

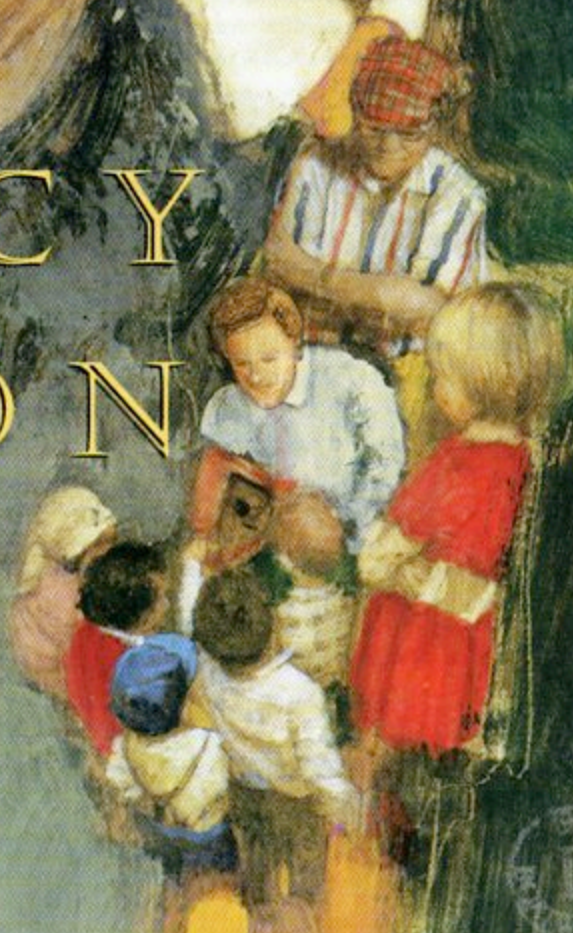
COMPASSION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1993

*Wally
Erickson*

*Wess
Stafford*

LEGACY
AND
VISION



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With mixed emotions of joy and sadness, Chairman of the Board Robert Kinney, along with Compassion International's Board of Directors, announce the appointment of Dr. Wess Stafford as President of Compassion International. Rev. Wallace Erickson, President of Compassion International for the past 18 years, has concluded his 26 year tenure at Compassion and proudly hands the presidency to Dr. Stafford. While also enjoying his retirement with his wife Mary, Erickson has been elected to serve as a Director on Compassion's Board.

The Leadership Legacy



Rev. Everett Swanson used his platform as an evangelist to launch what would become COMPASSION International. Swanson raised ongoing funds for Korean orphans by enlisting individuals in a one-to-one sponsorship program that could offer a child shelter, a Bible-based education, food, clothing, and medical care. Swanson's vision for ministry to Korean orphans drove COMPASSION from 1952 until his death in 1965.



Rev. Henry Harvey's 1966-1974 tenure as COMPASSION's president was marked by the expansion of COMPASSION's ministry beyond Korea into 17 new countries. Program changes expanded the range of COMPASSION's ministry to include needy children with one or both parents, as well as orphans. The School Project and Family Helper programs were established, and defined COMPASSION's approach to child development for years to come.



Dr. Wally Erickson became COMPASSION's president in 1975, and retires in the fall of 1993. Erickson's term has been one of remarkable growth while preserving the core values that make COMPASSION distinctive. The number of sponsored children has grown nearly six-fold. Programs have become even more responsive to children's developmental needs through the addition of non-formal education. COMPASSION withdrew from Korea, having successfully completed its mission there. A major effort to reach needy U.S. children was launched, bringing 40 years of overseas experience "home."



The son of missionary parents — and a mission field worker himself — Dr. Wess Stafford brings an exceptional background to his new role as President of COMPASSION International. Stafford grew up among the poor, and knows well their hopes and dreams for their children. With field experience, a Ph.D. in education, and his role as Executive Vice President for COMPASSION, Stafford is uniquely prepared to continue the legacy of COMPASSION International's leaders.

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COMPASSION International fosters the spiritual, physical, economic and social development of more than 180,000 children in 22 countries.

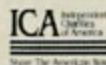
COMPASSION's purpose is to help sponsored children:

- *Be Christian in faith and deed.
- *Be responsible members of their families, churches and communities.
- *Support themselves and share with others in need.
- *Maintain their physical well-being.

COMPASSION International also ministers to caring people by:

- *Increasing their awareness of children's needs.
- *Offering a viable opportunity for response.
- *Extending to them a response of compassionate appreciation and love.

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FROM A VISION, A LEGACY

D

ear Friends,

When I left the last pastorate I served some years ago, many said I was "leaving the ministry."

The vision God had implanted in me went beyond what was considered "normal" boundaries of ministry at the time. To focus on children, to offer practical help as part of one's mission, and to empower local churches to do what they know is right in the eyes of God and their communities were progressive goals. But when I came to Compassion twenty-six years ago, I found others who shared that vision.

