



SET FREE PRIMER

who we are & what we do

SET  FREE

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SECTION ONE

Introduction to the Set Free Movement

We are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization under the Free Methodist Church USA.

We work in partnership with community-based teams, missionaries, national leaders, financial partners, churches, and agencies in dozens of locations in the US and around the world. We help leaders equip their communities to address the root causes of injustice in their own region. We help leaders have a common vision and to be informed by their local context. Set Free staff don't dictate how leaders should engage with their community; we coach and guide.

We believe everyone has a role to play in ending human trafficking. Whether you are young or old, living in a rural or urban center, university-educated or not, there is a place for you in this movement.

Set Free's vision is to see the vulnerable protected, captives set free, and the oppressed experiencing hope and healing as neighborhoods are transformed.

We are deeply committed to our core values:

- Christ Centered
- Special preference for the poor and vulnerable.
- Partnership and multi-sector oriented
- Focused on transformational impact
- Hope-oriented

Our history

It all began 160 years ago when a group of Methodist ministers came together in upstate New York to be challenged on a variety of social issues, one of which being slavery. Out of that gathering, the Free Methodist church was born.

One of the reasons why this group was called “free” was because they were abolitionists. They believed all people should be free. They believed in holistic freedom – that God wants to set us free physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.

Fast forward to 2005, Kevin Austin is serving as a Free Methodist missionary in Thailand. Faced with the prevalence of prostitution and forced labor, Kevin spearheaded a refocus for the denomination on the issue of human trafficking. In 2007, the Free Methodist General Conference passed a strong resolution against modern-day slavery. In 2009, the denomination invited Kevin Austin to serve as a missionary to the problem of human trafficking.

Since 2010 the movement has expanded to now include leaders and various teams located all over the world from different denominations who seek to address the root causes of injustice in their own neighborhoods.

Our mission

Our mission is to mobilize faith communities, financial partners, and all segments of society towards ending human trafficking and creating new futures through community-based action.

Our uniqueness

The SFM encourages and equips anyone, anywhere to do what they do in the direction of freedom. We are a passionate, thriving network of global freedom champions. To this end, we provide awareness and education tools, we facilitate a champion’s network, and mobilize community teams.

SECTION TWO

A Holistic Response

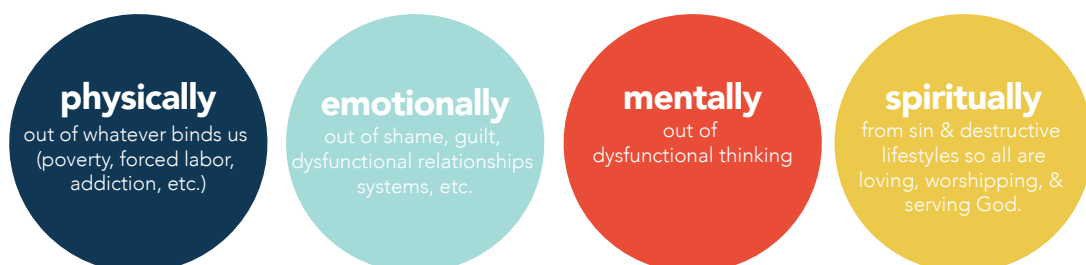
Addressing the Deeper Issue

We believe that human trafficking and other injustices are symptoms of the much deeper problem of brokenness between us and God, each other, in communities, systems, and cultures. The real problem is that relationships are fragmented, communities are divided, values are distorted, and systems are unjust. Our brokenness—which takes the form of racism, poverty, addiction, violence, abuse, and gender inequality, to name a few—is what allows human trafficking and slavery to thrive

In order to bring healing to this issue, we need to focus on restoring relationships and rebuilding community. Action flows out of community in holistic ways, integrated within a discipleship framework, in partnership with others.



Seeking Holistic Freedom It's not just about addressing injustice—we seek to create deep transformational change. We strive to see people set free in many ways: physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.



