
The Justice Journey

A HANDBOOK FOR PASTORS AND OTHER CHRISTIAN LEADERS



By Jim Martin
International Justice Mission®

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INTRODUCTION

I have the great privilege of speaking on behalf of IJM at many churches across the country. This offers me a somewhat unique vantage point on the church in the U.S. – and I am delighted to say that the great majority of churches I have worked with are receiving God’s call to justice with deep conviction and surprising joy. Many have surmised that God’s invitation to his church must somehow be bigger and more challenging than we’ve understood. Many have guessed that in this call to seek justice for victims of violent oppression, God is offering a more rugged challenge, a task that is worthy of the great energy stored in the church.

All over the country, more and more churches are coming under the conviction that God hates injustice and that he wants it to stop. More and more followers of Jesus are believing that they are God’s plan for ending the suffering of so many vulnerable children, women and men in our world. And to an extent that cannot help but please our maker, churches all over the country and the world are courageously joining in the work of justice.

For ten years now, IJM has been walking alongside such churches, helping pastors and volunteers lead their congregations in hands-on engagement with God’s struggle for justice in the world. Indeed, one of the key reasons IJM exists is for the very purpose of providing a practical resource for you and your church to enter into this journey of justice. This handbook represents over a decade of working with, learning from and walking alongside churches and Christian leaders on this justice journey. Our hope is that in it you will find everything you need to begin (or to continue) your journey.

Allow me to voice one caution before you continue. A persistent truth that my colleagues and I have discovered over the last ten years at IJM is that the work of justice is hard. There is a very real enemy at work who does not want his dark deeds exposed to light. Those perpetrating the violent oppression of the vulnerable are very committed to the benefit they derive at their victims’ expense. The question then becomes, how committed are we? Engaging in the work of justice will require patience, persistence and courage. And it will require something more, something that comes as a challenge even to our strongest churches: It will require faith.

But as so many have discovered down through the ages, it is in accepting God’s call to seek justice for the oppressed that we discover the very presence and blessing of God. Consider the amazing promises God offers through the prophet Isaiah:

If you...satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. (Isaiah 58:10, 11)

The justice journey is a journey into the very heart of God. If you are ready for the expedition, we have the gear to get you going.

In Partnership,



Gary Haugen
President and CEO, International Justice Mission

HOW TO USE THIS HANDBOOK

The pursuit of Biblical justice is a journey: a journey into the scriptures to discover much that has been lost and a journey into the world to seek out many who must be found. At International Justice Mission, we have been on this journey for over a decade. Since 1997, IJM has been steadily applying four tools in an effort to rescue the vulnerable who suffer violent oppression in today's world.

IJM is devoted to:

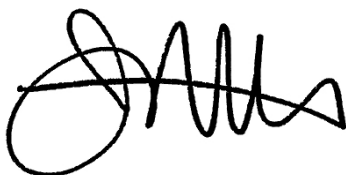
- 1. Victim Rescue:** IJM's first priority in its casework is immediate relief for the victim of the abuse being committed. This casework is the foundation of all that we do.
- 2. Perpetrator Accountability:** IJM seeks to hold perpetrators accountable for their abuse in their local justice systems. Accountability changes the fear equation: When would-be perpetrators are rightly afraid of the consequences of their abuse, the vulnerable do not need to fear them.
- 3. Victim Aftercare:** IJM aftercare staff and trusted local aftercare partners work to ensure that victims of oppression are equipped to rebuild their lives and respond to the complex emotional and physical needs that are often the result of abuse.
- 4. Structural Prevention:** IJM seeks to prevent abuse from being committed against others at risk by strengthening the community factors and local judicial systems that will deter potential oppressors.

This casework approach has brought actual rescue to thousands of actual victims. And along the way, IJM has worked with hundreds of churches to accompany them on their own justice journeys. This handbook represents some of the wisdom gained over the years. While no two churches follow exactly the same route on this journey, we have sought to provide at least a few common landmarks and compass headings to speed you on your way.

The material in this handbook is organized around a simple three-step process: Educate, Explore and Engage. This same format can be found online in the *FOR CHURCHES* section under the *GET INVOLVED* tab on the IJM homepage: www.ijm.org. There are many excellent resources IJM has developed for churches over the years, which you will learn about in this handbook. All resources are available through our Web site and are either very inexpensive or free of charge.

If you have any questions about this manual, please don't hesitate to contact us at churches@ijm.org.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Martin', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jim Martin

National Director of Church Mobilization, International Justice Mission

Chapter One
EDUCATE



For years, IJM has been working to help churches and Christian leaders understand a few simple truths:

1. God hates injustice and he wants it to stop.
2. The Church is God's plan for ending injustice.
3. Injustice is a huge category of need in our world.
4. Seeking justice on behalf of the oppressed may sometimes be complicated and hard, but it is doable.

As Christian leaders, we need to come under the Biblical conviction that God is a God of justice. Further, we need to be willing to look at and learn about the nature of evil and oppression. For ten years now, IJM has been walking side by side with local churches, helping pastors and volunteers lead their congregations in hands-on engagement with God's call to justice. If you are ready for the expedition, we have the gear to get you going.

