



setfree
MINISTRIES

**2020
Annual Report**



25 Years of Ministry



Changing Visions

2020 or should it be 20/20: What's happening?

2020 has been a year of struggle, heartache, frustration, and even heroism. As Covid-19 moved from China to the rest of the world, fear and panic gripped billions of people. News spread just as quickly as the virus on television, radio, Facebook, and Twitter.

A couple thousand years ago, Jesus warned believers of such days to come in Matthew 24. He said there would be wars & rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines, pestilence, and plagues. These would be the beginning of sorrows for a corrupt and dying world.

Jesus also promised to open blind eyes to see, and for deaf ears to hear, His Gospel of truth.

20/20 vision is the standard for clear sight. Interestingly, the year 2020 is clearly showing that lawlessness is increasing around the world and at home. We witnessed with our own eyes the amount of hate, rage, and anger smoldering in the hearts of many who burned our cities, attacked the police, and looted thousands of businesses.

The enemy would have us shrink back in fear, but the Lord would have us move forward in faith. Those who are attacking police and rioting need to experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ through His bride's hands and feet, the Church.

It's evident to many that the USA is now a post-Christian nation which has mostly turned its back on God. Too many now look to the government to take care of their needs. This has happened because we, the Church, have failed to fully heed the call of Jesus Christ to "Go Make Disciples."



SFM visit to Uganda in March 2020



Dr. Anderson, Dr. Stam, and Dean praying over Set Free

I pray we awaken to the desperate need for the Church of Jesus Christ to rise up, for such a time as this, to reach out to the hurting, to bind up the injured, to search for the lost, and to bring back the strays. That's the heart of God, Jesus' mission, and the call to the Bride of Christ in 2020 and beyond. This is what we at Set Free Ministries (SFM) have been doing, and will continue to do. The need can be seen as clearly as 20/20 vision.

Throughout this report, you will see the heart of God moving through SFM in 2020. Your partnership through gifts of time, talent, and treasure helped to make it all possible. Thank you! Please continue to pray for us and consider how God might be encouraging you to engage more fully in bringing His hope and healing to a hurting world.

...but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (Ephesians 5:8)

Dean Vander Mey
Dean Vander Mey
Executive Director

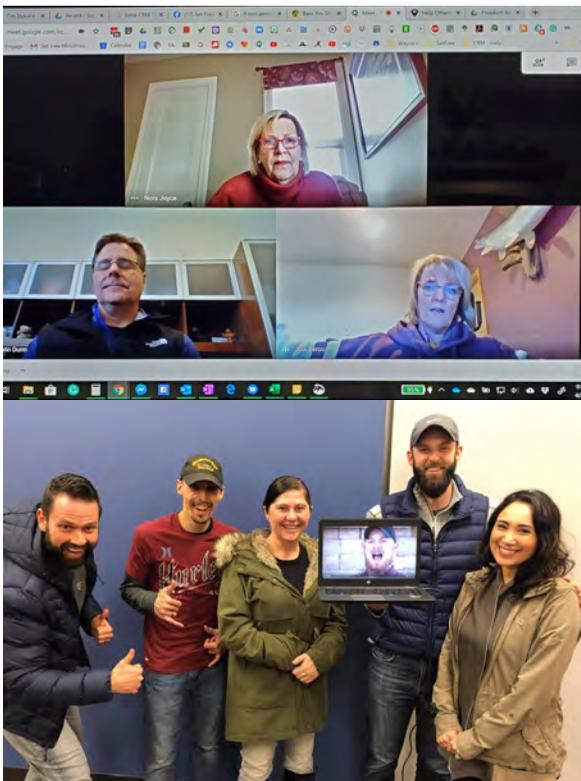


2020 - Year in Review

Year in Review

January - March

- Five buildings ready for incoming class at Light Academy, and first students arrive.
- Active prison ministry in eight of eleven Mizoram, India districts.
- Three Prison ministries and legal status initiated for a national freedom ministry in the Dominican Republic.
- Men’s & Women’s aftercare courses start.
- SFM Team visits in Uganda just prior to shutdown.



