

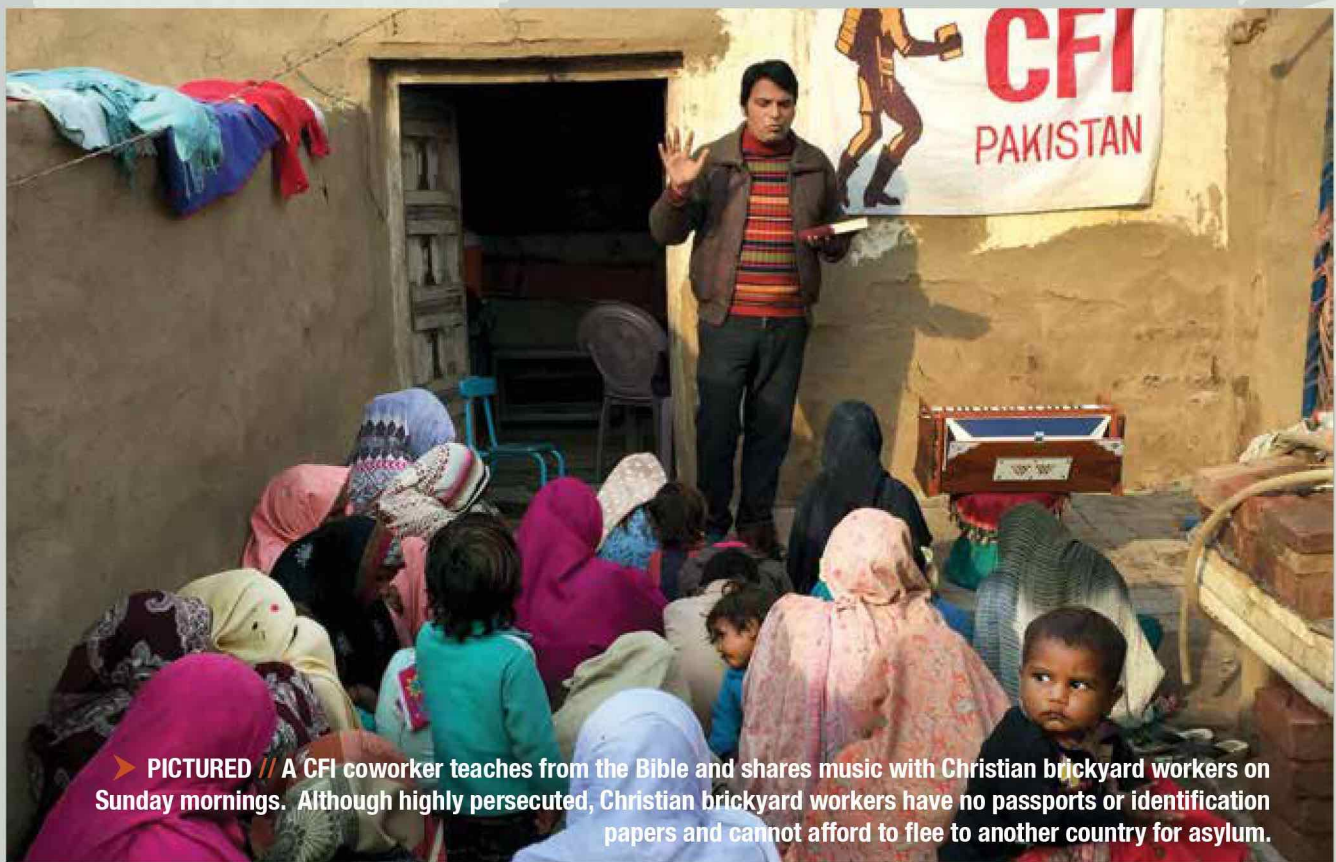
# Christian Freedom<sup>®</sup> International

➤ A Christian child in the brickyards of Pakistan struggles to survive along with her family. CFI provides medical care to this girl and her family.

## CARING FOR REFUGEES IN THE MIDDLE EAST & ELSEWHERE...

*"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*





➤ **PICTURED //** A CFI coworker teaches from the Bible and shares music with Christian brickyard workers on Sunday mornings. Although highly persecuted, Christian brickyard workers have no passports or identification papers and cannot afford to flee to another country for asylum.

## BACKGROUND ON PAKISTAN

IN PAKISTAN AND THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, religious minorities are at greatest risk, facing persecution and death. In Pakistan, Christians are disproportionately targeted by the draconian blasphemy laws, often as retaliation in commercial and personal disputes. The application of these laws is “deeply troubling,” noted the U.S. State Department in a recent special report. Churches are destroyed; mobs threaten Christians who refuse to convert to Islam, and execute those who have accepted Christ. On Easter Sunday 2016, the Pakistan Taliban bombed a children’s park frequented by Christians, killing more than 70 people celebrating there.

