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FAQ's about Portland Ministry



## Frequently Asked Questions About the New Ministry in Portland...

As the questions have been rolling in, we thought it might be helpful for everyone to have access to this page of FAQ's. We LOVE your questions so don't hesitate to ask more if you desire further clarification about anything!



### Why "End Slavery" Ministry?

**In a nutshell:** because we want to help end modern slavery for the 27 million in the world who are trapped in physical bondage

**With a slightly longer answer:** I like the way it is worded at [enditmovement.com...](http://enditmovement.com...)

### Slavery is Wrong.

You know it. We know it. As a country, we've officially known it since 1863. But here's something you might not know -- Slavery still exists. We want every man, woman and child to know that there are 27 million men, women and children, just like them, living in the shadows. In brothels. In



### Why "End Slavery" AND "Refugee Ministry"?

**Short answer:** We are passionate about BOTH!

**Longer answer: Part 1)** We believe our gifts, abilities, and experience will strategically position us to be used by God in the area of being a part of helping start a new team raising awareness/prevention regarding human trafficking AND regarding discipleship/leadership training of refugees/immigrants; **Part 2)** Expanding this team's focus to include the large population of refugees/immigrants in the greater Portland area will begin to dovetail nicely with the [20/20 Vision of International Teams](#), which can be summarized as **"50 communities where no one is invisible and everyone has access to food, freedom, and**



### Why Portland?

**Two main reasons:**  
**1)** Our first choice was to find a ministry with **international Teams** that focused on refugee ministry and/or ending slavery. This new team was just getting started in Portland and would allow us the freedom to do both kinds of ministry; **2)** We preferred to live somewhere near one of our parents. There was nothing near Scott's parents in Alabama. Portland is 2 hours away from Vicki's parents. Of course there are many other reasons that Portland makes a good base for us:



### What Are Your Financial Needs?

**Thanks for asking:** We firmly believe that **"Where God guides, God provides"** but we also know at the same time that He frequently uses HIS people as the channel for His provision. Although we are still in the process of assessing what how/if our monthly needs will change, we are currently looking for...

- \* a (used) wheelchair-accessible vehicle
- \* a new home
- \* doctors and therapists

Although we just purchased our one-way tickets back to the U.S., most of the money for that was already set aside in a repatriation account for this purpose. We are hoping to raise another \$1,000.00 to make up for what was lacking.

In addition, we will be shipping **some** (not most) of our things from Athens. If you are interested to help with any

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Working as slaves. In 161 countries. Including our own. We are here to shine a light on slavery. No more bondage. No more sex trafficking. No more child laborers. No more, starting now.



## What Does Your Team Look Like?

Basically, we are our family and two single women: Maureen Heath and Michele Munoz.

Meet Maureen, our team leader:



Native Oregonian and proud!

Grew up in a small logging town 45 minutes from Portland, youngest of five, in a blue collar family. Voted class clown! Took the blue ribbon in our community's talent show, with my comedy act. Put my faith in Jesus Christ at age 20, never looked back! Love to enjoy the outdoors, read a good memoir, get in the studio to paint, write deep and

learn more at:

<http://www.iteams.us/2020-vision/>



## What Does Your Leadership Say About This?

*"With their two-and-a-half decades of experience ministering to refugees, Scott and Vicki McCracken will be a vital part of the End Slavery ministry in Portland, OR.*

*They are in the unique position of understanding the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of people who have been displaced and thrown into a strange land. With this displacement comes a dangerous vulnerability to people who might offer friendship or work, but instead have ulterior and dark motives with plans of sexual exploitation. Scott and Vicki's experience and strengths will be paramount to my team as they will be able to form relationships in this city's refugee communities, filling a great need; gaining a platform from which to educate these culturally diverse people about the ploys and tactics used by sex traffickers in the U.S.*

*And when these people ask why do you care about*

The Pacific Northwest is one of the most unchurched regions of the country. In fact, a recent Gallup Poll ranked Oregon as the state with the highest percentage of residents identifying with "No religion, Atheist, or Agnostic," at 24.6% and also ranked 41 out of 48 states for least church attendance.

On top of that, Oregon has the highest percentage of homeless per capita of any state in the United States, many of which are youth.