April - August (Covid 19 hits!)

- All ministry activities internationally are restricted.
- SFM purchased laptops for volunteer ministry staff and began training to conduct freedom appointments virtually.
- Virtual appointments were conducted here in West Michigan, nationally, and internationally.
- Some travel restrictions are lifted and prison ministries resume in India.
- Training in freedom ministry and Christian discipleship of SFM-EA staff and teachers.
- Warriors Set Free conducted courses on Trauma Healing at SFM.
- Heroes Return and Combat Recovery workshops held.



September - Current

- 25th Anniversary Banquet - Virtual Banquet. (Visit: SetFreeMin.org/2020Banquet)
- Hosted a Pastor and Counselor Conference with Dr. Neil T. Anderson.
- All districts are open for commerce but schools remain closed in Kenya and Uganda.
- October 15, “candidate classes” for national exams allowed to open in Uganda.

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True Discipleship True Church

In 2020, I witnessed the true Church arise within the walls of Set Free Ministries, a body of believers sold out to advance the Kingdom of God. Please don't misunderstand; we are not perfect! However, this year has been a teaching year for all of us. I'd like to share what we've learned about true discipleship, and what being a part of the body of Christ looks like.

True Discipleship Rises to the Occasion

This year has been an extraordinary year in the sheer numbers and depth of hurting people coming through our doors for freedom. As I write this article, the number of hurting souls receiving ministry at SFM has risen 25% higher than in 2019! These numbers alone could have caused us to waiver, especially considering that Covid-19 precautions required meeting these needs through most of the year with a much smaller team, and without meeting in person! Our discipleship team of volunteers rose to the occasion! We quickly adapted by providing everyone a laptop, and conducted Freedom Appointments via video teleconferencing.

True Discipleship Focuses on Others

In the Gospel, Jesus demonstrated the need to love others. When asked what the greatest commandment was, our Lord replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself." I have always been profoundly touched by volunteers and staff giving of themselves to bring the light of Jesus into the darkness. Countless testimonies of hope have been shared following sessions our teams have facilitated with broken people after pointing them to the true Healer, Jesus Christ. Freedom can only happen when our hearts are right with God, and our love for others is the central focus.



Glenn Dunn

True Discipleship Develops Humility

In a year when we had limited resources and a barrage of hurting people, God used the challenges to develop humility and dependence on Him. During the most trying times, the Lord has demonstrated His provision, working powerfully through His people. Jesus has continued to use Set Free Ministries for His glory, and this has been both exciting and humbling.

True Discipleship is Sacrificial

The fear of COVID spread throughout the world, and most enterprises were shut down, or they were brought to a close. It was a difficult decision to continue meeting with the broken and desperate when doing so might put life in jeopardy. Set Free Ministries found ways to meet the needs of the hurting, and the people within our teams sacrificed time, talent, and treasure to make it happen. We met after hours and during weekends through creative ways and exemplary methods. When it was necessary, some even met with desperate people face to face. God's people heard the cries of the hurting, and were willing to do what was needed.

How about you? Have you heard the call of the Lord upon your heart during this difficult time? Are you willing to step into the darkness and bring the light of Jesus to a world that is in desperate need? Is it time to deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow Jesus?

If so, contact us, and let's have a conversation on how you might be a part of our volunteer team.

Glenn Dunn
Director of Domestic Ministry





Adapt, Improvise, Overcome

Never stop learning. Think on your feet. "Suck it up and drive on."

The first casualty of war is the plan.

- We all had a vision in our heads of what 2020 might look like.
- Maybe you planned your vacation, a graduation, and then it didn't happen.
- Maybe you had plans for, a wedding, a sporting event, or a funeral: it didn't happen!
- Why? COVID happened.

The veteran population is flexible, and they're well trained to wait. Their tactical patience helps them wait for their enemy to make a mistake. For many, the training they received in the service helped them adapt to 2020. Their training assisted in bringing peace and patience to a stressful year. For others, that didn't work. Returning to the fight was not an option. Veterans know that destruction, riots, and unrest are not postures of peace. Warriors are some of the biggest lovers of peace. Although they sometimes yearn for a fight, times of peace mean more to those who must defend others from violence.

