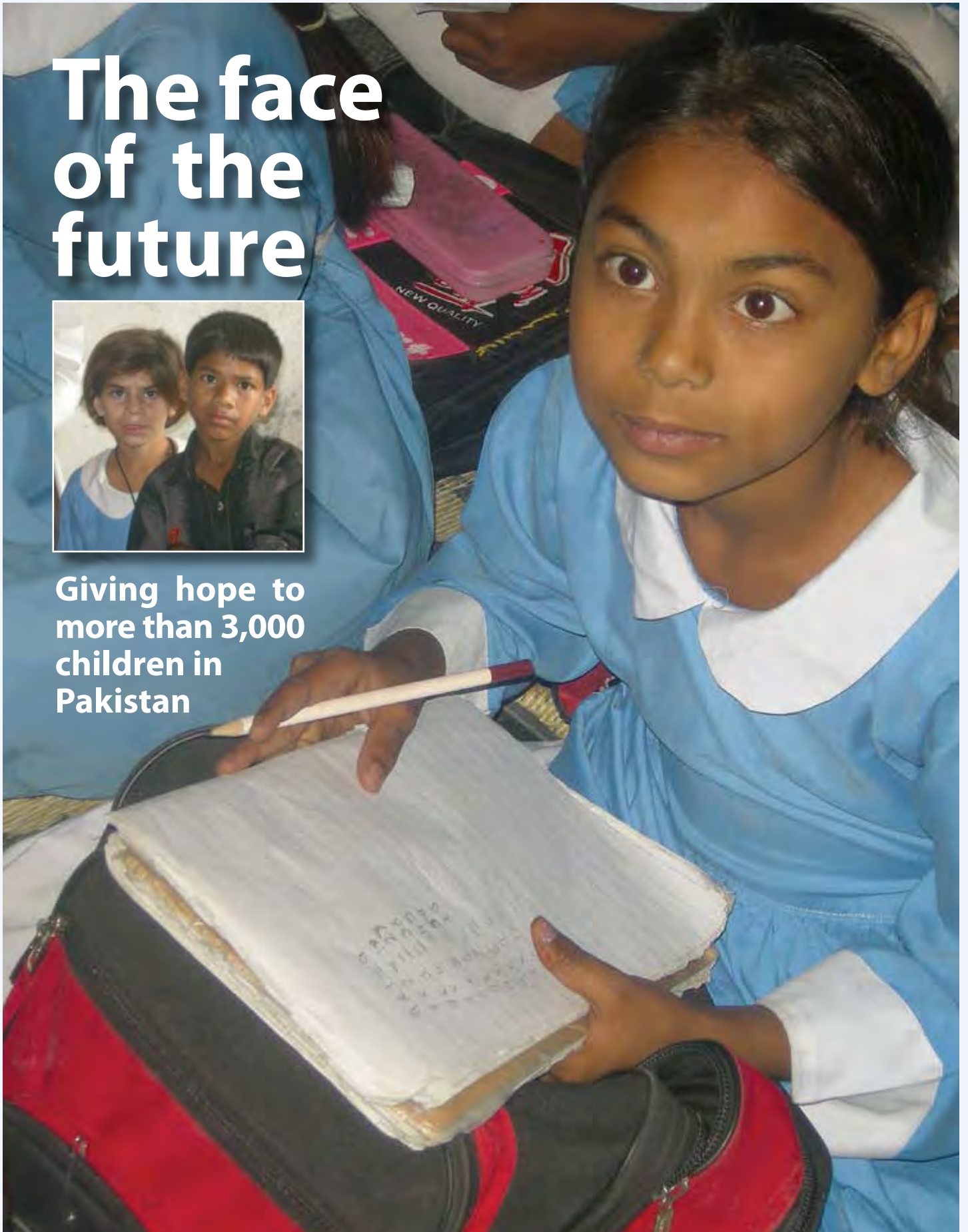


The face of the future



Giving hope to
more than 3,000
children in
Pakistan



Equipped to face the future



Imagine climbing a mountain with no proper equipment. Imagine setting out to sea with no knowledge of the ocean. Imagine facing the modern world unable to read and write—and not just the modern world, but a world that is often hostile, that will exploit you if it can, use you for its own ends and rob you of your dignity.

