



“ Thank you Starfish for your big dream to bring change in Pakistan. ”



Training for teachers Murree, Pakistan June 2017

These are some of our heroes — the ones on the frontline who are preparing and equipping the young people who will be tomorrow's church in Pakistan.

It was our privilege to host 105 teachers in the cool of the Murree Hills in northern Pakistan for four 3-day workshops that aimed to inspire as well as improve the teachers' skills.

For many who attended it was the first such training they had received. Just read their comments on the next page...

“ God bless Starfish. You are not just striving to train a teacher but you have a vision to transform the Christian community in Pakistan. You help me to be courageous and to dream big. If as a teacher I don't dream big, how can I help my Christian students to dream big? ”

Naila Izhaq from Kasur.

Impressions of Murree



Steve Curran is the founder and director of AE Tuition, a highly successful tuition centre serving about 3,000 ambitious students in Slough, near London. Steve has visited Pakistan many times in the past ten years, and helped us as a

strong supporter and adviser to Starfish Asia schools. He joined Anser and Kashi for the teacher training in June.



Murree, June 2017

“ My visit to Murree was inspirational. It was my privilege to work with Anser, national Director of Starfish Pakistan, and his wife Kashi, both of them experienced educators. The programme for teacher training was ambitious and thorough. I functioned as one of the facilitators and together we were able to deliver a training regime for Maths, Urdu and English over a 3-day period. We managed to train four groups in the two week period.

The training was made available to about 100 teachers from schools throughout Pakistan. They had varying levels of teaching experience — and some had never received any training at all. It was encouraging to see the enthusiasm they exhibited and the level of their commitment to their job. In the UK we are used to having many resources, so it was impressive to see their dedication and determination to use whatever little they have for the uplift of their communities.

The National Curriculum of Pakistan in Maths and English is ambitious and largely reflects the kind of demanding curriculum we English once held for our own educational system. Alas, no longer, as in my view Great Britain currently lacks ambition in what it believes children can achieve. This is not the case in Pakistan.

If the country could implement its curriculum, I believe there is great potential for Pakistan to make real progress in educating its populace. There is a Bible verse that says: “Where there is no vision, the people perish”, and I believe that, if Pakistan can act on their vision expressed in the curriculum, it will succeed.

I am convinced that Christians in Pakistan can play a vital part in addressing the fortunes of the nation. Programmes such as it was my privilege to take part in can be a giant step to achieving that goal.”

"It is like sending your soldiers to war without weapons."



That was Kashi's comment as she faced class after class of teachers, some of whom had never had any training and yet were on the front lines in equipping the next generation of Christian children.

"I had such an amazing experience," she said, reflecting on the training, in which she had the leading role. "Many had a heart for learning. My heart cried when they shared with me that for many years they had been teaching without any idea how to do it. I just thought about their children and felt sorry for them.

"Teacher training is as important as training for any other profession. Can you imagine? Education methods have moved on, but our schools are still using teaching methods from the 1980's. How can our Pakistani Christian children compete with the world?"

"I was so encouraged when we received their comments at the end. They all appreciated that Starfish has a heart for teacher development and requested to keep continue this training."



"I have learned how to use teaching materials for effective learning."

Imran from Gujranwala

"I have learned the amazing skills of lesson planning and lesson delivery."

Zeshan from Lahore

"Our small school cannot think to send teachers for training because we can not afford the expenses. We feel proud to be a part of Starfish."

Kaneez from Sargodha

"I got to love Maths because I learned that it could be taught with interesting activities and then it becomes easy to learn. Thank you, sir Steve."

Rabia Arif from Lahore

"In my 16 years of teaching I have never experienced studying or learning with Christian teachers. Thank you Starfish for giving me a life time experience."

Allah Dittah from Sheikhpura



"I have learned how children can learn through playing and having fun."

Success : the doorway to fulfilled dreams



The Gospel School excels!

When we started to support the Gospel School in 2007, we wrote in our Newsletter:

By any standards the Gospel School is simple —no furniture but a blackboard and a chair for the teacher... The Gospel School System is a very big name for a very simple school: the dream of two committed Christians who wanted to do something for their community.

Now for the third year running the school has had 100% success in its matriculation results. Eight students (*photo above*) took the exam. All passed — two with A grade and 6 with B. An excellent result, opening the door for these ambitious young Christians to pursue their dreams.

Success for the HERF Girls Home



Sungeeta joined the HERF Home family five years ago. She comes from a very poor family in a village in central Punjab. Her father was an addict, leaving little money to feed the family of six children. She often had to walk 10 kilometres from her home to get to the Government school. She will now receive a Starfish Asia scholarship to join the Christian Technical Training Centre in Gujranwala to study Information Communications Technology.



2012

... and for Abba Home



Sana's parents worked at the brick kiln and when her father died she was sent out to beg to earn a little money. When she was eight someone found her at the roadside and brought her to Abba Home. "I can never forget the warm welcome by Abba Home's Mom and Papa. I realized how special I am and how kind God has been in providing for me more than I could ever imagine." Now, having passed her Matric exam, her ambition is to become a nurse.



2008

Scholarship funds needed!

Seventy-seven young people have passed their matric exams from our supported schools. They are the first in line to receive scholarships for further studies. We urgently need more scholarship funds.

"No procrastination. No backward looks... Seize the day."

(Luke 9:62 The Message)

The Survey conducted last year has given us a database of more than 600 schools, run by Christians mainly for Christians.