But before we examine the gear for this journey, there are two common pitfalls in this education process we would like to help you avoid. The first is the temptation to simply *broadcast* information and resources about justice to your congregation at large. It is easy to simply distribute to others the resources that have been most helpful or meaningful to us. We want to suggest a more relational educational process. We encourage your congregation to go on a justice journey and learn together.

The second pitfall is to deputize *only* the few people in your congregation who are already passionate and motivated about justice issues. Much like the very important work of evangelism, the work of justice is the job of the whole church and cannot be *sequestered* to a sub-committee within the congregation. While it is true that members of the congregation are gifted differently, all are called to *do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God* (Micah 6:8).

The purpose of the *Educate* phase of the justice journey is to discover God's call to justice and what it may mean for your congregation.

Form a Justice Learning Community

A Justice Learning Community is a multi-disciplinary group composed of church staff and volunteers who meet together for the purpose of learning about the Biblical call to seek justice. In our work with churches, we have found Justice Learning Communities to be extraordinarily helpful. Perhaps this is true because getting educated about justice issues takes a special kind of focus. While no one solution works for every church, many find that taking anywhere from a few months to a year to learn about Biblical justice can be a great way to begin the journey as a community.

What follows is a list of steps in the order that they happen for many churches forming Justice Learning Communities. You may find that you have already taken some of the following steps or that you have taken them in a different order. That is fine - the following steps are offered simply as a model:

1. Invite an IJM speaker to your church. Almost every weekend there is a passionate and qualified IJM representative sharing the message of Biblical justice in a church somewhere in the U. S. (Visit www.ijm.org/resources/inviteaspeaker to request that a speaker come to your church. If you have further questions, please contact us at speakers@ijm.org.)
2. After the speaking engagement, invite people to participate in a Justice Learning Community for further study and discussion.
 - Effective groups can be led either by church staff or passionate, knowledgeable volunteers, but function best when they are composed of both staff *and* volunteers.
 - Most groups meet once a week for a pre-determined period of time. Some are as short as one or two months, while others have been going for a year or more.
3. Start your Justice Learning Community by studying a book such as *Good News About Injustice* or *Just Courage*, both by IJM President Gary Haugen.
4. After an initial book study, it is often a good idea to delve more deeply into some scripture dealing with justice issues. Please reference *Appendix: Violent Oppression in the Scriptures* for a list of passages you may want to study.
5. After reflecting on steps 3 and 4, the group will need to pray together and begin a process of discerning where God is leading them. The following are some common next steps:
 - Pray for clear leadership to emerge for the justice movement within your church. Often, the healthiest leadership includes both staff and passionate, talented volunteer leaders.
 - Encourage and resource the church staff to preach a sermon series on Biblical justice. You can find resources to get started on this in the *For Churches* section of IJM's web site.
 - Suggest *Good News About Injustice* to the whole church as a small group study curriculum.

Justice Education Resources

The following list details several of the resources IJM has created to help you begin or continue this education process. All of these resources are available on our Web site. Throughout this handbook, we will explore how these resources can be best leveraged for use by individuals or groups.

Book Resources

Good News About Injustice: A Witness of Courage in a Hurting World

Interspersed with individual stories of specific abuse, *Good News About Injustice* chronicles the vision behind IJM's work and seeks to respond to tragic injustices with practical insight, answering tough questions regarding the nature of injustice and the Biblical call for Christians to confront it. (*Study guide sold separately.*)

Terrify No More

This gripping book documents the events leading up to and surrounding IJM's groundbreaking work in the notorious Cambodian village of Svay Pak. In a single operation, IJM partnered with local authorities to rescue 37 underage victims of sex trafficking, many of them under the age of 10.

Just Courage: God's Great Expedition for the Restless Christian

This most recent book by Gary Haugen leads us on a journey to freedom from the triviality and fear that can stifle our lives. Set against the frontlines of today's battle against slavery and injustice, *Just Courage* shows how common people are called to uncommon courage – and how we, too, can be a part of God's great expedition. (*Discussion questions included in book text.*)

Video Resources

The Justice Mission

This DVD-enhanced youth curriculum explores God's heart for the oppressed. The five-session study series takes four high school-aged students into the developing world to see the reality of violent oppression first-hand and to learn what can be done to confront injustice. Produced in collaboration with Youth Specialties and intended for use with youth, this resource has also been very effective with adult audiences.

As You Go: IJM Mission Training

This 30-minute DVD with accompanying leader's guide will equip your team with *eyes to see* and *ears to hear* injustice while traveling internationally. In concise video segments, Gary Haugen, President and CEO of IJM, walks your short-term mission team through defining and discerning injustice, providing guidance on how to incorporate justice into the good work your team is already doing. A

companion four-part devotional that will help your team prepare spiritually before you go and process spiritually while you are on your trip is available online. Be sure to download these free devotionals as a companion to the training.

IJM Media Montage

This 4.5-minute compilation of news clips and interview footage serves as an excellent introduction to the work of IJM. This short piece includes clips from “Dateline–NBC”, “60 Minutes”, “The Oprah Winfrey Program”, Fox News, BBC News, NPR, CNN and others.

