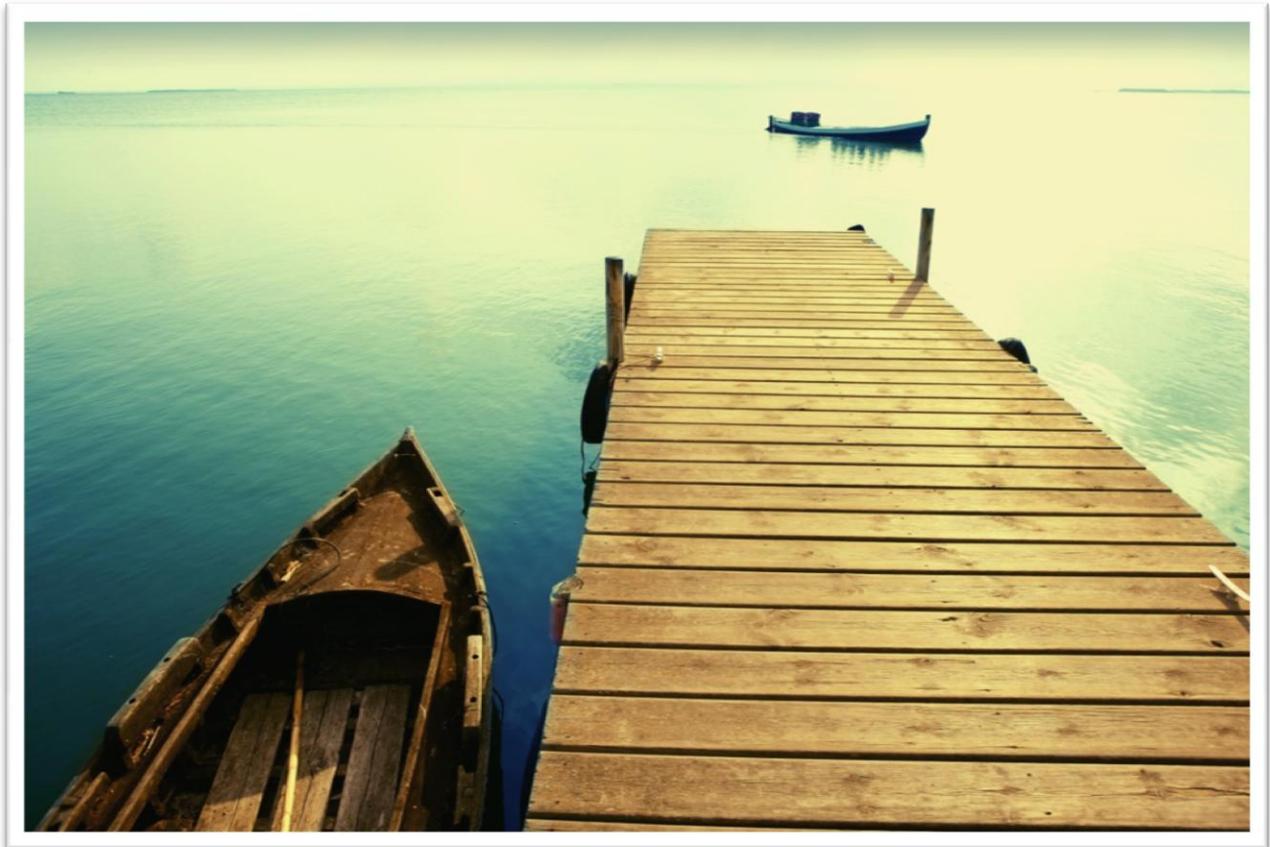


# A Bridge to Restoring Lives

**Determining Your Role in God's Redemptive Work for Survivors of Trafficking**



MY REFUGE  
HOUSE 

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- For the protection of the trafficking survivors in our home, no identifying photos of the survivors are shown. All faces shown are volunteers, staff or persons unassociated with the work of My Refuge House.



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## Introduction

I remember when God laid upon our hearts what eventually became My Refuge House. A group of five individuals who were concerned about social injustice began to meet together on a regular basis to pray for the Lord's leading.

