



RI Prison Visitor Sohail provides pastoral care to Christian prisoners and their families in Pakistan.

IMPACT REPORT 2004

How you have helped us support persecuted Christians around the world

THIS LISTING REPRESENTS a summary of RI projects which have supported the persecuted church in 2004. Whatever the scale, each represents a vital, practical demonstration of God's love to frontline Christians.

We cannot tell you about every project we support, since some are sensitive and cannot be featured publicly.

Many of these projects supporting persecuted Christians are ongoing, and need continuing finances and prayer. If you or your church would like to support initiatives like these, please contact me directly to discuss how you can be linked to a specific project.

On behalf of the persecuted Christians represented here, 'Thank you' to all our supporters who make this important work possible.



Eddie Lyle Chief Executive Officer
Direct telephone line - 01294 607165

RI's ministry around the world

AFGHANISTAN

Religious Freedom Rating: na

Project: Outreach Calendar

Funding: £952

Impact: We enabled the printing and distribution of about 450 calendars with monthly scriptures in Afghanistan. The calendar contained a web site address on the back and one of the visible results of this project are the first emails from within the country requesting more information.

BURMA (MYANMAR)

Religious Freedom Rating: 7 (7 is worst)

Project: Evangelist Sponsorship

Funding: £1,692

Impact: RI provided funds to support ten people in 2004 to enable them to travel to encourage isolated Christian groups. The gospel was preached in the market place, in villages and in cities. Leadership conferences and baptisms were held. We heard that a large number of new believers were baptised and welcomed into small local church groups.

CENTRAL ASIA

Religious Freedom Rating: 6

Project: Christian Workers' Support

Funding: £3,880

Impact: An ongoing project which supports Christian workers travelling to encourage and support persecuted believers in rural villages.

Project: Bibles and Christian literature

Funding: £718

Impact: Christian workers were provided with Christian literature to strengthen their ministry of encouragement.

'Thank you for your prayers for us, how good it is to belong to the Family of God, helping and supporting each other' Partner in Central Asia

CHINA

Religious Freedom Rating: 6

Project: Bible School

Funding: £13,600

Impact: This project provided the funds for community work training for 50 students over a three-month period. The project has also supported 105 graduates from this training scheme to return and minister to their communities.

INDIA

Religious Freedom Rating: 5

Project: Income Generation

Funding: £2,265

Impact: A group of Christians were attacked in early 2004 and needed to leave their village due to the severity of the attacks. The need was to provide a low-cost and sustainable income-generating project for the displaced families. This was accomplished by the provision of a cow or a water buffalo to each of these families.

Project: Encouragement of Pastors

Funding: £3,057

Impact: 24 churches each received 100 local-language Bibles following regular violence against the Christian population

where Bibles have been burnt as well as physical intimidation and dissuasion tactics being used against the pastors. To further encourage the leaders, the pastors held a small conference to refresh and renew their vision for the gospel.

INDONESIA

Religious Freedom Rating: 5

Project: Motorcycles

Funding: £1,446

Impact: We provided two pastors with motorbikes to support their ministry in a practical way.

IRAN

Religious Freedom Rating: 7

Project: Leadership Training

Funding: £5,342

Impact: This is a Christian training program for 35 students. They are involved in practical outreach projects, as well as receiving teaching on basic Christian principles. The practical ministry helped to form 19 house churches, which the students themselves established and are running.

Project: TV Broadcasting

Funding: £27,737

Impact: This enabled seven hours of Christian television programmes to be produced and broadcast each week. The purpose is to teach and encourage isolated and persecuted Christians inside Iran. Many email and telephone calls testified to the encouragement, light and hope that was provided through these programs. One secret viewer wrote: **'Thank each believer on behalf of new believers like me because they are supporting your TV program so that we can see your programs every night. Tell them: "you do not know how greatly you are ministering to us". May the Lord bless you.'**

Project: Christian Literature

Funding: £1,773

Impact: These funds helped provide 5,000 copies of the daily devotional *Extreme Devotion* for Iranian believers. This book supports Iranian Christians as they struggle with opposition from relatives and friends as well as from the community around them.

N. AFRICA

Religious Freedom Rating: 4

Project: Joshua and Caleb project

Funding: £1,116

Impact: RI contributed towards a project which enabled 14-16 men or young couples to receive training in outreach and evangelism. After ten months of training, the students undertake to complete a 4-6 week practical outreach placement in small groups in a number of North

African or Middle Eastern countries where Christians are heavily persecuted.

Project: Literature for resource centre

Funding: £1,385

Impact: Bibles, commentaries, discipleship materials and hymn books were provided for Christian support and resource centres in ten cities.

