



RI has provided practical support for Christian children orphaned as a result of religious conflict in Plateau State, Nigeria.



IMPACT REPORT 2005

How you have helped us support persecuted Christians around the world

THANK YOU so much for your generosity, especially this last year!

Over the next three pages is a summary of selected projects which have positively impacted persecuted Christians around the world during 2005. As you will see from the financial summary on page iv, we have been able to do even more than what has been listed here.

By the practical demonstration of God's love in situations around the world, your gifts have directly impacted the lives of fellow Christians.

Many of these projects supporting persecuted Christians are ongoing, and there are new projects emerging all the time. If you or your church would particularly like to support a specific initiative, then please contact me directly to discuss how we can work together.

As I look over these projects I am again reminded of what a great big God we serve and worship!



On behalf of the many persecuted Christians around the world who are part of God's family just like us, thank you so much for all your support in enabling this important work to continue and grow.

Andy Dipper Chief Executive
adipper@releaseinternational.org

RI's ministry around the world

AFGHANISTAN

Project: Outreach Calendar

Funding: £995

Impact: 750 calendars with a Scripture for every month were printed and distributed to various locations within Afghanistan. The calendars serve as both an outreach tool and an encouragement for Christians under pressure in this country. The calendar contained a website address on the back and one of the first visible results of the impact of this project has been the emails received from within the country requesting more information about Christianity.

BURMA (MYANMAR)

Project: Evangelist Sponsorship

Funding: £2,000

Impact: Support was provided for ten people enabling them to visit and encourage isolated Christian groups. The Gospel was preached and leadership conferences and baptisms were held. A family camp took place to encourage Christian families living under persecution. The team travelled large distances, mainly on foot. One of the evangelists, a graduate of the Bible college, is now permanently working in Burma.

CENTRAL ASIA

Project: Christian Workers Support

Funding: £7,240

Impact: Support for Christian workers who travel to encourage and support persecuted believers in rural areas. Examples of the activities initiated by these workers are: video evangelism in homes (as public or larger group meetings are not possible); children's festivals for evangelism among children; visits to people from other faiths to build relationships with those who are opposing the gospel; women's meetings; Harvest celebrations; puppet shows; and assisting the very poor in the community with basic supplies.

Project: Key worker support

Funding: £1,580

Impact: Support for a Christian who has graduated from Bible College and is the first theologically-trained person in a Central Asian region where believers are suffering persecution. This worker is ministering to three small communities. Christians here are receiving pastoral care and encouragement for the first time in many years.

Continued overleaf

Project: Key worker training

Funding: £1,060

Impact: A Christian believer has been able to receive official Bible training. She speaks a number of languages which will allow her to reach out to others in different nations. She is currently close to completing her course and preparing to return to her home country where she will be the only person to have studied theology to this level.

CHINA

Project: Bibles

Funding: £80,220

Impact: The project funded the publishing of over 150,000 Chinese-language Bibles. Some Chinese believers have been near to tears when they received the Bibles. One commented:

'I didn't think you would bring as much as this. I have been out of Bibles for a couple of weeks and now I can deliver again. Please pass on our thanks to those who made this possible'.

Project: Bible School

Funding: £7,500

Impact: 38 young Chinese Christians were given the opportunity to study at a Bible school in a secret location. The Bible school has had to change location frequently to avoid detection.

The purpose of the project is to give good Bible instruction to young Chinese Christians and thus to build up Christian churches which are well versed in the Bible and mission-minded, in a country where Christians are persecuted and oppressed for their faith.

COLOMBIA

Project: Support for Widows of Assassinated Pastors

Funding: £6,000

Impact: Funds have been distributed for the support of the families of Christian leaders who have been killed for discouraging people from co-operating with Marxist guerillas and paramilitary groups.

CUBA

Project: Christian Centre

Funding: £2,643

Impact: The Christian Centre has been able to support elderly people through providing meals and a spiritual, evangelical programme; train and equip local



RI has helped fund Christian TV broadcasts into Iran via satellite.

Christian leaders and pastors; organise Christian youth conferences/camps; and print and distribute Christian literature.

