

Christian Freedom[®]

International



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ANNUAL REPORT

"Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews 13:3

“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”

James 1:2

Dear Friend,

I trudged up a steep, muddy trail in the dark to a small house church and marveled at the faith of the people who attended it.

Their church was a small room with bed sheets for walls. Their guitar was missing strings. The room was infested with mosquitos.

These new believers had been attacked by mobs led by Buddhist monks. Their neighbors threw rocks at the church. They were ostracized by their families and community for becoming Christians.

But their joy in knowing God overwhelmed each trial they faced.

The pastor pointed out the security cameras that Christian Freedom International had provided them. From the moment that the cameras were installed, the attacks stopped.

This extraordinary little church shows the power of remaining steadfast under trial – and the impact we can make by coming alongside them.

We cannot end persecution. Jesus said His followers would be persecuted. But we can stand as one with them and ease their burdens.

Thank you for coming alongside persecuted Christians. Your support is proof of God’s goodness for His persecuted Church.

With your continued partnership, more persecuted Christians will be sheltered, fed, disciplined, provided medical care, educated, and much more. Thank you for your vital role in helping persecuted Christians.

For Christ,



Wendy Wright
President

“But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed.”

1 Peter 3:14

Unshackling the Persecuted Church to survive and thrive.

† *Bringing relief.*

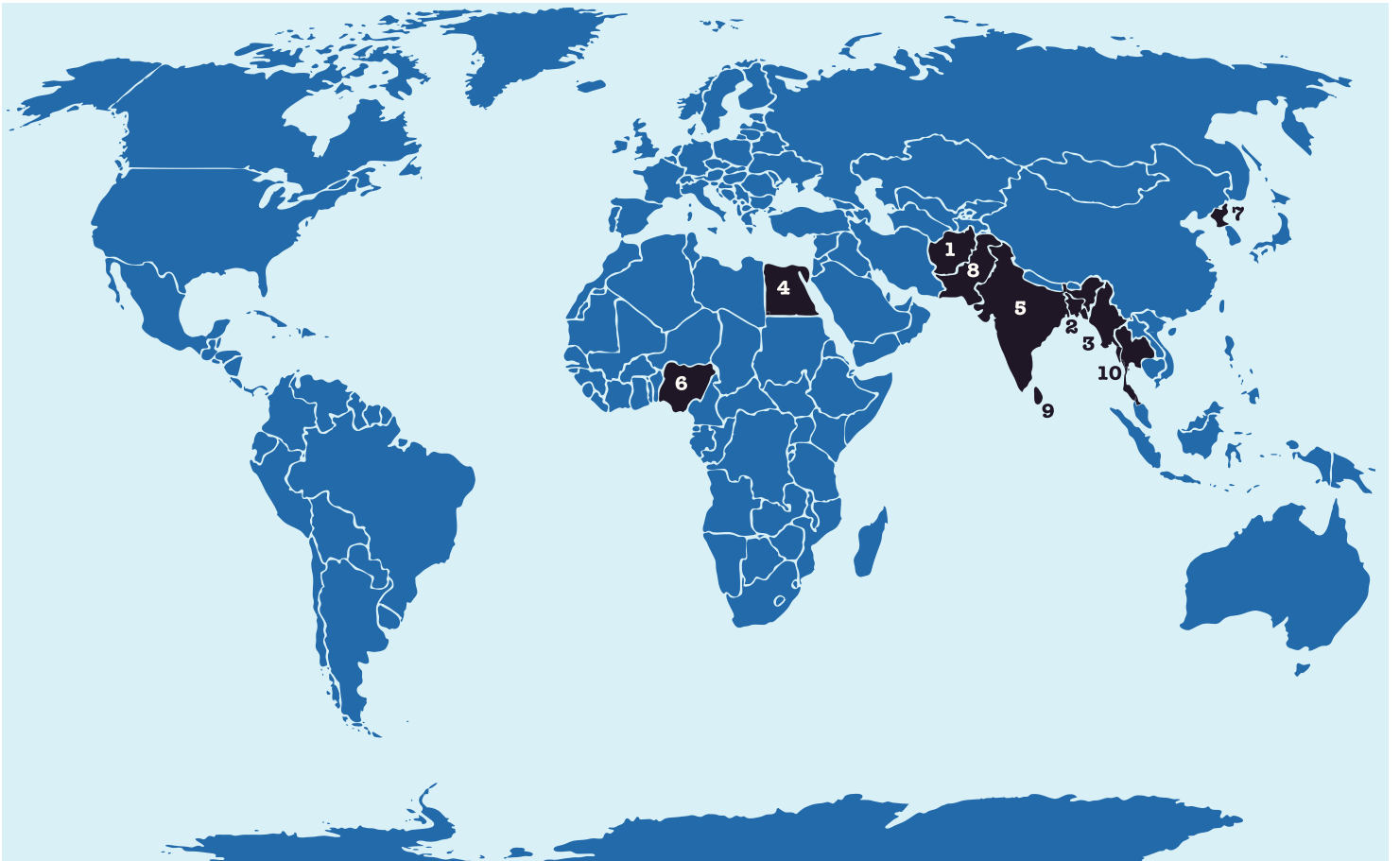
† *Advocating for Christian freedom.*

† *Safeguarding endangered and oppressed brothers and sisters in Christ.*

† *Equipping for Christian ministry.*

† *Sustaining and growing the local church.*

WHERE WE HELPED IN 2023:



- 1. Afghanistan**
- 2. Bangladesh**
- 3. Burma**
- 4. Egypt**
- 5. India**

- 6. Nigeria**
- 7. North Korea**
- 8. Pakistan**
- 9. Sri Lanka**
- 10. Thailand**

Unnamed Countries



AFGHANISTAN:

When Afghanistan fell to the Taliban, Christians went from hiding their faith to being hunted. Even those who leave the country are at risk. If their faith is discovered, their families in Afghanistan could be attacked.

Christian Freedom International provided rent, food, medical aid, and more for Christians in and outside of Afghanistan. Just as importantly, when possible we connected them to local trustworthy Christians for fellowship and encouragement.

