



# TEACHERS PREPARING TODAY THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW



## OUR GREATEST ASSET

Our teachers are our greatest asset. They can inspire or they can discourage. Sadly many of them feel under-valued. We place the highest value on our teachers. Thank God for them.

*If you can read this  
thank your teacher!*

We are striving to give greater motivation, inspiration and skill to the teachers in schools that we support. That means providing better training, more encouragement — and higher salaries. We can only do that with your help. They need our prayers too!



## Aspiring to Excellence

Steve Curran runs a highly successful tuition centre near London, with more than 1,000 students. Every year he visits Pakistan during his Easter break to give advice to schools supported by Starfish Asia. This year he spent two weeks taking training sessions with teachers in 11 schools. Here is a short extract from his report.



"This year again I was privileged to visit many of the schools funded by Starfish Asia. My aim was to assess the needs for more teacher training to ensure that staff are able adequately to deliver their curriculum. Teaching seminars were arranged in a number of schools. The teachers were very responsive and appreciated the opportunity to participate and share their experiences. Anser Javed, Starfish Pakistan National Director, translated and contributed many useful suggestions.

"There are numerous excellent examples of good teaching practice in these schools. The fact that Starfish Asia and those in leadership are now considering the quality of teaching being delivered in the classroom is a demonstration of how far things have developed. *The objective is not only to provide some kind of limited schooling for Christian children in Pakistan, but to provide an excellent educational experience for them.* This is a laudable aim, to which all involved and associated with Starfish Asia aspire."

See Steve's website at: [www.AETuition.co.uk](http://www.AETuition.co.uk)  
Let us know if you would like a copy of his full report.  
Contact: [mike@starfishasia.com](mailto:mike@starfishasia.com)

### How much do teachers earn in Pakistan?

Qualified BA BEd teachers in expensive Fee-paying private schools earn at least 30,000 Rupees (£200/US\$300) each month. Some earn much more.

In Government schools salaries start at about Rs.15,000 (£100/US\$150) each month.

**Most teachers in Starfish Asia supported schools earn less than Rs.8,000 (£54/US\$80) each month.**

In Christian schools that receive no financial help teachers receive less than £20/US\$30.

**We must help increase teachers' salaries! We are now supporting more than 300 teachers. Even a £10/\$15 increase will cost an extra £3,000 / US\$4,500 each month.**



## You read it in our Newsletter God answered your prayers



Passionate about teaching:

### Zafar, Amna and the Amazing Grace School



In the March newsletter we dedicated a page to the remarkable passion of Zafar Daniel and Amna, a "woman full of laughter". When Kerstin visited the simple school they were running in the local church building, she was deeply moved. With love and courageous dedication Zafar, Amna and their staff were meeting a huge need for the Christians living in a very poor colony.

Thank God that in May a commitment to support the school was made by a donor in Singapore. Zafar and Amna have been dreaming and praying for this for a long time. They are now negotiating to rent a larger building in the area, will fill it with desks and chairs, fans and blackboards — and then they expect 200 children to crowd into their school, newly named **The Amazing Grace School**.

### Sargodha: My Home In the heat of summer



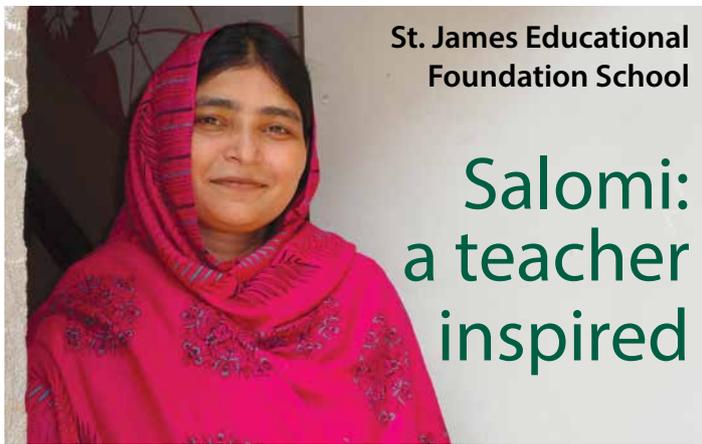
'My Home' in Sargodha is the Home where Tariq Iqbal and his family look after six girls from difficult or very poor families. For them it is "Home away from Home" and a place where the girls can study and prepare for their future.

In Sargodha the summer weather is hot, often above 45 degrees (113° Fahrenheit) and due to the national power shortage, the electricity is sometimes only on for 3 - 5 hours a day.

We have invested in a trial installment of Solar Power at 'My Home'. Installation costs were high, but the five panels should provide enough power to keep fans, lights and computer working 24 hours a day at no cost.

If this experiment is successful, we will be raising funds to install solar panels in many schools. Power shortage is a national disaster in Pakistan— a nation with plenty of sun, but little electricity.





**St. James Educational Foundation School**

## Salomi: a teacher inspired

**Starfish Asia has been supporting St. James School in Lahore since 2008. Salomi is the inspiration and driving force behind the school, supported and encouraged by her remarkable Christian family. We are now fully committed to see the school develop — and take ownership of its own premises. Here is Salomi's story.**

Salomi is from a Christian family in Lahore. She had a happy childhood, fully involved in her church and Sunday School, but her happiness was shattered in 1994 when her father was accidentally electrocuted and died.

This threw Salomi into a deep depression which lasted for the next four years. It affected her physically and she lost all motivation to live. In the midst of many months of weakness



she sensed that Jesus was speaking to her: "Rise up! Serve my people!" She contemplated becoming a nun.

Some Christian ladies invited her to a meeting. Salomi did not know that they were praying for her, but it was a turning point. Something happened to Salomi that day. A weight was lifted off her. Back home she slept without sleeping pills for the first time in many months. It was then that she resolved to remain single and to commit herself to serve the Lord. Her family were overjoyed to see her recovery and they gave her their full support.

