



50,000

children, women and men rescued by IJM worldwide

In October 2019 IJM worldwide reached this amazing total of lives rescued from enslavement since it started in 1997.

St Luke's, in Autumn 2018, wonderfully voted to support IJM over three years under our mission partnership scheme where we support three charities, each for three years.

IJM, an international Christian charity, with prayer at its centre, is unique in rescuing survivors from enslavement around the world. Its uniqueness comes from the way their local frontline teams operate.

These teams are each made up of three local specialists - an investigator (often ex police), a lawyer and a social worker. When they hear of the possibility of people being enslaved they will start a detailed investigation using both covert and overt operations to build up a case that will stand up in court. This often puts the team under serious threat because powerful men and women with huge vested interests will literally stop at nothing to hide their deeds. This is why prayer plays such a big part in the charity.

Once a case is established, IJM need to persuade the local authorities (police and judiciary) to take action. Local knowledge is vital as to approach the wrong person in the authorities could endanger the victims and undermine the whole operation.

A sting operation is then planned and carried out by the authorities and IJM's investigator, to release the victims and place the perpetrators in jail to await trial.

The IJM social worker, together with qualified partners, will provide the survivors with safe accommodation and offer them three years of support, counselling and training to enable them to start their lives again. The IJM lawyer pursues the case in court to obtain a conviction.

Here are four examples of rescues from IJM's fortnightly prayer update

18th July 2019 - South Asia

Praise God for two simultaneous rescue operations this week that freed 42 people from modern slavery in lumber yards. A man and his son-in-law enslaved these families for years in brutal conditions at two sites, with very little food or contact with the outside world. Some of the victims literally fell to their knees begging for release when government authorities and IJM arrived. Praise God that we were able to find and rescue these families - including a two-week old baby - and pray we can help them resettle and recover in safety. Also pray for the two suspects to be held accountable for their crimes.

1st August 2019 - Africa

Praise God for seven children rescued out of slavery in the fishing industry on Lake Volta in Ghana. Three boys and four girls between the ages of 6-14 were rescued because of information provided by other children from previous rescues. This was the first rescue conducted by IJM Ghana's new team based in the northern part of the country. Pray for them as they conduct all the necessary follow up to provide care for each of the children, and to drive the legal case forward.

26th September 2019 - South Asia

Please pray for a group of 76 men and boys who were recently rescued from slavery at jewellery factories. Many were young teens, and one boy was just 10 years old. Most of these labourers had been from across the country and were forced to work non-stop making gold jewellery in horrible conditions. IJM worked with the government to rescue them from seven factories, and when the boys heard the news they'd be going home, they danced, excitedly packed their belongings and hugged IJM's staff with joy! Please pray for the process of helping these survivors return safely home, their reintegration with their families and ongoing police follow-up on the traffickers who abused them.

24th October 2019 - UK

Four people were convicted, at the High Court in Glasgow, of trafficking women from Slovakia and forcing them into slavery over a period of six years. All four convicted played a part in a scheme where eight vulnerable women were trafficked for exploitation in Glasgow. The women were lured to Scotland with the promise of a better life and jobs, but they were either forced into commercial sexual exploitation or to take part in marriages against their will. Pray for these women as they begin to heal, and for the authorities in Scotland seeking to tackle modern slavery.

DO you want to receive fortnightly PRAYER UPDATES?

Here are 3 ways that you can obtain the prayer updates which are without cost:

1. Either Go to the IJM website "IJMUK" and register for prayer updates.
2. Or Take and complete a card from below the IJM section of the church notice board in the foyer (far left-hand side) and put it in the post to IJM.
3. Or Contact Stephen "sr1802@hotmail.com" 07930220140

THANK YOU SO MUCH

Stephen and Ruth Priestley, Rev Philip Hall, Sam Krain, Paul and Claire Furbey