



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

2022

## 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*



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

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*“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.” - Jesus*

Dear Friend,

In 2022, followers of Christ carried the baton that was passed to us, from generation to generation, starting with the early church. Many Christians faced persecution in this hard year, and with your support we were able to come alongside, bringing aid and comfort like Timothy brought Paul’s cloak and books while he was in prison.

Paul revealed that hardships bring an unexpected reward. “That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, I am strong.”

Our Annual Report shares how your prayers and support strengthened the persecuted – those who are suffering for their faith and trusting Jesus no matter the cost.

They are empowered to rise above persecution, and we are inspired by their examples. Together the body of Christ is stronger.

We are so grateful for your care for persecuted Christians. Your prayers and contributions were like life-giving water for a marathon runner, and a warm cloak for a prisoner.

Thank you for joining with us to serve the persecuted Church.

For Christ

Wendy Wright  
President



# MISSION & VISION:

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*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.*



**Secret baptism in a restricted country**



## FREEDOM FIGHTERS:

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Persecuted Christians are often denied ways to make a living. This can bring unbearable pressure on families and keep them in dire poverty.

Christian Freedom International helps persecuted Christians with practical ways to make a living. Our signature program “Freedom Fighters T-Shirt of the Month Club” is multi-purpose:

- Persecuted youth, students at Victory Bible Academy, learn to sew and silkscreen t-shirts. They also learn to weave and make other handcrafted items.
- They learn business and marketing skills.
- Adding a personal touch to connect with us, students handwrite a note with each item.
- Customers receive a product with a purpose: T-shirts with Bible messages, a way to declare their faith and spread the news of persecuted Christians who made the t-shirts.

*“We love the students’ notes that come with the t-shirts. We pray for them by name.” - Pastor Kristi and Nate Montes*



# BANGLADESH

Christian converts face growing extremism from political/religious leaders and threats from their families and communities for leaving Islam or Buddhism.

Christian Freedom International provides safe houses, Bible training, aid through monthly sponsorships for children and pastors, medical and legal aid, emergency needs as they arise, and is oftentimes the peacemaker in tense situations.

**Church for Christian Converts:** Christian Freedom International built a church in a conflict-ridden region of Bangladesh where Christian converts to Christ are persecuted. The church is also a safe place for Christians from other areas who are escaping persecution.

There were many challenges in constructing the church. The heavy equipment required water, but the only water available was a muddy river that people use for bathing, drinking, and cooking. We dug a deep well. It was a blessing in disguise. This well made the church a source of clean water for the community.

Another challenge was the village did not have electricity. Christian Freedom International negotiated with government authorities and gained approval to lay electrical connections. This, too, was a blessing to the community.

**Shelters:** Christian Freedom International provided safe houses for Christian converts who were threatened, beaten, and accused of blasphemy. One family, whose father was jailed on blasphemy charges, was rescued from a mob of Muslims that surrounded their home. Dozens of other families escaped neighbors who tried to “cleanse” their village of Christians.

Christian Freedom International provided food, school fees, encouragement, theological training for a future leader in the church, and arranged security for the Christians.

*“Without Christian Freedom International’s help, we are not able to survive. You are the only one who takes care of us.”*

**Legal Aid:** We hired attorneys for Christians who were imprisoned on blasphemy and other charges. Obtaining legal help for Christian converts can be difficult because lawyers face violence or boycotts from militant Muslims.



**Equipping in Christian ministry:** Christian converts are eager to live out their faith. At their request, we provided tools to share Jesus in remote areas and held White Cane Day events to honor neighbors who are disabled with gift packages and solar-powered audio Bibles.

In 2022, 570 blind people received gift packages, benefiting more than 2,000 people.

*“But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”*

- Luke 14:12-14

**Sponsorships:** CFI’s generous sponsors provided support each month for 31 children, helping with basic needs and school fees, and 29 pastors’ families.



**CFI built a cross-shaped church on a hill.**

**It is also a shelter for persecuted Christians.**



**Christians celebrate Easter in a church while CFI built it.**



# BURMA/THAILAND: VICTORY BIBLE ACADEMY

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CFI's Victory Bible Academy, which trains persecuted Christians to be leaders in serving others, sits on the Thai-Burma border. This strategic location allows our students to put their training into immediate practice by serving those who are persecuted by the Tatmadaw, Burma's military.

Burma's military government carried out unrelenting violent attacks on ethnic/religious minorities. Most of Victory Bible Academy's students and staff are Karen (pronounced Kuh-REN) Christians who escaped from Burma, a Buddhist-majority nation.

Students learn the Bible, discipleship, pastoral and worship leadership. They learn four languages (Thai, Burmese, Karen, English), skills to survive in a jungle and job skills for a modern economy. They teach children and youth in local churches, trek into villages to dig latrines, fix broken houses, teach Bible lessons and songs to children, and pray with adults.