Vision put into action produced a legacy. Compassion's focus is still on children. Practical assistance combines with the Gospel to benefit children. It puts feet to the vision of local churches to meet needs in the name of Jesus in many countries of the world.

The legacy goes beyond saving life for life's sake. It develops children to be all God intended them to be — leaders, teachers, pastors, or parents.

I feel blessed to have inherited a legacy of integrity. Over the years, Compassion has continued to be blessed with a good name and a sound financial position — a legacy that continues to this day.

I feel blessed to be surrounded still by people who continually develop the vision we share for children. In Wess Stafford, God has given Compassion a leader uniquely ready to face the challenges of the years ahead. Our transition has been remarkably smooth, largely because of our shared vision and legacy.

I feel particularly blessed that Compassion has sponsors and donors like you. You understand better than most that humans have both physical and spiritual needs. You have supported Compassion in ministry to the whole child.

I'd be remiss if I didn't publicly thank God for allowing me to act on the vision He developed in my early years. I'm especially grateful that He gave me my wife, Mary, and our children who supported me — even at the price of extended physical

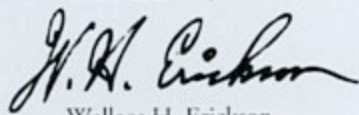
separation sometimes — while I took up the challenge of responding to God's call on my life.

Now people understand that, all those years ago when I came to Compassion, I really did "stay in the ministry." I'd do it all again.

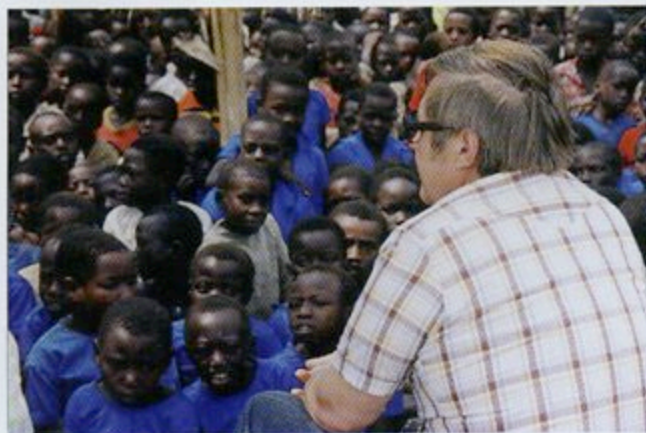
My prayers and support stay with Compassion. I'm confident that our vision will continue to develop. I believe the legacy left by the next generation of sponsors, donors, staff and leaders will outshine what is now.

That's how it should be. God bless you for your continued investment in His children.

Yours and His,



Wallace H. Erickson





A LEADER'S TOUCH

CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE TENURE OF COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT WALLY ERICKSON

Wally Erickson achieved the highest ranks in the scouting programs available to him as he grew up. Cub Scouts, Boy Scouting (yes, Wally's an Eagle Scout), Sea Scouting, and Explorers alike — Wally excelled in them all. — He's proud of that, and rightly so. But anyone who

has known Wally Erickson during his twenty-six-year stint at COMPASSION International will tell you Wally is much more than a "good scout."

"A major part of COMPASSION's legacy is that we have taken on the character and values of an amazing leader," Dr. Wess Stafford, who will succeed Wally Erickson as COMPASSION's president, recently reflected.



regional camps and the national Boy Scout camp in Philmont, New Mexico. Wally found himself leading camping groups, and even learning administration as the assistant director of the Philmont base camp.

"There's no chance in scouting for a leader to say,

'I'm not going to get my hands dirty.' You lead by coming alongside someone and working with them.

"It's a value I've carried with me all my life," Wally reflected.

REAL LEADERS GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY

BORN IN BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS, WALLY SPENT HIS EARLY childhood in rural Illinois and Missouri.

Ever industrious, Wally helped with farm chores, and raised rabbits and chickens. He carried water to threshing crews during the harvest seasons.

But Wally openly attributes his first lessons in leadership to scouting.

"Scouting taught me to accept the responsibility of looking after others," Wally said. "It emphasized to learn skills not just for yourself, but to help someone else."

When Wally's family moved from Missouri to Chicago, Wally continued to develop leadership skills in scouting through opportunities to work at both

COMMITTED TO THE CALL

WHEN WALLY GRADUATED FROM EAST ROCKFORD HIGH School in Rockford, Illinois, he hoped for a career in either professional scouting or forestry. He knew he'd need higher education to achieve his goals.

Michigan State University was the closest place that offered a degree in forestry, but the money for Wally to attend an out-of-state university just wasn't there. Philmont offered Wally a fulltime job that would have begun his career in professional scouting. Wally still desired to pursue higher education, though.

Wally's uncle was dean of men at Olivet



Nazarene College in Kankakee, Illinois, and encouraged Wally to begin college there. Wally would work his way through school as a lifeguard and swimming instructor.

During Olivet's annual fall revival meetings his freshman year, Wally Erickson responded to a public altar call and — in his words — was “wonderfully converted.”

