I used to sit in the front row of my class,” says Aarav, “but other students complained that they were getting polluted and the teacher started making me sit at the back.”

“We are considered untouchables,” explains Sai. “The teachers refuse to touch our books and our homework is never corrected. If we even touch our teachers by mistake, they scold us for polluting them.”

Aarav and Sai* are Dalits, members of the lowest caste in Indian society. Despite the legal abolition of the caste system, caste-based discrimination is still rife. Segregation, exploitation and abuse are the daily norm for millions of Dalits across India.

Like many Dalits, Aarav was forced to perform tasks considered too ‘polluting’ or degrading for non-Dalits, including cleaning excrement. There is no toilet at
Aarav’s school, and he had to collect and dispose of the human and animal waste around the school grounds and outside. Sai was forced to clean the school toilets, with minimal tools. Unsurprisingly, both boys soon dropped out of school. It was a hostile, abusive environment – why bother?

Fortunately, however, the boys came to the attention of Global Care. They live in Patripul, a slum 1 ½ hours drive from the centre of Mumbai. This is where the GCare Centre operates, an informal school offering basic education and welfare support to Dalit children.

Our partners supported both boys, speaking to their teachers and reporting both schools to the authorities. Such discrimination, whilst common, is illegal. As a result of their advocacy, both boys are back in school, with additional support from classes at the GCare centre, where they receive acceptance, love and care, instead of rejection and abuse. Life is not easy for either child, but they now have the chance to learn skills which give them hope of a better future.

The GCare Foundation operates two centres in Patripul, supporting around 150 Dalit children with lessons in Maths, Hindi, English and Marathi. They also provide homework support, healthy snacks, advocacy at school, and family welfare, including some literacy support for parents.

Staff work hard to support the children. They especially care for girls who face additional discrimination, sometimes even within their own families, due to both gender and caste. Girls in Patripul, some as young as eleven, are frequently sent to a nearby shopping mall visited by higher-caste boys, to earn extra income for the family through prostitution. Our staff have worked hard to help families see the value of educating girls, so they can earn money in less dangerous ways.

Staff report: “A large proportion of boys and girls in this community have suffered abuse. In addition to fulfilling their material needs, we want to provide a warm and caring atmosphere. Our centres are safe, fun places where children gain confidence and self-esteem.”

The centres have been the target of considerable opposition from local high-caste community leaders, who believe Dalit children do not deserve education. Since we began this project in 2012, higher-caste groups have tried bribing our staff to enrol higher-caste children, attempted an elaborate scam involving a local authority official threatening to evict us, and, most recently, vandalised our main centre by wrecking the roof during monsoon rains.

According to CEO John White, this opposition demonstrates precisely the reason why these Dalit children need our support. A gift of education is a gift of hope – what will you give to the children of Patripul this Christmas?

Find out more at www.globalcare.org/Christmas2016 or use the enclosed response slip.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT of hope

It costs £11,500 to run the centres in Patripul each year. This sum covers rent, teacher salaries, school resources and limited feeding. Our 2016 Christmas Appeal aims to raise enough money to fund the work for at least one year. Please give generously.

£15 buys healthy snacks for one child at the GCare Centre, three days per week, for one year

£40 pays the rent on both centres for one week

£95 pays for one child to attend the GCare Centre for a year

Please continue overleaf
“Global Care’s heart is to support the poorest of the poor – those who face additional barriers to climbing out of poverty. In India, no-one faces more disadvantage than a Dalit child in a slum like Patripul, up against millennia of prejudice woven into the very fabric of society, as well as the daily fight to survive common to families in poverty worldwide.

“We are determined to continue to care for these children, despite the challenges we face. We are called to support the MOST vulnerable children, and in Patripul we are desperately needed.”

SIMON GEORGE  
DIRECTOR GCARE FOUNDATION, INDIA  
FORMER GLOBAL CARE SPONSORED CHILD

Patripul is home to 30,000 people, over 40% aged under 15. 
Although education up to middle school is compulsory, almost 50% of children in Patripul do not go to school.

Among those who do go to school, around 33% drop out before completing Class Five, and over 50% drop out before Class Eight. The dropout rate for girls is much higher.