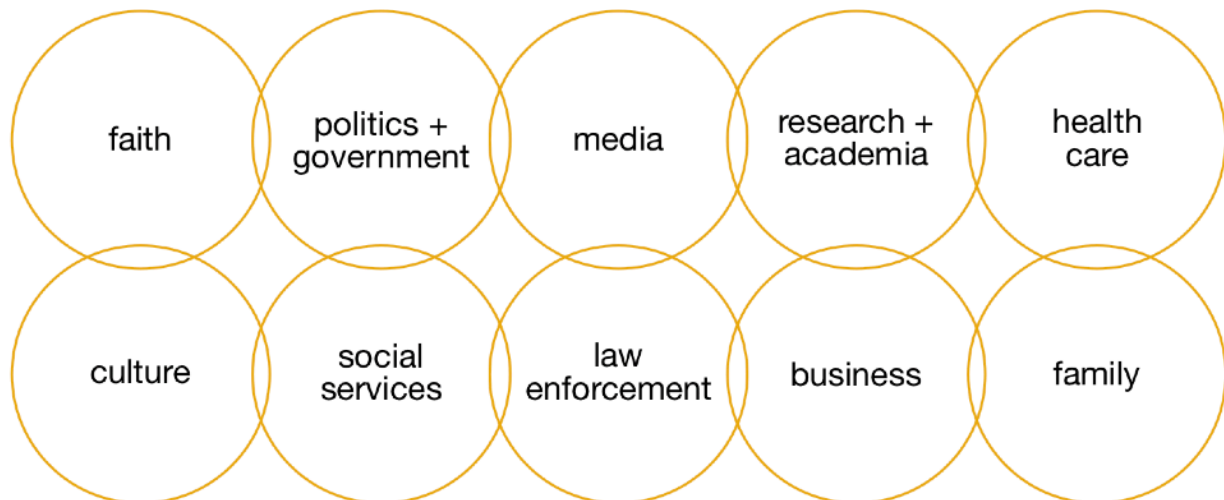
Community-based Action

We seek holistic freedom through creating Christ-centered community. Community is passion and gift driven, hope-infused, and prayer-filled. Community helps heal broken relationships and seeks to restore the world to the way God originally intended it.

Every person and every sector of society is needed to fulfill this mission. We strive to bring together these key societal influences to form a comprehensive response:

In order to achieve the above, we partner strong with a variety of agencies. Our teams have worked alongside and formed partnerships with numerous groups, including:

- various churches
- schools and colleges
- foster care or adoption centers
- criminal justice
- interfaith councils
- fair trade or ethical businesses
- child protection
- other non-profits
- juvenile hall
- family services groups
- hospitals
- health care workers
- radio stations
- lobbyists
- pregnancy centers
- sports leagues
- and more