We Were Free

Three people freed from modern-day slavery through IJM intervention share their lives in this mini-documentary. This 12-minute DVD is a great way to introduce your congregation and others to the reality of slavery and sex trafficking and IJM’s work to combat violent oppression.

Loose Change to Loosen Chains: Students Freeing Modern Day Slaves (LC2LC)

This youth-focused fundraiser is designed to raise awareness about modern-day slavery while raising money to free actual slaves. Hundreds of youth groups and campuses across the country have used this tool to explore justice involvement – and in the process, they have raised thousands of dollars to free slaves. You can find everything you need to know about Loose Change to Loosen Chains and all the materials necessary to get started at www.ijm.org/getinvolved/youth.

David’s Story

This short DVD tells the story of David, a victim of police abuse. After David was falsely accused of robbery and faced a possible death sentence for a crime he hadn’t committed, IJM Kenya was able to secure his freedom.

Downloadable Resources

The IJM Web site is full of video and print resources you can download free of charge. We are constantly updating these materials, so take a few minutes periodically to view what’s available under the *Resources* tab at www.ijm.org.

IJM Speakers

Another excellent way to inspire and challenge your congregation in justice ministry is to invite an IJM speaker to your church or group. A Biblical message on God’s heart for justice combined with stories about IJM rescues is a compelling way to begin or continue the justice journey in your congregation or other group. Visit www.ijm.org/resources/inviteaspeaker to fill out our online speaker request form. If you have further questions feel free to contact speakers@ijm.org for more information.

Chapter Two
EXPLORE



All too often, the *work* of justice stays in the theoretical realm – in discussions of ideas and expressions of outrage and indignation. But our goal is not only to change the way we think, but to change the way we *act* as well. Before moving into engaging in the work of justice, we encourage you to undertake some focused exploration, so you can learn how your community can make its greatest impact.

In this section, we will begin to explore what must be done about injustice in our community and our world. Hard work in the *Educate* phase of the justice journey helps us learn about injustice and how God feels about it – that he hates injustice and wants it to stop. A successful *Explore* phase in your justice journey is about finding real neighbors to love.

Become a Justice Taskforce

At this point, in many churches the Justice Learning Community will transition from a *learning* phase into an exploration phase (which will still involve lots of learning). This is a necessary step in the journey for several reasons:

- Once people have learned about the extent of suffering in our world caused by violent oppression, they are often overwhelmed and immobilized. A period of exploration into specific aspects of injustice can have the effect of reducing the huge problem to a more manageable size as you consider becoming involved in a specific aspect of the work.
- Often those who lead during the *Educate* phase of the process are not necessarily those best equipped to lead the *Explore* phase. A clear transition between the Educate and Explore phases of the journey will provide time for any natural leadership transition that should be necessary.
- Finally, there will be a lot of exploring to do. In fact, we've broken this phase up into three distinct tasks – exploring your church, your community, and IJM's work in the world – which can be undertaken sequentially or somewhat simultaneously, if your church has the leadership capacity for that.

In this exploration phase, the Justice Learning Community becomes a Justice Taskforce – transitioning from learning conceptually about injustice and God's call to us, to contextualizing this information by learning about specific injustices in your community and world, and the resources your community has to respond to them.

Spiritual Preparation

But before you jump into exploring your church, community and world, it is important to remember that you will be dealing with actual spiritual realities. The evil you will be exploring together actively resists being brought into the light. It is important to remember that this work is God's, and if we are going to join him in it, we should spend some time in spiritual preparation.

As your Justice Learning Community transitions into a Justice Taskforce, we strongly encourage you to spend your first meeting praying for the following four things that don't come naturally. Periodically it will be a good idea to revisit these four essential spiritual postures:

1. **Humility** - Remember that your team does not have all the answers. You are not called to be crusaders crushing injustice wherever you think you see it. This work is God's. Ask God to lead you into the necessary humility.
2. **Wisdom** – God wants to give us all we need (James 1:5). For what do you imagine needing wisdom?
3. **Love** – Ask God to cultivate in you love for people who are suffer injustice. Some are people who are nearby. Some are far away, unfamiliar and unlike you.
4. **Hope** – Pray against the temptation to despair that you may feel as you encounter the people you'll be serving and contemplate the injustices they suffer.

Because prayer is essential in the work of justice, we have written a whole section of this handbook to help you pray through these issues, which can be found under the *Engage* heading on page 19.

Explore your church

Before turning your focus outward, spend some time looking at your own church. What strengths and resources do you bring to the work of justice? What passions, interests and areas of expertise exist in your church? Have your Justice Taskforce make an assessment of all these things.

Here are a few questions to consider:

Is your church a safe place for victims of injustice?

The very first place we need to explore justice is in our own homes and church communities. The generally accepted statistic is that nearly one third of American women (31 percent) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point. It is a sad and simple fact that grave injustices such as sexual abuse and domestic violence exist in many churches in the U.S. The work of justice must begin at home if we are to engage with integrity anywhere else.

» Action Steps:

- Commit to making your church and home a safe place where victims of abuse can find help and healing. Commit to listening to victims and believing them.
- Educate your congregation about sexual abuse and domestic violence. Teach about these subjects in pre-marital classes, in church bulletins and in Sunday school. Ensure that leaders in the church receive appropriate training to respond to these issues.

