

Victory Vignettes

Teleios, Inc

Interviews with Shannon Walsh

Part 5 of a Series

Are Christians being persecuted today?

An interview with Lisa Jones, Executive Director,
Christian Freedom International

Lisa Jones thought that nothing exciting could happen in her little town of Front Royal, Virginia. Like most people living there, a daily commute to Washington, DC was essential. Lisa usually spent her travel time listening to Christian radio, and one day in the late 1990s her life changed.

Lisa was listening to an interview with the president of Christian Freedom International (CFI), who was describing

persecuted Christians. She was intrigued as this had never crossed her mind. Intensely drawn to the rest of the program, she was shocked to learn that CFI was headquartered in her very own town of Front Royal. She says, "it was like running headfirst into a wall; I was floored. It was an immediate calling." Now Lisa works as the Executive Director of CFI, and speaks passionately of her work and powerful mission.

Lisa explains that when the organization first began, people didn't know much about Christian persecution, thinking it was something that happened only in ancient times. This was before the

Prior to CFI's educational efforts, many people thought Christian persecution only occurred in ancient times.

About Teleios



Teleios uses scientific research methods to prove the goodness of the Bible and how it helps people. Teleios also conducts surveys to provide glimpses into current Christian thinking on a variety of interesting topics. Additionally, Teleios highlights worldwide victorious Christian news showing the positive results of a biblical lifestyle.

This series of interviews will provide glimpses of believers actively engaged in sharing the good news of Christ.

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Internet, so simply raising awareness and getting out information was initially a huge part of CFI's work. Fortunately, technology has made connecting with persecuted individuals and sharing their story much easier.

you out in the street and shoot you persecution."

How do they help? CFI encourages "sustainable improvement" which seeks to go beyond bringing temporary

where they can work with refugees from Burma and Pakistan.



"The mission of CFI is to help Christians who are persecuted and suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ. We are a non-denominational human rights organization providing real solutions to conditions of oppression and misery caused by religious persecution."

Noting the creativity often involved in their relief efforts, Lisa says "The whole key is using resources wisely; it's good stewardship... if you ask God he's going to lead you to where you should be. Then you just have to use your brain."

<https://www.christianfreedom.org/>

With a small staff and administration, CFI works hard to ensure that all resources go directly to people in need. Lisa differentiates CFI's goal from those of other worthy ministries, in that CFI focuses on providing practical support to persecuted Christians. Closely connected with other evangelical missions, however, upon request it does provide support and resources to people in the field who are already involved in carrying forth the gospel message.

relief by changing conditions permanently. Because many persecuted Christians can't legally get jobs, CFI educates and creates jobs for individuals through "micro enterprise" programs which provide safe, sustainable jobs. For example, CFI helped Burmese Christians in a refugee camp in Thailand to earn a small income selling thread products. CFI staff would sneak into the camps and take them thread, then come back to retrieve the products and sell them in America, giving the refugees full profit. Additionally, CFI has a large facility in Thailand with a Bible school and vocational training program

Lisa speaks of the horrors she's seen through her work, saying "It's not slight discrimination. It's full on persecution. Like drag



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