



CENTRAL VALLEY JUSTICE COALITION

Highlights January—April 2014

A few of our favorite things!

CVJC has experienced an incredibly busy 2014 thus far! One of the highlights was “**Pray For Freedom**”. On February 28, twenty of us piled into a bus and prayed throughout our city as we learned and dialogued about issues of human trafficking in various neighborhoods. CVJC leaders, survivors, and community advocates who lived in these neighborhoods shared stories of the brokenness we see on a day-to-day basis. We also shared our vision of HOPE for the Fresno area. We walked on Parkway Drive and prayed for God to bring healing, restoration, and life to some of the darkest places. Prayer continues to be our foundation and we love connecting new people to God’s heart for our cities through prayer and exposure.

Resourcing advocates in the community is one of the ways our Coalition makes an impact in the lives of those directly affected by human trafficking. When we say “advocate”, we refer to a community member who is currently in a relationship with a victim or survivor of human trafficking. The advocate may be in need of community connections, prayer, referrals, support, education, or other resources. Here’s a story about a recent advocate we had the honor to spend time with...

“I met Janelle* at one of our presentations this April. She shared with me after the event about a friend of hers (Rachel*) who is being trafficked by her “boyfriend”. Janelle was an incredibly bright, compassionate college aged girl who has been praying for Rachel for years now. Whenever she can, she reaches out to Rachel and even brings her to church when her pimp allows her. (Her pimp waits for her outside the church doors, never lets her out of his sight, and monitors all her conversations). Janelle shared that when Rachel does come to church, it’s the only time she gets a few minutes alone to ask Rachel how things are going. Rachel knows that she can get help from Janelle, who is also

now connected to CVJC and has the important info she needs for Rachel whenever she is ready to take a risk and seek out help. Pray for both of these women, that God will intervene in Rachel’s life, protect her, and that Janelle will never give up on her friend’s freedom.” (*shared with permission, names have been changed)

Meetings, assessment, and more meetings have been a major theme of our past three months as we’ve intentionally carved out time to take a deeper look at our community in light of the changes we’ve seen in the past three years. We’ve met with global experts, pastors, priests, partner organizations, survivors and



Speaking at the Daughters of the King Conference

regional leaders in efforts to determine the best way CVJC can serve the community in the years to come. We are wrapping up our assessment time in May, and we are continually amazed at how God guides and opens doors! Please pray for our staff and leadership team as we finalize some decisions and move forward in faith!

EACH ONE COUNTS!

These numbers are important because they represent lives that have been impacted! Here’s a few that speak to how God is using CVJC: (Estimates for Jan-April 2014)

- Educated on Human Trafficking: 186
- Presentations/Trainings: 8
- Freedom Sunday:
 - Churches Participated: 14
 - Individual Responses at churches: 48
- Partnership Meetings: 23
- Community Prayer: 9
- Advocates/Victims/Survivors Resourced: 6

~ Jessica Pittman, co-Director

On behalf of the CVJC Staff and Leadership Team