Who are these Afghan Christians with a faith so strong that it withstands the Taliban?

We tell the stories of several Christians we are helping inside Afghanistan, in neighboring Pakistan, and on their path to freedom in our special report [Afghan Christians Speak](#) available in print and on our website.

“I stand before God again and ask him to shower his mercy on you, your family and other people who have played a role in supporting us and all the believers.” - Afghan believer

BANGLADESH:

Christian converts to Christ face extreme pressure to return to their previous faith. They are harassed, beaten, their land and property stolen, and threatened with death.

Yet many not only endure, they tell others about Jesus.

Christian Freedom International comes alongside Christian converts to aid, equip, and safeguard them as they follow Christ.

Aid and Faith

Christian Freedom International equipped pastors, evangelists, and Sunday school teachers who are Christian converts to help in their personal lives and to minister to others, including people who are blind or disabled.

Our network of sponsored pastors baptized 109 people in ponds, lakes, and rivers.

Safe Houses

For Christians who flee from their families and communities to save their lives, Christian Freedom International's shelters are safe havens. Individuals and families can stay for days or months as we help them to sort out their situations and plan their future, either returning home or relocating to a new community.

In addition to basic necessities, CFI provides school fees for the children, help finding jobs, medical aid for injuries, and legal aid to defend against false charges.



“Without CFI’s help, our family would not be alive. Still now our lives are at high risk.”
- Family of Christian converts in CFI shelter

Emergency, Medical, and Legal Aid

Injuries from beatings and stress from persecution take a heavy toll on people's health. We provided medical help for 36 Christians, including medicines, surgeries, and doctors' fees. While recovering and unable to work, we provided food for their families.

Many Christians live hand-to-mouth and face grave circumstances when their health or hostile situations keep them from working.

Almost 600 people from 120 Christian families were given emergency aid.

Over 480 Christians received blankets in the winter, which are shared by families. Without this help, some elderly believers would not last past the winter season.

Christian converts can find themselves falsely accused of blasphemy, criminally charged, jailed, and their families threatened by mobs. These fabricated cases are intended to persecute and force them to revert to Islam.