- Speak about issues like sexual abuse, domestic violence and rape from the pulpit, remembering to take into account the pain and vulnerability of victims. Church leaders have a powerful impact on the attitudes of their congregations with respect to these issues.
- Lead by example. Consider volunteering with a rape crisis hotline. Seek ongoing training to ensure you are equipped to respond to such crises.

Are there hidden skills and abilities in your congregation?

There are likely members of your congregation whose education and professional experience have afforded them with specific skills that will be great assets as your church explores involvement in justice work. People with experience in law enforcement, for example, often feel like their skills and experience are not applicable to the work of the church. Because of this, you may not even know if there are any police officers in your church. But these skills are vital to the work of justice. Along the same lines, does your church have lawyers, medical personnel, social workers, counselors or artists?

» Action Step:

Consider hosting a screening of the DVD *We Were Free* and a discussion about modern-day slavery. Specifically invite those people whose careers and interests may give them unique perspective on the work of justice or skills that specifically enable them to serve victims of oppression. Explore together how their expertise could serve the church in its fight for justice. Invite them to participate in your Justice Taskforce.

Is your church giving financially to the work of justice?

The stark Biblical truth is that our hearts tend to follow our money. Giving, therefore, is a great way to explore involvement in the work of justice.

» Action Steps:

Invite your church to pay for the rescue the poor cannot afford. There are several simple ways to do this:

- *Make justice a church budget item.* Many churches have made the work of mercy an ongoing budget item, but relatively few have committed to funding the work of justice. Have your Justice Taskforce explore the budget of your church and suggest ways to make justice a budget item. IJM's Justice Churches program offers individualized giving options specifically for churches. As a Justice Church, you select where to invest your gift – you can invest in an issue that is important to your congregation or in an area of the world that is aligned with your mission emphasis. Based on your selection, IJM will provide updates via podcasts and video

clips from the field as well as the IJM Justice Church logo for your Web site. For more information on the Justice Churches program, visit: www.ijm.org/justicechurches.

- *Launch a Loose Change to Loosen Chains campaign.* This youth-focused fundraiser is designed to raise awareness about modern-day slavery while raising money to free slaves. Hundreds of youth groups across the country have used this tool to explore justice involvement, and in the process they have raised thousands of dollars to free actual slaves. You can find everything you need to know about Loose Change to Loosen Chains and all the materials necessary to get started at: www.ijm.org/getinvolved/youth.
- *Invent a fundraiser.* Because fundraisers are also effective as educational campaigns, churches have been quite inventive and have come up with lots of interesting and exciting new ideas. Some have hosted dinners or sporting events – even a book study can become a fundraiser. For more information and ideas, visit the *Give* section of IJM’s web site.

Is your church passionate about a particular part of the world?

If so, your experience and passion are great assets. Do you send short-term teams to a particular part of the world each year? Are there leaders and participants in these trips who would be interested in exploring the justice issues that exist on the ground in these countries? IJM has developed a DVD resource called *As You Go: IJM Mission Training*. This training is designed to help short-term teams explore and assess the justice issues they encounter in-country.

» Action Step:

Incorporate As You Go: IJM Mission Training as part of the preparation of all your church’s short-term mission teams. The concise training materials include spiritual preparation resources, devotionals and concrete ideas for learning to hear, see and document the justice issues in the counties to which your church travels.

Explore your community

Sadly, injustice is woven into the fabric of our fallen world. Consequently, victims of violent oppression are found in every community. The second step in the *Explore* phase is to begin getting to know the issues particular to your community. What people and agencies are working for justice in your area? What issues of injustice are they confronting?

What follows are a few suggestions to get you going. As you read through this list, think about strategies for mobilizing your Justice Taskforce to explore all these categories:

1. Learn about justice issues in your community. What are the likely places of violent abuse in your community? Make a plan to educate yourself about each of these areas. Here are a few questions to get you started:

- Where do ethnic minorities within your community live? Where do immigrants live? Where do they work? In general, how are they treated?
- What is the foster care system like in your area? How are the children in the system being treated?
- Is there a significant bail bonds industry in your community? How does that system work? Are there any potential abuses to that system?

2. Talk to the social workers in your community.

Often overworked and underappreciated, social workers are personally aware of many of the justice issues in your community. If there are social workers in your church, invite them to speak to the Justice Taskforce about their experience in your community.

3. Talk to the police in your community.

Law enforcement personnel are generally encouraged when they know that citizens appreciate them and are on their side. Spend some time reading the Web site of your local police department. Look for the officers or departments dealing with violent oppression in your area. Often these officers are delighted to talk with concerned members of the community. Consider inviting an officer to come and speak to your Justice Taskforce – you may want to try to specifically connect with the officer or department assigned to human trafficking or domestic violence.

4. Educate your congregation about the extent of these issues.

Violent injustice is hard to look at. The Biblical call to love our neighbors must begin with a willingness to understand and empathize with their plight. A vital step in this process will be for your Justice Taskforce to strategize a variety of ways to educate your church about the issues specific to your community. This can and should be done not only from the pulpit, but through Sunday school classes, in small group Bible study groups, through special seminars, through walking tours of your city and any other creative educational approach your Justice Taskforce can invent.

