

## ***"Make a Difference"***



**While walking down the beach one day, a man saw a young boy in the distance, leaning down and picking up something and tossing it into the ocean. As he came closer, he saw thousands of starfish the tide had thrown onto the beach. Unable to return to the ocean during low tide, the starfish were dying. He observed the boy picking up the starfish one by one and throwing them back into the ocean. After watching the seemingly futile effort, the man said, "There must be thousands of starfish on this beach. It would be impossible for you to save all of them. There are simply too many. You can't possibly save enough to make a difference." The young boy smiled as he picked up another starfish and tossed it back into the ocean. "It made a difference to that one," he replied. (This story is by an unknown author but illustrates the thought behind the following poem.)**

**Our prisons are full and victims cry out in pain,  
Families are left in shambles to bear the shame.  
For bad choices made by others, who knows why?  
The very young and the very old are left to cry.  
With parents gone to prison or strung out on drugs,  
The children are crying out for attention and hugs.  
What's wrong with this picture, we continue to ask,  
Can we make a difference in what seems a hopeless task?**

**We lay off teachers and we close up schools,**



**How will our children learn even the basic rules?**

**Seems everyone is thinking only of "me",**

**When will we learn what's plain to see.**

**"The cost of repairing an adult will far exceed,  
What it takes to build a child and meet his need."**

**While he is still young, let's do what we can,**

**Let's put the children first as we make our plan.**

**We can't do it all, we will hear them say,**

**But we can make a difference in one life today.**

**We can harden our heart when we hear their plea,**

**Or we can ask the question, "Could this be me?"**

**As children of God, give us a soft heart,**

**Let's heed the cries around us, let's do our part.**

***By Louise Hall***