IJM

INTERNATIONAL
JUSTICE MISSION

# 2016 MID-YEAR REPORT

**IJM'S LARGEST RESCUE EVER FREES 564**

PAGE 12

Photo by Esther Havens

Dear Friend,

Looking back at the last six months—a time of incredible milestones and tremendous progress for IJM—I firmly believe that we are entering a new chapter in this work of justice. It is a chapter where slave owners go to jail, and a world where slavery ends, never to return.

We're seeing great promise of this new season in IJM's work around the world. Children are no longer blatantly sold for sex on the streets of Cambodia, and brothels trafficking children in the Philippines are being closed. Together, we can combat slavery and violence in all its most daunting forms.

**The devastation of slavery is extreme—and the scale is massive, but we have the momentum—and that momentum is you.**

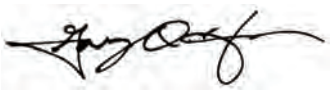
Already, thousands of new friends have joined us in the fight against slavery this year. Your support made IJM's largest-ever rescue operation possible—and 564 children, women and men once trapped in a brick kiln in India are now free from slavery. Thank you.

Looking ahead, I am excited to introduce you to our new president, Sean Litton. His passion and heart for seeking justice are absolutely undeniable. Sean is a highly capable leader, pioneering and fearless. I cannot imagine a better leader to help us send rescue and restoration to places where it is most urgently needed.

Sean and I, and all our teams, are so grateful for your support. As we enter a new season of challenges and obstacles, we need your help more than ever to rescue and restore thousands of children and families from violence.

One day you will look back at the stories highlighted here, and you will remember it as the beginning. The beginning of the chapter where we fight slavery, *until all are free*.

Gratefully,



*CEO, International Justice Mission*

# WE ARE **INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION**

WE HAVE SPENT NEARLY 20 YEARS ON THE FRONT LINES FIGHTING SOME OF THE WORST FORMS OF VIOLENCE.

We work in communities in Africa, Latin America, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Through our unique Justice System Transformation model, we help victims of violence secure justice and partner with key authorities to fix broken justice systems in the countries where we work.

### RESCUE
We collaborate with local police to rescue victims from ongoing violence and bring them to safety.

### RESTORE
We join with social workers to restore survivors to safety through counseling, education and skills training.

### RESTRAIN
We partner with police to restrain criminals, traffickers and slave owners from hurting others.

### REPAIR
We identify gaps in the systems that protect the poor, and then work with police and courts to address these challenges.

