

# THE RED CORD

ISAIAH 61:1

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Monthly Newsletter of the Red Cord



## UNMASK THAT BEAST!

WELCOME TO THE REALITY GAME SHOW, UNMASK THAT BEAST! IT'S YOUR JOB TO GUESS WHICH OF OUR THREE GUESTS IS THE REAL BEAST. TODAY, WE UNMASK A REAL HUMAN TRAFFICKER. CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONE IT IS? ALL THREE PEOPLE ARE FULLY MASKED. WE WILL REVEAL THEIR TRUE IDENTITIES AFTER YOU'VE HAD TIME TO DECIDE.

### MEET CONTESTANT 1.

HI, MY NAME IS JOSH. YOU KNOW ME. I'M YOUR MOM'S BROTHER. UNCLE JOSH. YOU SEE ME AT FAMILY DINNERS, HANGING AROUND WITH THE KIDS, PLAYING GAMES, AND SOMETIMES I BABYSIT YOU AND I'VE EVEN PICKED YOU UP FROM SCHOOL BECAUSE YOUR MOM TRUSTS ME. (CONT.)



**Contestant 2, please introduce yourself.**

Well, hello. So great to meet you. **I'm Matt.** I'd love to spend more time with you and hear about everything you're going through. It's got to be tough being a teenager these days. But you know you're beautiful, right? Let's talk about it. Here, I've even got a new phone for you as a gift. It's already got my cell number in it. Let's get together after the show and get some dinner. Just you and me. What do you say?

**And finally, meet guest 3.**

I'm Bobby. You can call me **Big Bobby.** Make no mistake about it, I get what I want when I want it. On my terms. I'm a man of action, not words. Understand?

**THE REAL BEASTS,  
THE TRUE TRAFFICKERS,  
ARE ALL OF THESE, AND MORE.  
AWARENESS IS KEY  
TO KNOWING WHO IS REALLY A  
HUMAN TRAFFICKER.**



Thank you! Now it's your turn to decide. Take another look at our masked contestants. Do you think the real trafficker is contestant #1, your sweet Uncle Josh? Contestant #2, smooth-talker Matt? I'm sure he is very handsome behind that mask. Or, is it Contestant #3, Big intimidating Bobby?

**It's time for you to vote....**

The results are in and you 100% voted that you believe the true trafficker is ....#3... Big Bobby!

(cont.)

Now, let's see who it really is... Let's reveal the right answer and ask who is really the human trafficker to Unmask the Beast. One.... Two... Three.

All three take off their masks. That's right. We all expect that Big Bobby is the **gorilla pimp** we imagine, snatching innocent girls in front of movie theaters, stuffing them into their black cars and disappearing forever into the rainy night. And while that does happen, it is not common.

Most traffickers are people the victims know... like seemingly innocent smiley **Uncle Josh**. He takes his opportunities as a trusted family member to sexually abuse children and lure them into trafficking. After each encounter with the child, he threatens to hurt you or your parents and the abuse continues for years. There doesn't seem to be a way of escape when it happens in your own home.

Everyone wants to be loved. To be seen and heard. This is where slimy **boyfriend Matt** enters the scene. He seems like he truly cares. Wants you to be his girlfriend. Takes a lot of time to build a relationship with you. Gives you a new phone, and clothes and sparkly jewelry. And one day, you run away with him.

**The real beasts, the true traffickers, are all of these, and more. Awareness is key to knowing who is really a human trafficker.**

**Read this month's blog to unveil more traffickers and understand how The Red Cord can help you unmask the beast.**



**Ahsha Morin, President, The Red Cord**

**Sept. 2022 Blog: Unmasking MORE Beasts**

**In addition to the traffickers revealed in this month's feature story, What other masks do traffickers use to lure victims?**



Ahsha Morin

**1. "The Friend" -- Using Victims to Recruit Others:** When a current victim is told to recruit others to replace her current work requirement. This has happened in schools when a student will befriend a vulnerable student and create a trust with this person. Then she will invite them over to a party or sleep over. The purpose is to expose the victim to the trafficker which can give opportunity for a grooming process to start.