“Everything was new,” Wally remembered. “I’d been a regular churchgoer, but meeting the Lord as a person changed everything. The Bible took on meaning. Prayer took on a new dimension. My emphasis shifted from the outdoors to serving others.

“By the end of my freshman year, I thought I might have a call to be a missionary. I thought my outdoor skills could take me to the ‘outback’ where no one else would want to go.”

Wally also found a lifetime partner at Olivet. Mary Johnson and Wally met during Wally’s freshman year, and married at the end of his junior year. Trained as a teacher, Mary began her career while Wally completed his studies at Olivet.

The Ericksons moved to Kansas City to pursue seminary studies after Wally’s graduation from Olivet. While there, Wally worked as an inspector for the Bendix Corporation on government contracts — and often found himself as a go-between caught in the crossfire of the government and the manufacturer.

“I learned how to read blueprints and to recognize tolerances at Bendix,” Wally said, “but most of all the experience gave me some real ‘starch’ and negotiating skills. I had to say ‘no’ to the manufacturer sometimes, and other times I had to stand up to the government buyers.”

After two years of seminary, Wally was ready to put the theory he’d learned into practice. Wally pastored a home mission church in Butler, Missouri, for two years. He was ordained in 1955, and finished seminary a year later.

Although Wally pursued the pastorate, he never gave up his missionary dream. After four successful pastorates, Wally critically reevaluated his life.

“Until then, I’d sort of allowed circumstances to dictate my course,” Wally reflected. “But when I began asking myself ‘What should I do?’ and seeking God’s guidance, I could see that the ministry God had for me might take a different course.

“My best gift was working with young people outside a formal church setting. I enjoyed utilizing my outdoor skills with them. I knew I could communicate the Gospel message to kids by showing it as well as telling it. It was a different approach than the traditional pulpit.”

When Wally left the pastorate to pursue his vision of Christian work with children,

many of his peers called it “leaving the ministry.”

Wally didn’t leave the ministry. He simply redefined it.

COMPASSION International would never be the same because of it.

LESSONS APPLIED

THE ERICKSONS IMMEDIATELY SOUGHT TO FIND THE PLACE WHERE WALLY could exercise his vision for ministry to children. While they searched, they ran camps and conferences for their denominational district.

Wally developed a proposal to put his vision into action working with Native American youth. He eventually presented that proposal to COMPASSION International.

COMPASSION was impressed with Wally and the proposal, but had nothing available among Native Americans at the time. Still, COMPASSION offered Wally a staff position. Sensing the potential to work with others who shared a similar vision for ministry, Wally joined COMPASSION in 1967.

“The real philosophy of a person is hammered out on the anvil of life,” Wally recounted. “Scouting taught me that real leaders get their hands dirty. Being a lifeguard brought home that others’ lives can depend on my actions. The Bendix experience taught me negotiation and attention to detail. The pastorate reminded me that ministry carries with it both great satisfaction and significant pressure.

“During my time with COMPASSION, it seems I’ve lived out all the preparation of my early years. God used my life experience to develop leadership skills I’ve drawn on ever since.”

Soon after Wally came to COMPASSION, he was appointed to be its first country director. The Ericksons moved their family to Korea, where Wally spent four years reorganizing and upgrading COMPASSION’s impact there.

For a time after coming home from Korea, Wally worked at COMPASSION headquarters in assignments. He became familiar with the mechanics of handling foreign and sponsor correspondence before taking on the challenge of opening COMPASSION

projects in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America as Field Director of those areas.

Wally believed a new approach would best meet the needs of children in the countries he served. In 1973, COMPASSION introduced the School Project Program under Wally's direction. It focused on providing children the opportunity to be educated. In a decade, it became COMPASSION's most-utilized program of service to children, and is still in effect today. This type of child sponsorship pays for benefits that could include teachers' salaries, books, supplies, school clothing, medical care, and supplemental nutrition.

Wally became Executive Vice President of Operations in June 1974. One year later, he succeeded Rev. Henry Harvey as President of COMPASSION International.

"Wally learned the ropes of COMPASSION's ministry on the field with widows and orphans," Wess Stafford said. "That practical experience tied with his pastor's heart has kept children from being looked at as mere numbers by anyone at COMPASSION who has worked with him."

"Anyone who has worked with COMPASSION never really gets away from the joy of seeing a child benefit from the work," Wally affirmed. "There's nothing that can get it out of your system."

The result has been consistently creative approaches on the field to improve COMPASSION's outreach to children. The addition of a non-formal education element to COMPASSION's work, guided by Dr. Don Miller, is a particular joy to Wally.

"When non-formal education became an emphasis for us in the past decade, I thought, 'Wow! That's how I learned best. Hands-on!'" Wally said. "Non-formal education planted us firmly on the side of development in the family of relief and development agencies."

The number of sponsored children has grown dramatically under Wally Erickson's direction. COMPASSION-sponsored children numbered 27,000 in 1975. By 1982, the number had more than doubled to 68,000 children. In 1987, 106,000 children were sponsored through COMPASSION.

