

“But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good...” - 2 Thessalonians 3:13

★ Celebrating Independence Day

On 14th August many schools celebrated Pakistan’s 75th Independence Day, dressing up in white and green with patriotic songs, flags, balloons and a sense of pride in their national identity as a free and sovereign nation. **Thank God for these blessed times of celebration and unity.**



★ Pakistan’s many Uncertainties

Pakistan is facing multiple problems at the present time. The Government and other authorities need our prayers to steer the course through their difficulties:

- **Flooding.** There has been heavy rain and severe flooding in the south of the country. *“This is a national emergency and we will have to treat it as such,”* said the Climate Change Minister. 20 million people were rendered homeless or without shelter and 913 deaths had been recorded. ***This does not affect Starfish Asia projects, but merits our prayers for the many affected.***
- **Political turmoil.** The former Prime Minister has been booked in a terrorism case for his controversial remarks at a rally in August, but he remains widely popular. Fresh elections may soon be called, possibly as soon as October.
- **Inflation.** Inflation in July topped 24.9% which is causing real hardship for the poor. At the same time the Pakistani Rupee has fluctuated wildly in the past month.

Please pray for those who have been adversely affected by both the flooding and the rising inflation. Pray for the political situation to settle, and for a positive outcome from any new elections.

★ Schools Reopen

Schools re-opened in August. The matriculation exam results were due to be published in late August, but we still await the details. Meanwhile, the Starfish Pakistan office has been focusing on the new school and college year:

Jasmine, sometimes accompanied by her son Zimran, has begun a series of extended visits to schools initially in the Lahore area, to monitor and encourage teachers to implement the lessons learned during the training in Abbotabad in June and July.

As many students wait for the results of their Matriculation exams, we wait for the flood of applications for scholarships for them to study further. **We value prayer, as our Scholarship Funds are at an all-time low, and we are committed to help those young people with ambition to study further.**



★ Johnson Anthony and our Accountability

Johnson Anthony was provided with a laptop to help him as he continues to spend extended time with school book-keepers, ensuring better accounting practices in schools. He has now visited most of the Lahore schools and will be moving further afield soon. He received this compliment recently from one school: *“Mr. Johnson is equipped with a vast knowledge of financial matters and is a very humble and excellent team player. He is teaching us many tools to enhance financial matters of our institution.”* **Pray for Johnson and his family. His wife Joyce is still under regular treatment for cancer.**



★ Raising Hopes...Raising Stipends

It has been a long time coming, but at last in September we will increase our contribution towards the salaries of all teachers and staff in the schools we are committed to. We are aware of the 25% inflation rate and realise that what we give is still woefully inadequate, but with more than 500 people dependent on Starfish Asia funds, we are eager to do what we can to reward those who do so much for their community.

At the same time, we are increasingly aware of many Christian schools (maybe many hundreds) that are serving the poorest communities, and are desperate for help to provide reasonable salaries, better training and improved facilities. We receive many requests from people trying to do the impossible. **We know we cannot do everything – but value your prayers as we try to do more.**

★ Summer Blessings

It is the mango season, and several schools have celebrated with their students by holding a MANGO DAY – dressing up as mangos and eating lots of delicious ripe fruit. **We can celebrate God’s goodness with them!**



Thank you for your continued prayers and support,

Kerstin

and the Starfish Asia Team

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

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

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