



It happened in Norfolk a month ago. 10,000 starfish were washed ashore on Holkham beach. Without water starfish only survive for a few hours. The story is told of a father and son were walking along a beach facing exactly this scene. As they walked, the boy picked up a starfish carried it to the waters edge and threw it in. As they walked he picked up another and threw that back into the water too. The dad speaking reasonably, rationally and logically said to the boy - these kind of events happen. It is part of nature. And anyway - there must be 10,000 starfish on this beach. In the grand scheme of things, what you are doing makes no difference. The little boy, with a starfish in his hand, and about to launch it back into the sea, replied. ***"It makes a difference to this one"***.



With a 24 hour newsfeed, we can feel overwhelmed with the scale of the worlds problems. War. Terrorism. Poverty. Injustice, Pollution. We can feel powerless and our efforts seem feeble and pointless. The father's argument was sound, and logical. But we need to side with the little boy. Where we can make a difference - we should make a difference. Family. Neighbours. Work. Social. Interests. These, like the five arms of a starfish, are some of the ways that our lives intersect with others.



The starfish challenge is build a bridge and get over it, in these five areas. Family. Neighbours. Work. Social. Interests



Ask God to help you identify one person in each group and begin praying for them. There were around 200 people at church this morning. If we are each praying for 5 people, that is 1000 people being prayed for and invited along.

family

neighbours

work

social

interests



Act. What can you do to build a bridge? Cleverness may win arguments; but kindness wins people. What act of kindness can we do to show that we care? Too much talking drives people away, but lots of listening draws them near. 1 Peter 3 says we should live in a way radiates hope, invites questions. Witnessing should be gentle and respectful.



Part 5 of the Starfish Challenge is to learn these words of Scripture

15 *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16* *keeping a clear conscience,*
1 Peter 3



The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. Proverbs 11:30

Invite. Choose from the huge range of WRC events and invite each person to something appropriate. Coffee on the Corner, Ladies Meeting, GirlsAllowed, Jazz Night, Mens Meeting, Family Service, First Steps, Harvest, Easter, Christmas, Helen Shapiro, Henry Olonga, Passover, World Cup, Christians in Sport Quiz, Blaze, 7UP, Tiddlywinks.



When you bring some body to church who doesn't normally attend, pin a star to the blue curtain at the back of the stage. This will be a graphic reminder of the Starfish Challenge. It will encourage us as more stars appear. And it will challenge us: - How many stars have I added?