



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

**SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS**

• **JUNE 2019** •

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**Talib is alone and destitute in Bangkok. After the horrors he lived through in Pakistan, he desperately needs a supportive community.**

**CFI's co-worker Akhtar began meeting with him to pray, and now Talib comes to church.**





**“It has always been my passion to share the word of God with people,” Akhtar said.**

**Akhtar runs CFI’s ministry to Pakistani Christians.**

**He distributes food, supplies and rent for Pakistani Christian asylum-seekers hiding in Bangkok. He prays and counsels with them. He visits and brings food to those in prison. He gives shelter during emergencies.**

**Many Pakistani Christian refugees have spent years in Bangkok, uncertain of their future. CFI helps them survive and prepare, with a school for children, making t-shirts for an income, and a church for spiritual growth and community.**







**Will you pray for displaced Christians – chased away from their homes – that during their difficult times they will grow strong in Jesus Christ?**

## **CONTACT US!**

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# **PASS**

**THIS NEWSLETTER TO  
A FRIEND WHEN YOU  
FINISH READING IT.**







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

June 2019

Dear Friend of the Persecuted Church,

Talib was a farmer in Pakistan. He showed up in Bangkok on Christian Freedom International's list of asylum-seekers needing help. Little did we know that this destitute, lonely man was the unwitting victim of horrible atrocities.

It all began in 2009 when he attended a wedding. Five days later a group of Muslim men accused Christians of burning pages of a Koran at the pre-wedding ceremony. Talib said there was a thunderstorm that night. If it had happened, the pages they produced as evidence would be muddy. A man from the crowd beat Talib with the butt of a gun until he was bleeding. Then others beat him.

He was able to escape, but men with guns followed him. Mosques and schools announced they were looking for Talib. Armed men were waiting at his home. Talib's family separated, fled and hid.

A mob burned down 300 Christian homes. At least two men were burned alive. Christians in the area ran away.

The next day, mosques announced they will protest all Christians for blasphemy. Three men were burned alive. Another area was burned down. Three days later, the Christian colony of Gojra was burned.

Talib hid for three years. He made it to Thailand in 2012. Alone.

For years, the UN delayed, then turned down his asylum claim. Finally, he was granted asylum - but he is stuck in Bangkok. The UN has not resettled him to a secure country.

Recently, a U.S. congressional hearing looked into discrimination against Christian refugees. A witness, attorney Ann Buwalda, brought up Talib. Based on the well-founded fear of what happened to Talib, other refugees have gotten asylum and are in safe countries - yet he still waits in Bangkok.

But he is no longer entirely alone.

A year ago, CFI's co-worker in Bangkok - also a Pakistani

Christian - started a church.

"It has always been my passion to share the word of God with people," Akhtar said. "I have done this while I was in Pakistan at my home and now greatly feel the need of doing this over here for Pakistani refugees."

Akhtar distributes food, supplies and rent for Pakistani Christian asylum-seekers. He prays and counsels with them. He visits and brings food to those in prison. He gives shelter during emergencies.

"They asked me to start this church because they can understand the Bible and my gospel-sharing in Urdu language," he explained. "I felt it was good to gather them in one place and do this work of God." (Please pray for the safety of this house church. It is in a rough neighborhood.)

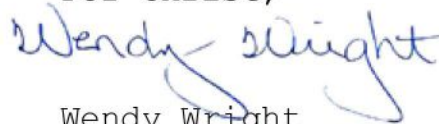
During the week, Akhtar teaches Bible classes and trains Christians for leadership roles. Christians of different denominations come to learn the word of God.

Like Talib, many Pakistani Christian refugees have spent years in Bangkok, uncertain of their future. CFI helps them survive and prepare, with a school for children, making t-shirts for an income, and a church for spiritual growth and community.

Talib has no family support and being illiterate he needs help for simple things. After the horrors he's lived through, he desperately needs a supportive community. Akhtar began meeting with him to pray, and now Talib comes to church.

When Akhtar asked Talib, "What is your goal for the future?" Talib answered, "to become a better worshipper."

For Christ,



Wendy Wright  
President

P.S. Would you pray for displaced Christians like Talib - chased away from their homes - that they will grow strong in Jesus Christ during their difficult times?

Would you help Christian Freedom International's ministries that strengthen the faith of persecuted Christians?