Dalit children in school often cannot sit with other children, are forbidden to eat with other children, cannot drink clean water provided for children, and are forced to do manual labour, cleaning classrooms and toilets.
A child at the Grace Children’s Home in Myanmar became dangerously ill with diphtheria this summer.

Sam* came to Grace in 2012 with his four siblings, orphaned by rebel fighting in their home state of Kachin.

In July, Sam, now aged 11, was sent home from school, ill. His condition deteriorated that night and local doctors advised hospitalisation if he didn’t improve in two days. Our partners decided not to wait and took him to hospital the following morning.

The news was bad – Sam had diphtheria and needed life-saving surgery. With Sam desperately ill in hospital, two more children were admitted for observation, and a community doctor vaccinated staff and children at the home.

They were advised not to use the local lake – the suspected source of the infection – and told to destroy the children’s clothes and bedding.

Sam’s condition deteriorated further when his heart was affected by the disease, and he was transferred to Intensive Care, where he remained for three weeks. Thankfully he survived his ordeal, finally being discharged after almost a month in hospital.

Thanks to Global Care’s Medical Response Fund and Children@Risk funds, we have covered all Sam’s medical costs, and paid for the new bedding and clothing required at the home.

CEO John White says: “We are so thankful all ended well, and Sam is now fully recovered. However this story demonstrates yet again the value of our Children@Risk programme, including the Medical Response Fund, which allows us to respond instantly in a moment of crisis. We need to keep this provision topped up at all times, so we are keen to find new Children@Risk partners, people willing to give regularly to enable us to meet unexpected needs like this, or to cover shortfalls, or start new projects.”

Could you become a Children@Risk partner for just £3 per month? Or do you know someone who could support us in this way?

Find out more at www.globalcare.org/C@R

We have exceeded our initial target of £5,000 for this year’s Harvest Appeal, with donations at £7,456 when we went to print. With gifts still arriving in the office, we hope the final figure will be even higher!

Thanks so much to everyone who gave to the appeal, which aims to support a feeding programme for nursery pupils at Kahororo Primary School, a partner school in rural Rukungiri, Uganda.

Head of Operations Paul Rowell writes: “We’re delighted to be able to continue with this initiative, which has made such an impact on the school since we started a year ago. Kahororo Primary School serves a community of families making clay bricks, on very low incomes. When I first visited I remember wondering whether we would be able to overcome the sense of hopelessness, dejection and failure. At that time there were just 245 children at the school, but now, less than two years later, there are 444 children registered, and a real sense of hopefulness, in the teachers, children and in the community. Global Care could not have achieved this without the school and community, or without you our supporters, but together in partnership we are achieving something bigger than the sum of our individual contributions.”

The Harvest Appeal will allow us to continue this programme for a further three years. If enough additional gifts are received, we hope to begin a similar programme in another school.
Several of our international partners have had an exceptionally challenging year, and we would very much value your prayers on their behalf.

In particular, please pray for Mishack and Lydia, managers of the Houtberg Child Care Centre, in Zimbabwe, who lost both their adult daughters to childbirth-related problems within a month of each other earlier this summer. One of their sons died in a traffic accident three years ago, meaning only two of their five children are now living.

CEO John White met with them just weeks after this personal tragedy. He wrote:

"Some of the people who live locally are asking what Mishack and Lydia have done to deserve this? But Mishack says: ‘God is good and all He does is correct. We can never fully understand what God does, but we will not change’... I was so honoured to be with them for those few days and witness first hand these amazing people who love and trust God, even though they cannot understand what has happened to their daughters. They keep on doing what God has asked them to do, to look after the children who have no one else to look after them. Please continue to pray for them."

Please pray also for Joshua, director of the work in Yangon, Myanmar, whose wife Lal Siam Mawi has died following an unexplained illness. She had been seriously ill in hospital for several weeks, at one time slipping into a coma. Initially appearing to make a recovery, she suffered a relapse and went back into intensive care, passing away on Sunday 2nd October. Pray for Joshua, their adult son Sam, and other members of the family, that God will sustain them at this difficult time, including providing financially as the cost of her medical care has created significant financial stress.

Two other couples involved in our international work are also currently experiencing marital difficulties, to the great sadness of all those who know them.