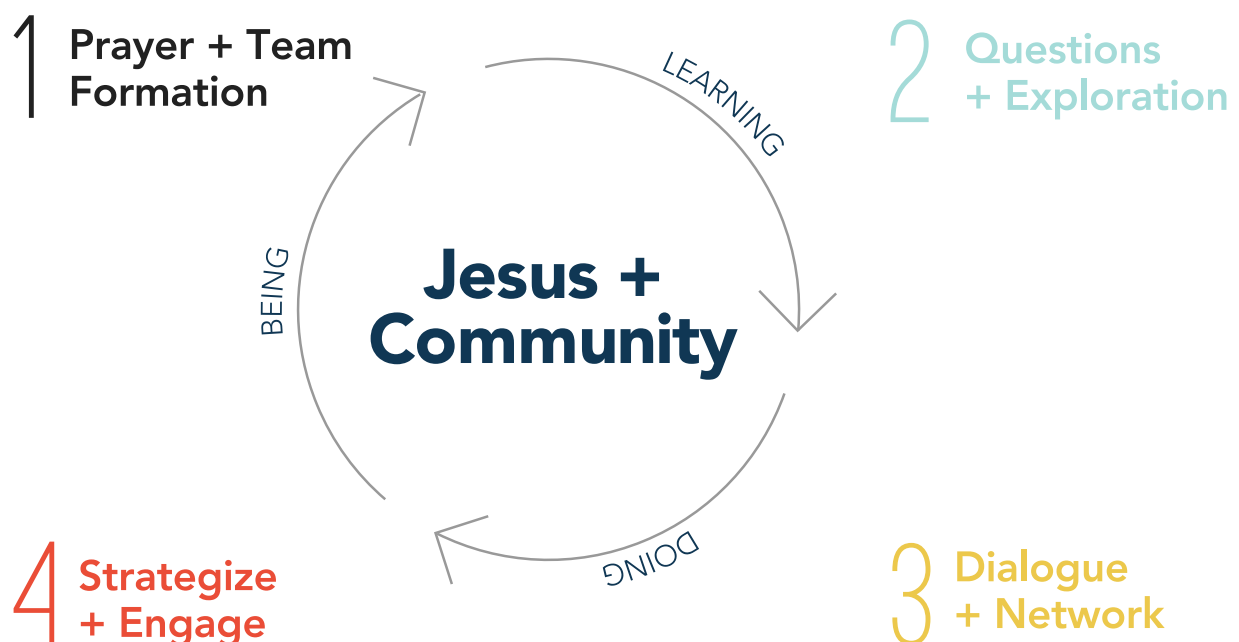
SECTION THREE

Team Formation & Engagement

We believe the process in which we engage is just as important as the outcome. We categorize teams into four stages (graphic below). This is a fluid process—you may go back and forth between stages as you experiment.

There are several types of Set Free Movement teams. Most of our teams follow our longer-term community-based model, starting from a place of building community and discipleship before moving into strategic action. This model incorporates the pursuit of justice with ongoing spiritual formation and partnership building.

Other teams already have their own program or even organization, but partner with us to join our community. We also have intercessory prayer teams, campus clubs, missionary partners, and more. We are diverse and there is a place for you here!



Steps to starting a community-based team:

- **Gather a core group of people from your church, workplace, school, or community.** Even 2 or 3 other committed people who meet regularly to pray, dialogue, and build relationships is key. We don't know what to do until we know who we are.
- **Learn as much as you can.** Identify harmful values, systems that breed exploitation, and how problems might actually be symptoms of deeper problems.
- **Dialogue with others in your community,** especially those already involved in related work. Assess your community's needs and stakeholders. Partner with like-minded groups, services, churches, or individuals instead of recreating the wheel.
- **Brainstorm and create a long-term plan for your community,** which is informed by all the previous stages. You will incarnate, test, pilot, improve, and adjust plans. Serve from a place that combines your skills, capacity, and the community's needs.

It is important to focus on the early “being” stages and not rush to the strategy stage. Some teams take years to move into a well thought out effective, sustainable strategy. That doesn't mean they are inactive during that time, but if the team is well-built, the action will be powerfully effective.

Be careful about taking on too much, especially at the start. It is more important to build toward sustainability than to immediately act.

Every team is different, so the timeline every team will operate within will be different, too.

**What we do flows
from who we are.**

— Kevin Austin

Ways Teams Engage

The ways teams engage in their communities will vary. All community-based teams are engaged in the ongoing process of team and partnership building, and will then move into a more strategic direction. These are some activities and strategies:

Team / Partnership Building

Building relationships and investing in your team is a core and ongoing part of your ministry—from this, strategies can begin to form or be strengthened. Creating relational and strategic connections with other churches, groups, and organizations is also key.

Examples:

- weekly/monthly team meetings
- prayer, discipleship, spiritual formation
- team-building dinners and activities
- team capacity building / trainings
- networking meetings

Education & Awareness

Education is often the first step for engagement. The goal is to not only teach on the local and global realities, but to help your community to understand the root causes.

