

# THE SET FREE MOVEMENT PRIMER FALL 2016



[www.setfreemovement.org](http://www.setfreemovement.org)  
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## CONTENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE SET FREE MOVEMENT	3
1.3. Our History	4
1.4. What We Do	4
1.6. Our Ethos	5
2. OUR STRATEGIES	6
2.1.1. Education & Awareness	6
2.1.2. Prevention	6
2.1.3. Community Mobilization	6
2.1.4. Rescue	7
2.1.5. Restoration	7
3. OUR SET FREE MOVEMENT TEAMS	8
3.1. Team Trajectories	8
3.2. How Teams Function	9
3.3 Expectations of Teams	10
4. PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY	11
5. INTERNATIONAL WORK	12
6. WHAT'S NEXT?	13



## 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE SET FREE MOVEMENT

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The Set Free Movement champions **holistic freedom** and seeks to **create new futures** through community-based action in partnership with others. Our core values are:

- We are committed to holistic freedom.
- We are committed to a special preference for the poor.
- We are committed to collaborative partnerships.
- We are committed to community-based activism.
- We are committed to smart action.

The Set Free Movement is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization under the Free Methodist Church USA. While being birthed out of the Free Methodist ethos, the movement has expanded to include leaders from all over the world.



### 1.1. Staff & Board of Directors

#### **STAFF LEADERSHIP:**

**Kevin Austin**

*National Director, SFM*

**Katie Bergman**

*Director, Communications & Operations*

**Nicole Kennelly**

*Leader, Graphic Design*

**Debra Hancock**

*Accountant at the Free Methodist Church  
World Ministries Centre*

**TBA**

*Director of Team Support / Relations*

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**Mark VanValin**

*Senior Pastor, Spring Arbor FMC*

**Deb Somerville**

*Senior Pastor, West Morris FMC, Indianapolis*

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*Director, International Child Care Ministries*

**David Kendall**

*Bishop, Free Methodist Church USA*

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*Business leader, Michigan*

**Tim Burkhart**

*Free Methodist Foundation*



## 1.3. Our History



It all began 150 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 now fighting slavery by 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 slavery. In 2007, the **Free Methodist General Conference** passed a strong resolution against modern-day slavery. In 2009, the denomination invited Kevin Austin to lead the **Set Free Movement** to help end modern-day slavery.

While being birthed out of the Free Methodist ethos, the movement has expanded to now include leaders and various teams located all over the world.

## 1.4. What We Do

More than 35 Set Free Movement teams now operate around the nation and Set Free teams are launching internationally. We partner with a wide variety of organizations working holistically to address modern-day slavery and the orbiting issues of poverty and abuse.

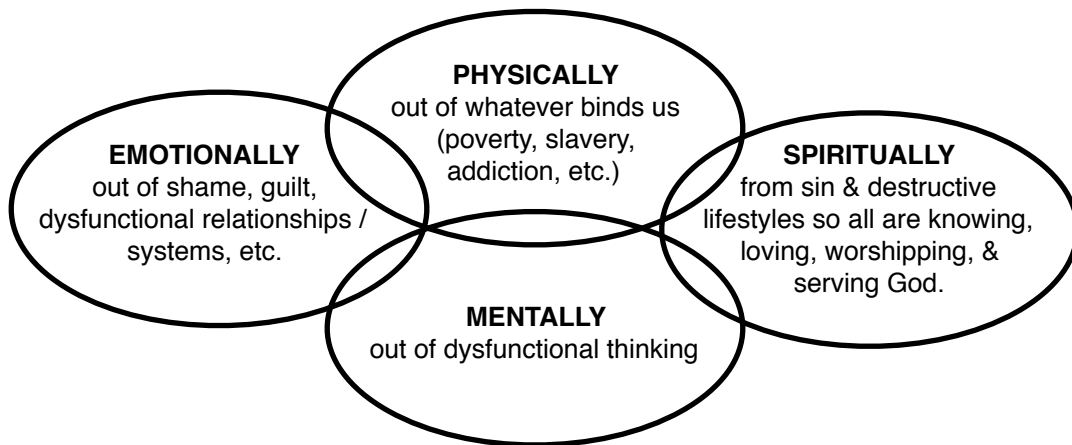
We are involved in five major aspects of human trafficking interventions: **awareness / education, prevention, rescue, aftercare / restoration, and community mobilization.** When teams are reporting, we ask them to categorize their activities as one these five. See next page for more details.



