



setfree

Annual Report

2023

setfree A Letter from Dean

“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:5-6

“Advancing” was the theme for our two Set Free banquets in 2023.

We are indeed Advancing through profound “Unified Synergy” within Set Free staff, volunteers, and collaborating ministries.

- The word unified is defined as “to operate as a single entity.”
- The word synergy is defined as “the interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual efforts.”

When I look back on all God has accomplished so far through Set Free in 2023, “far more than all we ask or imagine” is a portion of Scripture that immediately comes to mind (Ephesians 3:20). From our beginning in 1995 through the present, Set Free has been Holy Spirit driven and empowered. The Lord has further unified and provided synergy within all ministry branches of Set Free in 2023, which has resulted in an explosion of ministry impact with 1,000+ decisions for Christ and several 1,000's disciplined in all branches of **Set Free**.

Set Free USA, Steve Vander Molen joined our staff as Director of Set Free USA in 2023, bringing many positive changes, new ideas, and energy to the team. Our SF USA **volunteer staff added 20+ members** with more in training under Steve's leadership. There are so many amazing stories from the **300 people who came and experienced God's remarkable power and grace** and left with hope and healing. Other accomplishments within SF USA in 2023 include:

- A major **update to our Freedom Manual** through staff and volunteer input.
- Lunch & Learn continuing **education opportunities** for all Set Free volunteers.
- Scheduled **quarterly training opportunities** for new volunteers.
- The **launch of Walking Free**, an initiative to help individuals maintain freedom through both in-house discipleship programs and with community partners.
- Created **7 new Church Partnerships** in the West Michigan Region.

Set Free Global has had a remarkable year of impact within communities in Uganda, Kenya, and India. Dave McIntyre and I traveled to India to celebrate the **20th anniversary of Set Free India**. We also celebrated the **60th year of Rev Zuela being a pastor** and faithful shepherd of God's flock. He disciples men and women in **nine different jails and prisons** and **two drug rehab centers serving 6,000+ prisoners, addicts, and orphans**.



ABOVE: A VISIT WITH STUDENTS AT LIGHT ACADEMY

Dave McIntyre is using his extensive ministry experience to train and disciple teachers, pastors, chaplains, and other leaders in Africa. This is already paying huge dividends! I have the joy of reading reports from schools that testify to how **3,600+ children's lives in 10 SF-sponsored Christian schools are being completely transformed** from futures of hopeless desolation to hope for a bright future. **We praise God for the 650 decisions for Christ in 6 months of 2023!**

Warriors Set Free is bringing about remarkable transformations in the lives of so many veterans through teaching and training about the realities of the invisible war they are engaged in! **We offer the scriptural rules and tools** on how to win life's battles, and captives are being Set Free! There is no greater joy than seeing a US Warrior being Set Free in Christ from the chains of spiritual and emotional bondage they have carried for years! I recently attended a “Warriors Battle,” a four-day men's retreat in Georgia, and was in tears watching a retired combat Vet hug his 20-year-old son and his father-in-law, who made decisions for Christ and were baptized in the lake. There are 18 million veterans who need help and hope that Warriors Set Free provides. Please help us help them!

Know that your gifts to Set Free of time, talent, and treasure are setting the captives free in the USA and around the world in amazing ways and in amazing numbers. **Please prayerfully consider a year-end gift to Set Free in 2023.**



**Serving Jesus,
Dean Vander Mey**
Executive Director

2023 Update



I love boating with my family on the Great Lakes!

There is nothing like the crystal clear waters, bright blue skies and fresh wind in my face as I experience God's amazing creation. Every time we go out on the water, the conditions are different. It may be clear and calm one day and windy and dark with rough seas the next. I parallel my experiences with boating on the Great Lakes to my experience at Set Free. Men and women come in with dark skies and rough seas in their past. **By the grace of God and the Holy Spirit's work through our amazing volunteers and staff, most leave experiencing calmer seas and brighter skies.**

The psalmist is very clear on how God directs his children through rough seas.

"He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and He guided them to their desired haven." Psalm 107:29-30

Our entire focus is to guide men and women to a haven of peace, joy and rest. For most, the storms are raging in their lives. These storms come in the form of addictions, trauma, anger, anxiety, and depression. God wants us to experience calm seas today, in this life. It is amazing to see Him work during a freedom appointment. Hearts are transformed, lives are changed, and those we serve leave with hope for a better future.