Examples:

- book studies
- documentary screenings
- presentations / training leaders and influencers

Community Mobilization

Engage different aspects of the community—churches, schools, workplaces, youth groups, and more—to move from awareness into meaningful and practical action.

Examples:

- forming an intercessory prayer team
- events: Freedom Forums, 5k/races, fair trade parties, Freedom Sunday
- fundraising
- prayer walks or vigils

Prevention

This usually starts with identifying vulnerable or at-risk groups in your community. Teams often partner with agencies already engaged in outreach to a particular group but add value by addressing how that group is vulnerable to exploitation. The goal is to build resiliency in this group.

Examples:

- getting involved in foster care
- mentoring youth
- training youth or youth workers
- skills training for refugees or those who are unemployed, homeless, emerging from domestic violence situations, etc.

Advocacy

Challenging the societal values and practices that perpetuate exploitation by seeking to engage or influence policy, especially in government, businesses, social systems, the media, and more.

Examples:

- lobbying local government
- developing or joining a Task Force
- encouraging businesses to examine their supply chains or shift to fair trade.

Supporting Rescue

The support and exit strategies offered to help people leave trafficking and abusive situations should be left to professionals or those trained in this highly sensitive and complex area of care. However, there are ways teams can still get carefully involved indirectly.

Examples:

- training community members on identifying victims and reporting abuse
- outreach with Truckers Against Trafficking or strip club ministries
- providing first responders with emergency care kits for victims

Restoration

This is not only meeting the holistic needs of survivors, but also seeking to restore families, mend broken systems, and practice acceptance of the stranger. These are community

Examples:

- establishing or partnering with local safe homes or re-entry programs
- planting community care missions
- working with youth in juvenile hall or probation

How to Determine a Strategy

Strategies start with identifying the strengths, connections, and resources of your team:

Is your team made up of teachers and educators?

Launch a student club or take a curriculum into middle/high schools or universities.

Do you have athletes on your team?

A 5K Freedom Run could be an option.

Does your team have connections to the local police service?

Help them identify local cases of human trafficking.

Do you have foodies on your team?

Host a monthly “dinner club” where local food/beverages are donated to the event, limited numbers of tickets are sold, and all proceeds go to benefit the SFM.

Do you or your team members own businesses?

Ask them to be % for Freedom partners or help them promote ethical purchasing.

Teams will learn assessment tools during our onboarding process to understand the community's assets, opportunities, needs, and challenges. These assessment tools will help determine the best strategy to protect the vulnerable and fight human trafficking in your unique community setting.



SECTION FOUR

Additional Ways to Engage

Freedom Sunday

Freedom Sunday brings together communities all around the world as a united, hope-filled, justice-driven movement. We start with prayer, lament, learning, dialogue, and worship. We then move into community-based action, mobilizing churches to restore relationships, rebuild communities, and reframe harmful values to holistically transform society. **Find out more:** setfreemovement.com/freedom-sunday

Freedom Forum

Freedom Forum brings together people from different sectors to educate, equip, and empower a community to address the root causes of human trafficking in their own neighborhoods. Please get in touch with us to request a Freedom Forum Planning Guidebook and for any assistance in the planning process.

Fundraising

Financial partnership building is essential for sustainability and success. We expect all leaders and teams to help raise funds for the work.

Churches are an excellent place to start fundraising. Percent for Freedom is a program that raises awareness, invites people to participate, as well as being an avenue for financial partnership building.

% for Freedom

% for Freedom is a partnership with businesses seeking to invest in new futures for at-risk communities. By donating a percentage of their profits, businesses can be a vital part of the solution to end human trafficking.

