



Set Captives Free

NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 2022



"For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. **18** He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

Deuteronomy 10:17-18



WHAT WE DO

Set Captives Free

Many women are labor trafficked. They come in for domestic work, but are abused and not paid. Women are in prison because they run away from their “employers.” They left African countries under the understanding that they would work cleaning houses and being nannies for families. However, many of them find themselves in abusive situations: passports taken away, not allowed to leave the home, physical abuse, sexual abuse and no pay. Out of desperation, they run away from the house.

When the police pick them up off the streets, they take them to be held in detention for not having their passports.

Melissa works as a cross-cultural worker with her husband. She inherited the prison ministry from a woman named Mama Mary, who came from Kenya to do domestic work and dedicated herself to helping girls in the same vulnerable circumstances.



.Together they worked to provide the needs of these prisoners, help them negotiate with their “employers” for their passports and help the women get plane tickets back to their countries.

Now, Melissa leads the new team at Setting Captives Free. A good group of hearts have come together in recent weeks to join the incredible work that she is doing, this allows us to reach more women inside the prison.

VISITING PRISON



Since the formation of teams to help in prison visits, we have been able to get much more accomplished due to the numbers of volunteers now going out to visit the women. It is a huge encouragement to Melissa who was carrying the responsibility of all the work alone, but also such a blessing to the women in prison.

In the last few weeks we have been able to quadruple the number of visits to the prison, reaching 48 visits in just two weeks.

The visits, although short, are very valuable for the women in prison, we are the only people who visit them, we can talk for a few minutes through the glass that separates us, we pray together and encourage them to remain in God.

These women were chosen to visit because they are from countries that have no embassy in this country.

Therefore, they have no advocacy. We work to help them get what they need to get out of prison and home.

After talking with them, we usually go to another window to give them money, so they can buy personal hygiene items and make calls to their relatives or the support team.

GOING TO POLICE STATION

One of the complicated and tiring tasks is going through the Police District offices to find information on files of women in prison.

Many of the cases remain saved without anyone attending to them, other cases are lost and no information can be obtained.

We also visit detention centers, responding to calls from women who are very nervous, scared or confused, most of the women do not know the language, and very few speak English.

A Miracle Ticket

"Last month, a lady from Ethiopia texted me from a detention center. When women are taken into custody, some detention centers will allow them to use their phones. She asked for help to get home and kept texting me for the next few days. I was unable to go to that detention center, because of my schedule. However, I was praying for her. When we went for her, she had already been transferred to another detention. A couple of days later I went to look for her again, I was hoping she was still there. Finally, I found her.



She was so tiny and shaking and did not have warm clothing on her. She needed to go home, she had no legal case against her, but was unable to afford a ticket and that. I then spoke to the police and they confirmed she only needed a ticket home and could leave custody. I looked to see how much money I had on me, about 70 dollars. Then I prayed with her and said, we would see how we can help get her a ticket home. As I left the detention center I texted a man I met during my prison visits. He is often in the waiting room. He told me that if I need help buying tickets for Ethiopian women he could help. I was taken by surprise with his willingness to help.

I remembered him, and texted him about her case and I sent a picture of her passport. Less than ten minutes later, he texted me a picture of her ticket home! What a miracle!



HOLIDAY DISTRIBUTION

On festive dates of the year we prepare packages of needed hygiene items for the women to use while in prison. If you would like to help purchase these items for distribution packets, please donate at www.setcaptivesfree.org

Going HOME

Rehema is from Uganda. She came to this part of the world to be a domestic worker, however, she was faced with abuse and was not being paid by her employer.

When she ran out of the home to protect herself, she was accused of stealing and put in prison. Her passport was taken by her employer, and she had no proof of ID. After her court date was settled, she was exonerated but still could not leave prison because she had no ID to travel and no money for a plane ticket. Since there is no embassy for Uganda here, we were able to help advocate and get a travel document. We were also able to raise enough money for her plane ticket home after being in prison for 10 months.

She is a strong believer and said: “Being in like prison is like getting close to the doors of hell. Someone has to be ready to experience or face any kind of torture; physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I advise someone to be prayerful, believe, and have faith. There were up to 26 women in each room with not enough beds. I was being bullied because I am a Christian. When I was overwhelmed, I surrendered myself and prayed to God.”



If you want to help buy a ticket for a woman to get out of prison so they could start a new life back home, please go to our website at www.setcaptivesfree.org to donate and help set many women like her free!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND YOUR
PRAYERS AND SUPPORT.
MAY YOU BE ABUNDANTLY BLESSED!