## 1.6. Our Ethos

Holistic freedom is birthed in community, grows out of relationship, combines with smart activism, is passion and gift driven, is hope-infused, and prayer-filled. It's not just about human trafficking—it's creating deep transformational change. It's about a whole way of approaching justice and faith.

In the diagram below, the four freedom segments overlap each other. This is what makes the freedom holistic. It's not just *ONE* thing, but all four. Strategies are designed to overlap and integrate.



**The outcomes of creating holistic freedom are many.** Individuals, families, and communities experience transformation on multiple levels: poverty and homelessness in our communities decreases; slaves are set free; forgiveness is offered; racial reconciliation is experienced; families receive healing; children and youth are protected and nurtured; people get saved; safe places of hope and **healing are established.**

Creating holistic freedom starts by creating community. The process in which we engage in looks like this:



## 2. OUR STRATEGIES

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Our U.S. teams work through and alongside other partners to pursue strategic, community-based action. Much of our work is done alongside churches, universities and colleges, businesses, and other social service agencies.

The SFM seeks to engage in and organize around five primary constructs: Education & Awareness, Prevention, Community Mobilization, Rescue, and Restoration. When we (the Set Free Movement) operate fully in each capacity, the community will engage, society will change, and lives will be restored. All of these should be executed with prayer and discernment, and each require expanding a team's knowledge base.

### ***2.1.1. Education & Awareness***

The journey must begin with **understanding the realities** and **telling the story**. This comes through learning and then sharing information from reading books, watching documentaries, hosting conversations, teaching and preaching.

#### **Education and awareness activities may include:**

- hosting book studies, documentary screenings, or presentations with local ministerial alliances, women's retreats, health departments, Soroptomist groups, churches, county interagency meetings, youth groups/camps, small groups, colleges, etc.
- training key society leaders and influencers, including first responders, law enforcement officers, health care practitioners, social service workers, etc.
- hosting events and fundraisers, ie: Freedom Sunday, Set Free Walks / Runs, conferences, fair trade chocolate parties

### ***2.1.2. Prevention***

There are a variety of avenues for mitigating the vulnerability of at-risk populations in efforts to cut off trafficking before it begins. This encompasses **educational elements, outreach events, and regular contact with vulnerable populations**. Teams can do this by championing existing work in their communities or launching new efforts.

#### **Protecting those who may be in vulnerable situations may look like:**

- support social workers working in foster care and help improve the system
- becoming a foster family, sponsoring a child through ICCM, or mentoring youth
- training front-line youth works on signs and indicators of trafficking
- providing job / life skills training for those who are unemployed

### ***2.1.3. Community Mobilization***

Education and awareness is given a meaningful value when people are empowered to put their knowledge into practice. Teams and communities must be given opportunities

and have their capacity built in order to respond to slavery in practical ways. This must involve forming partnerships, networking, and getting relational.

#### **Activities that mobilize communities may include:**

- prayer walks, vigils, praying Ephesians 3:20 every day at 3:20pm: *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”*
- networking meetings, events, trainings, and more.
- weekly prayer circles in homes, coffee shops and churches
- partnering with others and supporting their work, including ICCM, Heavenly Treasures, SEED, Camano Island Coffee, local shelters, ethical businesses, social services, other anti-trafficking agencies, etc.
- challenging society values that catalyze injustice and slavery, ie: encouraging local business and communities to buy direct / fair trade products
- finding ways to address the root causes of human trafficking - abusive and broken people, families, communities, and systems
- developing or participating in an existing Task Force

#### **2.1.4. Rescue**

We need to offer support and exit strategies to help victims leave trafficking and abusive situations. This happens when **education is done well**, and **community members are united to identify victims**, especially through law enforcement, social workers, health care providers, etc. Direct rescue and restoration efforts should typically be left to professionals or those trained in these areas, but there are indirect ways teams can still get involved.