Christian Freedom International arranged lawyers, transportation, housing, and family support for 10 Christians in three blasphemy cases.

Christian Community Attacked by Buddhists

After Christian women and children had been severely beaten by their Buddhist neighbors, the Christian men were not allowed to farm or work under the threat of death.

Throughout 2023, Christian Freedom International provided food, school fees, encouragement, and theological training to raise up a local pastor since it is too dangerous for pastors to travel to the village.

They are isolated, yet your prayers and support are reaching them.

Sponsorships

Christians connect directly with persecuted Christians through sponsorship. Their monthly support, prayers, and encouraging letters are tangible ways to come alongside persecuted brothers and sisters.

In 2023, 36 pastors received support from sponsors, which helps their families and churches.

Throughout the year, 34 children who attend Sunday Schools received support, benefitting their family members. Along with food, they were helped with school fees, books, and medicines.

When 17 children aged out of sponsorships, Christian Freedom International helped them to get admitted and paid the tuition for college, university or professional institutes to get higher educations. Their education will benefit 70 people in their families.

Bibles

150 Bibles were distributed and more than 400 leaflets.

White Cane Day

Christian Freedom International held White Cane Day events at local churches and welcomed neighbors with disabilities. The parties take weeks to prepare, and every guest is handpicked. Gifts are ordered for each one ahead of time.

In 2023, 920 blind people and their families received food packages, white canes, mosquito nets, and audio Bibles. CFI Gifts for Blinds food packages include daily essentials for a family for 30 days. This benefitted more than 4,000 people.

The widow of a beloved pastor to the blind followed her husband in death this year. Christian converts are often denied burials or graves. Christian Freedom International honored her by arranging and providing for her funeral and burial.

BURMA/THAILAND: VICTORY BIBLE ACADEMY

Victory Bible Academy is Christian Freedom International's school for persecuted Christians from Burma (aka Myanmar). Students from refugee camps and villages learn how to live for Christ and serve others.

Six teachers from Burma and Thailand taught 40 students in 2023. All had been affected by persecution in Burma. They came to Victory to learn skills that will not only benefit their lives, but also their friends and families.

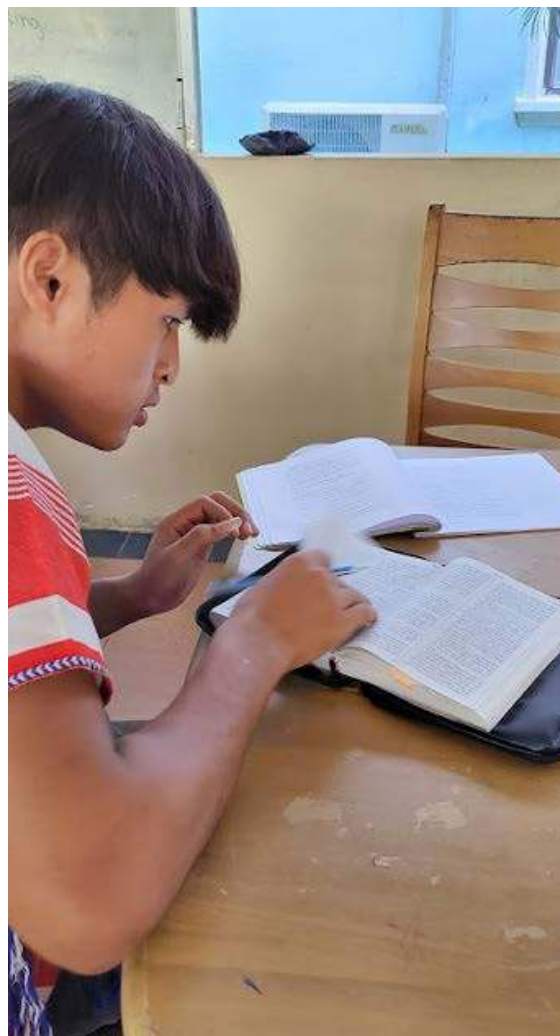
Bible and discipleship training form the foundation at Victory. Job skills and survival training are put into practice on outreaches and mission trips to rural villages. Students reached out to refugees who have run from the war in Burma.