# 2,551

Victims of oppression rescued by IJM and IJM-trained partners

# 101

Perpetrators of violent crimes restrained

# 3,300+

Survivors and their family members receiving aftercare

# 18,500+

Justice system officials and community members trained

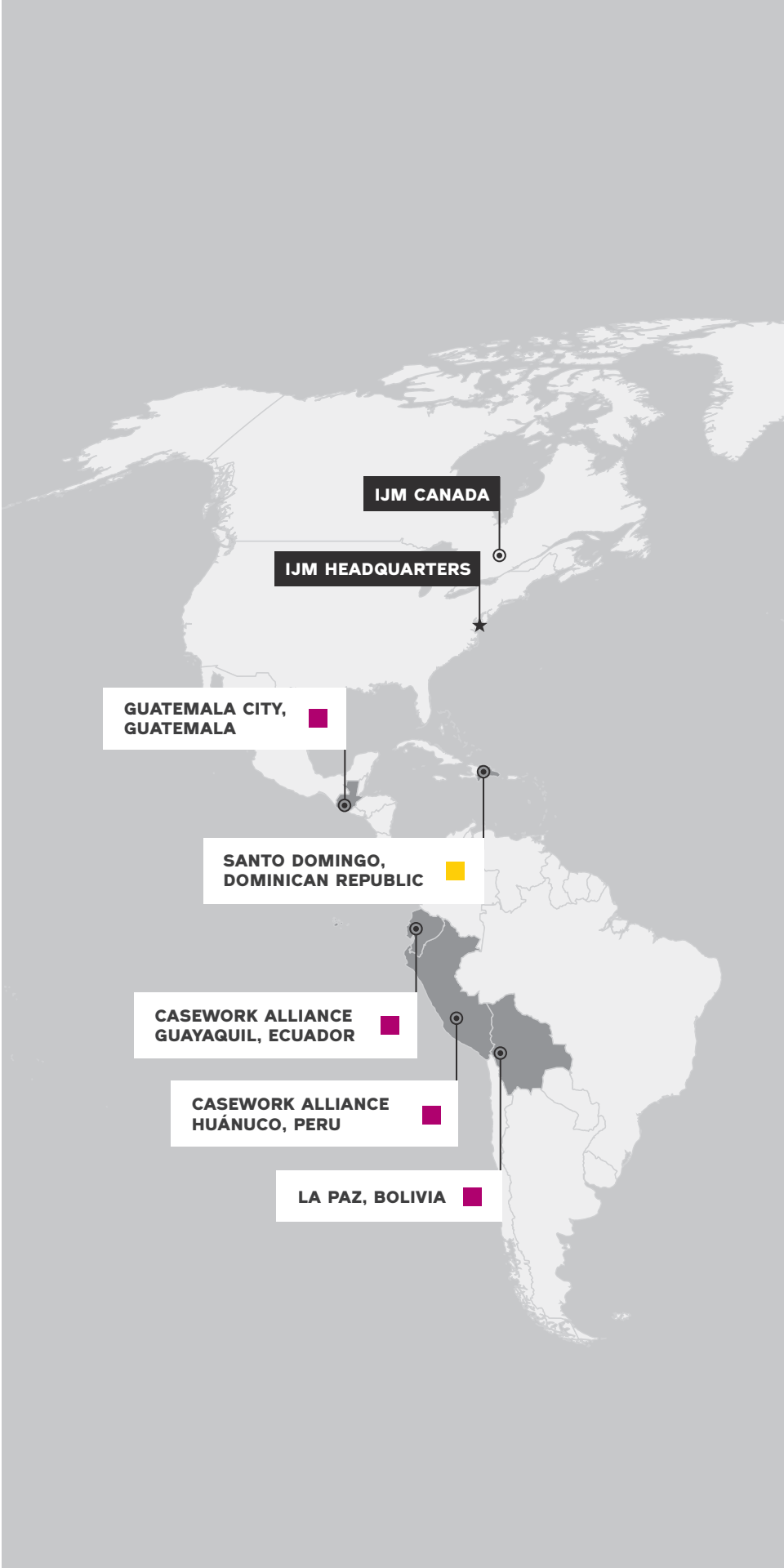
*Numbers reflect January—May 2016*

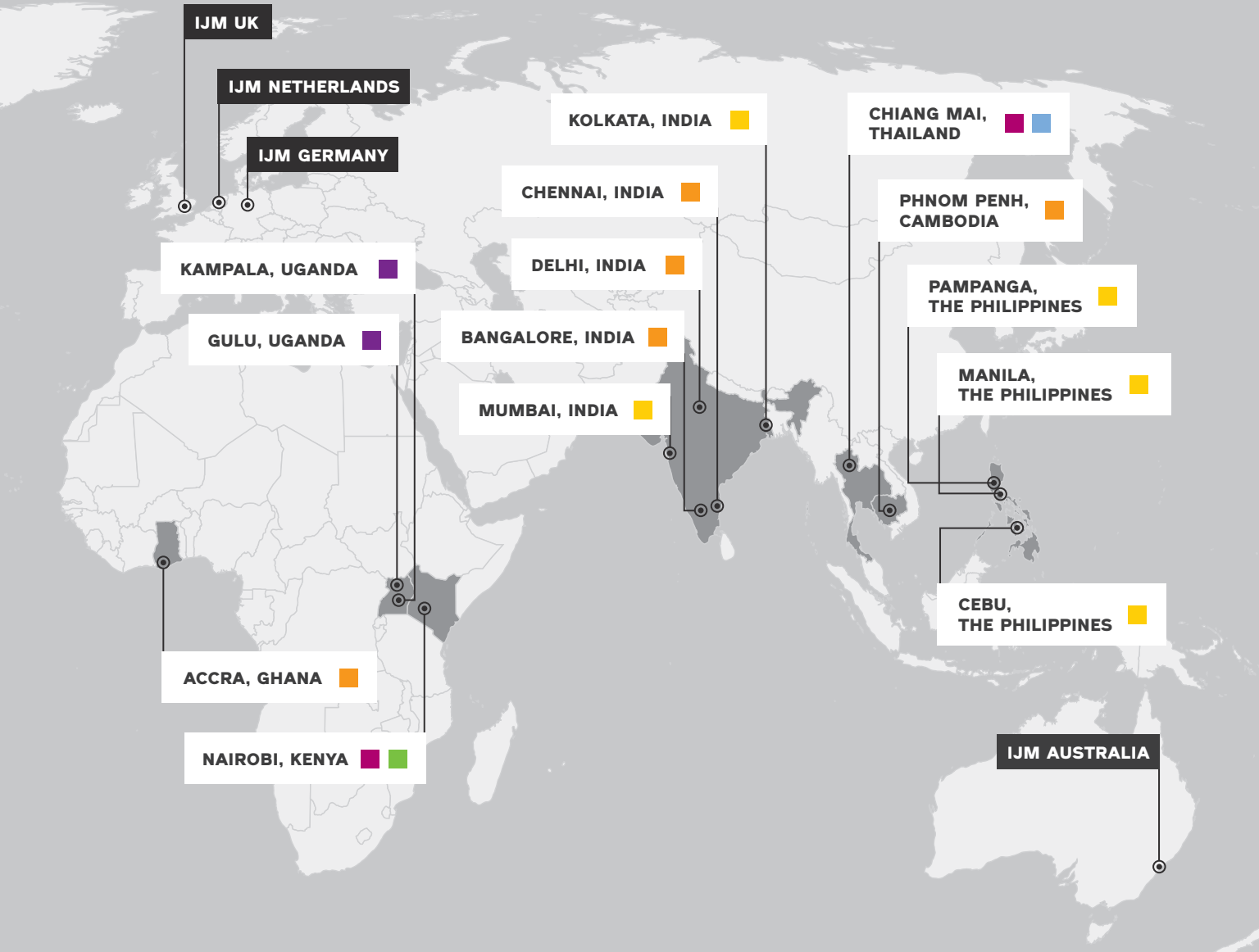
# OUR GLOBAL **IMPACT**

Today, we are helping to protect more than 21 million people from violence worldwide.

## FIELD OFFICE CASEWORK

- FORCED LABOR SLAVERY
- SEX TRAFFICKING
- SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- PROPERTY GRABBING
- POLICE ABUSE OF POWER
- CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS ABUSE




IJM UK
IJM NETHERLANDS
IJM GERMANY
KAMPALA, UGANDA
GULU, UGANDA
ACCRA, GHANA
NAIROBI, KENYA
KOLKATA, INDIA
CHENNAI, INDIA
DELHI, INDIA
BANGALORE, INDIA
MUMBAI, INDIA
CHIANG MAI, THAILAND
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA
PAMPANGA, THE PHILIPPINES
MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES
CEBU, THE PHILIPPINES
IJM AUSTRALIA

SOUTH ASIA

## GENERATIONS RESCUED FROM SLAVERY

In a first-of-its-kind rescue operation, IJM and our partners helped rescue an entire village from bonded labor slavery in southern India.

This fishing community had thrived for generations, until a powerful man arrived 10 years ago and tricked them into false debts. He used threats and violence to trap them in a culture of fear. Grandparents, parents and children were all forced to fish for this man's financial gain. They faced constant physical and verbal abuse, with no hope of buying back their freedom.

In early January, IJM collaborated with local authorities and our partner, National Adivasi Solidarity Council, to finally end the abuse and free 96 people, the youngest of which was 10 years old. Today, they are finding good work and learning how to live in freedom again. These families now face a future of hope instead of fear, and they can return to their homes, raising a new generation of children who can wake up free.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

## IJM CELEBRATES REMARKABLE CHANGE IN CAMBODIA

Cambodia is no longer a place where sex tourists and traffickers can blatantly exploit young children. Sixteen years after IJM's first rescue operation—in which 37 children, some as young as 5 years old were rescued from sex trafficking—IJM Founder Gary Haugen returned to Cambodia to celebrate a tremendous victory in this fight against impunity.

