

Reflections REFLECTIONS?



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Anti-Trafficking – Freedom Sunday

These children are at risk of human trafficking. They come from communities where drugs, gangs, and prostitution are everywhere; but there is hope to build their resilience to trafficking and decrease their vulnerability to it.

The Colombian Free Methodist Church (FMC) works in partnership with International Child Care Ministers (ICCM) whereby some girls, who are considered to be at extreme risk, are helped through Findesin (Bee Hive program). With parental permission, they are placed in a residency program with a partner organization where they can pursue education, be unconditionally loved, and receive counseling. The team works with families in the Usme neighborhood to increase the



community's resilience to trafficking through parenting workshops and church outreach initiatives.



The purpose of these programs is to build healthy communities and protect those most vulnerable to trafficking in the Bogota, Colombia area, especially young girls and boys through holistic personal development. Compounding factors in these neighborhoods, such as poverty, lack of access to education, addiction, and

internal displacement make children and families vulnerable. In the middle photo you can see Doli (left), the ICCM Coordinator for Colombia, some of the Bee Hive residents, and Mayra (right), the dedicated Program Director who spearheads both the Bee Hive and Usme neighborhood work.

This is powerful preventative work. The team in the Bogota area in partnership with the FMC in Colombia and ICCM are truly creating new futures. These initiatives are part of Freedom Sunday 2020.

On Freedom Sunday, churches all around the world come together as a united, hope-filled, justice-driven community seeking to end modern slavery. We start with prayer, lament, learning, dialogue, and worship to inform and catalyze our response to this global tragedy. Freedom Sunday is more than a day. It's more than a worship service. Freedom Sunday is a movement of hope. In 2020, the Set Free Movement and partnering organizations celebrate 10 years of new futures through Freedom Sunday.



This year, Set Free Movement, Impact Europe, Latin America Area (FMC), and select conferences in the U.S. are teaming up to build holistic community resilience. Through partnerships with churches and organizations in Columbia, Spain, Texas and California, Freedom Sunday will support those most vulnerable to trafficking including immigrants, marginalized refugees and children.

Over the past 10 years, Freedom Sunday offerings have raised more than \$1 million and launched more than 21 Freedom Projects, including:

- ICCM projects protecting children in some Creative Access Countries, Thailand, the Philippines, Colombia and Ethiopia
- Eden's Glory a restoration home for adult female survivors of human trafficking in Illinois
- The St. John's Home, a home for vulnerable Roma girls in Bulgaria
- A scholarship fund to equip emerging leaders to better address the injustices in their communities
- Seed Livelihood projects in Iraq to assist economic development benefiting Kurdish refugees
- Set Free Movement ministries supporting immigrants in Taiwan, prostituted women in Greece, survivors of human trafficking in Iraq, at-risk children in the Philippines, and various holistic projects in the U.S.

As a unified movement, Freedom Sunday is one-way churches can connect with others around the world to move in the direction of holistic freedom. Churches can learn more and register for Freedom Sunday at <https://www.setfreemovement.com/freedom-sunday>.



ICCM began in Colombia in 1999. Many children in the community of the Free Methodist Church in Bogotá are at risk for abuse and trafficking. The church, its pastor and their friends established a foundation called Findesin ("The-End-of-Without") to care for girls in need. Sponsors help provide more than a dozen girls with a safe haven and education.

Anti-trafficking funds sent directly to ICCM will be used to supplement the girls' many needs.

Project Highlights

Camino De Vida (Way Of Life) Transformation Outpost, Medellín, Colombia

Partnering strong with the Colombian church will result in protecting children from being trafficked, assist women who have left prostitution to follow Jesus, feed the hungry, and provide a powerful witness to the grace and freedom Jesus offers.

Mosico (Mosaic) Center – Rivas Vacimadrid (Madrid), Spain



Partnering strong with the Spanish church will result in strengthening a bridge to marginalized refugees, the elderly, those at risk of human trafficking, and disillusioned young people.

Protecting Vulnerable Hispanic People in the U.S.

Partnering strong with the River and Sierra Pacific Conferences of the FMC to help those at the borders with humanitarian aid as well as feeding the hungry and offering hope in Jesus name.

Laredo, TX/Nuevo Laredo Mexico

Serving vulnerable immigrants who are crossing the border. A small FMC partners with the South Texas Food bank to meet real needs in Jesus name. A goal is to establish a church and shelter on the Mexican side of the river to serve these immigrants before they cross over. The shelters (5-6) in Laredo are overrun.

San Francisco, CA/Casa de Barro

Serving the poor through a food bank in the Mission District of San Francisco, a small Free Methodist church feeds between 400-500 people each week. It is having a powerful witness.