**2. "The Planner" – Using Disguised Meetings:** This could be through a "random" text or direct message from someone looking to "meet up" to buy or sell merchandise. Watch for red flags when selling or buying from Facebook Marketplace and other online shopping. This can also look like being invited to a party at someone's house you do not know.

**3. "The False Advertiser"-Using Enticing Opportunities:** This could be modeling opportunities, or jobs offering high pay with little to no previous work experience required. Or it could be an advertisement for someone with knowledge of a foreign language offering free accommodations, free visa or travel procurement The opportunities can be advertised in legitimate newspapers using a registered business as a front.

**4. "The 'Loverboy'" – Using False Relationships:** This is Matt in the feature story. He uses blind dating and online relationships, sugar daddy/sugar baby website. They would pretend to be the best thing since sliced bread and will probably end up becoming her boyfriend. They invest their time and resources to buy their victim's trust, flatter her, and shower her with love, romance and promises of a better life until they are comfortable enough to make their move. They would even prevent anyone that might help the victims to see otherwise.  
(cont.)

## Sept. Blog – CONT.

5. **“The Family Member”- Sale by Family:** Parents may sell a child out of greed and receive a monthly income. These families often build relationships with traffickers and will intentionally misrepresent the nature of the work to entice other families to sell their children. Traffickers will target families that are poverty-stricken or dependent on drugs.

6. **“The Needy Person” - Seeking help in disguise:** This could look like a homeless person asking for money or a ride; Someone asking for directions’ or someone needing to use your cellphone in an “emergency” situation.

7. **“The Religious Abuser” - Using Religious Beliefs:** This is when religion is used to control a victim and/or abuse of power. This could be having a victim take an “oath”. Victims make all kinds of promises such as they won’t run away; they will obey their trafficker; they will keep silent and never speak to officials; They will pay back all the money they owe their trafficker. Indeed, the girls believe that breaking the oath would cause grave, if not fatal consequences, for the victims’ families and would be in danger of going to hell.

### **What is the most common mask traffickers wear?**

The mask of developing TRUST! To gain someone’s trust will give an opportunity for a trafficker to gain control over a victim. The victim will then feel more like sharing information and secrets that the trafficker can use against them.

### **What does it mean for a trafficker to groom someone?**

They will use tactics of trust, coercion, fraud, and force to groom a potential victim. Child grooming is befriending and building an emotional connection with a minor, and sometimes the child’s family, to lower the child’s inhibitions with the objective of sexual abuse.

### **How does The Red Cord help people see beyond the surface to see who poses a threat and hides behind “masks” to traffic vulnerable victims?**

We offer educational training to the public and parents about the topic of trafficking and what traffickers look like and their grooming tactics. In our training, we discuss different kinds of traffickers and the different ways they groom people and children.

### **What should people do if they expect they are being groomed?**

Report it! Keep all photos, text messages, direct messages and any other information that can be useful to law enforcement. They can then use this material to build a case against the trafficker. Report to your local law enforcement or local human trafficking task force.



Back by popular demand, The Red Cord is proud to announce our 2022 Freedom Gala guest speaker:

**JACO BOOYENS**  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING SPECIALIST

Tickets on sale NOW!!

## EVENTS

### Coming in September!

#### Community Training

**St. John Lutheran Church** Tuesday, September 13th, 6:15 – 7:15 pm  
102 SW 7th St; Lawton, OK 73507

#### Kids and Cops in the Park

Saturday, September 17th  
Location: Elmer Thomas Park 501 NW Ferris Ave, Lawton, OK

#### Salt and Light GALA, Sept. 24, 6 p.m, Cameron University, Lawton

[Lhttps://secure.processdonation.org/theredcord/events.aspx?eventRefID=7JF77J15G52CCI9](https://secure.processdonation.org/theredcord/events.aspx?eventRefID=7JF77J15G52CCI9) Almost sold out! Check for availability

#### Monthly Community Training

Monday, September 26 6:30 – 8:00pm  
Location: Fort Sill Federal Credit Union 1614 NW 67th St, Lawton, OK

#### School Training

Hydro Students and Parents  
Tuesday, September 27th, 9:00 am – 8:30 pm  
Location: 407 E 7th St Hydro, OK 73048