Here is a testimony from a recipient who recently completed their freedom appointment that affirms this:

"I was depressed, suicidal, and had severe anxiety. A concerned friend reached out to me and recommended Set Free. After going through the freedom steps, I feel like a new person. It feels like a huge weight has been lifted off of my shoulders. I thank God I made it through the Set Free Ministries program. It saved my life."

A significant focus for us during 2023 has been on "Walking Free". Most men and women need and desire additional help after their freedom appointment. This summer, we went through the Freedom in Christ course for 10 weeks at our Set Free office.



ABOVE: FREEDOM IN CHRIST CLASS

Here is what one participant said about the class:

The Freedom in Christ study was the perfect follow up to the experience of the Freedom Appointment. We learned the incredible power Christ provides to walk free in faith through the stories openly shared by study participants. These people know first hand how God changed their lives, marriages and relationships with their families for the better. We made many new and valuable friends who strengthened our resolve to know Christ better by observing first hand the results of His great work in their lives. With Christ as our guide we know we are never alone as He continues to place wonderful people such as these in our path."

We plan to offer classes year-round at Set Free to help people Walk Free. In addition, we are working more closely with West Michigan churches and other ministries to disciple men and women in their daily walk.

The number of people experiencing rough seas is growing. **We will complete over 300 freedom appointments this year and requests all across the USA continue to come in.** We are very grateful for the 20+ volunteers we added to our team this year but we need more. It is truly amazing to have a front-row seat to the work of the Holy Spirit during a freedom appointment. **You can experience this too by being a part of our Set Free family. Please contact me at steve.vm@setfreeusa.org to learn more.**



Steve Vander Molen
Director of Set Free USA

Do What It Says. Just Do It! Follow Directions.

These words might sound familiar. Usually, we hear stuff like this from someone encouraging us or leading us. Depending on who that person is, you might choose to obey or disobey. The military usually takes those options away. Doing what you are told is the path of least pain. **From the first moments of Basic Training to the last day you wear the uniform, obedience is the best option.**

Yet, in faith and the Christian walk, many never practice full obedience to the guidance of Scripture. They might say the “right things” or look the “right way,” but until you spend time with them, you see only the image they display. This is actually a crisis in the Body of Christ.



ABOVE: WARRIORS ARE BAPTIZED

“Discipleship Deficit” is the term I’ve used to describe the journey I was on, and many are still traveling. They just haven’t been shown the core fundamentals of how to follow Jesus. This was highlighted for me at a recent concert when the crowd was instructed to practice presenting the Gospel to the person next to them. People looked lost!

We have a unique opportunity to sit face-to-face with warriors from many different walks of life and share the Truth of the Gospel. We guide them into confession, repentance, and forgiveness because the Bible requires us to confess, repent, and forgive! It amazes me how clear Scripture is about this, yet I missed it for so long.

Many of life’s issues are compounded by the failure to know and DO these three things:

**Confess your sins one to another...
Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near...
Forgive as you have been forgiven...**

Divorce, addiction, poverty, crime, and even war could be reduced if only we practiced these on a global level. Life is about relationships, and these are the keys to great relationships!

We know our veteran community is hurting. **A recent study puts the actual veteran suicide rate at 44 a day**, in lieu of the more widely publicized figure of 22 a day. We know they need Jesus! So, when **we get to lead these amazing warriors into faith in Jesus and walk in His ways**, we are blessed beyond measure. We never get tired of witnessing God’s work firsthand. Here’s what one veteran had to say:



Because of Warriors Set Free, I’ve come to understand my identity in Christ and the power I have over the enemy through Christ. I’ve also learned the importance of Christian brothers to help walk through life. – Grant B.

We can only continue this crucial work with your help. If you’re interested in witnessing the life-changing power of transformation, serve with us. If you want assurance that your support is making a world of difference, rest easy knowing that your contributions are life-changing. **You’re not just supporting Warriors Set Free; you’re helping to save veteran’s lives, marriages, and families.** Replacing “discipleship deficit” with “discipleship multiplication” through following directions is making an eternal impact!



Steve Prince
Director of Warriors Set Free

setfree Development

Stepping Out and Into Battle

As a husband and father of 3 young boys, my prayer for my kids is that I can see the God-given gifts within them and support them to grow in those gifts so the purpose God has for them can be fulfilled.