5. Do not forget the importance of hope.

While statistics about injustice may be easy to communicate, they also can be immobilizing for those who hear them. Consider the following:

- *Offer education with opportunity.* Every time you share information about a particular injustice in your community, be sure to also offer something people can *do* about it – even if it is a simple thing. Often doing *something*, even something small, can keep learners from becoming paralyzed by despair – and taking these first small action steps can make a tangible difference in the lives of victims, or those vulnerable to abuse.
- *Share some success stories.* One of the lies about injustice is that it is insurmountable. Be sure to share consistent stories of hope along the way. Consider viewing *David's Story* or the *We Were Free* DVD to stay connected with hope. (You can find descriptions of these resources in the *Educate* section on page 4.)

Explore IJM

Once you have done the work of educating yourself and your congregation and have explored the issues of injustice in your own church and community, it is time to come to a deeper understanding of the work of IJM and the possibilities for partnership. At this point in your journey, please connect with IJM's Church Mobilization staff (or Student Ministries staff if you are a campus fellowship). These regional staff exist to coach churches through the justice journey. They are deeply familiar with the work of IJM and are here to serve churches and Christian leaders as they navigate this journey. You can get in contact with your regional church mobilization staff member through the IJM Web site or by sending an email to churches@ijm.org.

In the meantime, the following are specific suggestions for how to explore IJM:

Explore the IJM Web site.

If you have not done so already, spend some time looking at the Web site with your Justice Taskforce.

- Look at the areas in the world where IJM has established a field presence.
- Investigate the types of casework IJM handles on a regular basis at: www.ijm.org/ourwork/whatwedo.
- Read some of the recent casework updates under the Our Work/News from the Field tab.

Visit IJM Headquarters.

We enjoy hosting visitors at our international headquarters in Washington, D.C. If you are in the area and would like to visit, please send an email to contact@ijm.org to make arrangements.

Complete a justice assessment in your church's areas of global engagement.

Is IJM already working in a part of the world to which your church travels regularly and has an established set of relationships? If so, we strongly recommend that you use *As You Go: IJM Mission Training* curriculum to help your teams to complete a justice assessment of the areas where you travel. Once completed, we encourage you to turn that assessment in to IJM. The *As You Go: IJM Mission Training* curriculum and accompanying devotionals are available in our online store. You can learn more about this resource in the *Educate* section on page 4.

Compile a list of trusted partners.

Does your church have relationships with trusted partners in the developing world? If so, this network is an extremely valuable asset. IJM's work around the globe can only be done in conjunction with trusted partners who refer cases and exert influence. The relationships your church has with churches, NGOs, businesspeople and government officials in the developing world can be a great resource to IJM field offices.

» Action Step:

Develop a list of all your church's trusted partners in the developing world. Have your Justice Taskforce create a database with a brief description of each partner and the nature of your church's relationship with them. Include current contact information for the organization and all points of contact within it. This list will be a great asset as you begin the *Engage* phase of your justice journey. Cross-reference this list with the list of countries where IJM has field offices by visiting www.ijm.org. As appropriate, please share your list by contacting your regional church mobilization staff or by sending it to churches@ijm.org.

Visit IJM in the Field.

If a group from your church is traveling to a city in which IJM has a field office, it is sometimes possible to arrange visits to IJM field offices. These visits can be arranged through our Church Mobilization staff. Contact churches@ijm.org for more information.

Join the IJM Institute

The IJM Institute is a community of Christian leaders advancing solutions for overcoming injustice. It is a place for sharing action ideas, resources, and tools for seeking justice and moving the Body of Christ to action. Go to www.ijminstitute.org to join the community and contribute your work.

Chapter Three
ENGAGE



The goal of the *engage* phase is to develop or discover a unique contribution that your church can make to the work of justice in the world. The next chapter (Examples: Real Churches Doing the Work of Justice) offers stories of churches who have engaged this work and, through God's blessing, met with great success. As these stories illustrate, the nature of the work requires that churches pursue it with determination and perseverance. Generally speaking, any ministry takes time to mature in the church. Due to the complexity of justice work in particular, this maturation process can move slowly. *In this section, we offer general suggestions for how churches can engage in the work of justice alongside IJM. More specific involvement either locally or in the field is best developed in conjunction with IJM Church Mobilization staff. Contact churches@ijm.org if you would like to be connected with your IJM regional church mobilization staffer.*

Pray for the work of justice

As you read casework stories from our Web site, one of the common themes you will notice is that though the work of justice demands significant human effort, it also requires something more: God moving on behalf of the oppressed. At all of our IJM offices, we pray daily for the work. We invite all who would join us in prayer to do so by becoming an IJM prayer partner at: www.ijm.org/getinvolved/prayerpartners. Once you sign up on this Web form, we will send you a confidential weekly prayer e-mail detailing our current prayer needs from around the world.

Attend the Global Prayer Gathering

Each spring, IJM brings together staff and friends from all over the world for a time of seeking God and seeking justice for victims of oppression. You can join with staff from Asia, Africa, Latin America, North America and the United Kingdom for this transforming time of worship, prayer and fellowship.