Today, COMPASSION and its sponsors are supporting more than 180,000 children in 23 countries across the world.

Wally Erickson developed a series of position statements as he made his decision to move from pastoral ministry into a different kind of ministry. Each statement is a gem in itself, but one of the most telling is one Wally uses to keep perspective for himself and those around him.

It shows there is nothing false about Wally Erickson's humility when he talks about COMPASSION's success. The statement is as real for him today as when he wrote it thirty years ago: "The Lord always helps us do His will. It is not our ability but God's hand that brings achievement."

"COMPASSION is an organization that has changed profoundly in the last two decades," Wess Stafford remarked. "Yet it maintained its core values under Wally's leadership."

"Wally is given to excellence and integrity. We'll be looking back and finding Wally's touch on this organization for many, many years."

Wally and Mary Erickson will retire to Arizona this fall. Wally will continue to serve on COMPASSION's Board of Directors. ■

THE COMPASSION CORPORATE ENDOWMENT FUND

**A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM DR. WALLY ERICKSON,
COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, 1975-1993.**

A PREACHER ONCE SAID, "LIVE AS THOUGH JESUS IS COMING BACK tonight. Plan as though we have a thousand years left to multiply His redeemed to do His work."

It's a question of balance. For generations, farmers have taken part of the harvest and saved some apart to become next year's seed. It's not a lack of faith in God's ongoing provision. It's common sense.

I believe that Jesus could return at any moment. I also believe it's simply good stewardship to have some resources in reserve for future use.

That's the idea behind COMPASSION's Corporate Endowment Fund.

ENDOWMENT FUND BENEFITS

A HEALTHY ENDOWMENT FUND WILL BENEFIT CHILDREN IN THREE WAYS.

First, we intend to have the Endowment Fund cover part, and eventually all, of COMPASSION's operating costs. That's a thrilling possibility. It would mean at least a higher percentage of every sponsorship dollar would directly benefit the children we serve.

Second, an Endowment Fund can be used to acquire long-term capital assets like land and buildings. That will enable COMPASSION to remain debt-free even as our needs continue to grow.

Third, a growing Endowment Fund acts as a hedge against inflation. As economies change, the cost of child development grows simply through inflation. A developed Endowment Fund would allow COMPASSION to absorb some or all of the financial impact before having to ask sponsors to increase their contribution just to maintain the quality of our program. Children would be protected from economic instability.

HELP THE FUND GROW

AN ENDOWMENT FUND WORKS BEST WHEN GOOD PEOPLE — LIKE you — have both a vision for the future and a burden for stewardship. Your gift can help the COMPASSION Endowment Fund make a difference in children's lives now and for years to come.

There are two ways you can contribute to the Fund.

First, you can contribute to the Fund today through a special gift. Simply designate in writing that your gift to COMPASSION International is for the "Operations Endowment Fund" and it will be credited to that account.

Second, you may leave a gift through your will or an insurance policy.

Please call our Planned Giving department at 1-800-336-7540 for more information.

God bless you as you provide resources today for tomorrow's children. ■

THERE ARE NO *Disposable* PEOPLE

MEET COMPASSION'S INCOMING PRESIDENT, DR. WESS STAFFORD

A BROAD RANGE OF EXPERIENCE HAS CONVINCED Wess Stafford that people are a priceless resource.

Wess grew up among the people to whom he now ministers. Wess' childhood was spent among the poor in Africa's Ivory Coast. He heard the dreams and hopes of the children there as he grew up with them. Wess pursued his secondary education among Native American and Mexican students in the southwestern United States before graduating from Wheaton Christian Academy in Illinois.

Following his missionary parents' commitment to the poor, Wess developed into an advocate for children who have no voice. While a Moody Bible Institute student in Chicago in the mid-1960's, Wess spearheaded literacy and recreation programs among disadvantaged inner city youth. Later Wess represented a consortium of relief and development agencies as a field worker in Haiti.

Haiti has special memories for Wess. Not only was it the site of Wess' first field assignment as an adult, it was also where he married his wife Donna.

"We were married in a chapel in Port-au-Prince," Wess recalled. "Donna has a heart for the poor. She'd lived in Haiti, and she'd sponsored a child there."

Living internationally made Wess fluent in several languages. Degrees from Moody, Biola University, and Wheaton College fed the pursuit of his passion for "people development," culminating in Wess earning a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in Nonformal Education. That pursuit also led to employment with COMPASSION International.

"COMPASSION's philosophy of development dovetailed with



everything my experience told me was true," Wess reflected. "To preserve the dignity of those being helped, to focus on empowering people by equipping them rather than 'doing for them,' and to enhance cultures through discipling children — it was a perfect match."

Wess has been with COMPASSION both overseas and at headquarters for 16 years. Wess has been COMPASSION's Executive Vice President for several years, and has also been its Chief Operations Officer for the past year.

"My greatest joys have been on the field," Wess reflected. "Overall, it's clear that God orchestrated my life to this moment. Because I do what I do,

hundreds are able to do the direct work with children I would love to do.