#### **Indirect rescue efforts may include:**

- Teams go to vulnerable people in commonly known trafficking areas to identify victims and appropriately report to law enforcement
- Outreach can be done through Truckers Against Trafficking, providing information on identifying trafficking victims to local businesses, or learning how to effectively engage in outreach to women working the streets or to migrant workers
- Participate in existing strip club ministries

#### **2.1.5. Restoration**

To end slavery, we will need to **restore families, mend broken systems, meet the holistic needs of survivors, and practice acceptance of the stranger**—these are community efforts rooted and grounded in Christ.

Restoration efforts may include:

- establishing or partnering with local safe homes
- planting missions
- working with youth in juvenile hall or probation who have been trafficked

## 3. OUR SET FREE MOVEMENT TEAMS

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**Action flows out of relationships and community.** All of our teams have a common vision of creating new futures and ending modern slavery, but we believe each team should be informed by their local context and should work in partnership with others for the common good within their community.

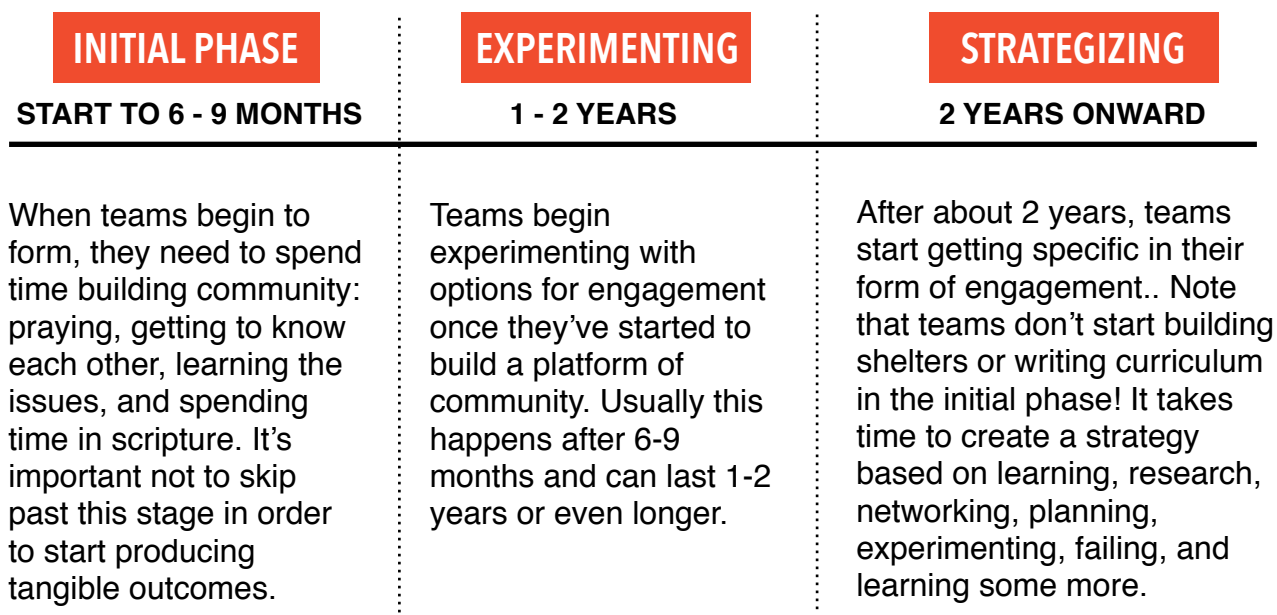
SFM teams operate in a variety of ways. Most operate regionally. These teams are often birthed out of churches that want to become more engaged in ending human trafficking and/or want to engage their broader community more.

SFM is also involved with affiliated groups. These are groups that are already fighting human trafficking in their community, such as the Edgewood Abolitionists or Operation Freedom Task Force.

Other SFM groups have gone on to launch their own projects. They are still a SFM group and continue to engage their community, but have also chosen to focus on a specific project. Examples include Eden's Glory or our mission plant in Atlanta. Some may gain non-profit charitable status or become a licensed church.

