

Freedom Street Ministries

**Carlos and Sidney Herrera
San Jose, Costa Rica**

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free”
~ Luke 4:18 NIV*



Freedom Street Ministries is a seven-year-old YWAM-based non-profit ministry located in San Jose, Costa Rica. San José is a city that in 4 square miles has over 300 brothels, with an estimated 15,000-30,000 victims, with an average starting age of 12 years old.

Freedom Street Ministries exists to build grace-based relationships with victims of exploitation or human trafficking in Costa Rica that lead them to a life of freedom and wholeness. Carlos and Sidney, with their team of dedicated individuals, reach out to victims where they are and commit to walk with them in an individualized process of restoration as they leave the life of prostitution and move into a life of freedom. We work to help these victims who are enslaved by the sex industry and living in bondage, to restore their lives as God intended them to be by mending their relationships with God, with society, and with themselves.

Our team drives throughout the city taking coffee, cookies, and true friendship to the prostituted women, men, and children. Once relationships are established and trust is built, we invite them to participate in other aspects of the ministry. Victims begin to take steps to leave the streets and walk in freedom through participating in FSM programs that address their physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological needs. Survivors who have continued with FSM programs, and have taken steps to leave the streets, are being equipped with the necessary skills to find employment and be self sufficient. They are integrated into a healthy community and are making an effort to find wholeness. In this phase, survivors have shown significant, consistent growth and have acquired the necessary skills to live a healthy life. They now walk on their own with the support and discipleship of FSM when needed. Restoration is not only achieved but friendships are built.

Partnering with YWAM, one of our ministries at the YWAM base is called “Homes of Hope” that builds homes for families in high-risk communities. Our children’s ministry, “Metro Ministries”, also works in these same communities. As Freedom Street, we are working alongside both of these ministries to reach girls, women, and men who may be at risk or who are already being prostituted.

We disciple them and design case by case individualized plans of restoration to help them.

One of our biggest new projects is working alongside a ministry that was birthed out of FSM called 'Love and Scissors.' Carlos and Sidney are the 'ground missionaries' who find and disciple the people that are supported through Love and Scissors to attend the best cosmetology school in Costa Rica.

God enabled us to meet our goal last year in re-opening a Ministry Center/ Coffee Shop in San Jose to facilitate the various programs we offer and to meet the needs of victims. This year, our family will focus on partnering with Homes of Hope in reaching the high-risk communities and pursue continued training to be better equipped in our work.

Carlos and Sidney are proud parents of one-year-old Selah and they are expecting a new addition coming in June!

If you are interested in partnering with this mission, please contact us at:

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