"Part of the reason Donna and I appreciate COMPASSION so much is for the impact being sponsors is having on our family. Our children, Jenny and Katie, pray for each of the our sponsored children by name every night. Jenny, who is ten, recently took on the sponsorship of a little girl in Brazil about her age.

"Sponsorship is creating compassionate hearts in my children. It puts them in touch with children not much different than the children I grew up with in Africa.

"This is as close as I can come to showing them how I grew up among the poor. This is one way to show them the truth that, in God's economy, there are no disposable people.

"I believe in COMPASSION," Wess affirmed. "COMPASSION is child-focused. We're developmental by nature. We are profoundly Christian. We've been told we'd be better off without mentioning the name of Jesus in our promotion, but that's not who we are.

"I see no reason to waver from that." ■

CARRYING THE LEGACY FORWARD

D

ear Friends,

I grew up in a tiny village called Nielle in the Ivory Coast of Africa. My parents were missionaries there.

My father took me everywhere as he worked. He made me feel indispensable. He let me build a house with him when I was six. He let me teach reading. Dad was ahead of his time; he cared for both the physical and spiritual needs of those he served.

Dad taught me to respect the poor. He modeled ministry. He showed me how to understand the poor by working alongside them.

I'm glad he did. I learned my most important lessons from Dad, and from the poor. I learned joy has nothing to do with circumstances. I learned that time should be a friend and not a master.

I also learned that the only real difference between myself and the children with whom I grew up was opportunity.

I knew my young friends' dreams, hopes and aspirations. I felt — and it was true — that they were my superiors in many ways. I was the slowest runner and the worst with a slingshot in Nielle.

Even so, I had opportunities they did not have. Education, vaccinations and a firm understanding of the Gospel combined to make my life radically different from theirs.

To this day, when someone talks about children dying, I remember names and faces of childhood friends who died. My heart was broken by poverty and its effects. I didn't know poverty was at the root of my friends dying then, but as I grew up, I understood better.

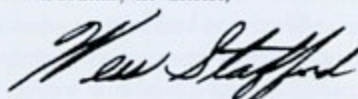
So when I heard of organizations like COMPASSION who intervened for needy children, I rejoiced. I rejoiced even more to discover, some fifteen years ago now, that COMPASSION is developmentally- focused and profoundly Christian.

I'm not here to start my own legacy, but to carry on COMPASSION's. This organization is so aligned with my life experience and values that, if it didn't exist, I'd have to go out and start it. Thankfully, I don't have to.

We live in a changing world. There are always new challenges to meet for the sake of the children. What I know is this: where COMPASSION touches lives, what happened to too many of my little friends in Nielle years ago won't happen to children today.

I rejoice in COMPASSION's legacy, and thank you for sharing in the vision to touch the world's children with the love of Jesus Christ.

Cordially in Christ,



Dr. Wesley K. Stafford



BY MONICA WHITING

KNOWING *when your work is* DONE

COMPASSION'S WORK IN KOREA ENDS ON A POSITIVE NOTE



The Swansons with Korean orphans, 1960

COMPASSION had poured more than four decades of love, effort, and discipleship into the lives of children in Korea. The ministry's work and vision originated there.

➤ It was a hard decision to say farewell. ➤ “As an organization we had to ask some tough questions,” recalls Dr. Wess Stafford. “What brought us to Korea in the

first place? What needs were we there to address? What resources and training were required? And most importantly, what would life for the children be like if we weren't there?”

In 1952 war orphans lined Korea's streets. Evangelist Everett Swanson, founder of COMPASSION International, was heartbro-

ken at what he saw. Trucks made daily rounds in the mornings, picking up children who had frozen to death on the streets during the night. Children who survived were desperate.

Orphans had become a burden to society. There were no local infrastructures that were willing to reach out to them. The church

was almost non-existent. The country's economy was in trouble. The average Korean family earned a paltry \$67 a year. There was a vital need, spiritually and physically, for a ministry like COMPASSION.

"When we started in Korea in 1952, we assembled children's homes," said Stafford. "We provided funds and the program, which in turn provided resources and developmental opportunities that equipped Korean Christians to reach out to children. In the early days nearly 80 percent of the funds used to maintain the homes — to keep the children alive and to provide developmental opportunities for the children — came from us."

COMPASSION focused its effort on Korean orphans until 1968 when it became apparent that there were a number of children and families who needed help. Some parents were so desperate that they were willing to give their children up and enroll them in a COMPASSION-supported orphanage.

Dividing the family was not COMPASSION's intention. A Family Helper Program was implemented. From here, COMPASSION made yet another change in its program. COMPASSION began partnering with local churches which in turn administered COMPASSION's developmental program. The local church provided children with an education, Bible lessons, medical care, food, clothing and love. Children and their families saw Korean Christians putting their faith into action.

In 1993 the result of Everett Swanson's vision is quite evident. Through the ministry's 41 years of ministry in Korea, more than \$40,000,000 has been given by caring sponsors to benefit the needs of Korean children.

