

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

★ Pakistan Floods

The floods are no longer headline news but people are still suffering, some without a roof over their heads. The weather is getting colder. Children are weak and malnourished, plagued by mosquitos and catching additional illnesses. For many their situation is still beyond desperate.

The news has reported: **“Since 14th June 2022, floods in Pakistan have killed 1,717 people. The floods were caused by heavier than usual monsoon rains and melting glaciers that followed a severe heat wave, all of which are linked to climate change.”**

Faisal Kamran, director of the Hope School in Karachi, supported with funds from Starfish Asia, wrote on 23rd November:

“I experienced the underprivileged: Dry faces, wet eyes, shoeless feet, shivering due to insufficient warm clothes, insufficient mud houses, huts and tents. Cold weather is becoming another challenge and the risk of diseases... Our interior Sindh village residents are looking to us... I have been praying and looking for blankets, warm clothes and warm tents. God is good all the time.” **Please continue to pray for the ongoing flood relief programmes and for those who are suffering.**



★ Christmas in Pakistan



Pakistani Christians normally celebrate Christmas with great fervour and joy. **Pray that the true joy of welcoming Jesus into the world will be real, whatever their circumstances.** Many schools and churches will put on special nativity plays and events to which parents are also invited.

We were inspired by this photo from Zeenat School – parents meeting with teachers, one of the keys to closer community support and success. **Pray that Christmas and the New Year will see much more of this kind of initiative.**

★ Bradford: Christmas Tree Festival

Rob’s church in Bradford puts on a special event at Christmas – a display of Christmas trees in the church, each representing a charity initiative to which the members can donate. Here is Rob’s tree, decorated with opportunities to show how much God loves Pakistani Christian children. **Please pray for visitors to stop, ask questions and that Rob may be blessed with many conversations.**



Our 2023 Appeal

Please browse our [2023 Appeal](#), available now on our website, to show that you also love Pakistan’s Christian children this Christmas. Thank you!

★ The Talents Home

The Talents Home is a hostel for 18 children from underprivileged homes (14 boys and 4 girls). They are cared for by full-time staff, Mr. and Mrs. Irfan, and all attend the Talents School, led by Pastor Sajid Siraj and his wife Fauzia. Sajid and Fauzia are multi-gifted people involved in many ministries, including the High School, childrens' home, a Christian book store – and a long-standing commitment to restore Lahore's United Christian Hospital.



Sajid writes: *“Talents Home is a safe place to grow. Two brothers, Dominic and Brian, came to Talents Home in the beginning of 2020. Their mother died 4 years before when Dominic was 6 (now 10) and Brian was 3 (now 7). Their father drives an auto rickshaw on daily wages and was unable to take care of them. They are very cute, sharp and intelligent boys studying in Talents School System. **Please keep Dominic, Brian and the children of Talents Home in your prayers.**”*

★ School Exams: December 2022

Jasmine has been preparing internal first-term exams for all schools, to be taken in December – results to be announced before the Christmas holidays begin on 21st December. **Pray for Jasmine – and for all the schools involved, and the students to take academic success seriously.**



Liz will be running!

As reported last month, Liz was not able to run her half-marathon due to illness. She is now up – and running on 29th January at Crystal Palace. **If you would like to join her for a 5 or 10 km or half-marathon run to raise funds for Starfish Asia, write to her: liz@starfishasia.com** For event information see: <https://www.runthrough.co.uk/event/crystal-palace-5k-10k-half-marathon-january-2023/>

★ Starfish Advent Calendar

From 1st December, you can look at the **Starfish Asia Advent Calendar** and pray every day up leading to Christmas. Here is the link: <https://calendar.myadvent.net/?id=rq7argjnxp4f38sui4zk1ww05ao8l390>



Finally, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year,

Kerstin

and the Starfish Asia Team

**Starfish Asia Prayer Meeting via ZOOM
Thursday 8th December 2022**

10:00 AM London <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86005320769>

7:00 PM London <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88569711608>