### 3.1. Team Trajectories

Every team is different, so the timeline every team will operate within will be different, too. However, there is a common timeline pattern we have observed that many teams will follow. The details will vary, but the trajectory often looks like this:

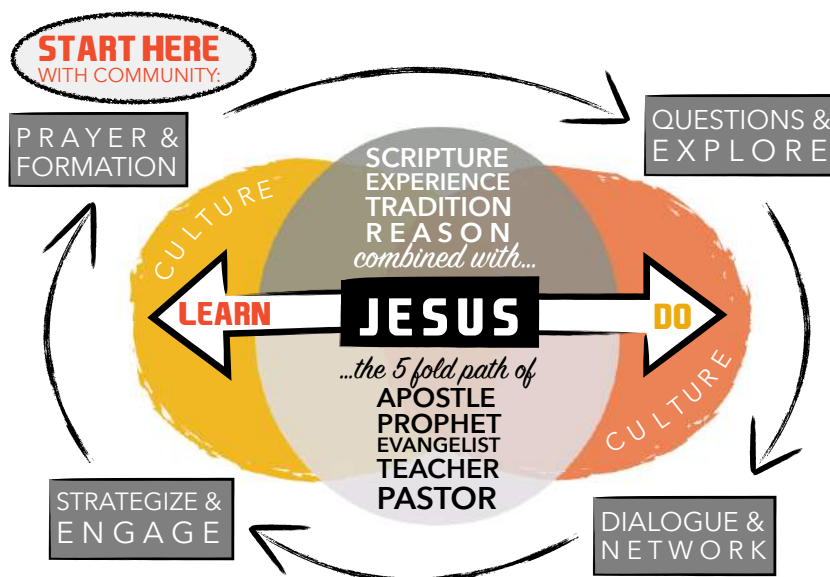




## 3.2. How Teams Function

*“So Christ himself gave **the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers**, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” - Ephesians 4:11-12*

The image at right demonstrates how SFM teams function. While this process always starts with prayer, it is not meant to be rigid. Teams can move back and forth between phases fluidly. All these phases occur within the culture of a team’s community, which is unique to every location and requires teams to learn about and understand. Note that **LEARNING** and **DOING** are balanced: we can’t only learn or only do.



**Phase 1 | PRAYER & FORMATION:** We don’t know what to do until we know who we are. Finding your strategy as a SFM team starts with gathering people together to pray and form a community. During this phase of relationship building, it will gradually become clear what your group needs to do about human trafficking in your community.

**Phase 2 | QUESTION & EXPLORE:** Next, your team starts to question and explore the issue of human trafficking. You will **LEARN, IDENTIFY, LISTEN** and **IDENTIFY** how human trafficking is a symptom of a much greater problem of community breakdown.

**Phase 3 | DIALOGUE & NETWORK:** After starting to educate yourselves, your team moves into dialogue and networking within your community, especially with agencies already engaging in human trafficking interventions. You’ll **INTERPRET** what you have learned and **BRAINSTORM** what to do with that information. You may frequently go back and forth between this and other phases.

**Phase 4 | STRATEGIZE & ENGAGE:** Your team will begin to figure out your long-term plan for your community, which is informed by all the previous stages of prayer, questioning, and dialoguing. This requires your team to **INCARNATE, TEST, PILOT, IMPROVE**, and **ADJUST** plans. Do not rush to this stage—because it’s hard to have a strategy without getting to know your community well.

Along the way, teams are mindful of leadership issues, leaning into the 5-fold pattern of Ephesians 4. Teams do this while balancing the Wesleyan Quadrilateral (scripture, experience, tradition, and reason) for decision-making, placing Jesus in the center of the work.

### 3.3 Expectations of Teams

The Set Free Movement predominately operates as exactly that—a movement. While we do our best to guide and support instead of dictate, we realize it can be helpful to be clear on basic expectations. Our 5 main expectations of all team leaders are critically important to our functionality as a whole and include:

- A) **Regular communication.** Please reach out to us by email or phone once every month at minimum if we haven't already reached out to you. We would like to initiate contacting every team leader individually, but with respect for your schedule and boundaries it is helpful for us to hear from you based on when you're available.
- B) **Submit monthly reports on time.** Reports are due within 1 week of the reporting month. (I.e: January reports are due on or before February 7). Please use the Excel format provided. Katie sends an email every month to remind you to submit your monthly report, but feel free to send yours in ahead of time. Even if you do not have any activities to report, contact Katie to let her know you will not be sending in a report.
- C) **Abide by child safety policies and other codes of contact.** Your safety and the safety of those you work with is important to us. We will be asking team leaders to complete trainings as needed to ensure you are as equipped as possible to handle difficult situations such as suspected child abuse for your own protection.
- D) **Join bi-monthly team conference calls.** Every other month, we arrange for conference calls for all US / Canadian team leaders. These calls are a central part to our work in building community and are a great opportunity to stay informed of news and updates, best practices, new research, and other resource sharing. We understand it is not possible to attend every conference call, but we do ask you to join when your schedule allows.
- E) **Invest in your team.** Building communities that are resilient against human trafficking starts with building into your own team. Please address any dysfunctions or issues amongst your own team and communicate with us if we can help.

