

***“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and forever!” 2 Peter 3:18***

★ Political Turmoil

Imran Khan, Pakistan’s former Prime Minister and well-known cricketer, was deposed in April after losing a no-confidence vote in the National Assembly. He was replaced by an interim Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, former Chief Minister of Punjab and brother of former PM Nawaz Sharif. No Pakistani Prime Minister has completed a five-year term since Independence in 1947. Nawaz Sharif was given ten years for corruption and, according to the press, is under medical treatment in London. Political turmoil is not unusual in Pakistan. It is likely that new elections will be called within the next few months. ***Let us pray for a peaceful and stable government.***

The economy has also suffered badly in recent months and foreign currency reserves have fallen. Inflation is running at 13.8% (17% for food). The Pakistani Rupee fell to its lowest level ever in May.

★ Primary School Exams



Jasmine has been very busy setting exams for the younger children while the 9-10 graders sat their Matriculation exams. The Matric results will be declared in August. Many schools held special events with prizes for the highest achievers. Some schools also had a ‘**teacher of the year**’ competition. Pictured (*right*) is Miss Tania Mansha, the teacher of the year in Hope School Karachi. Her award, together with a cash prize, was given by the Principal, Faisal Kamran, and his wife Sitara (both graduates of the Holy Shepherd School).



★ Teacher Training

Danishmand, Jasmine and the Lahore office staff are very busy planning for seven weeks of training for 379 teachers from Starfish schools. It will begin on 9th June, with groups of 30-40 at a time coming to Abbottabad in the cooler northern foothills. The conference centre is a miraculous provision; a beautiful facility has been provided at very low cost. This is a mammoth undertaking. ***Please pray for the practical arrangements, transport, cooking, and finances – and of course the teachers and those committed to deliver training – Jasmine, Danishmand and also some professional trainers.***

★ UK Board Meeting

On 2nd June the Starfish Asia UK board had a lively and harmonious face-to-face meeting in the beautiful home of a board member. Danishmand and Jasmine joined for an hour via Zoom and so did our board member Colin, who still lives in Karachi. One pressing need and request from the Starfish Pakistan board arose: they need a bigger office and training facility. ***Please pray for wisdom in decision making; should they rent another place or buy? Is this to be our next major funding project?*** This is quite urgent. At the present time five office staff, plus Danishmand’s family (2 adult children), occupy quite a small space. ***Expansion is inevitable, but how? Please pray.***

★ Johnson Anthony and family

Some months ago we asked for prayer for **Joyce Anthony, suffering from throat cancer. Please continue to pray for her and her healing.**



At that time, Johnson lost his job with the Talent School because they could not afford to keep him as their accountant. We were happy to hear that Danishmand has now employed him as an accountant to go round the



Starfish schools to check their accounts and also to teach the project leaders how to maintain proper accounting records.

★ Raising Salaries

We plan to provide more funds to enable an increase in what we provide towards salaries for all the teachers in the schools we support. This will cost about £5,000 a month. **Please pray for God's continual provision. The increase is long overdue and much needed.**

★ The Bible Curriculum

The Christian publisher in Pakistan, Nirali Kitaben, is working hard to ensure that Book 6 of the Bible Curriculum in Urdu will be ready for the re-opening of schools in August. **Pray that the Bible Curriculum will be used to bring students and teachers to the Lord.** The Bible Curriculum is not only used in schools supported by us but also schools outside of Starfish. Walter Waheed, a friend of Starfish, is promoting its use in a number of other schools and is also advising the teachers how to teach it effectively. **We value prayer for all of this.**



★ The Starfish Asia Story



The Starfish Asia Story is being advertised and offered free in three Christian magazines in coming weeks: *Evangelicals Now*, *the Evangelical Times* and the *Plain Truth*. If you would like a copy for yourself – or would like a few more copies to give to friends – do write to info@starfishasia.com

Please pray that more people will join us to pray and support Pakistan's Christians, as life is getting harder for many and they need Christian friends more than ever at this time.

Thank you for your continued prayers,

Kerstin

and the Starfish Asia Team

**Starfish Asia Prayer Meeting via ZOOM
Thursday 9th June 2022**

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

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