Throughout the weekend, IJM's international staff share about recent casework victories for victims of violent oppression, as well as the joys, challenges and prayer needs of their field offices. We celebrate former clients who have been rescued through IJM casework and look forward to the next year of justice work together. IJM President and CEO Gary Haugen and others lead in reflection, prayer and worship throughout the weekend.

Visit www.ijm.org/gpg for the most current information on this year's gathering.

Make justice a budget item

Many churches have made the work of mercy an ongoing budget item but relatively few have committed to funding the work of justice. IJM offers individual and church specific giving options, called *Freedom Partners* and *Justice Churches* respectively. These giving programs are designed to provide information about the work you make possible and will connect you and your church with the people doing the work. For more information on Freedom Partners go to www.ijm.org/freedompartner. For more information on Justice Churches go to www.ijm.org/justicechurches.

Become a Justice Advocate (JA)

IJM is constantly seeking partners in the work of church mobilization. Justice Advocates are IJM-trained volunteers who make it possible for IJM to connect with a broader range of local churches by:

- Personally connecting with a broad range of churches, sharing the IJM message and offering tools such as those outlined in this handbook,
- Knowledgeably coaching churches through the process of *Education, Exploration* and *Engagement*, and
- Representing IJM at church and conference engagements where IJM staff cannot be present.

IJM periodically holds regional Justice Advocate training to equip JA's for their work. To find out about training in your area, contact your Regional Church Mobilization staffer or send an e-mail to churches@ijm.org.

Engage in The IJM Institute

The IJM Institute exists to foster ongoing conversation about Biblical justice among church leaders, pastors, seminary students and other concerned followers of Jesus. The institute offers resources, thoughtful articles and blog entries aimed at equipping the church with some of the theological raw material necessary to fuel the work of justice in the world. You can join the conversation with other institute members at www.ijminstitute.org.

Join IJM's Justice Campaigns to Protect Victims of Violent Injustice (a new IJM initiative)

International Justice Mission knows what injustice looks like in the countries where we serve, and we know what is needed to assist child victims of rape, slaves, widows whose land has been stolen and women and girls trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation. Our staff members in Washington are appealing to the U.S. Government to provide foreign assistance to improve local courts, police, and prosecutors; to make grants to NGOs like IJM; and to reward slavery-free production of key exports with trade benefits. We invite you to join us in this effort.

Pastors, Christian leaders and congregations can – and should – play a vital role in the international justice movement. It was, after all, Christians who were the first to confront the abomination of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, both in Britain and the U.S. The famous Christian parliamentarian William Wilberforce introduced an anti-slavery bill every year for sixteen years until it was adopted March 25, 1807.

In his words, “The grand object of my parliamentary existence is the abolition of the slave trade. Before this great cause all others dwindle in my eyes. If it please God to honor me so far, may I be the instrument of stopping such a course of wickedness and cruelty as never before disgraced a Christian country.”

In our day, Christians have led the fight against apartheid in South Africa, religious persecution, trafficking and genocide. And believers from across the political spectrum, from Irish rocker Bono to Franklin Graham of Samaritan's Purse have played a crucial role supporting U.S. leadership in the fight against the global AIDS pandemic, which has made life-saving treatment available to millions of people in the poorest countries of the world.

Senators and members of the House of Representative from both political parties care what their constituents think. They know and respect Christian leadership in their home communities and welcome a relationship with them. IJM can help arrange meetings for church groups, pastors and Christian activists to meet personally with legislators and their staff, either during their visits to their states or Congressional districts or in Washington. Even the shortest meeting that is friendly, non-partisan, informative about a problem, and clear about what the member/senator can do about it, is very beneficial to IJM and our overseas operations.

The simple act of informing your elected representatives in Washington that you live in their state or congressional district and care about violent injustice against vulnerable children, women and men is the first step in beginning an actual relationship with legislators and their staff.

- IJM offers advocacy trainings for interested Christian leaders, students, pastors, and church groups who wish to join IJM in our Justice Campaigns. We hold workshops on the abuses suffered by our clients in Asia, Latin America, and Africa, and on things the U.S. Government can do to help them. You will find information about these ongoing training opportunities at www.ijm.org/justicecampaigns.
- IJM Government Relations Staffers organize groups of Christian leaders around the country to meet their newly-elected (or re-elected) legislators in their states and districts.
- In conjunction with our Global Prayer Gathering in Washington, D. C., IJM offers advocacy training for participants and an opportunity to meet with legislators in Washington.

Chapter Four

EXAMPLES: REAL CHURCHES DOING THE WORK OF JUSTICE



Since our beginning in 1997, IJM has worked closely with churches of all shapes and sizes. We've been inspired by their stories as they have engaged in the work of justice. We've included a few stories of these *model* churches as an encouragement to you. In their stories, you will notice common themes of courage, perseverance, purpose and joy. None of these stories describes a perfect trajectory toward justice ministry - we call these churches *models* because they model just what the process looks like. There is always a lot to learn, and the journey is seldom without its setbacks. But the grace to us lies in that fact that, while our efforts are decidedly and merely human, God is pleased to work through us regardless.

