

Important Announcement Regarding The Exodus Road's Executive Leadership

October 5th, 2021

From Steve Leigh, Board Chair:

The Exodus Road is an organization led by values, and we believe that the mission of freedom is best served when staff members' greatest passions meet the organization's greatest needs. We try to position our team and leaders in that intersection as much as possible for greater effectiveness for the mission of fighting human trafficking. With that in mind, we have exciting news to share regarding our Co-Founders, Matt and Laura Parker.

In the last year, Matt, our Co-Founder and CEO, began talking with us about his desire to return to a greater focus on his own passion — front-line field work. As many of you know, Matt and Laura began the organization with the desire to empower national teams, engage in undercover operations, and work directly with law enforcement. It was this passion to help find and free those currently trapped in trafficking which spurred Matt to begin his own investigative work nearly ten years ago.

Over the last decade, as the organization has grown and the demands of the CEO office have grown, this critical role has evolved to require more time spent solely focusing on the organization's operations as a whole, leaving less time for the CEO to focus on training and developing the front-line work. In-country directors have taken on the pivotal responsibility of further developing TER's on-the-ground work.

And, while Matt continually envisioned opportunities for the future and led well in the growth of TER, this gap between the new CEO requirements and what initially called him to this work continued to widen. Thankfully, the organization has grown to a place now where he can return to his greatest expertise and passion — working on the ground with our national teams and law-enforcement partners.



With that in mind, Matt has decided to step down as CEO. As Co-Founder, he will be transitioning to Chief Strategy Consultant in our Global Program Department where he can spend his energies primarily developing our front-line efforts. As a Board, we are so excited that the organization has grown in such a way to enable him to return to the work he loves most in the fight for freedom.

As a Board, we were then faced with the decision of whom to nominate as the next CEO of The Exodus Road. **The choice was simple; we unanimously voted to appoint Laura Parker as CEO.**

Laura is the leader our organization needs to take us forward into even greater impact. She has extensive international experience, having lived and worked in Thailand when she and Matt founded TER. Laura has served as the key leader in our Marketing and Communications Department from the early days when TER was a nonprofit startup. She has served as our CCO for the last two years and as our President for more than a year.

Laura intimately knows the organization and its people from international staff and partners to our HQ staff in Colorado. Because her executive leadership played a critical role in TER's growth, she also understands the inner workings of our programs, organizational policies, international governance, and future vision. As an expert in anti-trafficking work, her expertise lies in Marketing/Communications, Staff and Culture Development, and International Programming.

Laura is a collaborative leader, surrounded by a strong and committed team, and we have full confidence in her ability to lead us forward.

As a Board of Directors, we look towards the future with incredible hope and confidence. The organization has learned so much over the last decade, and we are poised for incredible growth.



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We remain deeply grateful for the grit, integrity, courage, and excellence Matt and Laura have exemplified over the years as our Co-Founders and leaders, and we are so thrilled to enable them to continue to serve in roles that best fit their passions and giftings.

Steve Leigh

Board Chair

On Behalf of the Board of Directors of
The Exodus Road

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