

LEADING AND LEARNING ABROAD

Programs allow CCCU faculty and students to engage in social justice around the world.

By Elaine Loveland

AN IDEA FROM students can reform anti-human trafficking efforts, war crimes and human rights advocacy. During a summer internship in 2007, two Pepperdine law students proposed the Ugandan Judiciary adopt a system of plea bargaining in order to expedite the criminal justice process for those arrested and detained waiting for trial. Students in the Global Justice Program have been working toward introducing a plea-bargaining system in Uganda ever since, and their persistence paid off: Plea-bargaining is scheduled to become part of Uganda's constitution this year.

Along with students, attorneys have also gone on trips to Uganda to help introduce plea-bargaining.

"We take new attorneys each time we go to Uganda and give them an opportunity to get their hands dirty working with Ugandan lawyers and law students and American law students, giving prisoners an opportunity to have their cases heard," Gash explains. "We hope that it might inspire a larger effort to get more groups of attorneys to go to Uganda and multiply the effect of what we're trying to do."

Law students in the Global Justice Program don't have summer legal internships only in Uganda, but they also work in other countries such as Rwanda, India and Thailand, among others. Each year, approximately 15-16 law students in the Global Justice Program intern abroad in one of these countries.



Residents welcome a group of Pepperdine University students to the Mwan Bushant Hano, a prison for juveniles who have been arrested and are awaiting trial in Mide, Uganda.

Susan Vincent, a 2013 graduate of Pepperdine Law School who now serves as clinic director of Christian Legal Aid of Los Angeles, chose to attend Pepperdine in part because of the Global Justice Program. "The experience put my career in context in a way that nothing else did," says Vincent.

As a student, Vincent worked on the Ugandan Judiciary's plea-bargaining pilot program. She also studied abroad in other locations as part of the Global Justice Program, working in Thailand and Rwanda, where she assisted the chief justice of the Rwandan Supreme Court to develop best practices in reducing case backlog and increasing access to justice.

Coozize close to the conflict. For three months, Taylor lead grenades falling on nearby villages and sounds of war getting closer with each passing day.

"At night, the bullet shells fell on our roof, sounding like a downpour of autumn rain," Taylor recalls. "Finally, my mother, father, brother and I had to run for our lives through the army lines and look for a way to save ourselves. We'd get stopped by various armies and miraculously be let go — so many times these were really close calls — to go to the next roadblock. The other option was being taken to one of the notorious Bosnian concentration camps where death, hunger, torture and rape were commonplace."

Taylor and her family became refugees.

A CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

When Petra Bellvoic Taylor was 11 years old, war broke out in the former Yugoslav