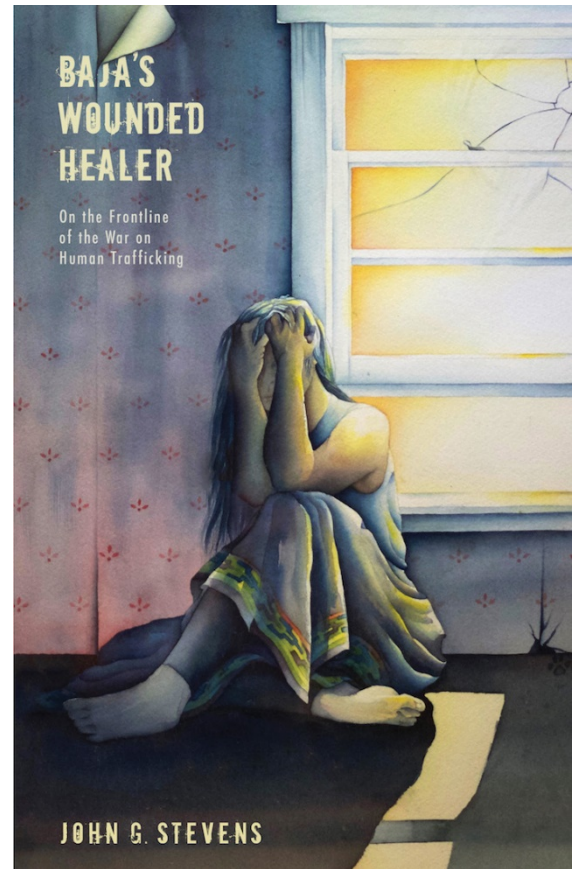


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# BAJA'S WOUNDED HEALER

**ON THE FRONTLINE OF THE WAR ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**JOHN G. STEVENS**



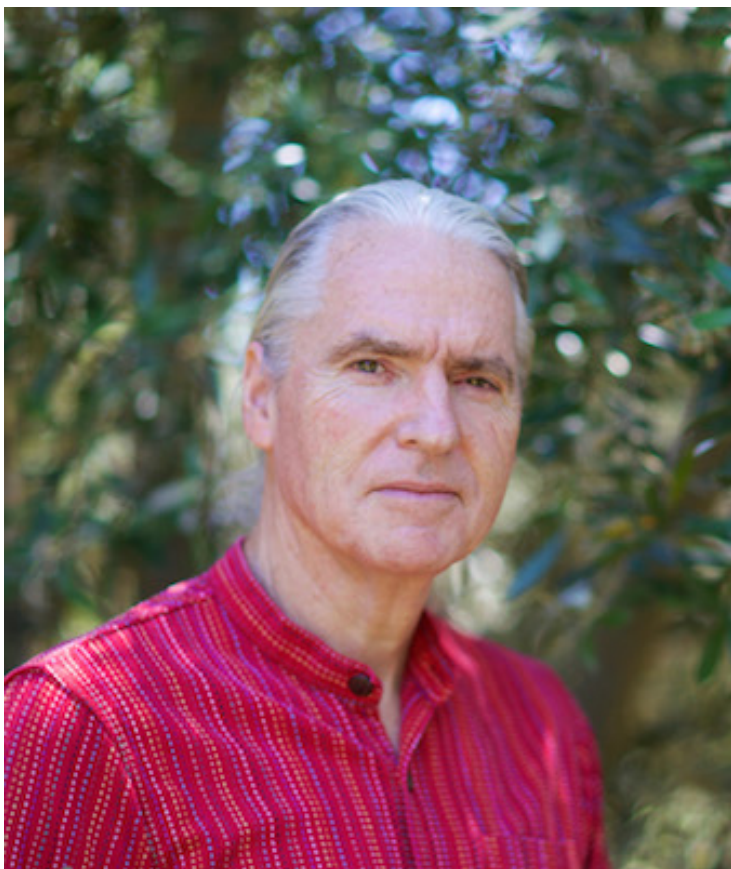
Armed with little more than her own brokenness and God's transformative power, Dorothy set out to change the lives of trafficked women in Baja California. Seven years after her program's opening, it continues to bring hope to vulnerable women and children—and to other Christians who, at first, think they have nothing to offer in the fight against human trafficking.

*Baja's Wounded Healer* tells Dorothy's story in two parts. The first section focuses on her wounds and healing—her childhood abuse, her struggles with God, and the rocky road to opening a shelter. The second section tells the stories of women and children who have come through her program, *Mujeres Nuevo Comienzo*: the woman who escaped fifteen years of enslavement; the mother who came to love a baby conceived in rape; the children who, after being victimized by a pornography ring, learned about "good touch"; and several others who escaped enslavement, abuse, and addiction.

Dorothy and her program are not perfect. *Baja's Wounded Healer* does not hide this fact. Yet God continues to use Dorothy and her program to transform lives. And if God can use them, then he can use anyone. Readers will be encouraged by the hope in this book and inspired to do what they can to join the fight. To that end, each chapter ends with a prompt to discuss, pray, or reflect.

For more info please contact [media@deeperiverbooks.com](mailto:media@deeperiverbooks.com)

**Deep River**  
B O O K S



# About the Author

## **JOHN G. STEVENS**

**John G. Stevens** decided to write *Baja's Wounded Healer* after taking a tour of a women's shelter during a mission trip in Baja California. John has a master's degree in

counseling psychology and a biochemistry degree from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. He is married to his best friend, Cindy, and they are parents to twins, Brenneth and Oriana. John and Cindy presently volunteer together for Global Sharing, an international missions group, as well as various other ministries they find worthwhile. They reside in Paso Robles, California.