Traffickers used to sell minors for sex on the streets, and no one would stop them. But now many of those same streets are empty, and minor girls no longer line the clubs and bars. Because of remarkable collaboration among government leaders, police, courts, social services and non-profit organizations, Cambodia has seen a dramatic reduction in the number of children being sold for sex, and traffickers now face serious consequences for their crimes.

*Photo by Esther Havens*

NORTH AMERICA

## FIGHTING SLAVERY FROM THE FOOTBALL FIELD: WE LIKE THAT.

It all started after a post-game clip of NFL quarterback Kirk Cousins shouting "You like that?" went viral. Cousins immediately recognized this as an opportunity to bring attention to our work. He raised nearly $30,000 for IJM through selling "You Like That" T-shirts, and did countless media interviews. He encouraged fans to join the movement, and had IJM's logo placed on the rally towels at the Washington Redskin's NFL wildcard game. Over 38 million viewers tuned in across the country to watch the game, and 81,000 fans watched from the stands, many waving the IJM rally towels in the air.

Cousins' new partnership with IJM raised thousands of dollars to rescue families from slavery, and now millions of football fans have learned that they too can help end this violence and abuse.

*Photo by: Ron Sachs/picture-alliance/dpa/AP Images*

Odouri (left) turned 76 this year, and Kakuli (right) turned 70 the day he was declared free.

AFRICA

## CLIENTS ACQUITTED AFTER 8-YEAR TRIAL

After eight long years, Odouri and Kakuli, two of our clients in Kenya, were acquitted after being falsely accused of theft. Our lawyers fought hard to clear their names, and our team also provided counseling and covered the transportation fees for the two men, as they had to appear in court over 20 times.

"Since the case started, I have not lacked anything. I pray that wherever the resources have come from that God would bless and multiply them."
*- Odouri*

LATIN AMERICA

## HISTORIC CONVICTION IN GUATEMALA FOR SERIAL RAPIST

IJM Guatemala worked relentlessly for nearly two years to investigate and locate a criminal whose case was first overlooked. Marco Veliz used Facebook to lure children and young women and then would violently assault them. An initial complaint against the man went ignored, but we helped authorities follow up and arrest him for his crimes. The man was sentenced to **124 years in prison**, one of the longest sentences in IJM's history.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

## THE RED LETTERS ON STARDUST SHOWBAR SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE

Authorities nailed a giant sign with red letters over the door of Stardust Showbar on February 9, where young women and girls were once openly sold for sex:

"Notice to the Public, Ordered Closed and Off Limits."

The closing of the bar all started when IJM helped police rescue 13 young women from this entertainment club just three months earlier. Four suspects are now standing trial for sex trafficking crimes. Stardust is located in downtown Manila on a popular street lined with numerous entertainment clubs and bars where customers can purchase sex. It's actually the second bar on the same street that has been ordered closed. The fact that the government is cracking down on these businesses shows a serious commitment to eradicate trafficking and sends a powerful message to the broader community.

NORTH AMERICA

## WHAT IF WE COULD END SLAVERY?

"I stand before you with a simple message," she said boldly. "We all have a role to play in God's kingdom."

At this year's IF:Gathering, an IJM field leader addressed a room of women in Austin, Texas—and the hundreds of thousands watching online around the world—and asked them to take a stand against modern-day slavery. The women responded to IJM's charge with overwhelming passion, nearly 3000 joining IJM as Freedom Partners and answering the call to end slavery, for good.

"So, go. Go with joy, go with confidence, go boldly with courage…Go with a spirit of love and compassion and righteous anger against injustice. Just show up. Go."

# UNTIL ALL ARE FREE: **IJM'S LARGEST RESCUE EVER FREES 564**

Blazing sun, vast rows of bricks, swarms of people—it was an all-too-familiar scene to IJM's team in in Chennai: Just five years before, they had rescued 512 people from this very same facility.

During that first operation in 2011, the brick kiln owner who enslaved hundreds was briefly arrested but released on bail. He simply laid low for several years before trafficking more families into slavery. On March 2, IJM coordinated a second rescue. This time, police arrested the owner—and today he's in prison awaiting trial.

The rescued families painted a vivid picture of modern-day slavery: They lived in small tattered tents, and many went days without eating. The owner made them mold thousands of bricks each week; if they were injured, he sent a "doctor" to give them pain pills and force them to continue.

