

April 27, 2016



Dear friend,

Thank you for making the journey to come and pay respect to the children of God who lay in the ground at Corhaven. To pause and acknowledge each of these people bear the image of our Father and deserve the dignity that this small space the ministry of Coracle has offered – a beautiful setting, set apart to remember, acknowledge, grieve, lament, wrestle.

We are glad you are here.

There is no way to overstate the importance of places such as this as they help call out the importance of every life, especially these lives that might otherwise be unknown, unseen, forgotten.

The thing I imagine might be hard for you to believe as you stand here is that there are, today, more people living in slavery than were extracted from Africa during the 400 years of the transatlantic slave trade. Reliable estimates tell us there are over 35 million slaves globally today (roughly the same as the population of Canada) – toiling in many different industries with no pay, no freedom of movement, held by violence and the constant threat of violence.

Think for a moment about how ancient slavery is. It has plagued human affairs for all of human history. For thousands and thousands of years, human beings have always known slavery. And despite many movements throughout history to abolish slavery, and the fact that slavery is illegal everywhere now, it has continued to evade extinction by adaptation, preying on vulnerable people living in countries and communities where laws are not enforced.

While these numbers are staggering, the other reality is that, truly, for the first time ever in human history, forces are aligning to make it possible for this generation to see the end of slavery as a force in human affairs. Even as you read this letter, you may be among the first human beings – ever – to see the end of slavery before we die. It won't happen quickly. It's not going to happen tomorrow or next year or honestly over the next decade, but for the first time in the long story of mankind – there is a generation alive on the planet that is capable of seeing slavery truly swept into the dustbin of history.

At International Justice Mission (IJM), we have teams of local national staff around the world who are, right now, searching for the girl trapped in a brothel, the boy enslaved on a fishing boat, the family forced to work in a brick kiln. We are searching for them so that they can be freed. And we are partnering with local authorities around the world to better protect the poor from this kind of violence long-term—stopping slavery before it spreads, changing the trajectory of these countries and their history in the world. But we can't do this without you. I invite you to join us. If you feel an ache to redeem the history of slavery by joining the fight to end modern slavery, please go and find out more about the tangible ways to lend your voice to this struggle: www.ijm.org

Thank you, again, for taking the time to be here and may God continue to strengthen and encourage you as you carry a piece of this place with you as you go.

With gratitude,

Gary A. Haugen
Chief Executive Officer
International Justice Mission

scan here to learn more about how to
join the fight against slavery now →
#untilallarefree