At Warriors Set Free, we adapted and improvised. Group meetings and courses weren't canceled. Instead, they were successfully completed online. Ministry sessions happened over the phone, and as a team, we completed Freedom Appointments over video conferences. We even leveraged technology to host a session with an Army Special Forces Group. Like the author of Hebrews 10:25 encourages, we did not neglect meeting together, but encouraged one another.

Veterans continue to need a brother, a sister, or a friend to walk alongside them in the battle. Despite the challenges of restrictions and shutdowns, the broken are still being healed through Jesus. When a hurting person allows us into their pain, that is sacred. The need for veterans to connect with Jesus has never been greater. Alcohol abuse, depression, anxiety, and frustration are increasing as our society becomes more unpredictable.



Thank you for your continued support of this mission of meeting our hurting veterans where they are. The impact your support has on one man at a time, ripples out to one family, then one community. It will never be able to be measured. You are a vital part of that mission.

It is essential to remember that none of this surprised God. He knew what would happen and already knows what next year will bring. As we continue to walk with hurting Veterans, we encourage them and remind ourselves to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends on from beginning to end (Hebrews 12:2a).

Like the author of Hebrews 10:25 encourages, we do not neglect meeting together, encouraging one another, as we see the Day drawing near.



Steve Prince
Director of Warriors Set Free

Warriors Set Free



International Update

The Covid pandemic has impacted every area, including international ministry, but we at SFM have seen God's faithfulness. For instance, we have had no reports of positive Covid cases in any of our international ministry sites.

Dominican Republic

Ministry in the Dominican Republic has two aspects. The first is freedom ministry, similar to our U.S. model of taking individuals through the Steps to Freedom in Christ. The second aspect is prison ministry with three locations, similar to both our local jail ministry and our Mizoram, India prison ministry, where weekly discipleship based on the freedom principles takes place.

Though both areas of ministry have been curtailed, the prison ministry is almost back in full swing. The freedom ministry, though restricted, continues in the local congregations.

East Africa

A number of schools have been graduated from financial dependence on SFM, but we have also developed partnerships with two new schools. This brings our total to nine grade schools, each serving 200-800 students, and our new high school, Light Academy. This Christian boarding school will add grade levels over a six-year period with the end goal of facilitating 1,200 high school students, and 800 vocational students. The high school, which received its first students in February, has five new completed buildings.

Unfortunately, at the end of March the country of Uganda virtually shut down. All the schools closed, and travel throughout the country was greatly restricted. Our construction projects continued until on-site materials ran out. However, because we continued paying our teachers, they were able to visit their students at home for wellness checks, and bring study sheets—some of them hand-written—for the students. School chaplains and spiritual directors also began gathering students together for Bible studies and discipleship programs.

Before the lockdown, logistics and timing had proven difficult to get things together for some much-needed training. However, during the shutdown, God provided the perfect timing for us to gather staff and teachers for essential training sessions in Christian teaching methods and discipleship principles. As a result, our schools are better prepared than ever to provide a truly holistic Christian education experience. Also, because we retained our teachers, our schools are among the minority of schools ready to fully open when the government gives the okay.

India

Impact of Covid in the northeastern state of Mizoram wasn't as severe, but a long period of restrictions curtailed some of our ministry. However, by the end of summer, SFM-India was again getting weekly Bible study materials into the prisons, and volunteers could resume their weekly visits to the hospitals and addiction centers. At the Bethel Camping Center, 300 of the 600 residents, in addiction recovery, made decisions to follow Christ.

Beth Shalom, the small orphanage we assist in Andhra Pradesh, experienced more severe restrictions. Schools shut down, but we were able to provide cable and two televisions for the children to continue virtual learning via government televised educational programming.

Dr.. Jeff Stam

Director of International Ministry



Changing of the Guard

Dr. Jeff Stam Retires after 25 years of faithful service - Thank you, PJ!