EGYPT

Project: Christmas Parcels

Funding: £1,334

Impact: RI support helped provide Christmas packages containing practical goods such as clothes, food, literature, tapes, and school supplies, as well as toys. A chicken was also provided for Christmas dinner. Over 150 families received a package.

INDIA

Project: Bibles for Persecuted Pastors

Funding: £7,800

Impact: RI provided local-language Bibles to Christian communities suffering severe persecution, helping them to live a Christian life and to reach out to those who persecute them. The project paid for the printing and distribution of 7,500 Bibles in the languages of the regions that were suffering the worst persecution. One pastor who received Bibles stated:

'Now you have given us Bibles and are standing with us, we will reach out to new villages in our areas where we would not have reached otherwise'

IRAN

Project: Academic and Practical Training

Funding: £59,441

Impact: Provision of academic and practical training to help Christians grow in their faith. Over half of the students have started the work of discipling and forming groups.

Project: Christian Marriage Book

Funding: £3,010

Impact: A book about Christian marriage that can be applicable in a Muslim culture has been identified as a primary tool for ministering to Christians undergoing the pressures of persecution. This book is in the process of being written and the aim is to distribute 3,000 copies.

Project: Jesus Film

Funding: £7,372

Impact: Many of those from Islamic backgrounds in Iran are not allowed to worship openly. It is illegal to have a Bible or Christian literature and videos. Despite this, many people have come to know the Lord through the Jesus film. Christians travel from city to city distributing these videos.

Project: Persecuted Family Support

Funding: £13,546

Impact: Cell Church Supervisors inside the country have distributed funds to families who have been

going through financial crises because of their faith. The project will ensure that these families are cared for both on a spiritual and financial level.

Project: Persian Cell Group Training

Funding: £22,374

Impact: A key cell church leader held a conference for a group of 16 leaders who are actively serving the Lord in Iran. The cell church leaders shared wonderful testimonies of how God has been using them despite the pressures the government has put on the church. They testified how God has given them wiser ways of reaching out to people.

Project: TV Satellite Broadcast

Funding: £88,830

Impact: RI partners are producing 19 hours of teaching and evangelistic programmes weekly. Many Christians report that these are their only source of teaching, encouragement, and spiritual nourishment and how they help them to evangelise. Many thousands have come to Christ through the last three years of broadcasts.

N AFRICA

Project: Joshua and Caleb

Funding: £3,000

Impact: Training for a couple in outreach and evangelism. After ten months of training, the students are sent out on a 4-6 week practical outreach placement in small groups to other Middle Eastern and North African countries where followers of Christ are heavily persecuted. The couple we have supported have now completed their training and started their own church.

Project: Persecuted Families

Funding: £3,920

Impact: The project provided support for a couple and two individuals who had suffered persecution by their families and communities after converting to Christianity. The support covered living expenses at a training centre where they received both Biblical and practical training.

NIGERIA

Project: Discipleship Training

Funding: £7,314

Impact: Many non-Christians accepted Christ when they witnessed the faith under suffering of their Christian neighbours

'I have come to put my faith in God' New Christian, Nigeria

during and since the crisis of 2001. Our partners identified 124 new believers and arranged some training for them. Following the training they received three months' support to enable them to settle in the church denominations of their choice. One of the students said:

'With the help of this teaching I found hope and I have come to put my faith in God'

Project: Emergency Love in Action

Funding: £4,357

Impact: 193 adults and 473 children benefited from emergency food supplies. These Christians had been driven from their villages by violent attacks. They had attempted to return only to be faced with a drought. Upon receiving the aid one of the villages said:

'I least expected such a kind gesture'

Project: Re-roofing Burnt Homes

Funding: £8,566

Impact: 83 roofs have been rebuilt on homes that were burnt during attacks on Christian communities. This has enabled many families who had been living in overcrowded places with neighbours or relatives to have the shelter of their own home once again. This is an ongoing need and if the funds are available we will be supporting this again in 2006.