Attendance at local churches is on the rise due to the influx of refugees. Students and staff assisted several churches in 2023 by delivering sermons, encouragement, childcare, and youth leadership.

While students indicated they enjoyed short courses like welding, computer skills, and first aid, they found that Missions Month was the most exciting and rewarding part of their year, because it used almost all the skills learned in their classes.

Students reached about 1600 people during Missions Month. A children's ministry was well attended, but there were several conflicts with non-Christians who did not want to see Christianity grow in their region. Home visits to encourage fellow Christians led to non-believers requesting visits and hence, many new Christians! The local school allowed the team to deliver a Christmas program that many attended.

They also built a church for a local congregation and baptized new followers of Christ.



Practicing a Bible story skit for Missions Month

FREEDOM FIGHTERS T-SHIRT CLUB:

At Victory Bible Academy, students are taught practical vocational skills. This includes learning business skills by making hand-crafted t-shirts and boutique items.

Students study each aspect of running a small business, from making items, to budgeting, to customer relations.

Our Freedom Fighter Club is a t-shirt-of-the-month club. It provides regular customers for students as they learn. Each t-shirt is handmade, silk-screened, and shipped from Victory Bible Academy with hand-written notes from students. A new design for each month is based on students' favorite Bible verses.

Over 700 t-shirts were produced in 2023 for our Freedom Fighter Club monthly members, as well as individual buyers and a church youth group.

The unique t-shirt designs are also silk-screened on tapestries, garden flags, and baby clothes. Students learn traditional weaving by making scarves, handbags, and tunics. Over 63 of these Boutique items were purchased on CFI's online store.



“Thank you for the letters I receive from the students which are enclosed with the shirts. They are a great blessing and encouragement. I think I am more excited to read the letter than to get the t-shirt.” - Michael



EGYPT:

Pervasive stigma haunts Christians in Egypt. They suffer socially and economically. Oftentimes the police and justice system are essentially complicit when Christians are attacked, or women kidnapped to forcibly convert to Islam.

Into this world, inside Garbage City, Christian children are prayed and provided for by sponsors through Christian Freedom International. Their encouraging letters and monthly support provide for food, school fees, and other needs. Since Covid, we continue to also give food aid to impoverished Christian families each month.

About 200 families received aid, and 47 children were sponsored which benefited 140 family members. Christian Freedom International also covered the costs for treatment for two sponsored children with cancer.

One mother of four children said;

“My children and I thank CFI so much for standing up with us after the death of my husband and providing us with food packages every month. Your help has made a difference in our lives. We thank you so much for your generous support during our hard time. We highly appreciate your genuine and great love to us. Please keep praying for us. May God bless all of you.”

INDIA:

In May, violence erupted in Manipur, India. The conflict left more than 219 people dead and over 249 churches damaged. Over 60,000 fled their homes.

Most of the victims are from the Kuki tribe, which is predominantly Christian.

In India, discrimination against Christians has risen along with discriminatory laws. The state and national government are ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a Hindu nationalist party.

Officials were accused of allowing mobs to act with impunity, and police of not assisting the Kukis or investigating reports of rape, torture, and violence.

Some Christians traveled four to five days to reach a safe area. Christian Freedom International partnered with a local team to provide aid for Manipur Christians. They distributed 388 food packages to 106 families in two shelter camps.

“It was a great support and blessings for those people who lost everything due to communal riots in their state. They are overjoyed to know somebody is standing by them in this critical and difficult time of their life. It was only possible by your immediate response and extended help.” - CFI Partner



NIGERIA:

In Nigeria, Christians make up half of the population. Yet Islamist groups have vowed to destroy Christians and impose Sharia (Islamic law) on the country.

Each year, more Christians are brutally killed in Nigeria than all other countries combined. Islamist groups such as Boko-Haram, militant Fulani herdsmen, and the Islamic State in West Africa (ISWAP) are among the deadliest terrorist groups in the world. They viciously attack Christian communities, slaughtering people and destroying churches and homes.

What happens to the survivors who lost family members and are forced from their homes?

Christian leaders are encouraging their people to strengthen their faith in God and focus on building a better future. This sparked a question for us: How can we help not only for today but for their tomorrow?