Team leaders can then expect the following from SFM core staff:

- A) **Provide resources.** Since we are a start-up, we cannot provide the financial resources to every team that we would like to (although we hope that will change as we grow!). However, we're here to help you access resources, which might include funding from other agencies. We can also work with you to create materials for promotion, donors, reporting, etc.
- B) **Coaching.** You don't have to lead alone. We are here to coach you through issues, help you make connections, provide pastoral care and trainings, engage on strategizing, maintain accountability, and be a sounding board.
- C) **Community.** Being a SFM leader means being part of a national and international network of experienced individuals in social work, counselling, ministry and missions, law enforcement, government, grassroots organizing, and more. You have a place here.

*Please see the Team Guide for Communications and Operations for further guidelines.*

## 4. PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY

**The goal of a SFM team is to create a community.** This community incorporates the pursuit of justice with spiritual formation. From this process of relationship building, community-based action in partnership with others follows.

We work with countless sectors of society to influence change (see image at right, which highlights some of the agencies we connected with in 2014). Eventually, the community and action permeates the broader community, mobilizing the influencers of society:



We believe that human trafficking and other injustices are **symptoms of the much deeper problem of community brokenness**. Therefore, we focus on community. Action flows out of community in holistic ways, integrated within a discipleship framework, in partnership with others.



CHURCHES  
 JUNIOR HIGH  
 HIGH SCHOOLS  
 UNIVERSITIES  
 FOSTER CARE  
 ADOPTION CENTERS  
 WOMEN WORLD  
 CHANGERS  
 TRUCKERS AGAINST  
 TRAFFICKING  
 FAMILY VIOLENCE  
 COORDINATING  
 COUNCIL  
 PREGNANCY AND  
 FAMILY SERVICES  
 SALVATION ARMY  
 ADDICTIONS  
 AWARENESS  
 FAITH COALITION  
 GROUPS  
 INTERFAITH COUNCILS  
 WESLEYAN  
 CONSORTIUM FREEDOM  
 NETWORK  
 SOLD  
 CSEC GROUPS  
 LAW ENFORCEMENT  
 FAIR TRADE BUSINESSES  
 CHILD PROTECTION  
 A21  
 WORLD RELIEF  
 HEAVENLY TREASURES  
 WESLEYAN HOLINESS  
 CONSORTIUM  
 JUVENILE HALL  
 INTERNATIONAL CHILD  
 CARE MINISTRIES  
 POINT LOMA UNIVERSITY  
 GREENVILLE COLLEGE  
 CHURCH OF GOD  
 SEED  
 IJM  
 MADE IN A FREE WORLD  
 SHARED HOPE INTL  
 REST

## 5. INTERNATIONAL WORK

In addition to the SFM's focus on addressing the symptoms and problems of human trafficking locally, we also approach this issue with a global perspective. Below is a map of some of the countries in which we have partnerships and projects:

### AMERICAS



### EUROPE



### SOUTHEAST ASIA



As often as possible, we partner with other trusted agencies with existing work to maximize our impact, including:

- International Child Care Ministries (ICCM) in the **Philippines**, which uses a holistic approach to provide weekly learning and enrichment activities to vulnerable children.
- Free Methodist missionaries Chance and Dee Dee Galloway in **Bulgaria** to establish a prevention home for Roma girls.
- National leaders, missionaries, and agencies in **Hungary** and **Taiwan** to provide life skills and support to people in vulnerable circumstances.
- Other emerging work with partners in **Thailand, India, Cambodia**, and **Haiti** and previous efforts in **Greece** that are being reassessed.





## 6. WHAT'S NEXT?

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**We've experienced significant growth in the last couple of years.** In 2014, we gained non-profit charitable status and tripled in size. We continue to see a steady growth in our work in the U.S. and around the world.

We're excited about the 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're all agents of hope and healing. **Join us.**