At the end of October, Rev. Dr. Jeff Stam retires for the second time at Set Free when Rev. Dave McIntyre stepped into his position as Director of International Ministries. Dave is an ordained pastor who comes to SFM with 15 years of missions experience in Brazil, where he taught, worked in youth ministries and discipleship development. Dave also used his expertise in survival training to connect in ministry, and was the winner of the History Channel's second season of Alone. This has opened up many doors for writing and speaking opportunities to share his personal faith story. Please check the SFM website for a more complete introduction to Dave (Aka "Mac").



New Child Sponsorship Coordinator!



In July, Hannah Harrison joined our international staff as Child Sponsorship Coordinator. Hannah comes to SFM with an entrepreneurial spirit and a marketing background. Her introduction to cross-cultural awareness and a love for children came at an early age when her grandfather took her on a trip to South Sudan, to a village which happened to be the same village where we would start a school many years later.

Please visit: SetFreeMin.org/sponsor-a-child or email her at Hannah@setfreeusa.org for more information and your opportunity to make a difference in a child's life.



Light Academy Update

Expected enrollment of 350 sometime in early 2021 when the Ministry of Health allows schools to fully reopen:

- 150 - 8th Grade students
 - 200 - 7th Grade students
- (Vocational training to be provided for all students)

Additional Construction:

The site plan is being revisited as COVID mitigation protocols are in the process of being finalized by Uganda governmental agencies. If fully able to commence all construction activity, we anticipate \$1.1 million in funding needed for 2021.

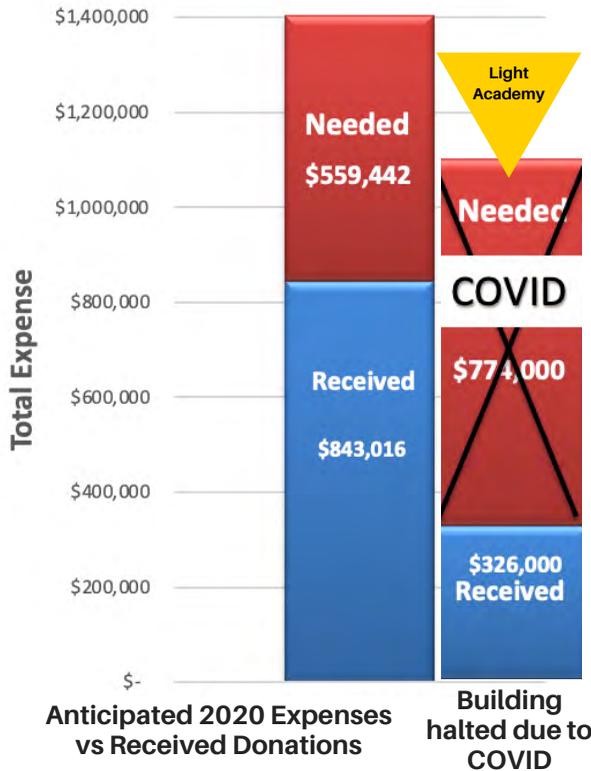
To view a short video on Light Academy and for more information on the entire building project, visit SetFreeMin.org/LightAcademy





Statistics for 2020

Total Budget: \$1,402,458



Domestic Ministry Facts

Crisis & Encouragement Contacts	3,000+
Full-day Freedom Appointments	352
Warrior Freedom Engagements	73
Volunteers	46
Full-Time Staff	9
Part-Time Staff	3

International Ministry Facts

# Decisions to follow Jesus (first 10 months)	707
# of children in SFM supported schools	2,861
# of financially supported admin, teacher, etc	157
# of Inmates & Patients disciplined	3705
Full-Time Staff	9
Part-Time Staff	2

Additional Supplies Provided

School uniforms	Bibles
Hygiene items	Water filters
Mosquito nets	Medical supplies & services

Note Light Academy project resumes in 2021. **\$1,100,00 needed.**

Total Expenses thru Oct 2020
\$1,222,603

SetFreeMin.org/Give



Please include SFM in your year end giving.
Thank you for your partnership!

SetFreeMin.org | p. (616) 726-5400 | f. (616) 726-5404