When an official asked "Who wants to go free?", many couldn't believe it was real. Slowly, one man raised his hand, then another. Soon dozens of tired hands shot into the air, ready to finally exit into safety.

IJM and authorities provided urgent medical care and helped the families return to their home villages thousands of miles away. They've joined our two-year aftercare program to help them find strength and stability for the future.

**This operation highlights a critical need in the fight for justice:** If criminals remain free, these violent crimes will continue. But if laws are enforced and traffickers go to jail, slavery will end.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

## 500+ PEOPLE BECOME CITIZENS OF THAILAND IN ONE DAY

In March, the governor of one district in Thailand approved 520 citizenship applications—most of them children—in a single day. It used to take years for a single application to be approved.

These 520 people are now able to move freely about their country, safe and protected by their own justice system. For the first time, these children and families no longer live in fear, and they now have a voice in their community.

Many hill tribe people living along Thailand's mountainous border have never been formally recognized as citizens. This means they are not protected by their country's laws, leaving them vulnerable to mistreatment, violence and traffickers. IJM helps individuals apply for this legal right and trains local officials on the process to review citizenship applications. We've helped people who have waited for more than decade for paperwork to make its way to the right desk.

NORTH AMERICA

## ENID FIGHTS SLAVERY: GARAGE SALE RALLIES COMMUNITY

Woody and Jill Olmstead organized a garage sale in their community of Enid, Oklahoma with all proceeds going to IJM, and in the planning stages, the event began to gain incredible momentum. What started as a small garage sale became a community-wide event that brought churches, schools, businesses, families, and individuals together around God's passion for the oppressed.

Roughly 100 members of the community volunteered and over 200 others shopped at the garage sale, raising thousands of dollars for IJM. This sparked a greater passion for justice in Enid. Now, a group in the community called "Enid Fights Slavery" will continue to meet and search for new ways to raise awareness and funds for anti-trafficking work.

AFRICA

## IJM KENYA SECURES FIRST EVER CONVICTION OF A POLICE OFFICER

On April 28, a Kenyan judge made a historic ruling: a police officer, who once considered himself above the law, was found guilty of killing Patrick, an innocent young man.

IJM Kenya fought long and hard alongside our government partners to secure justice for Patrick's family, a case over six years in the making. Before this ruling, convictions of police who commit crimes against their citizens were virtually unheard of. With this historic conviction, the police officer responsible will finally be held accountable for his actions and now awaits his prison sentence. This victory is a crucial milestone in the movement to rein in predatory police violence and abuse against the poor.

