

Missions in Action – Jaida Hobbes Seeks Justice in Uganda

*And what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?*
Micah 6:8

“The darkness and devastation of it shocked me, and the Spirit of God prompted me to find out more,” Jaida writes as she describes her journey which started five years ago when she first heard about human trafficking and gender-based violence. Jaida Hobbes, then a beloved student ministry leader at NCC and someone who had grown up in the church since she was a little girl, was experiencing a new calling as God touched her heart and directed her into her next phase of life.

She continues her story: “One day a presentation on anti-trafficking challenged me to ask God ‘What is mine to do?’ Over the next year, I dove head first into volunteering with an anti-trafficking organization in Pittsburgh and learned about the work of International Justice Mission (IJM). God had broken my heart, given me passion, and was prompting me. The itch to do something about it grew, and as I sought God for guidance, He led me to seminary to pursue a masters in Mission Studies, focusing on at-risk children. Through this degree, God took the passion He gave me, provided resources and education to equip me, and taught me His immense heart for the oppressed. God began my journey with IJM five years ago, and I am so excited to see what He will do as I take this next step into the Church Mobilization fellowship in Kampala, Uganda.

In this role, I will have the opportunity to learn more about ending violence against women and children. IJM’s vision is to “rescue thousands, protect millions, and prove that justice for the poor is possible” (ijm.org). They accomplish this vision through rescue operations, changing policies to prosecute criminals and protect victims, and restoring survivors through holistic and Christ-centered aftercare. Their work helps protect more than 21 million vulnerable people from violence. IJM Kampala, where I will be based, is working to combat violence against women and children that will hopefully not just stop gender-based violence in the area, but will also prevent it from occurring again. As a Church Mobilization fellow, I will have the opportunity to help implement this collaborative project by helping to conduct trainings at churches, mobilizing Christians to act, raising awareness of God’s call for justice, and publishing curricula, books and other resources to educate about oppression, human rights, and the heart of God in all of this. I am honored and excited to join the team and learn from such an incredible ministry!”

Many of us have been blessed by Jaida in the past and many others may be touched by her story of faithfulness and obedience for the first time. Regardless of your connection to Jaida, if you would like to receive updates and learn how to best be praying for her throughout her assignment in Uganda, please follow this link to sign up: <http://eepurl.com/dCp4CH>. She sincerely appreciates all prayers, especially from her church home.

IJM is a non-profit organization and depends on donations. The position Jaida will be taking with them is a yearlong, volunteer position, so she will be responsible for all costs associated with the assignment. Her fundraising goal, based on IJM’s estimated costs for a year in Kampala, is

\$22,000. She has already raised most of her funds, due primarily to the generosity of many at NCC, for which she is so incredibly grateful and humbled. She only needs a few thousand dollars more to be fully funded. If you would like to financially support Jaida in her work with IJM, you can use the following link: www.missionstream.org (click “donate”, then “missionaries,” and then you will see Jaida Hobbes’ name on the list.) All gifts are tax-deductible. Jaida extends her heartfelt gratefulness to all who offer her prayers and support.

Another way to support Jaida is by attending a unique fundraising event – a self-defense workshop which will be held at NCC on Sunday, January 6, from 4-6 p.m. and taught by the INPAX Academy. Stay tuned for details about this opportunity in the coming weeks!