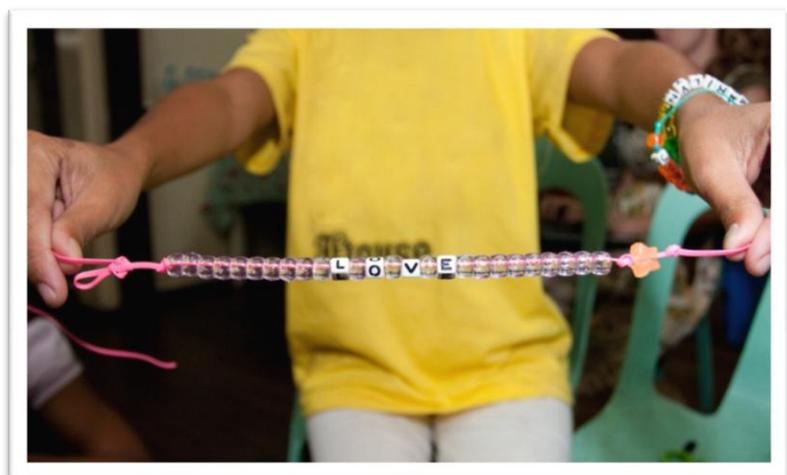
We faced enormous odds. How could we, as a small church of less than 100 (including children,) ever hope to make an impact on such a large problem as sex trafficking? But we discovered that where God's heart is He will provide the means and the way. God provided the means to overcome all odds.

We purposed as an organization that we would go forward only as the Lord provided. And He has provided! But we need to expand our ability to care for more individuals. There are girls with nowhere to go, at risk of being trapped again in the brothels from where they've been rescued. As I write these words those girls are in danger because there is no home for them.

It has been a journey to get this far but that journey is not over. This handbook is an invitation to become part of that journey and a response to meet the needs of the trafficking survivors. Our hope is that this handbook will help you, your family, your congregation and your community to gain a deeper understanding of the injustice that's happening and how each of us can be instrumental in showing God's love in a very practical way to the children that have suffered from Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and abuse.

*Your Brother in Christ,*

Cass Bensberg  
My Refuge House Board Chairman



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## How to use this Handbook

Jesus asks us to respond to the problems of our world with simple instructions: feed, cloth, care for, and invite. Matthew 25 (NIV) says, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

But how can we impact lives at risk, participate in a global struggle, and fight a cause that transcends political, denominational and even cultural divides? The mandate is daunting.

There are few issues in the world so clearly unjust, as the plight of human trafficking. When we become aware of them, the atrocities are so vile that they tear apart all selfish agendas—they permeate right to the heart of action. Children enslaved in commercial sex trafficking, sold, violated, and abused is such a clear cut atrocity.

Yet as a church, community group, and even as individuals, it can be difficult to know where to respond to such a large scale need. How can we make a tangible impact as good stewards of the resources entrusted to us?

We believe that the responses to such overwhelming need, responses to restore the lives of children rescued from commercial sex trafficking, are simple. As simple as the mandate to follow the instructions from Jesus to feed, cloth, care for, and invite.

My Refuge House is dedicated to restoring lives of girls rescued from commercial sex trafficking by:

- Providing a safe home where these girls are protected and loved
- Healing the physical and emotional afflictions by providing medical attention and counseling
- Loving and sharing God's love through Jesus with each girl
- Empowering with education and life skills to give each girl hope for the future

This handbook shares what My Refuge House has learned and experienced. Our aim is to provide others interested in getting involved in restorative work for girls rescued from commercial sex trafficking and exploitation with direction and guidance.

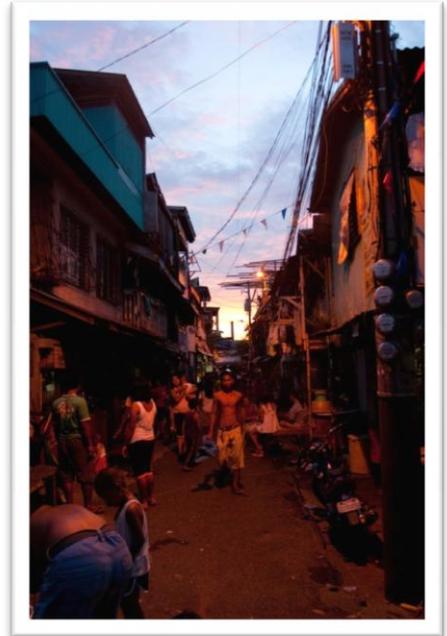
The handbook goes through three steps: **Research**, **Reveal**, and **Responses**. **Research** will direct the reader to understand the issue of trafficking and learn what goes into the aftercare provided at My Refuge House. **Reveal** and **Responses** will assist readers with finding potential ways to participate (as a group or individually,) and finally, how to take action.