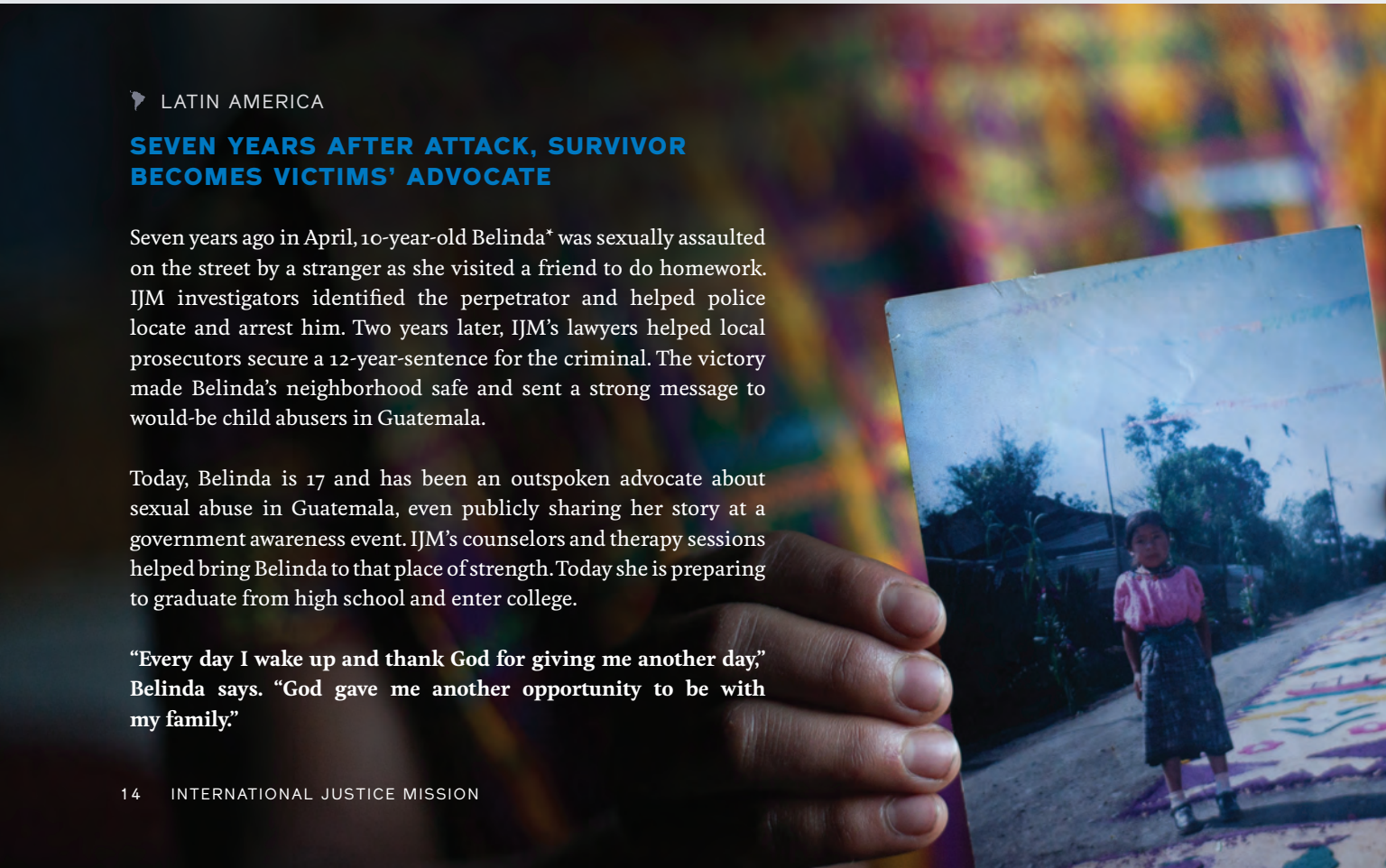
LATIN AMERICA

## SEVEN YEARS AFTER ATTACK, SURVIVOR BECOMES VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

Seven years ago in April, 10-year-old Belinda* was sexually assaulted on the street by a stranger as she visited a friend to do homework. IJM investigators identified the perpetrator and helped police locate and arrest him. Two years later, IJM's lawyers helped local prosecutors secure a 12-year-sentence for the criminal. The victory made Belinda's neighborhood safe and sent a strong message to would-be child abusers in Guatemala.

Today, Belinda is 17 and has been an outspoken advocate about sexual abuse in Guatemala, even publicly sharing her story at a government awareness event. IJM's counselors and therapy sessions helped bring Belinda to that place of strength. Today she is preparing to graduate from high school and enter college.

**"Every day I wake up and thank God for giving me another day," Belinda says. "God gave me another opportunity to be with my family."**



NORTH AMERICA

## SWIMMING TOWARDS SLAVERY'S END

When Ellen, a homeschooling mom of five, taught her children about the famous abolitionist William Wilberforce, she told them that slavery still exists. Her kids were shocked, and when they heard that IJM fights these crimes, they said "We can help!"

Three of Ellen's daughters are avid swimmers, and they enthusiastically pushed for a "Freedom Swimathon" to help rescue other children from slavery. On April 2, 62 young swimmers participated in the meet, each of the kids swimming as many laps as they could for two hours to help fund IJM's rescue operations.

The children's goal was to fund as many rescue operations as they could. They raised the equivalent of "four rescues" (over $17,000) for IJM's work.

AFRICA

## ONE YEAR LATER, RESCUED CHILDREN IN GHANA SEE JUSTICE

In March 2015, we conducted our first rescue operation on Lake Volta and rescued boys trapped in slavery in the fishing industry. Over the last year, we worked tirelessly with the Attorney General to charge one of the suspected traffickers, who had never before been held accountable for his actions.