That is how hundreds of thousands, maybe millions, of children face the future in Pakistan—especially those in the minority communities, the Christians, the Hindus—and of course the poor.

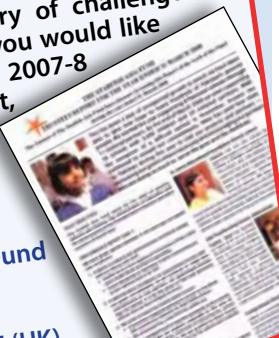
The Starfish Asia Fund comes to the aid of dedicated Pakistani Christians who are trying to change all this—opening schools as channels of hope for those who have been let down by the system. Most of the schools we help are focused on the needs of the very poorest among the Christians. Our goal is to help our Pakistani partners provide a foundation for life, based on Christian values and truth, for those who come from the very bottom rungs of poverty and neglect.

Are we succeeding? For the 3200 children in our schools, the future is bright.

We have so much more to tell

The past year has seen huge growth in the Starfish Asia Fund. It has been an amazing story of challenge and opportunity. If you would like to receive our 2007-8 Annual Report, please request a copy from:

Mike Wakely
Starfish Asia Fund
32 Beck Lane
Beckenham
Kent BR3 4RE (UK)



The School in Blue

Kaleem Dean is professor of Urdu in Forman Christian College — a leading academic institution in Lahore. He and his wife Nagina were not content to rest on their personal achievements. They were troubled and moved by the huge needs and poverty of their own community. In 2000 they launched a High School for the poor in their Christian community of Youhannabad.



Since that first step of faith, CAP (the Community Advance Programme) has gone from strength to strength on a shoe string. Every time funds become available, Kaleem and Nagina open a new project—always aimed at giving a chance to the under-privileged and the downtrodden.

CAP schools are tidy, disciplined and decked in uniform blue – oases of order in a messy and troubled world

CAP now runs two Sewing Centres for more than 30 girls, a Christian newspaper, a prison ministry, a school for disabled children (the Mercy Mission) and charity schools for 600 students. CAP projects are supported by several donors and agencies. Starfish Asia funds are directed especially to two of these ministries.



CAP Primary School

The Mercy Mission

The Mercy Mission operates from five rented rooms in Youhannabad. A small staff cares for about 20 children with special needs—a service of love to a very vulnerable section of the community. “People are very poor,” says Kaleem, “and nobody cares about disabled children. In the Mercy Mission we aim to educate and equip them and to make them useful members of society.”

The Primary School is bursting at the seams and desperately short of space and furniture. Classes are divided by thin curtains—or meet in the open air for lack of room. Many children are still sitting on the floor. Kaleem: “It is not easy to say NO to needy and deserving parents. We were compelled to take 105 children in the Junior School. Pressure is mounting to take at least 100 more children.”



FREE BOOKS!

In April we provided free books for 400 students — much appreciated by all. Steve Curran, in Pakistan to advise the Starfish Asia schools, helped with the distribution.



Kaleem has a website
<http://www.capministries.com/>

The Life Transforming Centre AKHTARABAD

Sajida Iqbal returned to Pakistan in October 2006 after two years in Bible College in the UK. Her heart's desire was always to provide free education and discipleship training for the children and young people in her home area, where her father has served for many years as a Pastor.

Within weeks generous donors provided the necessary funds to enable her to buy land in Akhtarabad, a town on the main road central to several largely Christian villages. One year later and she had built a three-room building and opened a school, also running a pick-and-drop service to collect children from the surrounding villages.