Through my own Freedom Appointment (which I never thought I needed), God revealed to me many pains and hurts in my life. After repenting of past sins, renouncing them, and forgiving those with whom I had been harboring hurts, I was free!

Now, what to do with that freedom? The Lord led me to a place to understand I have time, talent, and treasure on this side of Heaven.

God gave me the desire to want everyone to experience the freedom that Christ offers.

Navigating the decision to leave my family business took over a year of prayer and consideration. Joining Set Free (SF) has been a massive gift in my life. I am so thankful to all the SF team.

The true love and support I am experiencing can only be defined as "Christ-like." I am grateful for the impact this has had on my life already and on the lives of my wife and kids.

The Lord has revealed many truths through meeting with new people and being available to them. **I have witnessed testimonies of Jesus' healing power described in James.**

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16 (NIV)

I am so excited for each day at SF to see and experience what the Lord has for me. I want to surrender daily to Him and be the light He calls me to be. Thank you for supporting Set Free. **It's crucial to recognize that the meaningful work we're accomplishing at Set Free is made possible by your unwavering support and generous contributions. Thank you!**



Jay Fetting
Director of Development



JAY SITS AT A PODCAST RECORDING FOR SET FREE

Top of the Cliff Ministry

One of the driving principles behind the mission of Set Free Global is to develop “Top of the Cliff” ministry as much as possible. While Set Free will always serve the lost, hurting, and broken at the bottom of the cliff we urgently need to send people to the top of the cliff to stop more from falling off. **The biblical principles that undergird every aspect of Freedom Ministry at SF need to become common knowledge in our churches, mission agencies, and other places of ministry training.** We plan to develop training materials in print and video formats for global distribution in the coming year.

Inaugural Teachers Conference Set Free East Africa (SFEA)



ABOVE: TEACHERS LISTEN AT CONFERENCE

May 1-5th, SFEA held its first Teachers Conference.

This was the first time all our partner elementary schools in Uganda & Kenya were able to meet each other! **Completion of phase 3 construction at Light Academy high school gave us the required infrastructure to house and feed 200 teachers, chaplains, nurses, and school administrators.** The staff of Light Academy hosted the event and did a fantastic job of making sure things went smoothly.

This event advanced Set Free East Africa as a unified ministry. The conference opened the teacher’s eyes to the impact of child discipleship as a top of the cliff ministry. They **caught the vision of their role in discipling children from kindergarten through high school graduation.** They are now 100% on board with making disciples among their students and in their local communities. Discipleship is producing a positive effect in the children’s lives. Parents & guardians are taking notice leading to increased enrollment.

India Trip

This March we visited **Set Free India** for two weeks to celebrate their **20th anniversary** as well as **Rev Zuela’s 60th year of ministry** (SF India Director).

Dean and I each spoke in six different churches and several jails to both men and women. The jail services were standing room only and the inmates paid attention. Many inmates responded positively to invitations to accept Christ after the messages.

The scope of ministry involvement at Set Free India is too broad to list here. **From their work at TNT ministering to drug addicts, orphans, and the mentally ill to Bethel Camping Center, where drug addicts stay for a year free of charge, SF India also ministers in hospitals, halfway houses and homes for abused women.**

SF USA helped SF India get their start in ministry and today they’re almost 100% self-funded. They are a perfect example of how international ministry can move from US funding to self-sufficiency. **Our staff in India is self-motivated and following their call to reach the lost and broken in Mizoram.** They are an example to not only their own churches but also the rest of India.



Light Academy Construction



ABOVE: CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AT LIGHT ACADEMY

Light Academy construction is well into Phase 4. This includes 2 large two-story classrooms, Sick Bay, Administration building, 3 type “E” staff houses, 1 four unit family staff house, and assorted latrines. We will soon finish the pump house over our new borehole that delivers fresh, potable water at 3,700 gallons per hour at max capacity. This construction is all necessary because **students and staff live at Light Academy the majority of each year.**

It is becoming increasingly clear that **connecting Light Academy to the Ugandan electrical grid will become necessary** as the school grows to a **maximum capacity of 2000 students.** We are currently straining the generators, especially in the evenings when the women attempt to iron clothes at the same time. **We are in the process of soliciting bids and negotiating with the local communities that the transmission lines will cross.**

Rural Pastors Institute (RPI) Training - Uganda



Training Pastors and churches is another example of “Top of the Cliff” ministry. While breaching the denominational firewalls here in the US has been very difficult, that is not the case in the wider world. **Ministries like the Rural Pastors Institute that disciple pastors in Uganda, are eager for training in Spiritual Freedom and Spiritual Warfare.** This August I spent a week with them in Jinja teaching systematic theology. I came away impressed by their hunger for the Word of God, but also by how little of it they have been fed.