### **Salomi: teacher with a passion**

Salomi was troubled to see how many Christian children in her area were not going to school. She began a simple class in her church, but there were difficulties and she had to close the class. Then parents began to bring their children to her home to study. Salomi's family moved downstairs so that the first floor could be used for the school. This was in 2003. Salomi's brother James, a tailor, helped financially — hence the school's name! **St. James Educational Foundation.**

Salomi drew her staff from her Sunday School. The children paid a small fee, which barely covered salaries of about £10 (US\$15) a month — not a reasonable wage but it was all she could afford. Starfish Asia began to provide some support in 2008, so that Salomi could increase the salaries.

**The school is now desperate for more space! There is no room for the 213 children who fill their over-crowded classes. St. James is now a registered Middle School and this year will become a full High School. We have located a building in the same street and hope we can purchase it for the school in the very near future.**



Inside the new building

### **God's provision**

A major Foundation has recently provided a generous grant, that is exclusively dedicated to providing furniture and equipment for schools for Pakistan's Christians. This is a gift that will meet many needs — not least of which will be the equipping and furnishing of the **NEW St. James School.**



## **No one should live in conditions like this**

We visited Muqaddas Colony in March. The weather was beginning to warm up and the mosquitoes were breeding. Anser wanted us to visit, as he had been there before. He had provided some money to a family to build themselves a small room to keep out the winter cold.

Zafar Daniel of the Amazing Grace School had brought to our attention the terrible state of a community of Christians living on rough open ground between some factories and the Islamabad Motorway on the western edge of Lahore. Ironically the area is called Muqaddas ('Holy') Colony.

The 150 Christian families living there have no proper houses. Most of them live in tents or under scraps of refuse. Malaria and dengue mosquitoes infest the area and the children play in the dirt and the rubbish. The Christians gather under the factory walls for church worship.

**We join Zafar in longing to do more to help these people — no easy task but surely an obligation.**



## Pakistan: Beautiful but broken

Sheila Thomas works as Development Project Manager with a Housing Association. She travelled with Kerstin to Pakistan in February. She reminisces...



Pakistan strikes me as a beautiful but broken country. I felt overwhelmed at times by the level of breakdown which seems to permeate every aspect of life, leaving those at the bottom of the ladder without power, without opportunities and almost—but not quite—without hope. Greed seems to affect more people than any other sin. However, in the midst of corruption, poverty and injustice I saw some bright shining lights. I met people who, although not well-off, were reaching out to others more needy than themselves.

I met Anser and Kashi and their two children. Anser was raised as an orphan and is now Director of Starfish Pakistan. It was a delight to see how God has equipped them and how God's mercy is exhibited in them. How can one not have hope when we see what God has done in their lives?

I also met Shamshad and Rubina and their three children. In faith, they opened their own home to 10 orphan boys and they have started two schools in areas of great poverty. Shamshad cannot be held back. He sees a need and works out a way of responding to it. How can one not have hope when we see what God is doing through the lives of Shamshad and Rubina?

Over and over again I was introduced to situations like this. Each Starfish school was a light shining in what in many aspects were dark places. It was very moving to see how the money of Starfish Asia is being used to offer hope to hundreds of children raised in poverty and in situations which are almost hopeless—but in God's mercy, not quite.

Sheila Thomas  
March 2013

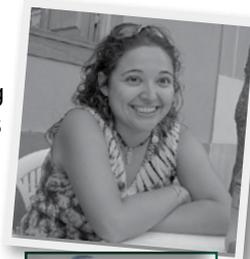
thank you to our dedicated volunteers

## going the extra mile

### Cycling across America

Jacky Luna from California is cycling across the United States, 3000 miles from the east coast to California, to raise funds for the Holy Shepherd School in Karachi. Jacky "loves Jesus, loves to help others and loves to travel". She sets out in June and expects to take two months. Follow her blog:

<http://pedal2empower.blogspot.com/>  
and support her passion for the children of Karachi!



### Starfish Asia supporters in the United States please note:

- ★ You may give online to Starfish Asia (USA) through PayPal. Starfish Asia is a 501(c)3 organization. Go to: [www.starfishasia.org](http://www.starfishasia.org)
- ★ Starfish Asia has a new address in the US. Contact: Starfish Asia (USA)  
3230 Seagraves Mill Road, Hull, GA. 30646  
Phone: (706) 549-1502 ▪ Fax: (706) 549-1546  
Email: [starfishasiaUSA@starfishasia.com](mailto:starfishasiaUSA@starfishasia.com)

### Running, jogging and walking ...

- For the third year running, Jenny Brown completed the **Great Midlands Fun Run** on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. You can still support her at: [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JennyBrown777](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JennyBrown777)
- On July 14<sup>th</sup> six runners will be joining the **British 10K London Run** to raise funds for Pakistan's children—and, come rain or shine, to have a great day out together. For details and how to support them:  
[uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com) (look up Starfish Asia)



## Tell us you care!

- Yes, tell me more about schools and communities that need my help. Send me more information.
- I enclose a gift of £ / \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Starfish Asia

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code / Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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In UK, return the coupon to: Freepost RRAY-KKCU-SGZC

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In USA, return to:

Starfish Asia, 3230 Seagraves Mill Road, Hull, GA. 30646

In Singapore, contact:

Starfish Asia (Singapore) Ltd.  
887C Woodlands Dr. 50, #12-611, Singapore 733887

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**STARFISH ASIA**

giving hope to the children of Pakistan

### Please Note

While we guarantee that donations to specific projects will go in full to the nominated project, any tax recovered under the **Gift Aid** scheme will be used at the Trustees' discretion.

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