In its most recent report on religious liberty, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom concluded: “the Pakistani government continued to perpetrate and tolerate

systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations.” The Commission pointed to discriminatory legislation, violence by non-state actors, forced conversions, government failure to protect likely victims, and a “deep-rooted climate of impunity.”

The State Department’s most recent report on religious liberty made many of the same criticisms. Islamabad continues to enforce blasphemy laws, discriminate against religious minorities, and include derogatory attacks on non-Muslim faiths in school textbooks, and utterly fails to safeguard “minority rights.” The report also pointed to forced conversions and marriages as well as “violence and abuses committed by armed sectarian groups” which targeted individuals as well as houses of worship as further violations.



## PAKISTAN ●

➤ **PICTURED RIGHT //** The brickyard kiln in a Pakistani brickyard near Lahore. Christian brickyard workers survive day to day making thousands of bricks. The brickyards are owned by wealthy Muslims. Most brickyard workers can never leave the bondage of the brickyards.



➤ CFI provides care-packs, aid, medicine, clothes, and food to Christian brickyard workers.

➤ CFI also has a child sponsorship program whereby donors can sponsor a child in the brickyards. The sponsorship provides aid and education to the sponsored child and their family.





# “INSTILLING CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER”

by N. Akhtar, Director of CFI's Education Program in Bangkok, Thailand.



➤ CFI is providing free education to the children of Christian asylum seekers from Pakistan in the slums of Bangkok.

FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS, AN EDUCATION CAN provide a chance to escape poverty and the ability to provide for themselves and their families. Sadly, for the Pakistani Christian children seeking asylum through the UN in Thailand, an education had been a distant hope, until now.

Their prayers and requests have been answered.

In January 2017, CFI began providing free, English, Bible, General Science and Mathematics classes to persecuted Christian asylum seekers from Pakistan. In order for the program to operate, the micro-schools are located quietly within their tenant buildings.

“Scientia Maxime Cum Virtue”, Or “Knowledge is Best with Virtue” is the motto of our program. Our goal is to cultivate and instill Christ-like character in our young adults, to help them learn the language of love and kindness, to teach them to be observant, patient and steadfast and to always glorify God through their life's work.





With some minor changes made to the curriculum after evaluation — to adjust the complexity level of the course — the program looks successful, and is being accepted very well by the students. Just one month into the program scores of students enrolled with us, with many more asking to join.

This is the most crucial and uplifting ministry to asylum seeking brothers and sisters in Christ, to teach them to learn, to help them understand and follow Bible teachings, and to encourage them to grow through adversity — to teach them to fish, rather than feed only for a day.

Please know that due to growing extremism towards Christianity in the Middle East, Christians are left with no option but to leave the lands where

Christianity was born, to save their dear lives.

In the current refugee exodus, Christians receive the smallest quota of acceptance world-wide from the UNHCR. For most of Christian families in Thailand, their cases are either postponed for four to five years, or are completely rejected and they are left in despair. These people face death at the hands of extremist Muslims if they return to their countries, and detention at the hands of Thai Immigration Police if they get caught.

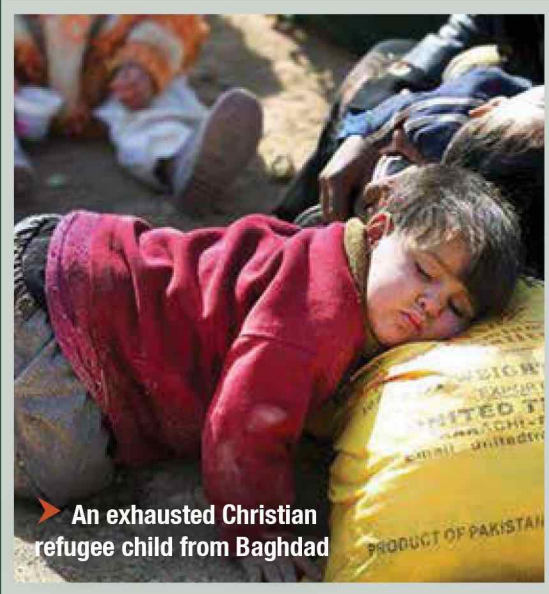
The CFI educational program is a huge blessing and opportunity for the Pakistani Children to learn and grow, and not feel apathetic about their situation. I encourage you all to keep this new ministry in your prayers.



➤ **PICTURED //** A CFI coworker teaches Christian refugees from Pakistan at an undisclosed location in the slums of Bangkok.



# TRUMP ADMINISTRATION GIVES NEW HOPE TO CHRISTIAN REFUGEES



➤ An exhausted Christian refugee child from Baghdad

THIS PAST JANUARY, PRESIDENT TRUMP issued an executive order which, among other things, mandated the suspension of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days. The order gave priority for resettlement to refugees facing religious persecution, so long as the refugee belongs to a “minority religion” in his or her country of nationality. CFI president Jim Jacobson praises the order: “This means that persecuted Christians will finally be considered for resettlement. Under the Obama administration, persecuted Christians from Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere were essentially ignored or denied consideration for resettlement to the U.S.”