## RESEARCH

### What is Modern Day Slavery?

The US Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defines “severe forms of trafficking in persons” as:

1. Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force fraud or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
2. The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.



### A Chain of Events

At My Refuge House, it’s difficult to narrate a “typical” story of one of our girls, but each girl has been through both of the described severe forms of trafficking mentioned above. Their stories are unique, but filled with tragic events and circumstances that eventually led these girls to be exploited for the profit of someone else.

The girls who come into My Refuge House in the Philippines often have certain vulnerabilities in common. Vulnerabilities are the characteristics that exist in a girl’s life that make them more likely to be sexually exploited. The three main vulnerabilities that we have identified in our survivors are:

1. Prior sexual or physical abuse, usually by a family member. They were often victims of incest by their fathers, uncles, or grandfathers.
2. Lack of formal education or severely behind in their formal education. This puts individuals at a disadvantage in the Philippine where you cannot work at McDonalds without a College Diploma. However, going to school is not required by law. If a family is too poor to afford the school supplies and other fees required by teachers, their children do not attend school.
3. Family pressure to assist financially, the lack of job opportunities, and poverty make individuals susceptible to exploitation in the commercial sex trade. Unfortunately, these families often put pressure on the children to find ways to contribute financially, which led the girls at My Refuge House to be exploited.

## Slavery in Our Generation Statistics

In our world today, more slaves exist than ever before. While statistics about the numbers of individuals who are being held in forced bondage vary greatly, one thing is for sure: it is an international crisis that demands our attention.

- The International Labor Organization released its second global estimate of forced labor on June 1, 2012, estimating 20.9 million victims of slavery around the world (Trafficking in Persons Report 2012, TIP Report)
- Sexual Exploitation is by far the most commonly identified form of trafficking in persons, with 79% of identified trafficking victims being categorized as such (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC).
- Estimated that global profits made from the exploitation of all trafficked forced labor is US\$31.6 billion (United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking, UN GIFT)
- Over 11 million, or over half of the people held captive in modern day slavery are located in Asia and the Pacific (TIP Report 2012)
- In 2011, even with over 20.9 million victims there were only 7,206 prosecutions and 4,239 convictions throughout the world (TIP Report 2012).



For more information and resources to further educate yourself on trafficking please refer to **Appendix A**.

## At My Refuge House

We believe that in order to effectively address the needs of each girl, the care we provide must be *individualized* and *holistic*.

*Individualized* – each girl’s situation is unique, and therefore needs unique interventions to assist her in overcoming them.

*Holistic* – to address all areas of the survivor’s life: medical, emotional, physical, spiritual, educational, environmental and psychological.

How do we accomplish this?

Let’s walk through a scenario of one of the girls in our home to give you a better picture:

Alicia\*, was 13 years old when local law enforcement rescued her from a hotel in downtown Cebu. Hotel security called law enforcement because, “She looked so young and so small and the white foreigners she was going up to the room with were so big—the situation was obviously not right.” Law enforcement arrested Alicia’s trafficker and the men who were exploiting her. She was brought to local social services where she was cared for and assessed by their government program.

A week later, social services contacted My Refuge House to ask if we would provide care and safety for her.

When Alicia arrived, she was embraced by our staff and the other girls that lived in our house. They gave her a tour and oriented her to the rules of the house. The girls at the house are always excited to welcome new girls to their home.

After that, Alicia sat down with our social worker for an assessment. This is when her specific needs were discussed. Obviously, a huge priority is to address the vulnerabilities outlined earlier: previous abuse, educational needs and opportunities for a better future, which always come to surface during this assessment process.



Rose Ann Obenque, Social Worker

It was during this assessment that we discovered the following: Alicia had been repeatedly raped by her father since she was nine years old. Her family was very poor and had almost no income. Alicia had never even set foot in a school before. Her mother had contracted Alicia to her eventual trafficker and sent her away without Alicia knowing where she was going. When she arrived at My Refuge House she needed medical care for STD’s, as well as for abdominal pain and tooth pain, and a variety of other concerns.