PAKISTAN

Project: Christmas Gifts Project

Funding: £5,000

Impact: For the second year running we blessed 120 Christian prisoners with a gift package during the Christmas period. The package included a blanket, piece of Christian literature, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, sweater, sugar, salt, tea and cooking oil. Each family also received a small financial gift.

Project: Legal Aid Costs

Funding: £20,000

Impact: Our partners address human rights issues faced by disadvantaged groups in Pakistan such as Christians, women and children. Release International funds a proportion of the work they do to support the Christian minority. In the year 2005 our partners filed 158 cases at different courts including civil and criminal cases.

Project: Prison Visits and Prisoners' Family Support

Funding: £20,372

Impact: Continued encouragement for up to 160 Christian prisoners through gift packages containing provisions for basic necessities and by providing ongoing financial support for their families. In June 2005 our partners arranged a special prayer meeting with more than 300 members of the families of Christian prisoners. There was worship and teaching to spiritually feed the families, plus food and a small financial gift to encourage them.



RI helps support persecuted Christians in Sri Lanka, such as Pastor A, who was beaten because she planted a new church in a Buddhist area.

SRI LANKA

Project: Income Generation

Funding: £3,664

Impact: Through this project our partners were able to commission 25 church planters in rural areas, where there is a high risk of persecution, and to support them over a period of three years until they become self-supporting. During these three years, the church planters are given a grant to enable them to set up a small business, to generate income, so they will be able to carry on their work independently.

Project: Pastors' Children

Funding: £4,500

Impact: This project provided encouragement for the families of persecuted pastors by supporting the educational and medical needs of their children. Children who were suffering persecution in school have been given the opportunity to change schools and continue their education. The need is great and there is currently a waiting list of children needing support.

Project: Safe House

Funding: £20,075

Impact: Set up funds were provided for a transit home and a safe house for persecuted pastors and families. It will be a place for trauma counselling and spiritual care. Counselling camps and

workshops will also be conducted for children of persecuted Christians. The land has been bought, but we are currently searching for extra funds to develop the site as the cost of the land has increased dramatically since the Tsunami.

SUDAN

Project: School Books

Funding: £3,146

Impact: Funds have been made available to buy books for Christian schools that are recently re-opening after having had to close during the civil war.

VIETNAM

Project: Prisoners' Families

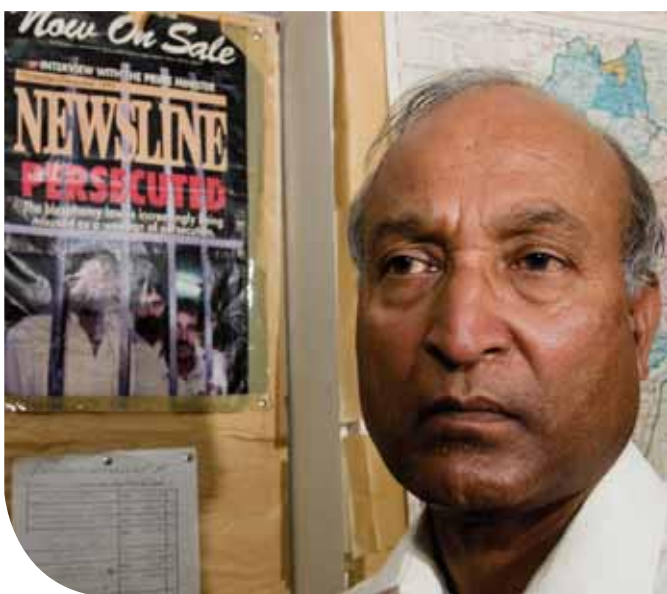
Funding: £11,175

Impact: Financial assistance has been provided for 190 families of Christian prisoners of faith in Vietnam. The families have also been accompanied when visiting the prisons, which are often intentionally a long distance from where the family live.

Project: Released Prisoner Support

Funding: £1,339

Impact: Funds were provided for the building of a house for an evangelist who was released from prison in 2005 and for the payment of medical bills for surgery that was needed because of beatings in prison.