Kim Hyuk, now a 28-year-old evangelist in southern Seoul, is one of the many formerly sponsored children who has benefited from COMPASSION's work in Korea.

At the age of nine, Kim's mother could no longer provide for her son, so Kim was enrolled in a COMPASSION-assisted program. For the next 13 years, Kim received food, clothing, an education, the Gospel and love. He had a loving sponsor in Wisconsin who faithfully wrote to him. They encouraged him to be a servant of the Lord, and to help others in need.

Kim is one of 300 formerly sponsored Korean children currently in Christian ministry.

IN THE 1960S, SEOUL, KOREA, HAD PRIMARILY DIRT ROADS. THERE WERE only two bridges for people to get across the river which runs through the capital's heart. Today, the city is an architectural masterpiece. Dirt roads are only a memory. Some 21 bridges span the river. The skyline is filled with skyscrapers, shopping malls, and even an amusement park.

"Korea has prospered amazingly in the past four decades," said Stafford. "It was confirmation to us that our timing to leave Korea was right. Korea can help its own."

Proof of Korea's economic growth is a 1992 per capita income of \$6,749. Support needed from COMPASSION to provide opportunities to underprivileged children had fallen to 2.2 percent. The government was meeting about 80 percent of the financial needs of projects and homes. The Korean church provided additional funding.

Stafford cites first that one of the major components to Korea's success is the influx of the Gospel, welcomed by many

South Koreans as a viable option to communism.

"Former Korean administrations would most certainly credit the growth of the church for a part of Korea's success, as well as the country's commitment to development," agreed Kim Yung Ju, who headed up COMPASSION's work in Korea since its inception.

The Korean government has recognized COMPASSION's work by bestowing honors on its leaders. Most recently, Dr. Wally Erickson was recognized with "The Order of the Magnolia," an award given to civilians who render distinguished service to Korea in a specific field — like child development.

It's important to note that although the Korean government does not officially 'endorse' Christianity, they also make a point to not interfere with Christian teaching. Thus, in COMPASSION-assisted homes and programs the government supports, government funds are used solely for staff salary, food, clothing and other temporal needs the children may have. The homes and programs provide Christian training through church funding.

During a recent visit to Korea in May to finalize COMPASSION's work, the growth and impact of the Korean church was evident.

"I walked into a church and saw bags of rice lined up in the lobby," said Stafford. "Church members were collecting food to help those in the Philippines. And then, I later learned that a formerly sponsored child is now a missionary to Kansas.

"These were yet further confirmations that COMPASSION's work was done. The church has grown strong. It was time for the 'missionary,' us, to claim victory and walk away."

Second, Stafford credits Koreans for being committed to the development of their people, and most importantly, to their children. Education was, and still is, considered crucial to a child's well-being.

"Any country that will take the development of its children seriously is on the road to recovery," said Stafford.

"COMPASSION has discontinued work in a number of countries in the past, but this is the first time in 41 years that we've pulled out because our ministry is no longer essential.

"We will cherish the roots and memories of our COMPASSION family in Korea," Stafford concluded, "and we celebrate the fact that our ultimate goal has been accomplished — the discipleship and empowering of children and people to provide for themselves." ■



Kim Hyuk (right) with his wife in a Seoul park



Miriame Julus

A DREAM
F u l f i l l e d

MIRIAME JULUS' CHILDHOOD DREAM OF BEING A NURSE IS A REALITY.

THE LESSON: SPONSORSHIP WORKS

by Janice Cooper, R.N., La Gonave, Haiti

There is a hushed tension in the air. All eyes are focused downward. Masked figures dart quietly around the operating room. ➤ “Scalpel.” A gloved hand reaches for a tray of gleaming instruments and instantly offers the surgeon the scalpel. ➤ “Hemostat...suction...suture.” With each command, surgical nurse Miriame Julus goes into action quickly and with precision. ➤ Finally the tension eases.

The patient is out of danger. A life has been saved thanks to the Wesleyan Hospital of La Gonave Island, Haiti.

Miriame Julus removes her gloves, mask, and sterile garb and makes her way home after a tiring day in the O.R.

As a child, Miriame watched the missionary nurses come and go from the mission clinic near her home in northern Haiti. Her father was the mission compound's maintenance man. Her mother was the cook.

Miriame heard stories of the people who came to the clinic for help, and of the nurses who labored endlessly to help them. She dreamed of becoming a nurse.

But there was no nursing school near her. And, even if there was, her family could never afford the high tuition.

Still, Miriame held on to her dream.

When the missionaries who had run the compound announced they were moving to another part of Haiti, they asked Miriame's parents to come with them.

The idea upset Miriame. La Gonave was an island 12 miles from the Haitian mainland. It was accessible only by sailboat. La Gonave was known to be a hard place to live.

But after much prayer, Miriame's parents agreed to follow the missionaries to La Gonave, where Miriame was able to continue her schooling.

One day a stranger came to Miriame's school. He told the children there about people far away who cared for them, and would help support them as they went to school.