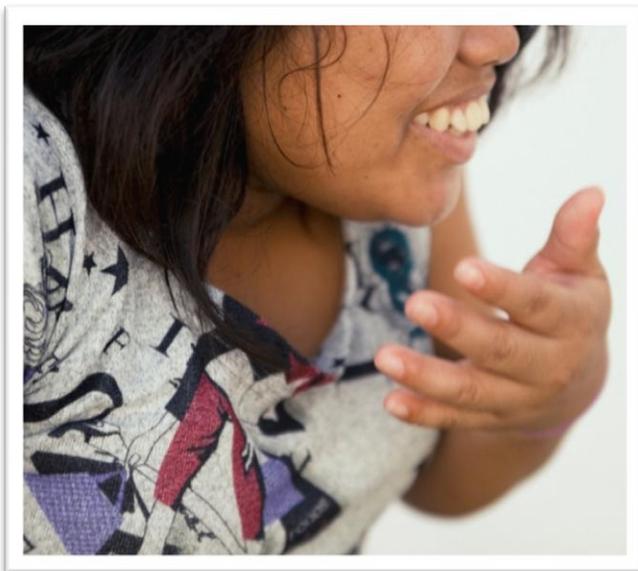
Alicia needed a lot of assistance.

These are the actions that My Refuge House took for Alicia:

- Provided medical attention with doctors and dentists in order to care for her medical needs
- Enrolled Alicia in our home school program, and began extensive tutoring to help her catch up in her education
- Sought justice by engaging a legal agency to prosecute her father for sexual abuse
- Supported Alicia in her legal hearings and testified on her behalf in a custody case that made her a ward of the state, at which point we were awarded legal custody
- Worked with Alicia to set goals for herself, including learning how to overcome anxiety, learning good emotional boundaries, and develop diligent study habits
- Assigned a staff prayer partner who she meets with periodically and a weekly schedule for meeting with her social worker,
- Made our staff available to talk to her anytime she needed

Alicia immediately began participating in all aspects of our daily program: education, livelihood training skills, counseling and group therapy, daily devotions and weekly church services, house chores and cooking classes.

Alicia has been in our home for about 9 months. Please pray for her as she continues to seek healing and restoration for her life in our care.



For more information on other organizations who are responding to the needs of trafficking survivors see **Appendix B**.

## Reveal

For those who follow Christ, God’s message is clear. The “poor in spirit,” the vulnerable, the broken, those who have suffered much, those who are incapable of defending themselves, these are the people who are closest to God’s heart. And when our hearts are aligned with his, he will always burden us to care for those who need it most.

Mother Theresa famously said “We sometimes think that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty.”

The bible lists verse after verse and story after story that depicts God’s heart for the vulnerable (See **Appendix C** for a list of verses.) His mandate to us, as his followers is to care for the broken. The Good Samaritan is one key example. Jesus uses that story to tell his followers that it does not matter where people are from, or how they got hurt, or what other people think and say, if we are truly followers of

Christ, we will care for them, no matter the cost.

As a Christian, the question is not “Will you serve?” The question we all have to ask ourselves is “Where will you serve?”



Take time to reflect on the verses in **Appendix C**. These verses focus primarily on scripture’s call to restore lives. Additionally, there is a list of books we recommend that would provide a perspective of trafficking and how it’s impacting our world today in **Appendix A**. Please take time to read, review and meditate on these verses and resources.

## Prayer

If there’s only one thing that you or your community can do, let it be prayer. In our meetings with volunteers and partners, we always say we covet prayers. Please remember us in your prayers.

*(We update new requests and share blessings on our newsletters, Facebook page, and website, so please sign up and help us pray!)*

Getting involved goes hand-in-hand with prayer. If your congregation, community, family, or you feel a leading from the Lord to contribute or serve in efforts to restore survivors of commercial sex trafficking, please pray. Pray that God will give you a picture of what that involvement looks like or the willingness to dive in and participate in a My Refuge House event or campaign.

Most importantly, revelation starts and ends with prayer. If you are looking to God to reveal his heart to you, start by praying.

## Practical Ways to Reveal Direction

### Form an *Action Group* for life restoration

Like a small group or Bible study, an Action Group will provide accountability, diversity, and different talents to collectively work together. We will be the first to acknowledge that the work of restoration at My Refuge House is a group effort from people around the world. We believe that God wants us to work as a community, not as lone rangers.

Your Action Group can report research findings and present service opportunities to the overall congregation or community where you will draw support and participants. Your immediate sphere of influence is an excellent base to then explore and expand your efforts.