Is there a local business that would consider partnering with the Set Free Movement in this way? If so, please direct them to our webpage or connect them to our staff:

www.setfreemovement.com/percentage-for-freedom

Facebook Fundraisers

A simple way to engage your online community on human trafficking and to raise money for Set Free is through a Facebook Fundraiser:

- Click Fundraisers in the left menu of your News Feed.
- Click Raise Money.
- Select Nonprofit/Charity and then type “Set Free Movement”
- Choose a cover photo - we have promotional photos you can use in our SFM Leader Resource Google Drive (see the “fundraising” folder).
- Click Create

Event Ideas

- **Host an event at your home or church**, such as a documentary screening or fair trade chocolate tasting, to engage people around the issue of trafficking and give them the opportunity to become monthly donors.
- **Host a fundraising meal or themed event night** at a local restaurant or church. Set a price to cover expenses and donate the profit. As an incentive, give a discount to those who sign up to be monthly donors!
- **Build a partnership with your local football program:** send volunteers to work at the concession stands and ask to split the profits 50/50 (or another pre-arranged amount). Keep a donation jar handy, too!
- **Host a virtual or in-person 5k race:** work with your team, church, or local high school to plan a 5k Freedom Run and donate a portion of the registration fees.
- **Participate in local farmers markets and craft fairs:** host a booth or table and distribute SFM information, build relationships in the community, and sell SFM t-shirts. Many farmers markets and fairs will allow free space for nonprofits!

Social Media Engagement

We encourage leaders to follow the Set Free Movement on all social media platforms, sharing, and participating.

If you are interested in starting a Facebook Page for your team, please check with the SFM staff team first.

SECTION FIVE

What to Expect from the SFM Staff Team

The SFM Staff Team exists to help encourage and equip leaders, teams, community members, and financial partners toward the vision and mission of the Set Free Movement.

YOU are the Set Free Movement. Programs and projects are generated through the Set Free process. We all work together towards success and sustainability.

Connecting

We work to create a movement of change-makers. Even though SFM teams are spread across the world, you'll have many opportunities to connect, network, and engage in peer learning opportunities with other leaders and partners.

- Team leaders regularly communicate with SFM staff by e-mail, video calls, and phone. Please correspond with our staff with any questions, needs or concerns.
- Please make the cohort calls a priority.
- We encourage teams to connect with each other through our "SFM Leaders" Facebook group. These are excellent places to seek advice from other leaders, share compelling articles, start conversations, share prayer requests, and more.
- The SFM staff sends out monthly leader emails and also coordinates networking and training calls for leaders.

Please invest in this community! Our leaders are rich in experience and have specialized areas of knowledge. We have much to learn from each other.

Support + Resources

We seek to help connect you to the resources you need to do lead your team well. Please contact us for more information about:

- **Pastoral care and prayer support:** our Director of Team Relations is available to you whenever you need someone to talk to or to pray with. Please reach out at any time!
- **Marketing needs:** we can help your team by creating promotional materials for events and other work you do in your community. We ask that you fill out a Graphic Design and Marketing request form.
- **Small grants:** when funds are available, we can provide up to \$1,000 in financial assistance for active teams who are abiding by our team policies. We ask that you fill out a Grant Application request form.
- **Strategy sessions:** we are here to support your core team members in brainstorming, discussing issues, and making strategic plans. Please contact us to set up a strategy call.
- **Conference calls:** we arrange conference calls with our leaders for discussions, resource sharing, prayer support, brainstorming, teaching and training.
- **Onboarding and Cohort Series:** we host an onboarding series for new leaders to learn about the SFM and how to lead a team. We also host a quarterly cohort series for established leaders that provides a space for relationship building, networking, and goal setting.

Thank you for partnering with us!

We're thrilled to have you as part of the global Set Free Movement family. We're excited about the steady growth we've experienced and are optimistic about the future.

Will you help us grow so that we can continue to raise up communities across the U.S. and around the world?

Will you pray with us, spread the message, engage your community, fundraise, and financially support us?

We're all in this together—we are all agents of hope and healing, centered on Jesus, on mission.