The challenge we now face is how to help these schools to raise their standards and improve their provision. We remain committed to the belief that a good education is a vital key to the future of the church in Pakistan.

Beginning this month, Majid and a small team set out to visit schools contacted for the Survey report. They can bring immediate support:

- ❖ Offering training for their teachers. 75 teachers from Survey schools attended the training in Murree.
- ❖ Ensuring that teachers receive the Christian teachers' magazine, *Uraan*, and the offer to join the Christian Teachers' Association.
- ❖ Providing Bible Curriculum books free for all primary school students.
- ❖ Offering to provide new, or repair broken, toilets for schools that have no toilet. We can also offer blackboards where needed.



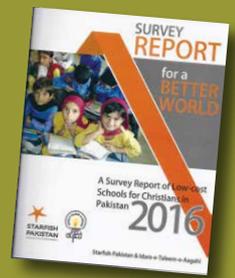
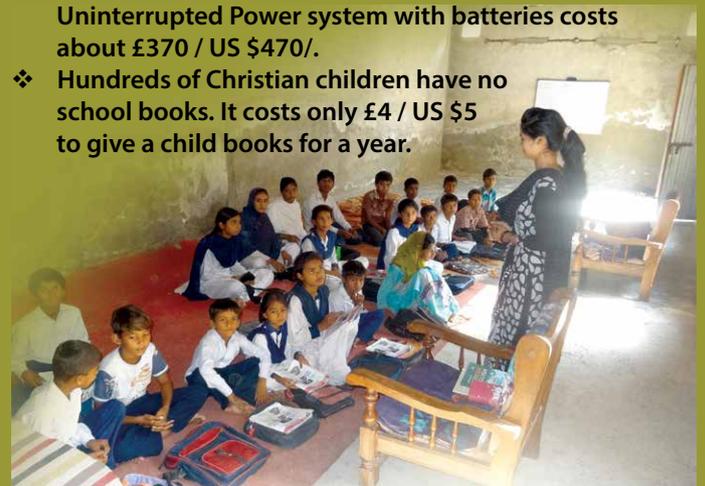
Majid Masih became Principal of the Kingdom of Heaven School in 2013, after several years as an intern with Nestlé and Mitchell's Fruit Farms. He has assisted Anser in Starfish Pakistan for the past two years, with responsibility for many aspects of the Survey and distribution of text books to many schools.

"Seize the Day!"

As we develop a closer and trusting relationship with more Christian schools, we will also be able to assess their real needs. We have statistics. Now we must grasp the moment to ensure real change. For this we need your help.

Most of schools we surveyed occupy rented or privately owned buildings, such as homes or churches. The need to improve the facilities is endless, but we believe the basic essentials to be: clean, well-decorated classrooms, with desks, chairs and a blackboard, access to toilets, clean drinking water and a reliable electricity supply for lights and fans.

- ❖ 200 schools stated that they have no classroom furniture. A desk and chair unit costs about £7 / US \$5.
- ❖ 133 schools said they have no access to clean drinking water). A 30 gallon water cooler costs £250 / US \$350.
- ❖ 520 schools said they have no reliable electricity. An Uninterrupted Power system with batteries costs about £370 / US \$470/.
- ❖ Hundreds of Christian children have no school books. It costs only £4 / US \$5 to give a child books for a year.



Proud to be Christian Proud to be Pakistani



Seventy years ago, at midnight on 14th August 1947, Pakistan was born as an independent sovereign state. These were the words of Pakistan's founding Father, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, at the birth of the new nation:

"We are starting in the days where there is no discrimination, no distinction between one community and another, no discrimination between one caste or creed and another. We are starting with this fundamental principle: that we are all citizens, and equal citizens, of one State."

Millions across Pakistan celebrated enthusiastically to commemorate these 70 years of independence. Jinnah might have difficulty in recognising the country he brought to birth. There have been many changes, three wars with India, dictatorships and democracy and much violence. The land that was home to 33 million in 1947, is now home to almost 200 million.

Anser and Kashi celebrated the Day with several schools, Shama School (*see photo*), the Star Shine School and Marjorie School of Hope. Most Pakistani Christians are proud of their nation, and continue to live to serve their people. **We are proud to stand alongside them and to pray for peace and progress in the next decade.**



Prayer for Pakistan

- ❖ For the Government and heads of the army, police and civil services
- ❖ For peace, stability and resolution of controversy and conflict
- ❖ For Christian leaders, pastors and teachers to lead the community with confidence, faith and hope
- ❖ For the message of the Gospel to bring light to the lives of Pakistan's millions

Not finished yet

Allan deserved to be exhausted as he finished the West Highland Way race after a run of 28 hours, 27 mins and 46 seconds on 25th June.



Not only did he complete the course but, thanks to his faithful supporters, he raised £4,000 for the purchase of a new vehicle to bring the teachers to school in the village at Chak 174 in southern Punjab. This is Walter at the wheel. The van is now ready for the new school year.



But it is just a start for Allan. He loves the challenge and will be running again on 1st September—101 kilometres around the Alps in France, Switzerland and Italy, "6,100m of climbing, 26 hours 30 mins max to complete".

He will be raising funds for scholarships for Pakistani Christian students with similar zeal and ambition. Please support him again at:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AGrant>

For our supporters in the USA

With the full agreement of Starfish Asia USA, we request that in future donations for the work of Starfish Asia may be sent to:

Advancing Native Missions

P.O. Box 5303, Charlottesville, VA 22905

Please state **470SFA** as the ministry code

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