(If you are alone and want to get plugged into how you can get involved, just email us)

### Areas of Expertise, Talents, Abilities

What you do on a daily basis, the talents and abilities that God has given you can be applied to many of the things we need at My Refuge House (accounting, legal advice, client relationships, social work, counseling, marketing, writing, graphic design, photography). Please let us know if you have professional skills as an individual that you can contribute to our efforts in the US. Or maybe you have a group that is experienced at putting on events: a concert, sports activity, or even fund raisers. We're open to grassroots ideas and promise to give honest feedback as to the viability of each idea.

### Atrocities that move you

Obviously the great need to restore the lives of survivors of trafficking has moved you to read this handbook. However, trafficking is not the only area of need. Is there a region of the world, a people group, or existing missions work you or your community is already supporting? Perhaps it can be combined with anti-trafficking work.

Sadly, where there are people struggling for daily sustenance, the ugly reality of sexual exploitation of children often occurs. Your church or community may already be involved or sponsoring work in local or global work. These same locations may have a need for anti-trafficking resources. The TIP report (listed as a resource in **Appendix A**) can tell you more about how commercial sex trafficking is impacting each country on our globe. Research those locations where you already have connections and find out the impact of trafficking in those places, perhaps there is a way or need to expand the work in those places.

### People groups in your community

One beautiful aspect of the USA is our diversity, which means members of your congregation or community may be descendants of immigrants from different parts of the world. Does your community have a burden to reach out to these ethnic groups? That would also be a good place to pray about serving. There may be connections that already exist or language capabilities that provide your community with an advantage to potentially help survivors of trafficking in those parts of the world where you have personal connections.

### Just jump-in

If none of the ideas above reveal any potential avenues, that's fine too, because My Refuge House and the survivors of trafficking we serve need your help. An easy way to get involved is to join in what's already happening at My Refuge House. In the next section you'll see what churches and groups have done. Many of them came up with some very interesting, out of the box ideas that we were thrilled to be represented at. Here are some other good ways people often respond:

- My Refuge House loves opportunities to speak about the impacts of commercial sex trafficking and what we're doing to fight it; invite us to speak
- We can co-organize events to raise money to help survivors of trafficking
- You can host a "Freedom Party" and invite a member of My Refuge House to speak to your group or circle of friends
- Come with friends to support upcoming My Refuge House activities! Come race, dance, eat, sing, and pray at events throughout the year. There are updates on our website, Facebook, and email newsletters, so be sure to stay updated



After praying and feeling God move your heart to anti-trafficking efforts, the worst thing you can do is not respond. So reach out to us and see if there's a way you can get involved or contribute.



## Response

### A New Heart Response: The Origins of My Refuge House

How did one small church respond to the needs outlined in this handbook? Here are some highlights of how My Refuge House began from members of New Heart Community Church, a congregation that decided to make a difference in the lives of sex trafficking survivors.

*“Having been made aware of the horrors of trafficking, I could no longer co-exist with this knowledge and do nothing. God made clear to me that there was evil in this world, there was a gap that needed to be filled and we had to do something. Perhaps it was audacious, and certainly naive, but as I approached our group of believers at New Heart Community Church with the possibility of building an aftercare facility for survivors, something took hold in the hearts of those listening. – Jessica Kwon Nguyen*

Acting on that conviction, they began to educate themselves by reading and researching some of the same sources in Appendix A. Committing to fervent prayer for a clear response to the tangible burden on their hearts, the congregation wondered what they, a small church of 100 people (including children), could possibly do with this huge issue?

*“There were a couple of passages that we contemplated heavily during this time. In one haunting passage (Psalm 10) the belief that no one cares about the oppressed is outlined. But later in this Psalm, we are told that God does indeed hear the cries of the oppressed and is calling on all people to pay attention.*

*“Another passage found in Hebrews 13 says, ‘Regard prisoners as if you were in prison with them. Look on victims of abuse as if what happened to them had happened to you’ (The Message). When we paid attention to this instruction, it became clear that we needed to act compassionately, intentionally and aggressively to promote healing and freedom.” – Pastor Danny Cortez*



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Not only was New Heart a small congregation, but also nomadic-- without a permanent location. The church was saving money in their building fund and raised enough for a down payment on a building just about the time they started praying for God's leading in this issue of responding to victims of commercial sex trafficking. Their first request to the city for a permit was denied, and this led them to pray even harder. They wondered what God was trying to tell them.