Please pray for all our partners, who play an absolutely pivotal role in Global Care’s ministry and are key to our effectiveness. Pray for God’s blessing, provision, protection, encouragement and strength.

If you would like to receive our monthly Prayer Focus, keeping you up-to-date with these and other prayer requests, and equipping you to pray for us in an informed and structured way, please contact us on 030 030 21 030 or email info@globalcare.org

We prefer to distribute Prayer Focus by email to keep costs low, but can send out paper versions on request.
A
nother NGO is now taking over the funding of our first school, and we are opening a second, much larger, school with our partners, serving a different group of roadside camps.

The new Global Care shack school is twice the size of the existing one, serving up to 100 children from 150 refugee families in two roadside settlements.

With four classrooms instead of two, we can now ensure that all the children enrolled at the school can attend every day, rather than having classes operating on a shift basis to make use of the available space.

The site also includes space for a play area, a massive bonus for the children, who have such limited access to child-focussed opportunities in their daily life.

CEO John White writes: “With no end to the Syrian conflict in sight, it is important we help as many refugee children as possible, ensuring that although they have lost almost everything else, they don’t lose out on the life chances brought by education as well.”

Our goal is to see Syrian refugee children access a level of education which will enable them to return to school at an age-appropriate level on their eventual return to Syria. We believe this is the most effective way of supporting refugee children, giving them an incentive to remain in the region now and the capacity to contribute to the rebuilding of Syria when the time comes.

Have a look for yourself!
A superb new video showing our work in Lebanon is available at www.globalcare.org/lebanon
**Christmas Cards**

We have two designs available for our Global Care Christmas Cards this year – showing refugee children at our Shack School in Lebanon dressed for a traditional nativity production, and featuring children at Spurgeon’s Academy in Kibera, Kenya. Cards are sold in packs of 10, including envelopes, for a price of £3.49. Please make your order using the enclosed reply slip, or call 030 030 21 030.

Cards read inside left: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

Inside right: With all good wishes for Christmas and New Year!

**Design 1: Syrian refugee children**

**Design 2: Children from Kibera**

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**GLOBAL CARE NORTH EAST**

**An evening with JOHN ARCHER**

Top comedy magician John Archer is to perform a fundraising gig for Global Care in November, thanks to the efforts of volunteers in the Global Care North East group. The event will be held on Friday 25th November at 7.30pm, in the Stockton-on-Tees area, at The Synthonia Suite, Belasis Avenue, Billingham, TS23 1LH. Tickets will cost £10. John is a past winner of the ‘Magic Circle Stage Magician of the Year’ and one of the top comedy magicians currently performing in the UK. He has also written extensively for TV comedy. John is also a Christian. We are privileged to have him working with us, and we expect a great night out! Tickets cost £10. For further details and ticket sales, contact Phil Inch on 07791 326143.

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**STAFF NEWS**

**Donor Relations Coordinator Liz Haynes** left us in October after more than ten years of administering our child sponsorship scheme and supporting our donors. We are sure all of you who have spoken with her over the years will join us in our thanks to her for all her work, and wish her all the best in her new job! Please bear with us in a period of change as we look for her replacement.

We have also welcomed some new faces to the staff team. **Talla Fox** is our new Office Assistant, and **Anita White** has joined us as our Communications and Fundraising Officer, with particular responsibility for supporting volunteers. Anita is working alongside **Sara Ormes**, also now a Communications Officer. Sara has changed roles within Global Care to focus on a more creative role in the Communications team.

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**TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE MORE**

We would like to welcome CLIK into the Global Care family, a supporter group who have been involved with Spurgeon’s Academy, in Kibera, Kenya, over many years.

CLIK – Changing Lives in Kenya – has operated as an independent charity for some time, based in Northamptonshire. However organisers have now decided to join Global Care, as we are also major partners supporting Spurgeon’s Academy. Working together we all believe we can achieve more!

Head of Operations, Paul Rowell, said: “We are delighted to bring the CLIK team on board, as we know they are passionately committed to seeing the work in Kibera flourish. We look forward to working with them and seeing the amazing work of this school continue to develop.”

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*Names have been changed to protect the identity of children*