The stranger represented COMPASSION International. Miriame learned the name of her sponsor that day, and went home with the exciting news.

Miriame's sponsor, Mrs. Henry Rach of Benton Harbor, Michigan, wrote Miriame regularly. Miriame began to count Mrs. Rach as a friend, and worked hard in school to please both her family and her sponsor.

“Mrs. Rach was a widow with two young children at home,” Miriame said. “She wrote often and sent pictures of herself and her children. Her letters and encouragement made me feel like a part of their lives.

“My sponsor constantly asked me how I was doing spiritually. Every single letter encouraged me.”

The move to La Gonave brought one unexpected blessing to Miriame: the mission compound there not only had a clinic, but also a training hospital where she could pursue her dream of becoming a nurse!

At 19, Miriame applied to the nursing school and was accepted. She tackled her studies with enthusiasm, continuing to receive sponsorship and personal support from Mrs. Rach.

Days were hard in nursing school. Miriame had seen the suffering of her people before, but not quite in this way. Miriame was confirmed in her thinking that she could serve God and those around her by becoming a nurse.

Graduation day marked the completion of a long-held goal for Miriame. Her family, sponsor, nursing instructors, and COMPASSION staff were in Miriame's thoughts as she raised her right hand and recited the Florence Nightingale Pledge.

But that's not the end of the COMPASSION connection with Miriame Julus.

Miriame was hired by the COMPASSION-related Wesleyan Hospital on La Gonave where she was trained. But soon after, she discovered she was suffering from diabetes. A cataract formed over one of Miriame's eyes as a result.

Cataract surgery isn't done in Haiti. Without that surgery, though, Miriame's limited eyesight would have forced her to quit nursing.

But the missionaries on La Gonave contacted COMPASSION and the sponsor who had helped Miriame as a child. Together, they coordinated a plan to save Miriame's eyesight.

A fund was set up to cover Miriame's expenses. A U.S. visa was obtained for Miriame. St. Luke's Eye Institute in Port Ritchie, Florida, agreed to do the surgery at a greatly reduced rate.

A RETIRED MISSIONARY COUPLE PICKED UP MIRIAME AT THE FLORIDA airport and drove her to the hospital for the surgery. After the operation, they took Miriame to their home for recuperation.

Miriame returned to Haiti two weeks after the surgery. With glasses — also paid for with Compassion funds — Miriame's vision is 20/20.

Miriame continues to learn on the job. Although Miriame's favorite place is the operating room, she also teaches health and is an excellent midwife.

Midwifery brought Miriame a special blessing some years ago. Judith was three months premature when Miriame delivered her. Judith's mother was sick with typhoid and died immediately after giving birth to Judith. Since Judith had no family to take her, Miriame legally adopted her. Despite her premature birth, Judith is a healthy, happy seven-year-old today.

I've been privileged to watch and help teach Miriame over the past nine years. I am proud of her and her accomplishments. Miriame loves the Lord and is faithful in her local church.

And I am grateful to COMPASSION International for helping to make it all possible.

Miriame Julus is a shining example that sponsorship works! ■

CHRISTINE MARTINEZ WAS ONE OF THE FIRST STUDENTS TO RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP SOLELY FROM COMPASSION'S U.S. Scholarship Fund. Christine's family moved from Belize in Central America to south central Los Angeles over a decade ago. Christine became involved in the P.F.



Bresee Youth Foundation, where she was recommended to receive a COMPASSION scholarship. As part of the scholarship, Christine spent three summers as a Bresee intern. Having graduated with a B.A. in Recreation from Northwest Nazarene College this spring, Christine will be a recreational therapist in Boise, ID, where she was married in July to Brian Ramond.

IT HAD BEEN A ROUGH NIGHT AT WORK FOR Bismarck, MO police officer Jerry Hicks. SO when his dispatcher told him someone was waiting to meet him in the middle of town, Officer Hicks didn't know exactly what to think. He cautiously pulled up to the pickup truck that the dispatcher had told him about. The pickup's driver got out, approached Officer Hicks, and said, "Are you Jerry Hicks? Are you the volunteer for COMPASSION? I just decided I

want to sponsor a kid. Can you help?" Officer Jerry Hicks enrolled the man as a sponsor on the spot. Always looking for opportunities to share about COMPASSION's work, Jerry carries child packets with him wherever he goes.



AMONG THE NINE COMPASSION PROJECTS IN THE JUNGLES OF ECUADOR, THERE ARE USUALLY around two dozen annual cases of snakebite. Equis — pit vipers ranging in size from 0.3 to 3 meters — bit six COMPASSION project children, 15 other family members, and two children in the project communities. Quick treatment is critical to recovery from snakebite. That's why COMPASSION's Gifts-in-Kind and Hunger/Health Fund personnel make it a priority to keep those projects stocked with anti-venom kits, spending \$3521 to purchase 25 kits this spring, as well as providing delivery of the kits. It's another way COMPASSION funds work to complement child sponsorship.... Alcon Laboratories executives Fred Aebi and Andrew Lubano recently visited COMPASSION headquarters in Colorado Springs to discuss COMPASSION's mission and how gifts-in-kind can help. Alcon produces ophthalmic products for surgery and eye care, and has donated for than \$1,000,000 in products to COMPASSION over the last nine years. It's the first time executives of a donor company have visited COMPASSION headquarters.