This April, the trafficker was convicted and sentenced to jail. This is our first conviction in a case of child slavery on Lake Volta and is a critical foothold for our work in Ghana. Today, the rescued children are learning English, attending school and thriving in safety.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

## GIRLS' BRAVE TESTIMONIES LEAD TO CONFESSION AND 50-YEAR SENTENCE

It was a teacher who found out about the abuse last summer—she started asking more questions when a young student complained of stomach pain. The girl confessed an awful secret. A 61-year-old man had been snatching three girls, aged 6 to 8 years old, and carrying them away to his home on his motorbike. Once there, he would sexually assault them, and he threatened to kill them if they told what was happening.

Thankfully, one of the children spoke up, and the man was arrested the next day. Our legal team stepped in, and after a year of setbacks and challenges, the children were finally able to testify. One by one, with tears on their small faces, the girls bravely shared testimonies from the witness stand. The grandmother and the mother of the 6-year-old also testified. The man broke down and confessed, leading to a conviction and sentencing. Now, these three precious girls are protected as well as other children in their poor community.

LATIN AMERICA

## FIRST TRAINING WITH DOMINICAN AFTERCARE PROVIDERS

In May, our team in the Dominican Republic conducted its first ever training for 24 staff at CONANI, the Dominican child welfare agency which runs the country's shelters for abused children. Partnering with CONANI and conducting these trainings is a groundbreaking step for IJM's aftercare work in the Dominican Republic. This opens the door for greater collaboration and access to government aftercare homes, enabling IJM to provide dramatically better care for trafficking survivors.

NORTH AMERICA

## MINNEAPOLIS CHURCHES UNITE AGAINST SLAVERY

What does unity look like? What happens when the Church lays down its differences to call for the end of slavery? These were the questions church leaders and IJM Church Mobilization directors wanted to answer as they planned a "Justice Weekend" in the Twin Cities this May. Over ten churches hosted IJM speakers and were equipped in this fight to end slavery. The result was astounding.

In one weekend, **20,000** church congregation members heard about the fight to end slavery, and **20,000 more** heard the message online. **Two hundred** pastors gathered for a breakfast to talk about the issue of slavery, and nearly 1,000 gathered for a concert to support IJM. At one of the churches, over 250 members passionately responded by joining IJM as Freedom Partners after the message was over.

"It's not them just donating," said Troy Groves, IJM's Events Director. "It's these churches saying they want to be in tune and in touch with what's happening in the world in the fight to end slavery."

AFRICA

## HOME SWEET HOME

Tumushabe Claire is celebrating six months living in safety in a new home. T. Claire, the mother of six children, was attacked, threatened, and forced off her land after her husband passed away. The violent relatives went on to destroy most of her house and her crops. But this year, she moved into a new house, built by our Kampala team.

Today, T. Claire grows her crops and raises chickens as part of an income generating activity that IJM helped her set up. Said T. Claire with a defiant smile:

"I want the world to know my story...
I want women to know that the law will protect them."

SOUTHEAST ASIA

## IJM SUPPORTS FIRST LABOR TRAFFICKING CASE IN CAMBODIA

After a harrowing four months trapped in slavery on Thai fishing boats, 54 Cambodian men were finally rescued and reunited with their families in June.

The men shared how they had taken jobs on Thai ships and were told they would be fishing, legally, in Malaysia. Instead they were carried into Indonesian waters, where authorities seized the ships and sent the men to a cramped detention center for illegally poaching fish. The International Organization for Migration helped the men safely return to Cambodia, and IJM provided support to Cambodian anti-trafficking police as they interviewed them and documented their stories.

This is the first case of labor trafficking that IJM has supported in Cambodia, and it highlights the complex coordination necessary to fight this cross-border crime. We have been working in Cambodia for 15 years, but we began this challenging new project to combat labor trafficking earlier this year as part of a Winrock grant funded by USAID.

# 2017 VISION FUND: EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

WITH THE PARTNERSHIP OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORTERS AROUND THE WORLD, WE ARE SEEKING TO MEET AMBITIOUS GOALS BY 2017 IN PURSUIT OF IJM'S VISION: **RESCUE THOUSANDS, PROTECT MILLIONS, AND PROVE THAT JUSTICE FOR THE POOR IS POSSIBLE.**

## 2017 VISION GOALS

**3,000** VICTIMS RELIEVED FROM INJUSTICE ANNUALLY

**500** VIOLENT CRIMINALS RESTRAINED ANNUALLY

**10** JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORM PROJECTS TO REDUCE VIOLENCE

This impact in the field depends on a robust justice movement worldwide. Through support from our donors, we will:

### ENGAGE

Engage leaders around the world across business, international development and government.