According to Jacobson, “The Trump administration has given hope to persecuted Christians that their cases will finally be considered.”

In the Middle East, Christians are a minority religion facing genocide, but were abandoned under the Obama administration. The new executive order gives priority to “minority religions.”

“I support President Trump’s executive order on immigration and refugees. It is not only appropriate to prioritize cases for resettlement, it is essential. What has been happening to minority Christians throughout the Middle East is a declared genocide. No single nation can accept all refugees, that’s why nations prioritize. Refugee resettlement must give priority to those who are the most vulnerable and persecuted,” said Jacobson.

The new executive order changed former policies that favored Muslim refugees. For example, during fiscal year 2016 alone, the Obama administration admitted a total of 12,587 Syrian refugees, according to the Refugee Processing Center data. The vast majority — 12,363, or 98.2 percent were Sunni Muslims. 68 refugees, or 0.5 percent were Christians, and 24, or 0.2 percent were Yazidis.

It is both commonsense and legally correct to prioritize religious minorities over other refugees. In fact, there is already a similar policy in place for refugees from Iran.

The late Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) introduced an amendment to the 1990 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill to assist Jews seeking a path out of the Soviet Union. Since then the amendment — now known as the “Lautenberg Amendment” — has been reauthorized every year, though for different purposes. In 2004, Congress amended the Lautenberg Amendment to add the “Specter Amendment,” which facilitates the resettlement of Jews, Christians, Baha’is, and other religious minorities fleeing Iran.

President Trump’s executive order essentially extended and broadened the Lautenberg Amendment to make it apply to all countries where religious persecution is occurring.

The executive order did not ban Muslims from entering the United States, and non-Muslims, including Christians, were included in the temporary ban from countries of particular concern.



➤ One of thousands of refugees in Kurdistan where CFI works to deliver essential help



➤ PICTURED RIGHT //  
A young refugee boy in Kurdistan attends a newly opened school supplied by CFI.



# HELP



## KEEP OTHERS INFORMED ABOUT the PERSECUTED CHURCH

### PLEASE

PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ALONG WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED READING IT.

# TIME TO PRIVATIZE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

*Focus on Advocacy*



➤ A Pakistani refugee family

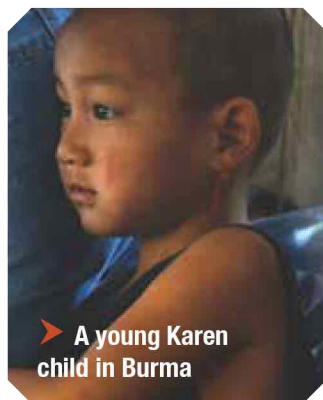
➤ **BANGKOK, THAILAND** — More than 10,000 persecuted Christian refugees from Pakistan survive in the slums of Bangkok awaiting resettlement to a free country. But if current policies and practices toward Christian refugees around the world do not change, these refugees won't be going anywhere. Tragically, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Many caring Christians in the U.S. would gladly agree to legally sponsor a persecuted Christian refugee and help them become productive American citizens. They would do this quickly and efficiently, without any government assistance or cost to the taxpayer. However, currently the federal government does not allow anyone from the private sector, including churches, to sponsor refugees. The federal government and tax-payer funded agencies and contractors maintain strict control on refugee resettlement and will do just about anything to keep their monopoly.

Under the current system there is no personal involvement and refugees are treated as a commodity. The more refugees an agency can acquire to resettle, the more funds it receives. Hence, there is a high demand for refugees by federally funded contractors, without any regard of reaching self-sufficiency or assimilation.

Under private sponsorship, the sponsor has a vested interest. The sponsor is involved personally. The sponsor is responsible, thus minimizing security issues associated with a refugee. The sponsor works with the refugee personally to assure their success in the shortest time possible.

➤ PLEASE VISIT [CHRISTIANFREEDOM.ORG](http://CHRISTIANFREEDOM.ORG) TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ISSUE, AND TO SIGN OUR PETITION TO POLICY MAKERS TO PRIVATIZE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT. THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW.



➤ A young Karen child in Burma

CHRISTIAN FREEDOM INTERNATIONAL has assisted in the resettlement of Karen & Karenni Christian refugees from Burma, and testifies regularly on behalf of Christian asylum seekers from countries of extreme oppression around the world. CFI operates the Freedom Inn, an immigrant community housing and citizenship program, here in the United States, to assist persecuted Christian refugees transition to self-sufficiency.

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## Christian Freedom<sup>®</sup> International



Christian Freedom International is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). Members of the ECFA are held to the highest standards of financial responsibility. Gifts are used for the project identified unless our Board of Directors, in good faith, determines that the changing situation in the Persecuted Church requires applying them to another urgent project. Your gift to Christian Freedom International is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.