The Starfish Asia Fund is now making a regular contribution to the running expenses of this remarkable school. We



Sajida writes

“We are always excited whenever children discover that they have a hope for their future. This girl is very special. Her father converted to Islam and her mother returned to her parents, leaving her 6 brothers and sisters with her old grandmother. There was no food, all the children were ill with scabies and fever. This girl, the oldest child in her family, was very upset. We visited them and brought them some comfort and love and now she is in our school and doing very well.”

gave some money for tables, chairs, fans, books and uniforms—as well as a grant to build two more classrooms.

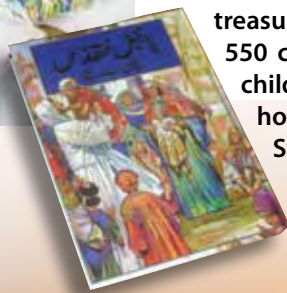
In April we provided Urdu Children's Bibles for all the students. Sajida wrote: *“We announced our annual result and gave those Bibles to the students which we received from you. The children were very excited to have the Bibles in their hands. They could never imagine to have such beautiful Bibles in their lives. It is a wonderful gift.”*

Strong foundations

The Pakistan Bible Society produced a beautiful, full-colour illustrated Children's Bible, suitable for Christian children at Primary School level. Though the price is highly subsidised, few can afford to buy such a treasure. In April we bought 550 copies to be given to children from poor homes who attend Starfish Asia Fund schools.



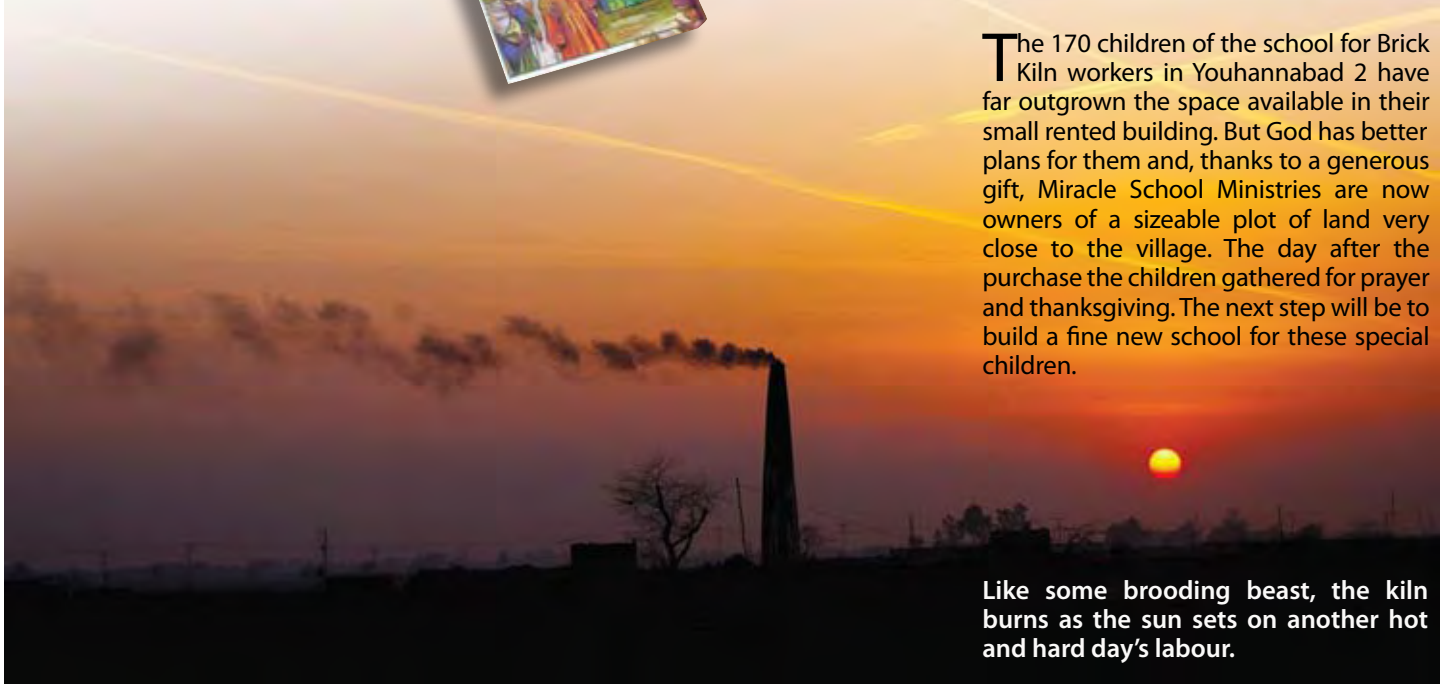
The children at Sajida's school are excited to receive their Bibles