Child Sponsorships

In 2023, Christian Freedom International launched a child sponsorship program in Nigeria.

These children have lost their father or family members to Islamist terrorists. Now their mothers or caregivers struggle to provide for their families. They are displaced from their homes and cannot afford school fees and other expenses.

When we asked what they would like to be when they grow up, remarkably they said doctors, lawyers, engineers. These children have a vision to bring healing, justice, and a better life for others. Surely, God has a great plan for their good.

Our child sponsorships provide monthly support for 40 Christian children. It provides for school fees and other expenses for education – and forges a relationship with their sponsor that can impact their eternity.

Supporting widows and orphans

Christian survivors of Islamist attacks are left wounded and without livelihoods. Christian Freedom International provided food for survivors, training and funding for widows to run small businesses and trauma healing for child survivors of jihadist massacres.

Treasure Center

Young men and women who survive Islamist attacks can struggle in the aftermath. They are left traumatized and broken.

“Militant Islamists have caused so much confusion,” said Rev. Andrew. “Some of the young people go to drugs to get the energy to fight the enemy.”

Rev. Andrew runs the Treasure Center, a dream that is becoming reality with the support of Christian Freedom International.

Broken buildings were renovated into a recovery center for Christian youth who survived Islamist attacks. Our support helped to construct buildings, provide furnishings, beds, tools and skill training, and more.

The need was so desperate, 27 young men and women moved in before it was finished.

Emmanuel was the first. His father, a police officer, was beheaded by Boko Haram.

Emmanuel became the breadwinner for his widowed mother and 8 siblings. The pressure was too much, and he broke. Drugs led to prison.

Not long after coming to the Treasure Center, he was baptized.

“I have felt changes in my life,” Emmanuel said. “Some of the things I used to do, I don’t have the urge to anymore. I am asking God to continue working on me the way that He started.”

Rev. Andrew said, “God has given us to be a father to them and help them to transform. We call them our ‘Treasures’.”

Christmas Gifts

At Christmas, our sponsored children, Treasure Center youth and others received gifts bags filled with clothes, shoes, and hair supplies, from the generosity of Christian Freedom International’s supporters.

NORTH KOREA/CHINA:

North Korean Christians suffer unspeakable persecution under a cruel regime where the Bible is banned, and Christianity is illegal.

Some people dare to escape through China. But if they are found, China forcibly returns them. If they are Christian, they face harsher punishment for fleeing.

North Koreans take great risks and endure horrific torment to find and follow Christ.

Shelters in China

For North Koreans who escape, the journey is not finished when they cross the border into China. They need safe houses to hide until they can get to a free country.

Christian Freedom International provides shelters for North Koreans who are making the dangerous escape.

When escapees in shelters are detected or landlords get fearful, they must move. Without safe houses, they could be caught and forced back to North Korea. The cost can be their lives.

One landlord demanded that the escapees leave the premises within 72 hours. Our partner urgently traveled to the area and was taken into custody by Chinese authorities. Thank God, he was released and was able to secure a new shelter in a remote place.

At least 50 North Koreans stayed in shelters run by Christian Freedom International, including five children.

Our partner said:

“Because of Christian Freedom International’s support, we have been able to keep them safe for now. You have given hope to us and the escapees. They thank me, but the thanks go to you. Thank you so much.”

Audio Bibles

Staying inside shelters for stretches of time is challenging. But it is also an opportunity to get to know God.

We smuggled dozens of solar-powered audio Bibles into China (which is getting more difficult) and to shelters. They need to be replaced when escapees take them when they leave, with our blessings.



Radios and Broadcasts

It is illegal to bring Bibles into North Korea. Smuggling Bibles is even harder now since the regime has built more barriers on their borders. One critical way is still possible.

They can hear the Truth through radio broadcasts that jump borders.

Kim Seong Min knows the power of radio. He was a military propagandist in North Korea when he found an illegal radio. Listening to broadcasts inspired him to escape. He met Jesus and now runs Free North Korea Radio, which is supported by Christian Freedom International.