**Additionally, Portland outpaces even San Francisco and Las Vegas for the most strip clubs in a single city, and it is ranked 8th out of U.S. states for the largest number of sex offenders per capita.**

**To top it off, it is estimated that 12% of the population of Portland is foreign-born, meaning that there is truly an opportunity to do world missions in our own backyard.**

As you can see the need for the Gospel in Portland is

tax-deductible donation, you can find out how at: <https://www.iteams.us/action/give/>



## Why Are You Returning To the U.S. After 26 Years of Refugee Ministry in Europe?

On Mother's Day 2007, God brought into our lives one of the most precious and beautiful gifts we have ever received. In fact, it was a gift Vicki and I each dreamed of from the time we were children (long before we knew each other). Never before have I ever associated the word "destiny" with ANYTHING in my life except this amazing gift He gave us in our youngest daughter Ellie. In fact, the middle name we gave her is MingYun (Chinese for "destiny"). Although ALL of our children are marvelous gifts and blessings for which we are thankful to God, Ellie's special needs have presented us with unique blessings (as well as unique challenges, given our location and other related factors). As most you know, Ellie has severe Cerebral Palsy and is completely dependent in all areas. You can read and see more at:

<http://elliebomccracken.blogspot.com>

For at least two years Vicki and I have been praying with great intensity and intentionality, asking for God to help us understand how we can be "the best parents to Ellie we can be" from GOD'S perspective (NOT simply from our culture's). We are not sure yet that we clearly understand all that entails. However,

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drive large vehicles. I can parallel park a school bus. True story. Enjoy being with my friends over a meal, especially when they cook it!

I love people. I hate when people hurt other people. That is why I work to end slavery!



Meet Michele:

*I was born in Michigan and raised in the Chicago suburbs where I was blessed to live most of my life near my amazing family! On a personal note, I am the oldest sibling to two brothers and a sister. We love to hang at the beach, body surf in Lake Michigan, play games and watch movies together. I love most any large body of water, hiking, crocheting, traveling, and cats (well, really most all animals). I'm certain that when I'm old and wrinkly the kids that live down the street from me will refer to me as "that crazy cat lady".*

*I moved to Portland in 2008 and fell in love with the artistic culture, friendly people, and natural beauty. Nearly every day I saw*

*they'll get to hear about Jesus."*

Maureen Heath  
Team Leader  
End Slavery Ministries/Portland

*"I'm blessed to have known Scott & Vicki McCracken for 20+ years and have also experienced their refugee ministry in Athens first-hand. Their many years of experience, their ministry expertise and their passion for refugees and victims of trafficking are exactly what is needed to help launch our new ministry in Portland OR. They will bring wisdom, stability and passion to this newly forming team. I'm so pleased about this ministry development and look forward to the individual and community transformation God will bring about through this ministry team."*

Sarah Miller  
International Teams  
U.S. Area Leader

*"I have walked with Scott and Vicki over the past months as they have wrestled with the decision regarding their future, and it hasn't been easy for them. They are torn between their love for Athens (particularly the refugees), and their love and responsibilities for Ellie who God has put into their care. It is becoming very clear that Ellie will have a better chance to thrive in America, while the opportunities in Greece are diminishing; hence, the decision to head back there in the next year. Scott and*

you plan to continue with us in loving and serving the hurting people in Portland who desperately need to know the hope that is found only in Christ.



## What Is Your Time Frame?

We leave Athens on July 1st, spend two weeks with Scott's family in Mobile, Alabama, and then head to Oregon where we will look for housing and a vehicle, doctors, therapists, a church home, etc. We hope to be ready to start ministry full-blast at the end of the summer.

family it included staying in Greece.

**We believe it is now time to start "winding things down" in this country and turn the pages for what God has in the next chapters for us back in America.**

It is impossible to communicate the pain we feel in thinking about leaving DEEP friendships, dearly loved colleagues, a vibrant ministry, and our home (in Greece) of over 22 years. However, we also have a strong and abiding peace from God that we are facing the right direction. We hope and pray that you will be able to continue with us through your prayers and/or financial investments.



## How Are You FEELING About Everything?

**Excited, scared, sad, anticipatory, overwhelmed, expectant, PEACEFUL, strange, grateful, disoriented, loved, encouraged!**

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*my breath away and reminded me of our awesome Creator! It was while I lived in Portland that I learned about the issue of human trafficking and the extent of it in the Unites States. During this time, God called me to get involved and led me to prevention work with International Teams. I am thankful and humbled that He has asked me to get involved and continually learning what it looks like to rely on His strength not my own. I am also thankful that Jesus is putting together this team, bringing together myself (a newbie missionary!) and those with experience in various ministries*

*For sure, there will be sadness in Athens amongst the refugees but this is matched with the building excitement about where Scott and Vicki could minister with International Teams in the States. We look forward to new and exciting developments."*

Anthony Jones,  
Vice President of Ministry  
Development/USA

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[Video Promo for book "Kingdom Beyond Borders"](#)  
[Family/Ministry Website](#)  
[Ellie's Blog](#)  
[Refugee Testimonies](#)

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