Burma's escalating violence forced a flood of refugees into an area where Victory's students could reach them with food and aid. The war prevented students from completing their usual "final exam" which is crossing the border to do mission trips, so they focused on pastoral visits in Thailand.

CFI is proud of Victory Bible Academy's 2022 graduating class. In March, they completed two years of intensive training during a time of epic violence and the Covid pandemic.

In June, a tragic accident took the life of Marnie Scott, who with her husband Joe ran Victory Bible Academy. We rejoice that Marnie is with Jesus, but her absence leaves a huge gap and is a special loss for students and staff who have lost family members from Burma's vicious attacks.



Marnie Scott

*“It’s at these times we grow strongest in our faith, and it is now that we lean fully on Jesus, because I can’t do this on my own,” Joe said.*

The new school year welcomed new students (a total of 79 for the year) who escaped persecution, are learning valuable skills, and will venture into the world to serve others. Many will return to areas of persecution, prepared to be a light for Jesus.



*“We at Victory school really believe that your loving and kindness [through] your donations and our training is helpful for the refugees.”*



**Seeds for Food:** Christians who remain in Burma are often cut off from food and supplies by the junta’s tactics. In addition to providing supplies to hundreds of survivors, four villages with 300 people were given seeds for crops and Christmas gifts of clothes.

A pastor said, “The seeds were sown and planted and are growing well. They will harvest the fruits of their handiwork in October. I am so thankful to CFI.”





# CHINA

“We left China at God’s leading, for religious freedom and the education of our children. We do not want our children taught atheism,” said Pastor Pan. “We love our children.”

Nicknamed the Mayflower Church, Shenzhen Holy Reformed Church faced severe persecution for following Christ. Since 2018, China has escalated its crackdown on churches. Like the Pilgrims, these Chinese believers left everything in search of a place to freely live their faith.

Christian Freedom International visited the 63 church members while they sought asylum and hid in Thailand. With the generosity of our supporters, we helped with their housing, food, and daily needs, and paid the medical bills as they multiplied with the birth of twins.



# EGYPT

Christians in Egypt face severe discrimination and persecution. Christians are denied jobs and prominent positions, denied justice by local authorities, and targeted for abuse throughout society. The covid pandemic and inflation hit poor Christian families especially hard.

**Emergency food aid:** During 2022, CFI provided needy Christian families in Garbage City with 360 food bags (30 food bags each month). These items meet most of the basic monthly food needs of the families.

**Child Sponsorships:** CFI’s generous sponsors provided monthly support for 46 children in Egypt, which gave each family food and allowed funds to visit a doctor and buy medicine when a family member was ill. During the back-to-school season, we provided school supplies, and a printer for the children to print their school lessons and improve their studying.



Christian child in Garbage City reads her Bible.

*“I thank CFI and the sponsors of my three daughters for providing my children with food bags, they meet our monthly physical needs of food. I also thank you so much for the monthly financial assistance for [my daughter's] medication and providing [her] school supplies. You always make all of us happy. My children love all of you very much.”*

# NIGERIA:

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**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.



# SRI LANKA:

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**Economic crisis:** Sri Lanka's economic collapse caused greater hardships for persecuted Christians. Christian Freedom International partnered with churches to provide food as well as training and tools to grow their own food.

Pastors distributed emergency food to 55 Christian families in desperate need, and 146 pastors hit hard by the economic crisis also received rations. CFI also provided a chicken farm for a pastor in a high-risk area.

Seeds, farm tools, and training to grow food was provided for five churches (each with at least 75 members) in a Buddhist-dominant area. When Buddhist-nationalist government workers distributed rations in this area during the economic catastrophe, Christians had been excluded.





# NORTH KOREA:

**Shelters and Discipleship:** North Koreans escaping the totalitarian regime need safe places to hide. Christian Freedom International provided shelters stocked with food, clothing, and Bibles.

Dozens of people stayed in these shelters in 2022 and were prepared spiritually for their future, either in freedom or if they are caught and returned to China. One challenge is friction when people are confined to small spaces for up to months at a time. The culture in the shelters changed as residents were encouraged to sing hymns and learn the Bible.

**Human Trafficking:** Many of the people escaping from North Korea are women who are trafficked into forced marriages in China. The Chinese government restricts Christian information online, but there is hope for these women.

Christian Freedom International equipped our partners to get shortwave radios to 300 women living in rural towns who are predominantly North Korean trafficked victims sold to Chinese men as “wives.” These radios give the women and their children the ability to listen to Christian broadcasts such as Free North Korea Radio.



**Audio Bibles for North Korean defectors in CFI's shelter**

**Free North Korea Radio:** These shortwave radio broadcasts, produced by North Korean escapees and supported by CFI, break into the country and beyond. News from the outside world shatter the regime's lies, and Bible readings and sermons fill listeners with Truth.