The station broadcasts readings from the Bible, sermons, Christian music, and dramas on the life of Jesus. And they tell listeners that Americans are praying for them.

Radio broadcasts can reach into China to women who escaped North Korea only to be trafficked into forced marriages. They are unseen. But like Hagar, who was abused then cast aside, God is the God who sees.

Through radios, they can secretly listen to the Bible and Christian programs.

Christian Freedom International got radios to 300 North Korean women in rural China who largely were trafficked and forcibly married, about 200 who are Christians and 100 who live near believers.

PAKISTAN:



Children celebrate Christmas in a Pakistan brickyard with gifts from CFI.

Severe discrimination against Christians earned Pakistan the shame of being designated a Country of Particular Concern by the U.S. State Department.

Pakistani Christians face mob violence, targeted killings, and their homes and churches destroyed by perpetrators who are never held accountable. Women and girls are kidnapped and forcibly converted to Islam, and their families threatened with death or jail to keep silent.

Brickyard Child Sponsorships

In a form of modern-day slavery, Christians in Pakistan's brickyards are trapped by loans to work off never-ending debts. Whole families do back-breaking work for long hours each day.

Through monthly gifts from generous sponsors, Christian children were provided essential aid each month that supplied their families with food, soap, cooking oil and more. The children were also given school lessons and Bible classes.

A special supporter with a heart for Pakistani Christians arranged for 50 audio Bibles to be given to our sponsored children's families.

Christmas gifts of warm blankets that can cover whole families along with toys were given at Christmas parties for the children of the brickyard.

“This year there was a lot of crises in the whole country. Many of the people of brickyards had problems making a living. But only because of CFI, we were able to provide food for the whole year. Because of the education we gave, people who were not going to church at all started going to church.”

- Christian Freedom International's co-worker.



Sponsorships provide food and essentials for children and their families in brickyards.

Equipping Christians from Slums and Brickyards

In Pakistan, Christian women from slums face triple discrimination, for being Christian, a woman, and poor. Learning basic job skills can empower and lift them from poverty.

Our ministry partner Saira (not her name) runs a training center for girls. About 40 - 50 women, some who are widows, and their children learn sewing, computers, and hair and beauty techniques. Bible classes teach the most important lessons. The girls learn that their true source of hope is Jesus Christ.

This year 15 young women graduated and can now earn a living and lead dignified lives. Several started their own home-based beauty parlors.

Each year, hundreds of Christian girls are kidnapped, abused, forcibly converted to Islam and “married” to their kidnapper. Walking to the ministry center can be risky. After one young woman was harassed on the way by a Muslim man who made clear his intention was to forcibly convert her, several women stopped coming out of fear.

Thanks to our generous supporters, we helped to buy a van for the ministry center.

The van is also used for discipleship ministry reaching into the brickyard community. We provided audio Bibles, clothes, school supplies, and food to several hundred Christian laborers. Sunday School lessons teach more than 100 students the Bible.

On Christmas Eve, gifts were cheerfully given to the children and the story told of the birth of Jesus Christ who loves without any conditions.



Van for safe travels for Christian girls in Pakistan.



A sewing training center for pastor and wife. A security wall was previously built to protect them from attacks.

SRI LANKA:

The economic collapse in Sri Lanka added to the hardships Christians already faced in this Buddhist nationalist country.

One hope for Christian families to see their way through this crisis is for their children to be educated. Without money for school fees and supplies, that hope is lost.

Christian Freedom International provided:

Livelihoods

Sewing machines for a pastor to open a training center. Buddhist monks and local authorities harass the pastor and his wife to try to force them to leave the community. Their cheerfulness and service to others is opening hearts to Christ. Their dream of a sewing center will provide a practical service to women in the community and reduce tensions.

Tools and materials for 3 Christians to start home-based businesses.

One young woman lost her opportunity to attend a Bible school or find a job after the Easter Day bombing of churches. She now earns a small living by making hair clips, which gives her freedom to teach Sunday School classes.

One new believer had an unbelieving husband. He prohibited her from going to church. When he got cancer, the family with 7 members had no income. Christian Freedom International helped her to start a vegetable stand to sell items. This along with the kindness of our co-workers softened him to her new faith.

