

Where All the Magic Happens

Intro: This is Where All the Magic Happens Testimonial

- This is where all the **magic** happens, where women and men come with open hearts to the living Christ!
- I remember **sitting** where you sit, high up in the **rafters** of Urbana 10 years ago wondering what it was all about. I had **never heard** about the modern-day slave trade, I had no idea there were people spending their very lives to free slaves or prosecute their captors.
- As Gary **Haugen** spoke on behalf of the International Justice Mission that night, God got a hold of my heart and I wept through most of his short message. I recall his opening lines.
- He asked a simple question. He **asked**, “What was the significance of the number 20,000?” Was it:
 - A. The number of participants at Urbana 2000.
 - B. The number of children taken into forced prostitution each week around the world.
 - C. 1/500th of the children held illegally in bonded slavery in India.
 - D. The number of people murdered each day during the worst weeks of the Rwandan genocide.
 - E. All of the above.
- What an **opening** line. Of course we know the answer was “E,” all of the above but at that point in my **faith journey** I had no idea, I had no idea.
- My faith journey began after I came to Christ as an **Atheist** philosophy student at the University of Michigan in the late 1980’s.
- Growing up, our home had a sign on the front of the **house**, “The Moore’s, The Atheists.” We had a **barrel** on the side of our home for burning Bibles and other religious propaganda.
- I came to **faith in college** after a miraculous encounter with the living Christ. I experienced the magic of the person of Christ during an **attempted suicide** on Christmas Eve of 1989.
- On that night, I encountered the magic of Jesus Christ as he miraculously saved me from the brink of death.
- From 1990 until Urbana 2000 and Gary’s message, I had **one singular focus**-to reach as many lost people with the Gospel as I could. Sharing the hope of Christ with lost people was and **continues** to be my life’s mission.
- **But** at Urbana 2000, something happened-there was a **conversion** within my conversion.
- Something happened that night when I was **introduced** to the issue of human trafficking.
- My heart broke and I was faced with a **crisis of faith** as many of you will be in these days of Magic here in St. Louis.
- **Weeping** in the rafters of Urbana, I experienced the heart of God for those who suffer the hell of this world.
- I was faced with the crisis of my Gospel and **my vision** of Christ being too small. I asked myself through tears, “**How** can my Jesus not only save sinners from the hell to come, how can he save them from the hell that is now?”

- If it was true, that there were **millions** of people living as **commodities**, that there were children being locked in dark rooms by the thousands to be raped for pay-**how** can my Jesus do anything about their plight?
- Just prior to Urbana 2000, for the first time I held the **documents** that you see here on the screen. They are the government papers documenting one of my great grandfather's slavery.
- **Burrell Avery** was the property of a Kentucky slave owner.
- Burrell was insured like **cattle**, recognized with the approval of the state and federal government.
- He served in the "**Colored Army**" on behalf of the US government and when he died his family got absolutely nothing.
- I didn't need these slave papers to be **convinced** that my **heritage** as an African-American was one of subjection and **servitude** but the first time I held these papers in my hands, it became real in a whole new way.
- I remember sitting where sit, **weeping** that night at Urbana with these **two images** in my mind, the image Gary painted of modern day slaves and the image of my past, of Burrell's suffering and my ancestry.
- As the **worship band** came to the stage I stood and I said to God in a quivering voice, "If you were able to free my people from the last **great global tyranny**, you must be able to free those slaves today!"
- I left the auditorium that night **born again, again**.
- After returning from Urbana, my wife and I began to change the way we spent and give money. I changed what I read and bought, I even changed the **trajectory** of my career.
- I've been **speaking** on college campuses against the modern day slave trade now for 10 years. I've **developed friendships** and **partnerships** with many amazing people in organizations like World Vision and David Batstone's Not for Sale Campaign and the International Justice Mission. Together we've conducted many campus campaigns to address human trafficking around the country.
- In the midst of pursuing **money** and **people** resources to fight trafficking, I've also seen thousands of students come to **faith in Christ** through the lens of justice because preaching Christ and pursuing justice go hand in hand; **we cannot fully** do one without the other.
- As long as the slave trade **proliferates**, we must do all we can to both set people free from sin and death as well as set them free from the shackles of modern day **brothels** and **brick kilns**.
- This is where all the **magic** happens.
- The **Kingdom of God is about** doing so much more than merely providing clean drinking water or notching our belts with the number of souls won from hell.
- There is a **better world** that Christ is calling us to and that world isn't just in Heaven.
- From 1990 to Urbana 2000 **I was sure** that Christ saved sinners but from 2000 until tonight I am **persuaded** that Christ is out to save the world.
- This greater vision of a new world is only possible **through** the person of **Jesus** Christ and the **magic** that he brings.