**South Korea:** With CFI's assistance, one of our partners, an escapee from North Korea, provides shelters in China and care for defectors who arrive in South Korea. Elderly folks come several times a week to their center for food, other aid, and worship services.



**CFI meets with North Koreans who escaped.**

# PAKISTAN/ THAILAND:

## **Pakistani Christian Asylum**

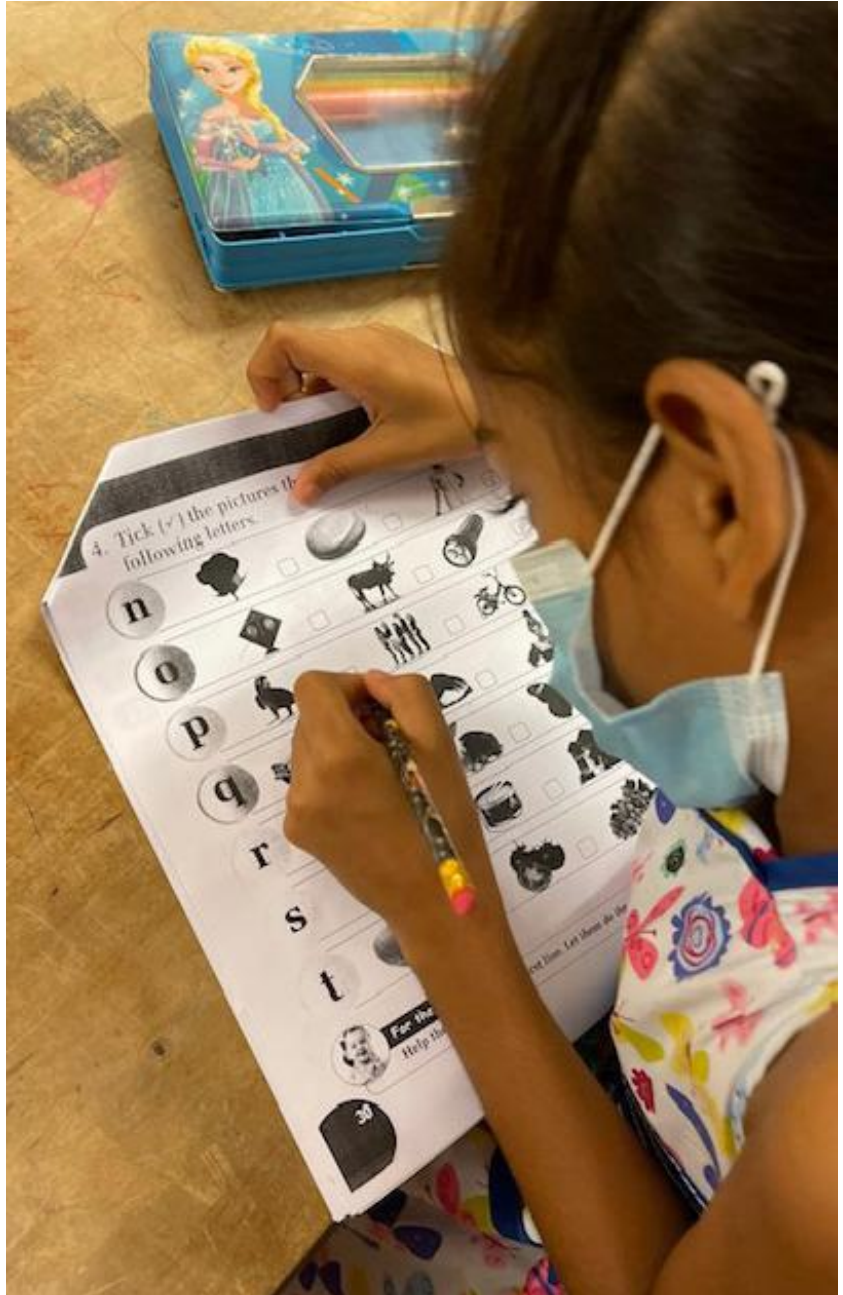
**Seekers:** Christians who fled persecution in Pakistan live as refugees in Thailand. Christian Freedom International provided support for families and education for their children as they hope and prepare to resettle in another country.

**Sponsorships:** CFI's generous sponsors provided food and room rent for 38 families, about 152 people, every month. The food packages included rice, cooking oil, sugar, salt, chili, washing detergent, toothpaste, soap, and dishwashing soap.

## **Education for Asylum Seekers'**

**Children:** Our learning center had 28 - 35 students in 2022, ranging from 5 - 15 years old, with a staff of 3 teachers. Hot lunches, vitamins, & clean drinking water were provided. Six of the children with their families were resettled abroad.

