

just imagine...

Imagine you were born in a slum...
where sewage runs in the street and the rubbish lies in the open.

This is your home. You've never seen anything else.

Imagine being born in serious poverty – like half the world. In a world of plenty, poverty is a scandal that should trouble everyone. But we believe the poor deserve better.



So begins the new 14 minute Starfish Asia
DVD — *just imagine*

We would like you to see this DVD and to
show it to your church, to your friends, to
anyone who dreams of making the world
a better place for God's children to live.



imagine...
just imagine...

name change

We have made a small change in our name, and will from now on be known as simply



We remain a fund that aims to provide resources to local partners who are working to meet the material and spiritual needs of the poor, especially in the Christian community in Pakistan.

At

www.starfishasia.com

you can now watch numerous video clips of Starfish Asia projects from



We apologize!

We apologize to Trevor Alexander for the error in our last issue. Trevor in fact lived in Karachi from 1981-3 (not 1881). In November he was back in Pakistan. This picture was taken at a reception with Kaleem Dean to distribute Children's Bibles (donated by Starfish Asia) to Class 5 in the CAP school in Lahore.

Trevor is now Starfish Asia rep in Northern Ireland and can be contacted:

028-91458718

Email:

trevor@starfishasia.com

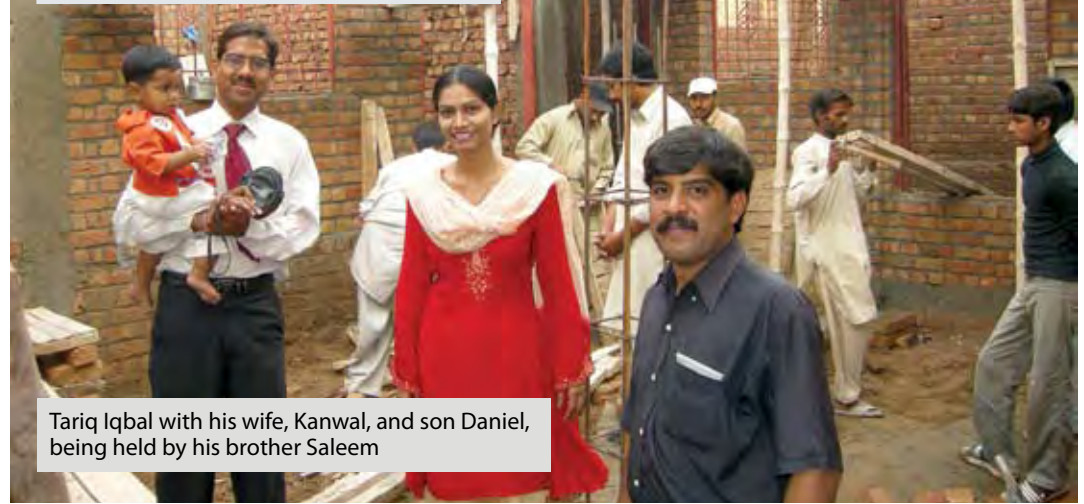
Building for the Future

We have been planning for more than a year to build a school for the Christians in the Noori Gate slum in Sargodha. But we never expected it to happen quite so suddenly.

Tariq Iqbal faced endless delays over the purchase of a plot at the heart of the Noori Gate community, due to the lengthy lawyers' strike, power cuts and the frustrations of Pakistan's bureaucracy. With the land sale complete, the building was delayed further due to lack of funding.

Then suddenly things began to move. We visited Sargodha in November and were amazed to see the walls up to the first floor. Tariq is planning to open the new school—an oasis of hope in the centre of a slum of despair—in March.

Urgent extra funding is needed if that is to happen, but God is a God of great surprises.



Tariq Iqbal with his wife, Kanwal, and son Daniel, being held by his brother Saleem

...and that is not all

Thanks to the generosity of Starfish Asia donors, Sajida Iqbal has been building an upper floor extension to the Life Transforming



Centre in Akhtarabad, providing space for some accommodation and at least three more classrooms for her ever growing school.

At the Lahore Christian High School, Ashley Arshad has been constructing five more rooms on the roof of his school building which will be used for a Science lab, computer classroom and store. Further funding is needed to complete this project.



to pay the rent... and buy a chicken

This report comes from Anser Javed at the Holy Shepherd School in Karachi.

"This morning Mehwish, a class 9 student on a scholarship (together with her brother and two sisters) asked me for help to pay their house rent. The landlord was threatening to put a lock on the door and turn them out into the street. Mehwish's father has been sick for the past two years and cannot work. Her mother works in a

hospital as a sweeper and earns Rs. 5000 a month (£40) with which she has to provide for her 5 children and her husband.



