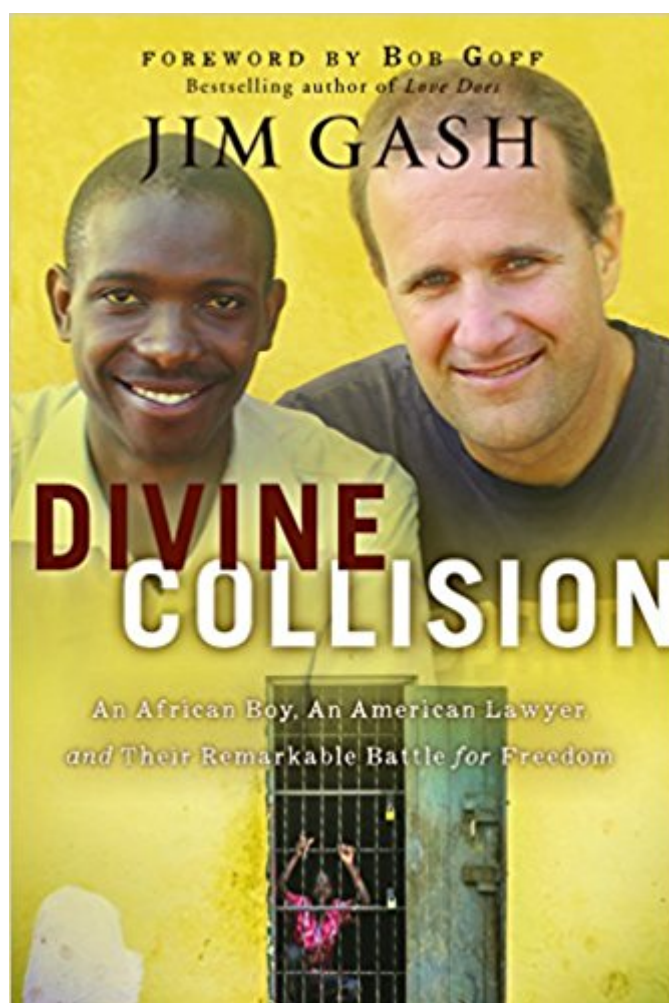


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# Divine Collision: An African Boy, An American Lawyer, And Their Remarkable Battle For Freedom



## Synopsis

Jim Gash's comfortable life as a Los Angeles lawyer and law professor nearly ensured he and Henry, a Ugandan boy languishing in prison for two murders he didn't commit, would never meet. Henry was losing hope, prayed for a sign from God. Halfway around the world, Jim listened to best-selling author of *Love Does*, by Bob Goff, encourage lawyers to help imprisoned children in Africa. Jim felt an irresistible urge to respond to this call. Little did Henry know, his prayer had been answered. *Divine Collision* tells the firsthand, true story of how Jim and Henry, separated not only by an ocean and thousands of miles, but also differing cultures and life experiences, inspired justice reform for an entire country. *Divine Collision* reads like a fast-paced thriller and will keep you turning pages wanting to know what happens next for Henry and Jim. There is no greater love than laying down your life for a friend. This profound love seeps through every page of Jim and Henry's story, like a healing balm. Over the last several years I have had the great privilege of witnessing Jim's passion for Ugandan people and his willingness to lay down his own life for others. *Divine Collision* will remind you once again how one small gesture of love can make a monumental impact on a person for eternity. -- Katie Davis, author of the New York Times best-seller *Kisses from Katie* With great courage and conviction, Jim Gash provides an extraordinary glimpse into the power of obedience, prayer, and hope in transforming not only one life -- or even one community -- but an entire justice system. *Divine Collision* speaks to what is at the heart of our Christian calling: Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow Isaiah 1:17 -- Gary A. Haugen, President & CEO of International Justice Mission and author of *The Locust Effect* *Divine Collision* is a captivating book! Jesus calls us to visit the prisoner, proclaim justice for the oppressed, and set the captive free. Too often we've forgotten that He really meant it. Jim Gash didn't forget, and his book reminds us this is Jesus' call for us too. -- Richard Stearns, President of World Vision U.S. and author of *The Hole in Our Gospel* and *Unfinished*

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## Customer Reviews

The story is as emotional as it is thrilling, and it reads like a major film. --Publishers Weekly  
There is no greater love than laying down your life for a friend. This profound love seeps through every page of Jim and Henry's story, like a healing balm. Over the last several years I have had the great privilege of witnessing Jim's passion for Ugandan people and his willingness to lay down his own life for others. Divine Collision will remind you once again how one small gesture of love can make a monumental impact on a person for eternity. --Katie Davis, Author of the New York Times Bestseller *Kisses from Katie*  
Divine Collision is a captivating book! Jesus calls us to visit the prisoner, proclaim justice for the oppressed, and set the captive free. Too often we've forgotten that He really meant it. Jim Gash didn't forget, and his book reminds us this is Jesus' call for us too. --Richard Stearns, President of World Vision U.S. and Author of *The Hole in Our Gospel* and *Unfinished*

Los Angeles lawyer and law professor, Jim Gash, tells the amazing true story of how, after a series of God-orchestrated events, he finds himself in the heart of Africa defending a courageous Ugandan boy languishing in prison and wrongfully accused of two separate murders. Ultimately, their unlikely friendship and unrelenting persistence reforms Uganda's criminal justice system, leaving a lasting impact on hundreds of thousands of lives and unearthing a friendship that supersedes circumstance, culture and the walls we often hide behind.