Project: Encouragement visits

Funding: £1,744

Impact: This project provided the funds to enable our representative for North Africa to attend a discipleship training school as a teacher in order to encourage and equip persecuted Christians.

Project: Sheep rearing

Funding: £2,098

Impact: Funds were contributed to enable a Christian ministry to purchase a piece of land and some sheep and to recruit a Christian sheep farmer. The independently-managed sheep farm, owned by the Christian community, will provide a viable source of income to enable them to thrive and flourish in the face of persecution.

'Thank you for all that you have done and are continuing to do, taking care of our people and everyone else involved in the projects, giving them the opportunity that would not be possible without your help and encouragement'

North African Christian leader

Project: Persecuted Christian Workers

Funding: £7,920

Impact: The project provided support for one couple and two individuals who are being persecuted by their families and communities after converting to Christianity. During a fact finding visit, Release workers were able to attend the wedding of the couple who are being supported. In a recent letter they wrote **'We are very thankful, very touched by your love, care and financial support, we also pray for you'**

Project: Support Visits

Funding: £720

Impact: This project enabled continued support for new Christians in North African countries who do not have any contact with other Christians or church groups, by training them through a correspondence course.

Project: Projects Manager

Funding: £820

Impact: Supporting this person enabled RI to assess the situation facing the persecuted church in

North Africa and the Middle East and to guide us in producing an effective targeted strategy for our support to Christians in these regions.

NIGERIA

Religious Freedom Rating: 5

Project: Pastors' Widows

Funding: £1,650

Impact: This project provides monthly support to over 80 widows and families of martyred Christian pastors. These families have lost everything following attacks on their villages by fundamentalist, Islamist mercenaries who specifically target Christian villages in Plateau State.

'We were encouraged to pray, I think it helped us and many have gone back to their places. You gave us loan and we paid back, I pray you continue. We were given loan to trade; none of our brothers have ever done that. I thank you.'

Grace James, widow from Nigeria

Project: Projects Base

Funding: £2,456

Impact: Covered the costs of rent for office space, fuel, telephone, email and other administrative cost for running projects.

Project: Supporting Christian Widows

Funding: £6,270

Impact: Over 1300 Christian women who became widows in the crisis received emergency support for basic needs and family upkeep during the initial months after their husbands died. After a few months they were encouraged to join a support scheme whereby they received a loan to invest in a small business, such as selling grain or fuel or rearing chickens. This was to enable the widows to be able to support their families in the longer

term. They paid back the loan in instalments over a three month period. In 2004 a total of 421 widows were loaned £15 and £10 each.

Project: Support Workers

Funding: £5,800

Impact: Four full-time support staff paid to administer projects.

Project: Children's Education

Funding: £590

Impact: Children who became orphans as a result of the ongoing crisis in Plateau State received assistance towards the cost of books, school fees and uniforms.

Project: Patient Treatment Care

Funding: £4,120

Impact: In February 2004 our partners were able to use these funds to make a rapid response to help 88 wounded victims of the attacks by Islamist militants in Wase, Langtang South and Yelwa

Project: First Aid Clinics

Funding: £12,176

Impact: The goal of this project was to enhance the state of preparedness of a network of local clinics throughout Plateau State for future violence and resulting casualties. 14 local clinics based in areas where rural Christian villages have been under attack were equipped with improved equipment. A local hospital provided the staff running these clinics with training sessions in techniques and treatments relevant to crisis situations.

Project: New roofs

Funding: £8,445

Impact: Since this project began in 2003, 53 new roofs for homes that were burnt during attacks have been rebuilt. This enabled many families who had been crammed into tiny living spaces with neighbours or relatives to return home.



RI has helped provide much-needed Bibles and Christian literature for persecuted pastors in Sri Lanka.

PAKISTAN

Religious Freedom Rating: 6

Project: Support of Christian prisoners and their families
Funding: £11,810
Impact: In 2004, RI provided support for 30 Christian prisoners, falsely held in Pakistan's jails, to be visited and encouraged regularly, and their families were given monthly support for basic provisions. At Christmas 2004 you helped us give 142 Christian prisoners a special package of food, clothes and Christian literature.

Project: Children of persecuted Christians

Funding: £227
Impact: The project provides funds to support the two sons of a man who became disabled after being severely tortured. He was victimised because he is a Christian and now finds it impossible provide for his family.

Project: Support of widow
Funding: £592

Impact: Support of the widow of a man who was murdered after his neighbours objected to him holding prayer meetings at his home.

