



The Chopan Trust

The occasional newsletter from Anser & Kashi Javed
May 2025

6



New hope for a generation Chopan's "National Career Festival"

Thousands of young Pakistani Christians have just taken their final Matric exam and graduated from High School. The big question they face:
What will their future be?

That was the big question that struck us at Chopan in April. So many Christian students, taking their final exams, but with no idea what the future would hold for them.

In February Chopan arranged for 215 young boys and girls to attend a one-day eye-opener into career opportunities at the Royal Institute, a private institution that provides courses in healthcare and health education. It was a great success. It opened their eyes to possible futures as Pharmacists or Lab technicians. The 215 went home inspired with new ambition. We provided a scholarship to an orphan girl for a two-year course of Lab technician. But it led to a bigger dream:

"The National Career Festival"

to bring together 500 (or more) graduating students to listen to a panel of qualified Christian leaders in society who can guide, inform, challenge and inspire them to greater ambition for their future careers.

And so it happened on Saturday 26th April in a spacious auditorium in Lahore. 650 students and some teachers gathered for the day. Sadly 200 could not attend as it coincided with the funeral of Pope Francis, but 230 came from the schools supported by Starfish Pakistan.



Zeshan John

Additional Deputy
Commissioner
Toba Tek Singh,

one of the speakers at
the Festival, wrote
this appreciation of the
Chopan initiative.

"It fills me with joy to acknowledge the National Career Festival! What an uplifting event, uniting 650 bright Christian students in an atmosphere of learning, inspiration, and shared vision. It's truly commendable how this festival provided practical career direction while also fostering a profound sense of purpose and community among our young people.

"My heartfelt thanks go to Anser and his dedicated team. Their hard work and commitment in bringing this significant and well-organized event to fruition are deeply appreciated. Their passion has undoubtedly made a real difference in the lives of so many young individuals, and for that, I am truly grateful."

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

(Jeremiah 29:11)

Chopan's Career Festival

"What will their future be?"

How did we select those who came?

Most of the students who attended came from Christian schools that are in regular contact with the Chopan Trust. They were all students in Classes 9 or 10, all preparing to graduate in the coming months.



What next for these young people?

A questionnaire was given to all the students who attended. We asked questions like:

"Of all the diverse professions you learned about today, which two now seem the most interesting paths for your future?"

Three hundred students responded. We plan to arrange specialised seminars, again inviting Christian leaders in their field of interest, to advise on the next steps to achieve their goals.

We are now being encouraged to hold Festivals in other cities: Karachi, Multan, etc.

FC College has expressed interest in a co-operation with us in this endeavour.

Who formed the panel of experts?

Twenty men and women, all Christian, were chosen in light of their experience in professional leadership in the wider world — in politics, business, the army, medicine and finance.



Sharing expertise

The panelists represented many professions and much experience. They gave their time and advice to inspire and motivate these young men and women. Each presentation was filmed, and we plan to make them available online.

Kenneth Williams, a Banker, wrote:

"The panellists were successful Christian professionals who had wonderful success stories to share. (They shared) their struggles and hard work to achieve their goals. It was definitely very encouraging and motivational.

Well done Chopan Team!"

What did we give to each student?

Anser summarised the importance of our Christian history, and we gave them each a copy of *The Amazing Story of Pakistan's Christians*. We also gave a booklet on career advice, prepared by The Citizens' Foundation.



What will we do next with the printed materials?

We purchased 1,000 copies of the *Amazing Story* history books from the publishers, Nirali Kitaben. We hope to give it wide circulation in the Christian community. We are also in discussion about making a short film covering some of the highlights of our past history.

We printed 1,000 copies of the Career Counselling book with permission from TCF. We hope to revise it with more specific Christian content for much wider circulation to ambitious Christian students.

Chopan's Teacher Development and the plan to support a "Model School".

Eros School, a Model School

Living the dream

How to implement our dream? With the encouragement of a generous supporter — and as a visual aid for our development theories — Chopan is now committed to transform the EROS School into a Model School.

We have been working with EROS School (Educational Reforms of Society) over the past many months. We have come to value the dedication of its Principal, Sana. She leads the school of 170 students with classes from Primary to 8. We are now ready to start a close journey to transform the teaching and learning under our Model School System.

We will provide financial support for upgrading their classrooms, engaging teaching aids, improving teacher salaries, operational costs, and comprehensive teacher training under our 3-Es Discipleship programme. Kashi and her team will visit monthly to monitor and to ensure high standards and accountability.

Our 3-year plan aims to empower the school towards self-sustainability, encouraging community ownership through parental contributions and enabling us to uplift more schools in the future.



*"Inspiring Futures,
Changing Lives!"*



Faith-based learning Chopan's service to the Christian community

Munawar Saroya

Chopan's Coordinator for faith-based learning

Munawar is a man of many talents. Having worked for a while with Caritas Lahore, he founded his own ministry and opened his home as a hostel for blind boys. More recently he opened a clinic in his Christian community.

