



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INVESTMENT UPDATE

MAY 2013

Because of the World Day of Prayer's generous support of IJM, your passion for rescuing and restoring the broken, and your faithfulness in serving the God who loves the least of these, our team was enabled to show up to rescue the children and women who were trapped in the sex industry in Cebu. Your 2012 gift made it possible to together commit to the long battle of not only rescuing individuals, but also changing justice systems so that they work to actually protect the poor from ever being abused in the first place. On behalf of those who today are waking up in freedom instead of dreading another day of hopeless violence, and on behalf of those who will be spared from ever knowing a day of horrific abuse, thank you. May this update be a great encouragement to you, as you see how your love for the vulnerable and your investment in sustainable, long-term justice is reflecting the glory of our good God on the earth.

We are so grateful for this chance to praise God with you for all that he has done in Cebu to rescue and restore victims of sex trafficking. In 2012 in Cebu:

- 114 victims of sex trafficking were rescued from the nightmare of sex trafficking (Goal: 55).
- 30 suspected perpetrators were arrested (Goal: 25).
- 10 perpetrators were convicted, sending the message that violence against vulnerable women and girls will not be tolerated in Cebu (Goal: 12).

An additional exciting development is the momentum being gained in the Philippines' commitment to providing top quality aftercare services to survivors of sex trafficking, including the following two milestones:

1. For years, the team has struggled to find creative solutions for ensuring that trafficking survivors' transitions from shelters back into communities are successful. The team is thrilled that last year, a new Reintegration Support Network (RSN) in Mandau City, part of IJM Cebu's project area, was established. Once victims are released from aftercare shelters, the local social welfare office is responsible for providing ongoing care, including providing group counseling and other vital resources like parenting classes or vocation training. Unfortunately, local social welfare agents are often overworked and under-resourced. To address this gap in service, IJM helped to develop the RSN as a new physical space within the city social welfare office where our clients can come to receive these necessary services from both social welfare agents as well as from volunteers and IJM staff. By the end of 2014, the IJM Philippines team hopes to work with officials to set up three more RSNs in Cebu and Manila.

As an example of the type of services these RSNs provide, in October 2012, the Cebu FO Aftercare Team hosted the culmination of the 5-week Photography Class conducted by Cebu FO's Communications Fellow, held at the Mandaue City RSN Center. Photos taken by our clients were displayed in a Photo Gallery Event to honor our 7 client participants for their hard work and accomplishments.

2. It is vital that immediately after rescue, survivors of sex trafficking have a safe, welcoming place to go as they await processing and placement. HerSpace, a highly successful victim processing space developed by the IJM Cebu team, enables law enforcement and the Department of Social Welfare and Development to:

- Keep victims separate from suspects immediately after they are removed from the crime scene
- Protect rescued victims and removed non-victims from potentially intimidating police station environments;
- Enhance the effectiveness of aftercare assessments prior to shelter placement; and
- Provide investigators with the best opportunity to gain critical evidence and intelligence from victims and witnesses.

We are very excited to report that after months of lobbying by the IJM Philippines staff, a new victim processing space, SafeSpace, modeled after the Cebu team's HerSpace, began construction in 2012 in Manila and is anticipated to be operational in late 2013. This is a great example of how the work you are supporting in Cebu is not just benefiting victims of trafficking in Cebu – it is changing the experience of victims of trafficking all throughout the Philippines.