Jesus said, “Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.” John 12:26. **We praise the Lord for your continued prayers and donations that allow us to serve where Jesus Christ is working to advance His Kingdom. Thank you for being a part of our ministry. To the Lord be the glory for the amazing things we have seen Him do this year.**

Dave McIntyre
Director of Set Free Global



Some Encouraging Numbers

God is doing immeasurably more through Set Free Global in 2023!



650+

decisions for salvation by primary school students during the first 2 quarters



99%

retention rate for returning students at Light Academy



40%

of our Light Academy students come from non-partner primary schools



65%

of our Light Academy students asked to stay at the school during their recent break rather than return home



94%

of the student population are believers, growing from 89% at the start of the school

Ministry Financials & Impacts for 2023

setfree

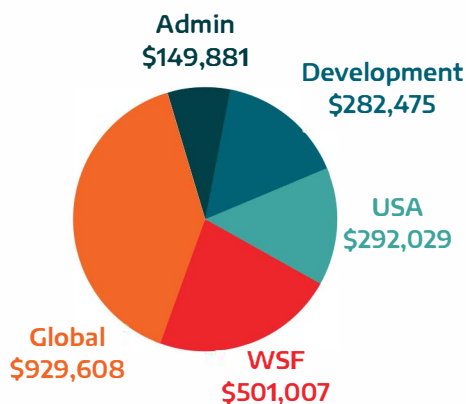
Your partnership makes these impacts possible. Thank You!

Please include Set Free in your year-end giving.



Scan to help set someone free

Total Operating Budget

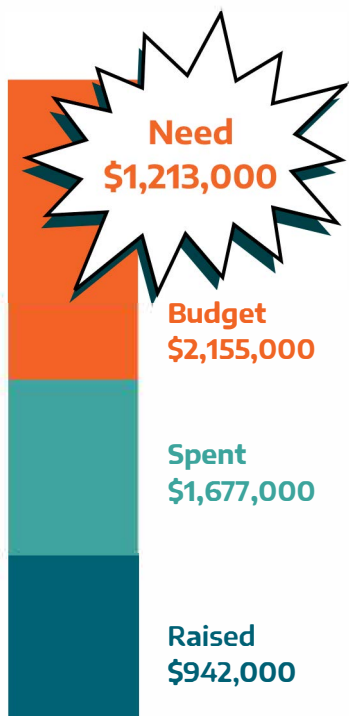


setfreemin.org

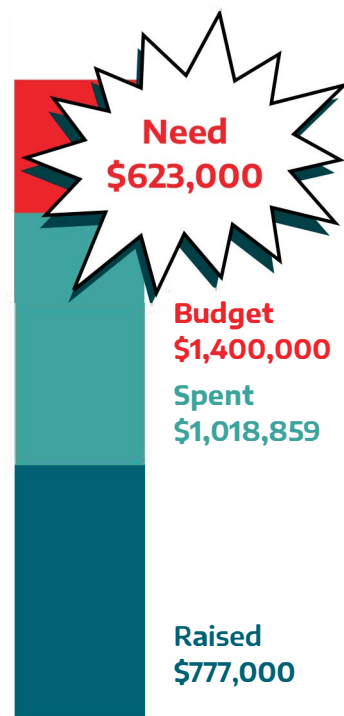
info@setfreeusa.org
616-726-5400

700 36th Street SE, Ste #108
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Set Free Operating Budget



Capital Campaign Light Academy



Set Free USA & Administration Impact

3,000 Crisis + Encouragement Contacts
300+ Full-Day Freedom Appointments
6 Full-Time Staff
2 Part-Time Staff



Set Free Global Impact

3,600 children in Set Free supported schools
135 financially supported admin, teachers, etc.
5,336 inmates & patients disciplined
1,000 volunteer staff



Warriors Set Free Impact

125+ Warrior Freedom Engagements
86 Full-Day Freedom Appointments
4 Full-Time Staff
3 Part-Time Staff