*"I remember when the dream of My Refuge House first took root at New Heart. When we were introduced to the reality of sex trafficking happening all around the world we were so overcome with horror, we couldn't help but act -the compulsion was powerful and contagious. The reality of the injustice and the suffering of these girls moved the whole body of our church. As a church we felt deep conviction and sadness in very personal ways, for our sins of omission and commission; for all of the injustices happening to God's children.*

*"As we discussed our role and our response for healing and justice, the elders offered to the church half of our nomadic church's savings, our building fund to begin the restorative work. We didn't blink twice as a church family when we gave this offering to begin My Refuge House. A church building felt incredibly insignificant compared to providing restoration and justice. In fact, we even agreed that even if it only saved one girl's life, it would be worth it to give up our building." – Laura Grove Walton*

*"Through the years since that original meeting the key players and staff have changed, there have been ups and downs, trials and successes, miracles and failures. However, the one constant has been that God continues to direct the effort and in every person who has taken up the call for justice it has been God that has moved their hearts. Our commitment to let God lead is the sole reason we are still restoring lives today." – Jessica Kwon Nguyen*

## God's Miraculous Provision

My Refuge House has faced many obstacles as we have followed God's lead in fighting for people that He loves. But we have found that following God's lead means not only being acquainted with obstacles, but also well acquainted with His miraculous provisions. It would be impossible to list all the ways God has proved to us that this is His refuge, His house, and His work. But here a couple short stories:



1. We began building our first home with only half of the money necessary to complete it. Weeks from being forced to shut down the project completely, while our Program Director, Crystal was laying awake at night rehearsing the speech she was going to give to the construction crew and staff dismissing them, God miraculously provided \$60,000: enough to complete the project, as well as a couple other small projects to make the home completely ready and open its doors on time!
2. We prayed for land to build our home on that would be “therapeutic in and of itself”—fully believing that God reveals himself to his children in his creation, we hoped for a place that would allow us access to nature. We began searching for a suitable property, but island property is very expensive and none of the options we saw had road access or access to electricity. We scaled back our expectations, just hoping for something within our budget. Finally, we found our property: It had road access, electricity access, and, because it's was a mortgaged property, the owner was selling it for less than half of an equivalent property across the street. In addition, the view overlooking the mountains and the sea is miraculous and therapeutic in every way. In fact, a number of our girls have prayed prayers of thanksgiving and praise as a direct result of the beautiful surroundings.
3. There have been two separate occasions when a girl was rescued by law enforcement and brought to My Refuge House in the typical manner. But through the assessment period, both of these girls told our staff that they had prayed for God to rescue them, the night before they were rescued. Another time, one of our girls prayed for God to speed up her court hearing, and that same afternoon she received a call from her lawyer that she was going to testify the following day at court! God truly answers our prayers.

If you are worried about God's provision, don't be. If He has laid a burden on your heart, He will be faithful to provide for it! As you can see from our experience, He has proven His faithfulness over and over again.

## Possible Partnership Opportunities

Here are a few ways we love to partner with people:

- Any kind of speaking engagement, conference or presentation. Just ask: we will do our best to send someone.
- Hosted events or co-organizing an event in your community such as a Benefit dinner, race, concert, dance or just about any other gathering of people who want to support the work.
- Smaller “Freedom Party” aimed at getting a group of people together, for dinner, wine tasting, tea and coffee or any other shared passion to raise awareness and ask for financial commitment to the work we do at My Refuge House (please email us for more details about hosting a Freedom Party)
- Sign up to teach a course to our staff and local leaders in the Philippines in your area of expertise (Counseling, art therapy, music, etc). These opportunities are limited and subject to an application process.

Creative ways others have volunteered their efforts and helped us provide service:

- Visioneering Studios, an architectural firm, donated their time and efforts to create all architectural blueprints needed for the construction of My Refuge House in Cebu, completely pro bono!
- The Cause Community Church hosted a “food truck fundraiser,” with a service to raise awareness that we spoke at, followed by a concert with food truck.
- Team Bermejo—Russ Bermejo, while pushing his son in a stroller, ran two half marathons in May 2010 and asked for 100 supporters to support \$1 a mile, raising over \$13,00.00.
- Redeemer churches Action Group, who call themselves “The Justice League”, hosted a “Dance for Refuge”—an Irish Ceilidh Benefit Dance (think of square dancing with a string orchestra).
- Sevenly.org, ONEHOPE Wine, Petit Plume, Chav’s Fudge and others have all hosted campaigns that gave My Refuge House a portion of proceeds from sales of their products.
- Numerous couples and birthday celebrants have asked for friends and family to give gifts to My Refuge House in lieu of a Birthday or wedding gift. One couple even made a donation and then printed out cards which told their guests that their party favor/give away was a gift to My Refuge House.