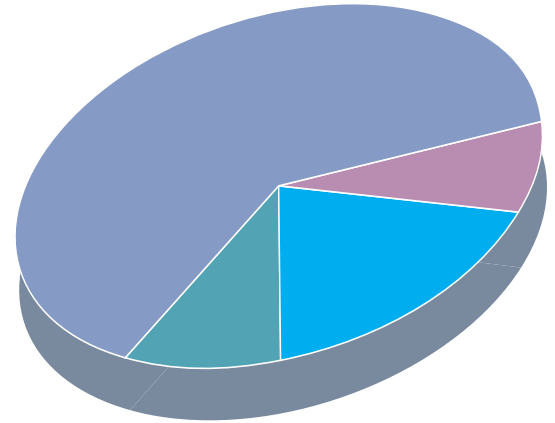


Joseph Francis, Co-ordinator of RI's partner CLAAS (Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement). In 2005 CLAAS filed 158 legal cases, many of which supported Pakistani Christians facing legal discrimination.

Income and expenditure 2005

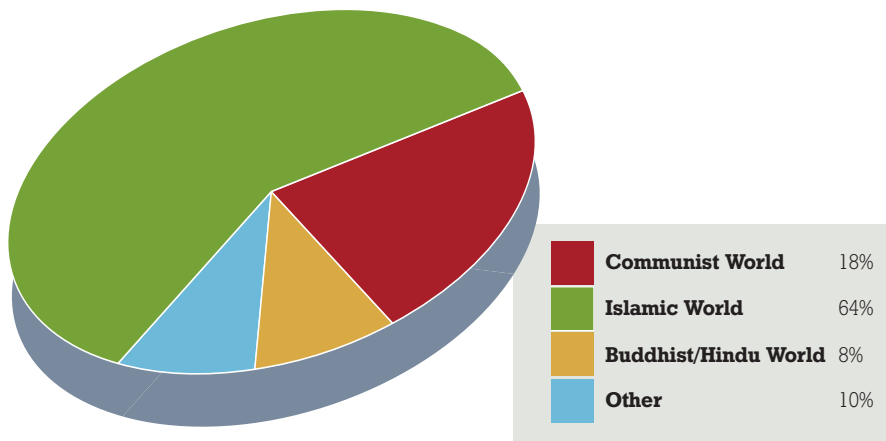
	2005	2004
Income	£1,461,577	£1,157,109
Expenditure		
Support for the persecuted church around the world (includes grants to partners, and programme support)	£1,086,026	£642,364
Information & education (communicating the needs of the persecuted church to Christians, churches and governments)	£242,006	£236,252
Management & administration (running RI as a charity)	£88,014	£90,549
Publicity & fundraising (marketing and advertising)	£97,186	£93,080
Total expenditure	£1,513,232	£1,062,244

Expenditure








Total expenditure 2005		£1,513,232
Support for the persecuted church	£1,086,026	60%
Management & administration	£88,014	9%
Publicity & fundraising	£97,186	9%
Information & education	£242,006	22%

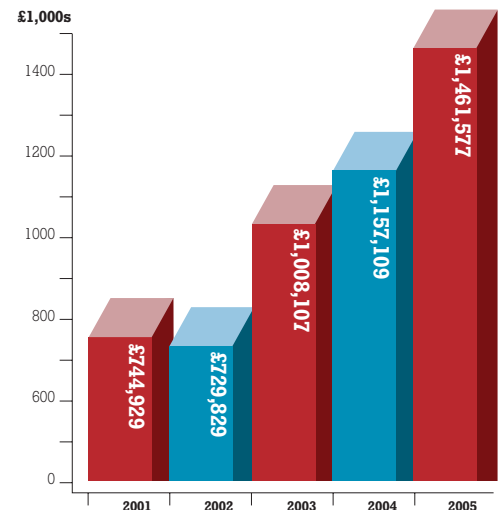
Allocation of funds (2005)



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

Income 2001-2005



These figures are taken from the accounts not yet finalised for 2005. The full, audited accounts will be published in due course and will be available on request to RI.

THANK YOU for your ongoing gifts and prayers. We continue to depend on the generous support of Christians in the UK and Ireland, as we receive increasing requests for help from persecuted Christians around the world.

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.

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THE VOICE OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH