

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## YOUNG CHRISTIANS WORK TO END SLAVERY

**ATLANTA**—At this year's Passion conference, 60,000 young people raised more than \$3 million to combat modern-day slavery. The Freedom Campaign aims to rescue the estimated 27 million people entrapped in slavery and human trafficking.

This generation has "the potential to do anything," says Passion's Bryson Vogeltanz. "Jesus was the original abolitionist. We're just following what he's already done in our lives for us."

Conference attendee Sarah Stone says she intends to live her faith more fully. "Christianity isn't just about saying a prayer and going to church on Sunday; it's about living for Christ with every single thing you do."

**Sources:** [cnn.com](http://cnn.com), [268generation.com](http://268generation.com)

**Questions:** What might account for the recent push to end slavery? How does this issue affect young people living in a free nation? In what ways was Jesus an abolitionist? What does it mean to be "enslaved by sin" or "enslaved by



the world"? How are freedom from slavery and freedom through Christ similar? What's one example of how you live your life for Christ in an everyday way?

Why do you suppose this generation is tackling such big issues? What other causes are you and your peers passionate about, and how are you working to make a difference? How have you overcome obstacles and naysayers?

**Scripture links:** Isaiah 61:1-4; Galatians 5:1, 13-14; James 1:22-25; and 1 Peter 2:16-21. ●

## NON-TIPPING PASTOR SPARKS DEBATE

**ST. LOUIS**—A pastor upset by an automatic tip unintentionally launched a viral firestorm. On her Applebee's bill, Alois Bell wrote, "I give God 10 percent. Why do you get 18?" and included "Pastor" with her signature.

"I've been stiffed on tips before," says waitress Chelsea Welch, "but this is the first time I've seen the Big Man used as reasoning." After Welch posted the receipt online and Bell complained, the waitress was fired.

Columnist Justin Lee says such "acts of ungrace" do great damage to Christianity's reputation and influence. He encourages believers to "give more than people expect."

**Sources:** [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com), [huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com)



**Questions:** How do you react to this incident? Did Bell have a valid complaint about the tip? Did Welch deserve to be fired? How else could these women have dealt with the situation—and with their anger?

What are some ways Christians give Christianity a "bad name"? Is it our goal to make sure we maintain a "good name"? Why or why not? Have you ever felt the need to apologize for the behavior of other Christians? If so, explain.

Must Christians go out of their way to be overly generous and gracious? Why or why not? When might that cross the line into seeming phony? What messages do your own actions send about Christianity?

**Scripture links:** Luke 6:37-38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; and James 2:14-17. ●