Project: Support for persecuted Christian families

Funding: £656
Impact: Support for the families of two brothers, acquitted from charges of blasphemy. Once a person is held under blasphemy charges, even after acquittal, the victim and his family become targets and their lives are in danger from fanatical Muslims.

SRI LANKA

Religious Freedom Rating: 4

Project: Persecuted Pastors' Children
Funding: £11,346
Impact: This project aims to provide encouragement for persecuted pastors' families by supporting the educational and medical needs of their children. The need is great and there is currently a waiting list of children needing support.

Project: Tamil Bibles
Funding: £2,439

Impact: A project to equip churches and church leaders with 1000 new Bibles in their own language.

Project: Income Generation for Church Planters

Funding: £3,000
Impact: Through this project our partners were able to commission 25 church planters in rural areas (with high risk of persecution) and to support them over a period of three years until they become self-supporting.

Project: Religious Secretariat
Funding: £3,000

Impact: Enabling a team responsible for monitoring, evaluating and advocating on Religious Liberty issues.

Project: Pastors' Libraries
Funding: £4,487

Impact: 100 persecuted pastors were identified to receive a library of Christian literature in Tamil, the local language, and a range of books covering Christian leadership.

SUDAN

Religious Freedom Rating: 7

Project: Teaching programme
Funding: £5,000

Impact: Support of a Christian community who were displaced during the civil war. The community ranked education as one of their greatest needs and this project provided the start-up funds to enable the establishment of a primary school infrastructure.

Project: Church Empowerment Programme

Funding: £5,371
Impact: A project to resource church leaders by training youth leaders, women's leaders and pastors. As a result the church will gain a better understanding of their role as salt and light in the war torn community.

Project: Community Health Programme

Funding: £72,500
Impact: Funds for this project were carried over from support RI provided for this project in 2003. The project's objective was to strengthen and equip a suffering Christian community which faced the constant threat of attack and pressure to relocate during the civil war. This community's primary need was for healthcare training and facilities. In 2004 an eye clinic team visited and saw 900 patients and operated on 400.



RI helped provide community health to this Christian community in Southern Sudan in 2004.



This Christian worker in Vietnam uses his motorbike to travel between the four churches of 550 believers he leads.

UKRAINE

Religious Freedom Rating: 3

Project: Day of Prayer
Funding: £270

Impact: In 2004 the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church was introduced in the Ukraine. A six-page awareness-raising letter on the global issue of persecution was sent to many churches in the Ukraine and eight surrounding countries.

VIETNAM

Religious Freedom Rating: 6

Project: Teaching Charts
Funding: £1,000
Impact: 200 teaching charts were printed for evangelists and teachers.

Project: Bicycles for Evangelists
Funding: £1,256

Impact: 30 bicycles were brought to assist evangelists in the Central Highlands and North Vietnam. This gave greater access to those ministering to persecuted Christians in rural areas.

Project: Motorcycles for Tribal Pastors

Funding: £3,490
Impact: All tribes in Vietnam live in the highlands or the mountains. Many tracks in the villages are very bad.

This project encouraged five workers by supporting them through the gift of a motorcycle, to be used to support witnessing, training and other activities.

Project: Christian literature
Funding: £3,623

Impact: This project provided funds to print and distribute 4000 copies of a much sought after book that will speak to and uplift many undergoing persecution, especially women.

Project: Jorai New Testament and Psalms

Funding: £4,670
Impact: Currently approximately ten Jorai believers share one Bible. Last Easter 2004 many thousand Jorai Christians demonstrated to ask for freedom of religion. The police repressed them horribly, many of them were given prison sentences from two to 12 years. We printed 4,000 Jorai New Testament & Psalms.

Project: Vietnamese New Testaments

Funding: £6,032
Impact: Vietnam's unregistered house churches are growing at the rate of 1,000 new believers every week, and there is a huge demand for Bibles. This project provided 10,000 small Vietnamese New Testaments, which are easy to carry and protect.

Project: Radio broadcasts
Funding: £6,292

Impact: This project supported 11 hours of Christian radio broadcasts in the Hmong language each week. Christians from the Hmong people of Vietnam are severely persecuted and these radio broadcasts provided much needed encouragement and training for them as well as being an evangelistic tool to reach those who persecute them.