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# Suggested Interview Questions

For John G. Stevens, author of

*Baja's Wounded Healer*

*On the Frontline of the War on Human Trafficking*

**Q: How did you decide to write a book about Dorothy?**

**A:** We met her on a short missions trip to Baja. My friend, Armando, and I took a tour of the home with his son. My spirit seemed to be alerted to the gravity and wonder of the place when I first walked through the front gates. I was directed to pay close attention. We were knocked out by Dorothy's story and her interactions with the women and children. Armando and I had been a part of a church group that was alerting our community to the plague of human trafficking, but that group got sidetracked by personalities and battling for limited resources. It was so refreshing to learn of a place where lives shattered by that great evil were being rebuilt. I continued to think about the ministry after I returned home, and eventually contacted Dorothy to see if she would be willing to work with me on a book about her story.

**Q: What are the goals of writing the book?**

**A:** I was hoping to alert more in the American church to the travesty of human trafficking. Many hear about a great scourge but then turn away because it seems too big a problem, something that should be left to the "experts." Some get involved only to be disenchanted by ineffective programs or scandals in the ministry. After experiencing much disappointment in the field of social work, Armando and I were encouraged by this program that was working and was changing lives. We wanted to pass on that hope to others. We were also hoping to benefit the program with possible volunteers, prayer partners, and even financial supporters.

**Q: What part of the writing process did you most enjoy?**

**A:** I had a great time interviewing Dorothy herself and many of the ladies who have benefited from her work. Dorothy and I became friends and developed a

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mutual respect. She is passionate, funny, opinionated, Christ-loving, compassionate, and a fine storyteller. It was inspiring to learn the stories of the women, most of whom are still living in very difficult circumstances but now have a hope to overcome their histories and contribute in the kingdom of God.

**Q: What makes Dorothy's program effective for women who have been shattered by evil?**

**A:** The core teaching is that each woman and every child has been designed by God for a specific purpose. Regardless of their brokenness, they all have something vital and good to offer each other and their communities. Dorothy encourages them to find those interests and giftings. This is revolutionary for women who have been convinced that their opinions are worthless and that they have nothing to offer other than sexual favors. This is all "fleshed out" by teaching them basic life skills and employable skills (crafts, cooking, etc.). It is all built upon an infrastructure of respect for biblical truth. Each of the women I interviewed early on embraced a specific scripture that she felt was written specifically for her. She began to rebuild her life on that foundation.

**Q: Is this the book you intended to write when you first contacted Dorothy?**

**A:** Definitely not. I am a big fan of Wilberforce and his friends and their work to abolish slavery. I intended to compare and contrast Dorothy's work with their movement. I even had the corny idea of comparing and contrasting London and Vicente Guerrero, the site of the shelter. I was going to give lots of statistics about human trafficking and write much of the history of Christians in effective social activism. However, I found Dorothy's story so compelling, and the stories of the women so hope-filled in their overcoming, that I thought it would be best to push my ideas aside and let them tell the more engaging tale. My rough draft was almost nothing like the end product.

**Q: What were the biggest obstacles to the writing process?**

**A:** Technical difficulties were big. I had intended to do most of the interviewing by Skype, but that rarely worked out with the limitations in Baja. We made several

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trips to the home instead. Another major obstacle to the process was Dorothy having a ruptured relationship with her board just as we were finishing up. This seemed to be a major blow to my idea to instill hope in others by providing an example of a successful program. Here is another Christian endeavor where folks can't get along and put aside personal differences for the sake of the gospel. But as I pursued reconciliation between the two (ultimately unsuccessful) and sought to help Dorothy come to understand and overcome her part in the breakdown, I came to love her heart even more. She saw her part in the problems, and she was deeply committed to refining the personality traits that contributed.

**Q: If someone wants to learn more about human trafficking and join the fight against it, how can they start?**

**A:** The National Human Trafficking Hotline at [humantraffickinghotline.org](http://humantraffickinghotline.org) (1-888-373-7888) has extensive statistics, resources, relevant articles, and even a place to leave a tip for authorities if you suspect you have witnessed foul play. There are numerous movies such as *The Abolitionists*, *Not Today* by Jon Van Dyke, and *The Whistleblower* that are good entry points into the horror of human trafficking. One could also Google local faith-based trafficking groups or call local churches that have abolitionist groups. My book is helpful in that it shares practical and duplicable strategies that Dorothy has used to elevate victims. It is also motivating by demonstrating how a simple lady with no seminary background, great wealth, or extensive training has been able to do a profound work with the population.

**Q: How did your experience in social work influence your approach to *Baja's Wounded Healer*?**

**A:** I enjoyed my work immensely but was always troubled by the disconnect between government agencies and faith-based groups. There is always talk of working together, but it often does not move beyond self-congratulatory talk. Faith-based approaches are often held in contempt by Mental Health and Children's Services (sometimes, unfortunately, caused by the foolish actions of Christians in trying to help). I strongly believe that therapy is an important part of the treatment process, but I also know that the horrendous damage caused by

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trafficking can only be truly overcome by concentrated prayer and by embracing biblical truths. Mental Health generally does not care to “work together” here. Armando and I were excited to see Dorothy’s emphasis on prayer and biblical truth and the success that came from it.

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