine isn't it, it's not like it has feelings or rights and I need my caffeine boost to keep me going! Any thing else?

2 _____ – Yes, (bringing out another child/ren marked 'Co-Co pickers') – this is the co-co picking machine. It provides us with our ultimate life luxury, Chocolate! These little machines collect most of the co-co beans for our beautiful chocolate fix! They are a bit slow sometimes,so you have to give them a good whipping. They do not know what the beans are for really. I mean, if they knew they were slaving away in the heat so we could have our treat of the day, I am sure they would work harder and faster!

1 _____ – Oh yes, after all we deserve it don't we – I can't live with out chocolate. Well, I might give it up for lent or something, but enough is enough. I know God wants me to enjoy things and it isn't hurting any one is it!

2 _____ – Exactly.

3 _____ – (Jumping up from the congregation) I have heard enough of this! Do you not see what your are doing!?

1 _____ – Alright calm down (person 3) _____. What are you on about?

3 _____ – These are not machines, they are people!

2 _____ – PEOPLE?! No they are not, they do their job and we are happy, that's all that matters!

3_____ (Standing up and walking forward) – Yes they are people, and not just that they are children!!

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2_____ – Look, they are not really people, they don't feel like we do, besides if they stop producing so cheaply will we have to give up our chocolate & top fashion! And what will happen to the company profits? Why should we change what we buy, even if they are people, it's the way the world works, things will never change.

3_____ – Things will never change until we change! Look at William Wilberforce, people said they needed the slaves to keep up the economy, even some in the Church tried to stop Wilberforce! But he kept standing up for what was right, and eventually passed the bill abolishing slavery didn't he?

1_____ – Just a minute, are you saying that we, followers of Jesus, are buying these things and they are made by people! Well that would make these people slaves! And we are their captors!

2_____ - You mean to tell me that the co-co making my chocolate is produced by children? Well that can't be right can it? Slavery is illegal! It's just not true!

3_____ – It is true! Loads of men, women and children in poor countries provide us with our clothing, food and drinks. They exist to provide us with our 21st Century comforts. Fast fashion, tasty chocolate and energy boosting coffee!

1_____ – This is not right – how could we not know this!?

2_ Well I suppose it's out of our sight – you know what they say 'Out of sight out of mind'...

1_____ – Well this will **never** leave my mind. (turns to the children) I am so sorry, I did not realize that my pleasures were causing you so much pain....How can I ever repay you for the damage I have caused? (persons 1&2 – move to the children & remove the signs from the children and kneel before them. Freeze in that pose...)

Bible Readers (can be done as below or by any number of readers)

a._____ The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me because God anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, and heal the heart broken.

b._____ To announce freedom to all captives, to free all prisoners.

c._____ God sent me to announce the year of his grace— a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies— and to comfort all who mourn.

d. _____ To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion, give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes,

e. _____ Messages of joy instead of news of doom, a praising heart instead of a sad spirit.

f. ___ To rename them "Oaks of Righteousness" planted by God to display his glory. Isaiah 61

g. _____ Better to have little and be right before God, than to have much because of

4 _____ - Today is not for sale Sunday* -its a day where the World Church has the opportunity to say that men, women & children's bodies are not for sale. (*choose an appropriate date here i.e. Fair trade fortnight or do the sketch any time altering the words appropriately....) We are all made in the image of God. In our civilized world, men women and children are forced into many forms of modern day slavery.

5 _____ They are sold into the sex industry, where their lives are destroyed. This is illegal and we all find this unacceptable. Yet, other forms of slavery are allowed to continue and we may be supporting them: Millions of people, especially children, are forced to work in disgusting conditions to produce our food & clothing. They are oppressed and beaten, they have lost all hope. This is a hidden fact. But God commands us to love our neighbors – does this not include those we do not see? Will we open our eyes.

4 _____ This is our chance to say **no** to the way others are being mistreated for our gain. This is a chance to change our old life styles that harm others. We may have feet comfortable with our current shopping habits when the workers behind the product were in the dark – but will we see the light?

5 _____ We are free to choose what we eat , wear and what we drink. We can stand up against injustice. We have choices and our choices affect others. We can choose to eat only **fair trade** chocolate, we can buy **fair trade** tea and coffee, we can search for other **fair trade** foods. We can look at our wardrobes and think of **fair trade** before fashion. We can ask the shops to think of buying fair trade items. We can lobby MP's demanding justice.

4 _____ We can truly put our faith into action and love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We have freedom they are slaves. Will you set them free today?

ALL Actors say - 'TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.'

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