"I asked about their food. Mehwish had tears in her eyes when she told me that they didn't have a proper breakfast and did not know about lunch.

"I gave them some money for the house rent and to buy some chicken to feed the family."

Waheedabad Christian Secondary School

Serving the Village

Walter Waheed is bonded to his village — Chak 174 in the heart of the Punjab countryside. With a diploma from the Highland Theological College in Inverness, Walter is qualified to teach Greek and Hebrew, but his passion is for the future of the children in his village.



With help from his brother and other family members—and funds from Starfish Asia donors—the Christian Secondary School opened in the village in May and already 140 children are preparing for a future they had never dreamed was possible.

The picture shows the school attending morning assembly—on land where Walter is now planning to build a hospital to serve his otherwise deprived rural community.



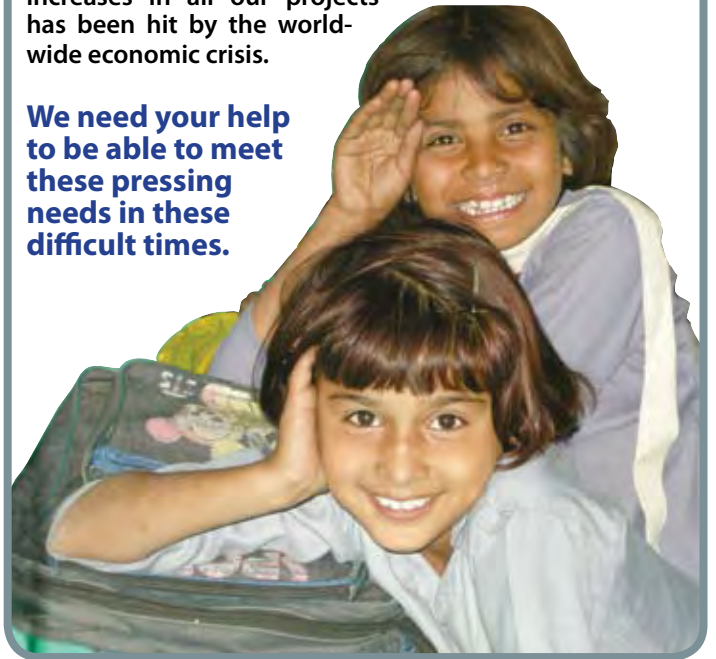
The challenges of social breakdown

For most of the summer there has been a devastating shortage of power throughout Pakistan. Pakistanis have become accustomed to having electricity for only part of each day and night—often on for an hour and then off for an hour (or worse)—which means no lights or fans in the scorching heat, not to mention the disastrous effect on the economy.

It has resulted in a boom for the sellers of generators, but the soaring price of oil and gas has meant that few can afford the luxury.

Prices have continued to rise while salaries have mostly remained unchanged. Our desire to provide for salary increases in all our projects has been hit by the world-wide economic crisis.

We need your help to be able to meet these pressing needs in these difficult times.



Restless commitment

Since returning from his UK visit in August, Kaleem Dean of CAP Ministries has opened two new schools, both in communities of Christian brick kiln workers, where no other school is within reach.

The school in Su-e-Asal, east of Lahore, already has 150 children, and the other school (Kaleem's sixth—in a remote area of brick kilns known as Bhatta Bashir Urf Papu) could possibly cater for several hundred children. Starfish Asia supports Kaleem's growing ministry, and hopes to be able also to fund the running of these new projects.



just imagine...

a world where children just enjoy being children

The 24 girls of the **Abba Home** all come from tragic backgrounds—families torn apart, children neglected or unwanted, parents dead or incapable of looking after their children. It is a deeply moving experience to see them at play—laughing together, swinging each other around—just enjoying being children.



The exuberant children of the **Morning Star Primary School** in the bleak Karachi slum of Korangi 2½.

a world that cares for the forgotten and the downtrodden

Hina, one of the very special children at the **CGA Home**



a world where children have a future to dream about

The students at the **Holy Shepherd School** in Karachi spend time in prayer.

Thank you for your part in answering the prayers and fulfilling the dreams of these children.



just imagine

The new Starfish Asia DVD is now ready, with new insights into the work and stories of changed lives

Request a free copy


Starfish Asia 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?*

PLEASE CONTACT US!

- Please send me the quarterly newsletter
- Please send me the new DVD — **just imagine**
- Please send me a **Standing Order / Gift Aid** form
- I enclose a gift of _____ for Starfish Asia

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Please cut out and send this form to:

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Starfish Asia, 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."

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