We are always adding more stories of model churches to the *For Churches* section of IJM's Web site. We invite you to read these stories –and to share your own with us as you continue in your justice journey.

Lake Grove Presbyterian Church – Lake Oswego, Oregon

There has long been a focus on outreach ministry at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in Lake Oswego, Oregon. This focus intensified in 1995 when the church partnered with World Vision to serve the Wolof people of Senegal. LGPC members Clay and Maggie Creps were personally involved in this mission for years, eventually developing close relationships with some of the World Vision staff. In 2001, one of the staff gave Clay a copy of Gary Haugen's *Good News About Injustice*. The book opened Clay's eyes to God's passion for justice. It was convicting for Clay, but also provided him with a vision of how he could use his training and experience as an attorney to serve God. In response, Clay and a friend taught an eight-week class on the book on Sunday mornings.

Shortly thereafter, LGPC invited IJM staff members to their church for a visit. In 2004, Clay became a Justice Advocate through a pilot program funded by the Murdock Trust in the Pacific Northwest. In the meantime, LGPC began another partnership with World Vision in Zambia. During trips to Zambia, several church members were able to visit IJM's office in Lusaka, Zambia. In the summer of 2005, Clay traveled in advance of the rest of the church's Zambia mission team and spent almost a week working in the Lusaka office, interviewing potential clients and teaching at churches regarding property rights and wills. All the while, Clay reported on his experiences to LGPC.

Clay's wife Maggie also developed a passion for the work of justice and discovered she could serve God through IJM's work. She became a Justice Advocate, traveling to Guatemala and Bolivia on a vision trip that exposed her to IJM field offices and casework in these countries. Looking to further support IJM's work, she spearheaded Portland's first IJM Benefit Dinner.

Both Clay and Maggie have valued attending IJM's yearly Global Prayer Gathering in Washington, D.C. The chance to gather with hundreds of IJM supporters and Field Office Directors from around the world in a time of sustained worship and prayer is rejuvenating for the couple. They return each year to Lake Oswego *on fire* to share the Biblical call to justice with their community and raise support for IJM's work.

LGPC's partnership with IJM has led to a greater focus on issues related to Biblical justice both among the pastoral staff and the members. Having the issue pushed to the forefront by several

involved members of the congregation has encouraged the pastors to include Biblical justice more frequently in sermons and to incorporate it in the education curriculum. In particular, the Director of Youth Ministries has initiated a program among both junior and senior high youth every May called “May Justice Reign” month. The high school youth go through the *Justice Mission Curriculum* and listen to speakers on issues related to Biblical justice. The congregation at large has also begun giving financially to IJM – since 2006, IJM has appeared as a line item on the church’s annual budget.

Although initially it seemed Clay and Maggie were lone voices, with perseverance, patience and love, they continued to bring IJM and the issue of Biblical justice to the attention of the pastoral staff and the missions committee at LGPC. The concept gained momentum and the result has been a church that is talking about Biblical justice and that is increasingly having members take an active role in educating others about justice and taking steps to live out God’s call.

Crossroads Church – Cincinnati, Ohio

Crossroad’s involvement in justice ministry started when Brian Wells, the church’s teaching pastor at the time, read Gary Haugen’s book *Good News About Injustice*. Desiring to know more, Brian and other leaders from Crossroads visited IJM’s Headquarters in Washington D.C., and met with staff. This meeting helped foster a relationship between Crossroads and IJM and further ignited a desire for action. Wanting to share the message of justice with the rest of the church, the leadership staff invited IJM President Gary Haugen to come speak to the congregation in the summer of 2005.

The congregation responded with a strong desire to get involved in the work of justice. The church funded IJM’s exploration of a possible new field office in a country in which Crossroads was already heavily involved in ministry. Beyond this very generous funding, a team of researchers and writers at Crossroads assembled a Deployment Briefing Guide that became a vital document to all IJM staff deploying to the region. When IJM determined that a new office would not be the best response to the needs of the country at the end of the exploratory period, Crossroads pressed on.

Rather than viewing the office exploration as a failure or setback, Crossroads began exploring new avenues for involvement. Desiring to combat sex trafficking, Crossroads began partnering with IJM’s casework in South Asia. In the past two years, multiple leaders and volunteers from Crossroads have visited the region to better understand the work of IJM in the field.

In 2008, Gary Haugen spoke at Crossroads again, this time during an all-church event called *Consumed*. Gary spoke to the congregation about IJM’s dependence on prayer. Since then, volunteers have been meeting regularly to pray specifically for the mission of IJM in South Asia. Further, in response to the *Consumed* series, the people of Crossroads decided to increase their giving to IJM, specifically funding work in South Asia.

Currently, Crossroads is focused on engaging the work of justice in three ways. First, they have focused their partnership energies on improving aftercare for victims of sex trafficking in South Asia, working to provide resources to enable victims to be fully reintegrated into life and work following their rescue. Second, they are seeking to use the full range of talent in the church. Artists, writers, researchers, marketers, and other professionals have all been actively involved in their

work to end the sex trade. Finally, they are committed to using IJM's mission training tools as they engage in service trips around the world. This training has prepared short-term mission teams from Crossroads to see, understand and begin to engage the issues of justice they will encounter in the countries they visit.