The curriculum included English Literature, English Grammar, Bible studies, Mathematics, General Science, General Knowledge, and Social Studies. During Covid and other lockdowns, the teachers taught online. The students were given study materials, stationery, and notebooks. Lunches were delivered to the homes of students and teachers.



This education program has been vital in uplifting the refugee community. It improved students' ability to communicate and gain confidence. They learned problem-solving skills and applied biblical principles in their daily lives. The program also helped refugees combat stress and depression. They had a productive and safe environment in which to grow and learn.



# PAKISTAN:

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**Brickyard Child Sponsorships:** CFI's generous sponsors supported 49 children each month, which provided food, classes, and biblical encouragement at a brick yard in Lahore.

**Ministry Center and Aid:** Christian Freedom International supports a team in Faisalabad ministering to persecuted Christians in their area, and provided emergency aid after the devastating flood, considered the worst in Pakistan's history.



“Saira” ministers to about 30 Christian women and their children from slums. She runs a ministry house providing training in computers, beauty techniques, sewing, and Bible studies. In 2022, 15 young women graduated who can now earn money and lead dignified lives.

Her brother ministers to the physical and spiritual needs of impoverished Christian families working in brick yards, providing audio bibles, clothing, school supplies, and food packages to several hundred brickyard laborers. Teachers and pastors bring education and the word of God to the brickyard Christians who often have no hope.

## UKRAINE/POLAND:

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Ukrainians fled to Poland to escape the war with Russia. Churches in Poland welcomed Ukrainian refugees and organized massive relief efforts. Christian Freedom International provided financial aid for a church that went to extraordinary lengths to give physical and spiritual support for Ukrainian refugees.

## AFGHANISTAN:

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Afghanistan is one of the worst countries in the world for Christians. One Christian convert from Islam who we helped get away from the Taliban and to a safe country wrote:

*“Today I rejoice in the Lord and His enduring love. And I thank God for everything, especially having you in my life as a friend and supporter. With your generous support and God’s grace, now I am in a safe place. Praise God!”*

*“It was a year full of problems and challenges and at the same time a very effective and fruitful year. I really appreciate all your help, support, and prayers that you were always with me all the time.”*

## RESTRICTED COUNTRY:

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**Refugee Camp:** Terrorist groups operate in the camp, and it is safer to not expose the Christians in their midst. Christians are a tiny minority who are persecuted for their ethnicity in the host country, and for being Christian by their ethnic community. They are subject to attacks, arrests, and denied aid by authorities and agencies that are predominantly run by Muslims.

Christian Freedom International provided dozens of families with food, clothes, Bibles, and Christmas gifts, and provided legal aid for a Christian leader who was unjustly arrested.



# SPONSORSHIPS:

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CFI's sponsorships directly connect Christians with a child, a pastor, or a family who live in, or fled from, places where their Christian faith put them at risk.

Many of the supplies that are given to sponsored children benefit the entire family. CFI co-workers visit the homes of the sponsored children and know their families.

In 2022, through prayers, writing letters, and giving monthly support, caring Christians improved the lives of:

- Christian children in Egypt, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. Their families also benefit from the monthly supplies.
- Pastors in Bangladesh whose effective witness – because they converted from other religions – can deprive them of family, jobs, and security, and makes them targets for attacks.
- Christian urban refugee families who fled Pakistan to Thailand to seek asylum.

## **CHILDREN HELPED:**

126 (benefitting at least 504 people)

## **PASTORS HELPED:**

30 (benefitting at least 120 people)

## **FAMILIES HELPED:**

38 (benefitting at least 152 people)

# CHILD PROTECTION:

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Christian Freedom International provides training to resist human trafficking, drugs, and sexual abuse for hundreds of Christian children in countries of persecution. As a persecuted minority, these children are especially vulnerable and easy prey for unscrupulous adults.



# LEADERSHIP:

## INDIGENOUS STAFF:

Many dedicated, courageous Christians work with CFI to deliver aid, educate, train and disciple believers, provide shelter, and lift up the name of Jesus Christ under dangerous circumstances. 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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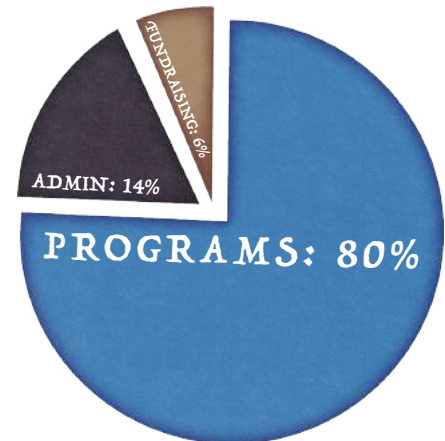
Ben Bull, Esq.

# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

2022 Total Contributions: \$1,088,901  
2022 Ministry Expenses: \$953,930

Financial accountability Organizations give Christian Freedom International high ratings:

## Total Ministry Expenses:



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