The Promised Land

The 170 children of the school for Brick Kiln workers in Youhannabad 2 have far outgrown the space available in their small rented building. But God has better plans for them and, thanks to a generous gift, Miracle School Ministries are now owners of a sizeable plot of land very close to the village. The day after the purchase the children gathered for prayer and thanksgiving. The next step will be to build a fine new school for these special children.

Like some brooding beast, the kiln burns as the sun sets on another hot and hard day's labour.



Lives transformed

We receive many reports of how lives are being changed and given new hope through the work of those we are supporting. For some it will take years as they start to study at a school they never imagined was within their grasp. For others it comes more quickly, as for young Shahbaz for whom the gift of a wheelchair opened the door of his dreams.

Determined to overcome

I met **Shahbaz** when I visited the Gospel School run by Shamshad and Rubina in Bilal Town. He lived with his family in one small room. His body was all broken, legs and arms twisted and disjointed. But when I spoke to him his answer was loud and clear, without any hesitation: "I want to go to school. I want to learn." His courage was tangible. Shamshad asked if we could help him to buy a wheelchair so he could get to school. We did and on



my next visit a week later, he was there in class, proud at last to be in school.



Never too old to learn

Nazir Masih has worked for more than 30 years as a sweeper for the Government in Karachi. He retired at the age of 60. His two sons graduated from the Holy Shepherd School—one received a small scholarship from Starfish Asia to continue his studies. Nazir never attended school but he was eager to learn and to be able to read the Word of God like his sons. He enrolled in a 3-month literacy course, run in 12 centres by Anser Javed from the Holy Shepherd School. Nazir is taking the course very seriously—never too old to change!



Dignity at work

Tasneem Kausar and **Iram Riaz** are graduates of the Lahore Christian High School. Their parents work as sweepers in a private hospital in Lahore, but they managed to send all their 9 children to school. Tasneem was head girl at LCHS and she and her sister are now student nurses in the hospital where their parents work as cleaners. The whole family are committed Christians. Their parents are so proud of their commitment, and excited to see how God is building faith and dignity in their family. And so are we!



Anser's wife, Kashi, presents the class prizes at the Holy Shepherd School, Karachi

Starfish Asia Fund

a 16-page illustrated introduction to the world of Starfish Asia—the people, the places, the projects

Please send for a free copy



FundRaising Standards Board

Starfish Asia Fund is a member of the Fundraising Standards Board

We know we cannot help everyone, but we have got to help some!

A little goes a long way to turn despair into hope. Will you help us to make that difference?

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- Please send me the free 16-page booklet
- Please send me a Standing Order / Gift Aid form
- I enclose a gift of _____ for the Starfish Asia Fund

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Please cut out and send this form to:

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The Starfish Asia Fund, 32 Beck Lane, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4RE (UK)
or email: mike@starfishasia.com

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As I walked on the beach one morning, I saw a young man picking up starfish from the sand and flinging them back into the sea. "If I don't save them, they will die in the noonday sun," he said.

"But there are thousands of starfish on this beach. What difference does it make to save just a few?"

He looked down at the starfish in his hand and flung it to safety in the waves. "It makes a big difference to this one."

www.starfishasia.com

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