### ESTABLISH

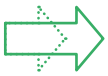
Establish 22–25 IJM field offices around the world.

### MOBILIZE

Mobilize 5,000 churches globally to seek justice in their communities and internationally.

### EQUIP

Equip the next generation of strong leaders in the fight for justice.



### ENHANCE

Enhance IJM's organizational sustainability so we are well-positioned to achieve our goals.

# FREEDOM SUNDAY

ENDING SLAVERY IN OUR LIFETIME.

## Slavery doesn’t exist.

Through Freedom Sunday, your church will be equipped to bring an end to slavery, for good.

We believe that that the church is crucial to the fight to end slavery in our lifetime.

IJM will provide all the resources you need to bring Freedom Sunday to your church, from sermon notes, to scripture passages, to event resources.

When your church hosts Freedom Sunday, each life we rescue will add up from hundreds to thousands to millions rescued, until we can finally say:

## Slavery doesn’t exist.

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Host a Freedom Sunday at your church on September 25th. Learn more here:

**IJM.org/FreedomSunday**

SOUTHEAST ASIA

## NEW THREAT: CYBERSEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

In the Philippines, more traffickers are going to jail than ever before, and young girls like Elsa (featured right) are being protected from violence and abuse. But there is a new threat emerging called cybersex trafficking of children. As internet access rapidly expands, new criminals are rising up to make a profit by exploiting young girls and boys. The stories are heartbreaking. The youngest victim we have rescued was a baby less than a year old, and in many cases the criminals profiting are the parents.

The good news is that the local authorities in the Philippines are ready and willing to act.

We are working closely to train and equip our partners on new investigative techniques online and in the communities where we have been entrenched for 15 years.

Because of our supporters, we believe a new day is coming when thousands more children will be able to say that they too are strong.

# UNTIL ALL ARE FREE: **ELSA'S STORY**

**ELSA* IS A SURVIVOR OF SEX TRAFFICKING IN THE PHILIPPINES. SHE IS ALSO A COLLEGE STUDENT, BIG SISTER AND INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US AT IJM.**

After IJM helped rescue Elsa and 16 others from a bar where they had been trafficked, Elsa was afraid and ashamed. **"I was treated as a slave who is required to follow orders whether I liked it or not."**

Because of IJM supporters, Elsa is growing stronger every day.

**"I will never experience those things anymore because there were people who helped me. I'm so thankful for those who helped me, for giving me new hope to live normally as a woman and a person."**

We asked her to describe herself in one word, and she said:

"strong"

*A pseudonym

STRON

Dear Friend,

I am so humbled and honored by the opportunity to serve as IJM's new president. It has always been—and will continue to be—a joy for me to serve you and our incredible teams around the world.

Consider this a personal invitation to join us as we walk towards the end of slavery. This will be a tough fight, as we dive into new areas of work and the dark reality of crimes like the cybersex trafficking of children. But we feel encouraged by the successes we have had so far, all made possible by your unwavering support.

Because of you, girls like Elsa* are free, and many more like her will never know this type of pain. They will be safe. I hope you can see all that your faithful partnership can accomplish this year.

Thank You.

Sean Litton
*President, International Justice Mission*

Sean built IJM teams in Manila and Thailand—personally leading efforts that brought freedom to more than 200 survivors of trafficking and secured the prosecution of more than 50 criminals. Prior to his role as president, Sean also served as the senior vice president of IJM's Justice Operations and led our global strategy for protecting the poor. Sean has been with IJM for 17 years.

Families from our largest rescue (page 12) pack up their belongings as they prepare to start a new life in freedom.

BC
BC
BC

IJM

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**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION** is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems.

Highlighted as one of 10 non-profits "making a difference" by *U.S. News and World Report*, IJM's effective model has been recognized by the U.S. State Department, the World Economic Forum and leaders around the globe, as well as featured by *Foreign Affairs, Forbes*, *The Guardian, The New York Times*, *The Times of India*, *The Phnom Penh Post*, National Public Radio, and CNN, among many other outlets.

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