Top: Christina Martinez at her 1993 college graduation.

Above: Officer Jerry Hicks.

Mark it on your calendar: *October 31 is the deadline for COMPASSION to receive money for Christmas gifts to sponsored children. Why money and not packages? Shipping and customs charges for packages would often cost many times more than the package contents. The entire amount you send for a gift will be used by project staff to purchase an appropriate gift or two for your sponsored child. Your gift will make this Christmas memorable for the child you sponsor.*

"Don't pass them by," Phil Keaggy reminds "Crimson and Blue" tour audiences



PHIL KEAGGY HAS SEEN THE RESULTS OF COMPASSION'S CHILD DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRSTHAND, most recently on a trip to Ecuador.

"It's overwhelming to see the conditions that people in countries like Ecuador live in," Phil recently reflected. "It causes you to become vulnerable...it causes you to re-evaluate...it challenges your lifestyle, your faith and your walk."

Keaggy's own vulnerability shines in concert and on recordings. His passion to help the needy in the name of Jesus is captured in "Don't Pass Me By" from his recent release, *Crimson and Blue*. The song challenges its hearers not to ignore a suffering world, but rather to give ourselves to those in need.

The Keaggy family has done just that for years through COMPASSION sponsorship. Phil has used his musical platform to tell thousands about COMPASSION's work, and his eyewitness accounts of it.

"There's this great expression of hope on the faces of children involved in COMPASSION, and even a greater appreciation on the faces of parents," Keaggy said. "They are the ones who know the difference of having opportunities and not. They know that where there is not the Kingdom of God and ministries like COMPASSION, there is no hope."

Crimson and Blue is enjoying both Christian and mainstream acclaim. The Phil Keaggy Band's fall tour promises to be a treat for those who enjoy both sensitive lyrics and guitar virtuosity. We encourage you to support Phil and other COMPASSION-related artists this fall as they continue their efforts on behalf of needy children. ■

PHIL KEAGGY BAND TOUR

September

- 15 Albuquerque, NM
- 16 Phoenix, AZ
- 17 Colorado Springs, CO
- 18 Denver, CO
- 23 Grand Rapids, MI
- 24 Detroit, MI
- 25 Upland, MI

October

- 7 Springfield, MO
- 8 Wichita, KS
- 9 Kansas City, MO
- 10 St. Louis, MO
- 21 Tulsa, OK
- 22 Oklahoma City, OK
- 23 Sioux Falls, SD
- 29 Minneapolis, MN

November

- 11 Cincinnati, OH
- 12 Cincinnati, OH
- 13 Akron, OH
- 18 Virginia
- 19 Hagerstown, MD
- 20 Washington, DC
- 26 Trenton, NJ
- 27 Pittsburgh, PA
- 28 Lancaster, PA

Patsy Moore will be appearing with Phil on select dates.

Dates subject to change without notice.

TURN YOUR VISION INTO A LEGACY



Sponsors are a vital part of COMPASSION's legacy.

Each sponsor's vision to help children in the name of Jesus has become action on behalf of a child.

That action gives that special child access to education, health care, food, perhaps even job training — those things that will help a child make a lasting mark in this life. Even more important, that child has the opportunity to respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which can turn a sponsor's investment into an eternal legacy.

If you have a vision to make life better for one needy child, COMPASSION can help you make that vision into a legacy. Our sponsors have built legacies

of hope for half a million children since we began.

But the legacy continues to be built one child at a time, as one more caring person like you becomes a sponsor.

Just \$24 a month (\$48 to assist a U.S. child) of your support will bring the benefits of COMPASSION sponsorship to a child in need. You can provide personal encouragement to the child you sponsor through correspondence and prayer. You'll receive regular reports on your child's development.

And make no mistake — you'll be leaving a legacy in one child's life that could make the difference between being a success or a statistic.

Please fill out the coupon below to find out more.

YES, I'd like to sponsor a child in need.

- I'd like to help a child overseas. The cost is \$24 monthly.
 I'd like to help a child in the United States through a scholarship to a Christian school. The cost is \$48 monthly.

Please select a child for my consideration and send his/her photo, personal story, and complete sponsorship details.

- I'm ready to begin today. Please send me all the information about the child I'll be helping, along with full sponsorship details. My first support payment is enclosed for:
 \$24 for one month (\$48 for U.S.) \$72 for three months (\$144 for U.S.)
 \$288 for one year (\$576 for U.S.)

(Please print) Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____

Current sponsor number (if applicable): _____

Sponsorship is tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to:

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INTERNATIONAL

3955 Cragwood Drive, P.O. Box 7000, Colorado Springs, CO 80933.

Or call toll-free: 1-800-336-7676.

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