Schooling

School stationery and Bibles for 591 Christian children in high-risk areas.
School fees and tutoring for 18 children, and medications for 5 family members.

Security Cameras for Childrens Home

A church in a Hindu-majority area opened a home for 22 orphaned teen girls. But their security was breached at nights when local boys would jump over the walls. Christian Freedom International installed CCTV cameras and the threat and harassment stopped.

RESTRICTED COUNTRY:

Child Protection

Christian Freedom International partners with trusted local teams who train Christian children in countries of persecution to resist human trafficking, drugs, and sexual abuse.

Local authorities in these countries are hostile to Christians and ban sharing Jesus. But they welcome efforts to protect children from exploitation. As a persecuted minority, Christian children are especially vulnerable and easy prey for unscrupulous adults.

In one country, 1083 children were reached and trained to prevent exploitation, and 517 of them followed into discipleship in a local church.

In another country, 526 children were reached and trained to prevent exploitation, and 343 entered discipleship in a local church.



School supplies and Bibles for Christian children.

Refugee Camp

In a massive refugee camp overtaken by Muslim militarist gangs, a few dozen people have become Christians. They are attacked by Muslim refugees, abused by the host country, and neglected by UN and humanitarian agencies.

In 2023, they established a small church to gather for prayer, Bible readings, and encouragement.

Christian Freedom International provided for 25 families and 8 new Christians with school uniforms, Christmas clothing, financial assistance, and a special Christmas dinner with decorations, a sound system, and Bible-based book in their language on salvation.

SPONSORSHIPS:

Christian Freedom International sponsorships directly connect Christians with a child, a pastor, or a family whose Christian faith put them at risk.

Children and Pastors

The care and aid given to sponsored children not only shape their lives but help provide for the well-being of their entire family. Support for pastors spread to their congregation.

Sponsorships can cover education and medical expenses for children and pastors. Extra needs for children and pastors often come to our attention and are provided by Christian Freedom International. Sponsored children are disciplined and sponsored pastors disciple their churches.

Pakistani Christian Refugees in Thailand

Christians who fled persecution in Pakistan came to Thailand in the hope of resettling to another country. They live as urban refugees, at risk of being detained by authorities.

Through sponsorships, we provided food and support for Christian asylum-seeking families each month. One widow with five children was provided medical support for her two children who are disabled.



“Living as an asylum seeker can be really hard. With the support of CFI, we have been able to keep a roof over our heads.” - Pakistani Christian

In 2023, through prayers, writing letters, and giving monthly support, caring Christians improved the lives of:

209 Christian children (and their families) in Egypt, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

36 Pastors in Bangladesh whose witness – because they converted from other religions - can deprive them of family, jobs, and security, and makes them targets for attacks.

31 Christian refugee families, with 135 people, who fled Pakistan to seek asylum.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:10

LEADERSHIP:

INDIGENOUS STAFF:

Courageous Christians work with CFI to deliver aid, educate children, train and disciple believers, provide shelter, and lift up the name of Jesus Christ. We do not disclose their names for their safety.

U.S. STAFF:

Wendy Wright,
President/CEO

Lisa Poths,
Vice-President/CFO

Carol Hoopes,
Chief Data Officer

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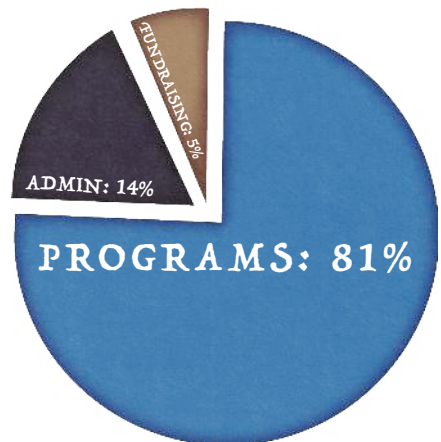
Ben Bull, National
Center on Sexual
Exploitation

*Independent Voting
Member

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

2023 Total Contributions: \$1,165,630
2023 Ministry Expenses: \$987,955

Total Ministry Expenses:



Financial accountability organizations give Christian Freedom International high ratings:



#10900

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