He joined Chopan for multiple tasks, but primarily to promote Bible study in Christian schools. Here is his vision for Chopan:



"My ambition for the future of Chopan Trust is to see a growing network of Christian schools across the province of Punjab and beyond, as God enables us. We envision these schools as a place of both academic excellence and deep spiritual formation, rooted in Christian faith.

"Through my school visits, my primary contribution is to foster growth and excellence within Chopan Trust's educational mission. This involves:

- Empowering our dedicated Bible teachers
- Strengthening the spiritual foundations
- Facilitating growth and expansion."

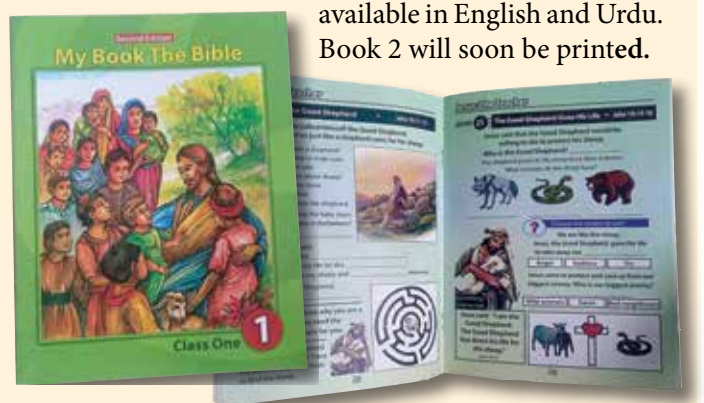
The Bible Curriculum

Teaching the Scriptures to the next generation

Thirty-five Christian schools have requested sets of Bible Curriculum books for regular Bible study in class. This will provide Bible training for 4,500 students. Anser and Munawar plan to hold one-day training for teachers in the best use of the books, to be arranged in several areas across Pakistan. Here is the plan in outline:

"For the next two years (2025-2026), together with training for up to 90 schools, the Curriculum aims to give a course in biblical understanding to up to 25,000 young Pakistanis."

The Bible Curriculum student textbooks are now being revised, enlarged and in full colour. Here is Book 1, available in English and Urdu. Book 2 will soon be printed.



Scholarships: *Hope for the neglected*

The Chance of a Living

Due to the poor education system in our low cost Christian schools, many children do not pass their final exam. Most of these so-called “drop-outs” are girls and, without a good education, their future will be bleak — marriage at a young age or a menial job on low wages as sweepers, packers in factories or maids for the rich and subject to awful exploitation.

What will their future be?

With welcome initial support from a generous donor, Chopan is launching a new Scholarship programme to offer these students the chance of living their lives with dignity.

We will give awards in Allied Health Sciences, providing qualifications in Midwifery, IT or as Pharmacy or Lab Technicians.

Diploma holders should then be able to start their own Pharmacy business or get jobs in Information Technology.



Saima is the the first student who was awarded a Chopan Scholarship for a six-month internship.

Compassion: *Kamran's new family home*

Home at last

Kamran and his wife were so happy. They lived for 15 years in a tent, and during rain and thunder they never slept at night. Now, for the past few weeks, they all slept peacefully in their newly constructed room, even during heavy thunder and rain.



The opportunities we face *Can you help?*

- We hope to conduct eight one-day seminars for teachers of the Bible Curriculum. Each seminar will cost on average £500 / USD \$650
- Sets of Bible Curriculum books. For one set of 5 books (for primary classes) approx. £6 / \$7.50
- Textbooks and bags for 3000 Christian children @ £8 / \$10 each
- Allied Health Sciences courses: A 2-year course: £550 / \$725 for the full course.

<https://chopantrust.com/>

You may support the Chopan Trust in the UK and the USA through registered charities:



Support all other areas of Chopan ministry (books, furniture and equipment, magazine, admin, events, Bible Curriculum training, etc. through the AMEN Trust. Go to:

<https://stewardship.org.uk/partners/20028744>

Fill in the form (as a Stewardship Guest or if you have a Stewardship Giving Account)

NB: under "Message of Support": For Chopan Trust. You may also send a cheque (made out to AMEN Trust) to: Janet White, 79 North Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 3ND (janet@amentrust.co.uk)

All payments must be clearly stated as being for Chopan Trust.



In the USA support for Chopan projects, including teacher training, Compassion for the poor and Bible teaching materials, can be given through Compassion United. Go to: <http://bit.ly/4iPzlvJ>



In the UK you may support the 3Es discipleship teaching programme of Chopan Trust through Starfish Asia. Go to: <https://donorbox.org/chopan-trust>



If you prefer to send your gift directly, payable to Starfish Asia or the AMEN Trust, please contact:

Mike Wakely, 32 Beck Lane, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4RE, UK
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Chopan Trust is a registered Trust in Pakistan accountable to trustees, also registered with the Punjab Charity Commission, with a bank account and annual audit. It also operates with permission from the Pakistan Government Economic Affairs Division.