You'll stay up past bedtime reading this book. This is a fast-paced story of a law professor in California who said "yes" to God and found himself on a plane to Uganda, East Africa, having no clue what would result. I do not want to give much more away -- You must read it. I will say that you can find plenty of books summarizing Africa's problems. This one is different. It does not shy away from the shortcomings of Uganda's criminal court system, but Jim Gash's admiration and deep affection for Uganda, its customs and its people are apparent throughout the book. In that regard the book is very hopeful and does not come off as "preachy" or as just another Western narrative of

a "failing" African state. There are many other lessons to be gleaned from this book in addition to the themes of God's love for justice and the value of saying "yes" to God: how to be a true friend, how to balance one's role as spouse and parent with one's career ambitions, and how to pursue a goal with tenacity and single-mindedness. Get this book!

I had the privilege of traveling to Africa with Jim Gash and meeting his Henry. Speaking firsthand, I can say this is truly a story written by God. This book takes you on a thrilling legal adventure from page one to the final word. Their story is fraught with challenges and joys, the theme of overcoming evil with good, and pressing on no matter what. Jim's writing style will often make you laugh out loud and then cry the next minute. His passion for Henry, Justice, and the Ugandan people leaps off the pages. I have given this book to friends and family members as gifts, and one by one they have texted me things like "I'm on page 173 on the first day I picked it up and I can't put it down." So fear not, this is a quick and easy read. Divine Collision is a book you will stay up late to finish, and think about long after it is done. It is a true labor of love, and inspirational to any reader.

I don't have a legal mind; at 61 years of age I am not always sure I have ANY mind to speak of... :) I downloaded Divine Collision because Katie Davis Majors of Amazima Ministries recommended it. But I didn't read it. I had other books to read, fish to fry, things to do. Then I started it and because the book has a number of flashbacks in the first couple of chapters, I decided it was a little too much work to keep up with what happened where, when, and to whom. So I didn't read past the 15% mark on my Kindle but instead set it aside for a "rainy day". Wow. I am soooooo thankful we had a lot of rain this past week. Seriously. Somewhere around the 20% Kindle mark, I was drawn into the story, completely. Totally. So much so that whenever my husband and I were in the car together, I began to tell him the story, at one point checking to see if he was tired of being a captive audience. He wasn't - and wondered why I had stopped to ask such a silly question. Suffice it to say that I bought two hardback copies to give away and am thinking about re-reading the book as soon as I finish this review. It is an amazing, often nail-biting story of how two boys were thrown into an impossibly maddening, undeniably hopeless situation. But God... An American lawyer, his colleagues and his family. Two Ugandan boys tossed aside, unjustly locked up, forgotten. A Ugandan family restored. A nation changed. A sovereign God exalted. IF you want to see Ephesians 3:20, Gen. 50:20, and Romans 8:28 worked out in real time, you cannot go wrong with this book.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Jim Gash's book, which generally describes his unlikely experience representing a minor in Uganda charged with murder and forgotten by the system. Gash writes simple, straightforward, and descriptive prose to describe his extraordinary experience and genuine sense of curiosity, fear, anxiety, confusion, and ever-present humility along the way. As a result, this work is an extremely easy read and many will find themselves able to step into his shoes, regardless of how different their lives are from an American lawyer struggling to understand Africa. Whereas many books in this genre have struggled with heavy handed metaphors, flowery language, or played out white savior stereotypes, Gash simply describes what happened and his emotional state throughout the journey. Gash doesn't mince words to describe his experience simply because it would be unnecessary, as the details that speak for themselves. Further, the writing never comes across as disrespectful to the cultures and institutions he describes. I strongly encourage you to take a trip through this work. A perfect weekend read.

This book is for anyone with a heart, and fortunately, most of us qualify. If you want to read a story about a relationship begun in a most unusual way, and see how God blesses someone who opens their heart to His direction, this is for you. It is fast-moving and well written, and we gain tremendous insight into the culture of Uganda, and how Jim Gash uses his abilities to make a tremendous difference in many lives, but in particular the life of one young man unjustly imprisoned for a crime he had nothing to do with. Hard to put down and you will find yourself drawn into the friendship between two men who couldn't have grown up under different circumstances. It will bless you and give you a new perspective on justice and how one individual's efforts can impact others. Highly recommended. Don't miss it!

If you want to ride an emotional roller coaster read this book. What a great story. I absolutely loved this book from the first page to the last. I would like to share some of my favorite parts of the book but trust me you just have to read it for yourself. I will tell you this however, there were parts of this book that made me about yell aloud "Are you freakin' kidding me?!?!" and then at other times (most times) had me sitting back and marveling how God works all things. The only thing bad I can say about this book is that sadly like any book it has the last page.

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