We welcome you to begin work of restoration and justice. There is so much to do, and we cannot possibly do it alone! Join us in our work, create your own recovery home in another area of the world, or start your own initiative to glorify God and restore lives, ***one life at a time.***

## Appendix A

# Recommended Resources for Learning More



### A. General Social Justice

1. Haugen, G. (1999). *Good News about Injustice*. Intervarsity Press.
2. Kristoff, N. & WuDunn S. (2010). *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. Vintage Publishing.
3. Various Authors. *The Justice Conference Videos*. (2011).  
<https://vimeo.com/thejusticeconference/videos>
4. Labberton, M. & Ortberg, J. (2012). *The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God's Call to Justice*. IVP Books.
5. Martin, J. & Haugen, G. (2012). *The Just Church: Becoming a Risk-Taking, Justice-Seeking, Disciple-Making Congregation*. Tyndale Momentum. **(My Refuge House and New Heart Community Church are mentioned in this book!)**

### B. Sex Trafficking

1. *Nefarious: Merchant of Souls*; Documentary Trilogy. (2012). [www.nefariousdocumentary.com](http://www.nefariousdocumentary.com)
2. Haugen, G. & Hunter, G. (2010). *Terrify No More: Young Girls Held Captive and the Daring Undercover Operation to Win Their Freedom*. Thomas Nelson Printing.
3. Bales, K. (2008). *Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves*. University of California Press.
4. Bales, K. (2004). *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*. University of California Press.
5. Farley, M. (2004). *Prostitution, Trafficking, and Traumatic Stress*. Routledge Publishing.
6. Skinner, E. B. (2009). *A Crime so Monstrous: Face to Face with Modern Day Slaves*. Free Press.
7. Grant D. & Grant B. (2008). *Beyond the Soiled Curtain—Project Rescue's Fight for the Victims of the Sex-Slave Industry*. Onward Books.
8. Jewell, D. H. (2008). *Escaping the Devil's Bedroom: Sex Trafficking, Global Prostitution, and the Gospel's Transforming Power*. Monarch Books.
9. *Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Report 2012*, US Department of State  
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/192587.pdf>

### **C. First Hand Accounts of Sex Trafficking**

1. Sage, J. & Kasten, L. (2008). *Enslaved: True Stories of Modern Day Slavery*. Palgrave Macmillan.
2. McCormick, P. (2008). *Sold*. Hyperion Books.
3. Mam, Somaly. (2009). *The Road of Lost Innocence: The True Story of a Cambodian Heroine*. Spiegel & Grau.
4. Smith, K. L. (2011). *Passport through Darkness: A True Story of Danger and Second Chances*. David C. Cook.
5. Lloyd, R. (2012). *Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls are Not for Sale: A Memior*. Harper Perennial.

## Appendix B

### Related Organizations

We have the privilege of fighting against trafficking with some incredible organizations, both on the ground in The Philippines as well as in other areas of the world! Here are a few that we are especially thankful for:

#### Worldwide:

- International Justice Mission
- Love 146
- The Salvation Army
- Nightlight
- Rapha House
- Red Window Project
- Project Rescue

#### United States:

- CAST LA
- Restore NYC
- Slavery No More
- Polaris Project
- GEMS
- Not For Sale

#### Asia:

- Hagar International
- Somaly Mam
- Zoe International

#### Europe & Africa

- A21
- Make Way Partners



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## Appendix C

### Our Restorative Role According to Scripture:

**Psalms 10:17-18** - O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

**Ephesians 6:11-12** - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

**Luke 19:10** - For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

**Acts 26:17b-18** - to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

**Jeremiah 29:11** - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

**James 1:27** - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction,

and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

**James 2:14-17** - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**1 John 4:20-21** - If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

**Matthew 25:31-46** - Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

**Isaiah 58:10, 11** - 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.