Crossroads has also become involved locally by establishing relationships with Cincinnati-based organizations involved in the fight for justice and engaging volunteers to participate in meaningful projects:

- Crossroads is a founding partner of the Cincinnati Rescue and Restore Coalition. One small group at Crossroads identified a victim of human trafficking and referred the victim and their family to the Coalition. They are currently one of the first families to test the support system for human trafficking victims in Cincinnati.
- Former Haitian slave Jean R. Cadet has been worshipping at Crossroads, and Crossroads congregants have been learning about the problem of domestic servitude in Haiti from him. Crossroads has partnered with the Jean R. Cadet Restavec Foundation to develop a comprehensive report on the *restavek* system of child slavery in Haiti. A team of volunteers will be traveling to Haiti with Jean R. Cadet to see the problem of domestic servitude first hand and consider ways in which to bring hope to the lives of vulnerable Haitian children.
- In partnership with the National Underground Railroad Museum Freedom Center's Partnership for Human Freedom and Polaris Project, Crossroads volunteers (attorneys, researchers, social workers) are writing a comprehensive report on Human Trafficking in Cincinnati.

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley – Berkeley, California

For years, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley (FPCB) has viewed justice as a key value in its compassion and outreach ministries. The congregation explored God's call to justice as they sought to address needs in their community by serving the local homeless population and partnering with local non-profit organizations to provide for underserved students in the public school system.

As members engaged in the work of justice locally, the congregation also desired to get involved in justice work globally. FPCB's leadership invited IJM President Gary Haugen to speak to the congregation about the Biblical call to justice. In response to the message, a group began meeting together to study *Good News About Injustice* and formed a Justice Taskforce (JTF) in order to learn about justice issues, to educate their church, and to determine what actions they could take as a congregation. This group spearheaded a trip to Thailand, where they visited IJM's field office and the staff of one of IJM's aftercare partners. Over the next several years, the JTF began a letter-writing campaign on behalf of victims of genocide in Darfur, held a special service on justice issues, and wrote articles and held forums to educate the congregation.

Though the response to these activities was encouraging, the JTF struggled to gain broad support and participation from the larger congregation. Despite challenges over the years, the JTF remained persistent in their efforts, sending members to IJM's annual Global Prayer Gathering in Washington, D.C., and focusing on educating the church at large. In 2008, they began work to mobilize FPCB as an abolitionist church, and they hosted a summer institute class on slavery and trafficking. This class draws upon scripture in the call to end slavery, explores ways to respond to the needs of victims, and proposes tangible steps to combat this injustice.

As the church has stepped forward in its justice journey, a constant in FPCB's growing focus and development has been its pastoral leadership and teaching. FPCB Senior Pastor Mark Labberton's book *The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living Out God's Call to Justice* was published in 2007. In the book, Mark connects Christian worship with Biblical justice, exploring God's desire that our worship be integrated with our actions.

The commitment and focus of pastoral leadership has led to the development of three initiatives in the church. First, FPCB highlights issues of injustice in its annual Global Church Conference. Conference themes have included "HIV and the Heart of God" and "Global Slavery and the Plague of Poverty." These conferences keep the church congregation educated, engaged, and responding to these justice issues.

Second, the congregation initiated "Do Justice" Saturday. On this day, the community gathers to focus its efforts on local projects that are developed to address justice issues. Projects include making caregiver kits for local AIDS service providers, serving underfunded public schools and building low-income housing.

Third, the congregation has added a new worship service in which congregants connect worship and Biblical justice through tangible acts of compassion and justice. Each week, worshippers are invited to engage in some activity together that has a targeted and tangible result in mind.

APPENDIX: VIOLENT OPPRESSION IN THE SCRIPTURES

Human Trafficking

- Genesis 37: 17-36: Joseph sold by his brothers
- Deuteronomy 24:7
- Joel 3: God responding to the treatment of his people

Slavery

- Deuteronomy 23:15: letting a slave enjoy refuge with you
- Jeremiah 22: 13-30
- Amos 2: 6-7: God's wrath over injustice
- Acts 16: Paul and Silas free the fortune-telling slave girl and are imprisoned
- Nehemiah 5:5: children of the powerless as slaves to the powerful

Prostitution

- Leviticus 19:29

Rape/Violence

- Hab. 2: 15-17

Rape

- Deut. 22:25-27: perpetrator accountability
- 2 Sam. 13:9-14: Tamar and Amnon (violent force)

Police Brutality

- Mark 14:65: Christ suffers police brutality (see also, Luke 22:63-65)
- Acts 16:23-24: Paul and Silas

Illegal Land Seizure

- Deut. 27:17
- Job 20:19
- Proverbs 23:10

Illegal Imprisonment

- Acts 4:1-4: Paul and Silas
- Acts 5:18
- Acts 8:3
- Acts 12: Peter

Injustice

- Hab. 1:3-4
- Luke 11:42: pharisees
- Exodus 23: 1-9: laws of justice and mercy
- Leviticus 19:15



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