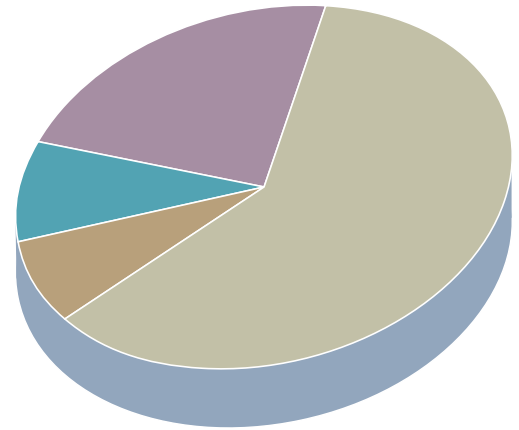
Project: Koho Bibles
Funding: £8,105

Impact: The government isolates the Christian community while persecuting believers and tries to prevent churches from doing any activities. There is a large demand for Bibles, and this project will provide 2,000 Koho Bibles and 4,000 Koho New Testament & Psalms.

Income and expenditure 2004

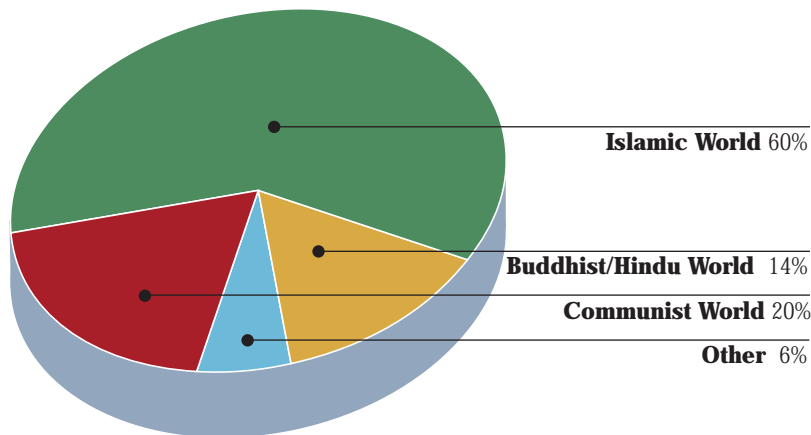
	2004	2003
Income	£1,067,109	£1,008,107
Expenditure		
Support for the persecuted church around the world (includes grants to partners, and programme support)	£642,364	£558,589
Information & education (communicating the needs of the persecuted church to Christians, churches and governments)	£236,251	£188,146
Management & administration (running RI as a charity)	£87,761	£70,058
Publicity & fundraising (marketing and advertising)	£93,080	£84,474
Total expenditure	£1,059,456	£901,267

Expenditure

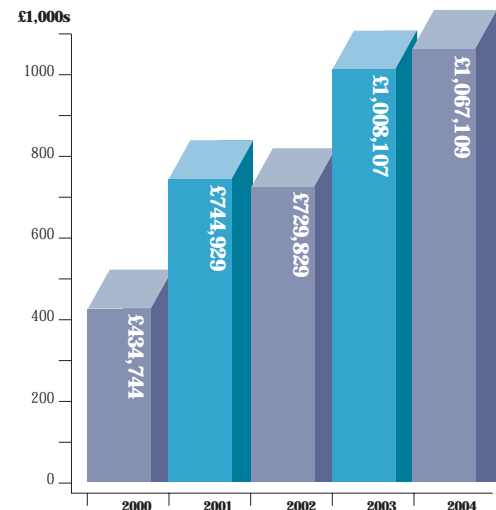


Total expenditure 2004		£1,059,456
Support for the persecuted church	£642,364	61%
Management & administration	£87,761	8%
Publicity & fundraising	£93,080	9%
Information & education	£236,251	22%






Allocation of funds (2004)



Income 2000-2004



FIVE KEY AREAS OF MINISTRY

-  **Showing God's Compassion** - providing for the needs of the families of martyrs and prisoners
-  **Serving God's Church** - enabling them to survive persecution and its effects
-  **Sharing God's Love** - helping the persecuted church win to Christ those who are opposed to the Gospel
-  **Spreading God's Word** - supplying Bibles and literature to meet the need for growth and evangelism
-  **Speaking as God's Advocates** - being the voice of the martyrs and the oppressed

THANK YOU for your gifts and prayers. We continue to depend on your generous support, as we face increasing requests for help from persecuted Christians and churches around the world.

These figures are taken from the accounts for 2004. The full accounts will be published in due course, and will be available on request to RI.

Through our international network of missions, Release International serves persecuted Christians in 30 countries around the world by supporting pastors and Christian prisoners, and their families; supplying Christian literature and Bibles; and working for justice. RI is a member of the UK organisations Global Connections, the Evangelical Alliance and the Micah Network.

Release International, PO Box 54, Orpington BR5 9RT

Telephone 01689 823491

email: info@releaseinternational.org Registered Charity 280577

Copyright ©2005 Release International

INTERNATIONAL
release
THE VOICE OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH