

# COMPASSION



January-February, 1972

Special report on the  
Southwest Indian School

# Southwest Indian School

An interview with John Miller

Compassion's newest field of service is located right here in North America. For nearly a year, we have been seeking sponsors for Indian students who are attending the Southwest Indian School near Phoenix, Arizona.

Sponsorship is on a \$36.00 per month basis. A sponsorship can be split among three persons or fully underwritten by one sponsor.

There are more than 120 students at the school right now, attending grades two through twelve. The superintendent of the World Gospel Mission-operated institution is John Miller, a life-long educator and former missionary in Haiti. Miller, his wife Peggy, and a staff of nearly 50 persons have dedicated themselves to providing a meaningful educational program for American Indian children.

During a recent visit to the school, we obtained the following interview with Mr. Miller, who is a native of Dearborn, Michigan.

## 1. What is the purpose of the South-

west Indian School?

Its main purpose is to train Indian children to be the kind of witnesses that can go back to the reservations and win their own people for Jesus Christ.

## 2. Have many students have already accomplished their goal?

Yes, we have had many go on to college, graduate, and then go back to the reservations. Some of them are teaching in local schools that are government supported, but they also have ample opportunity to work with the local churches.

## 3. Do all of them return to their respective reservations?

No, some go into social work. They find that reservation officials will support them if they do social work, but they also use every opportunity to witness for Christ.

## 4. Tell us about your staff.

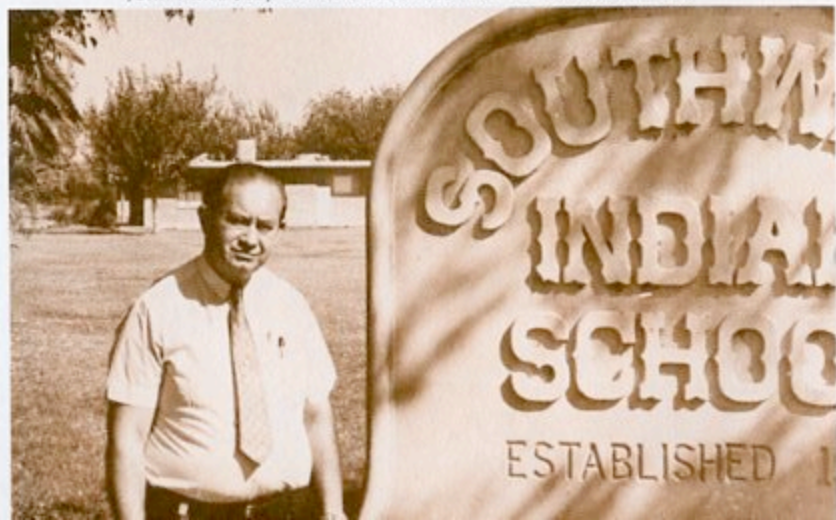
We have a group of 25 persons who have been appointed by the World Gospel Mission. They receive a small salary.

We have just about that many



Karen Walema, second grade

John Miller, superintendent of the Southwest Indian School



more who are volunteers . . . most of them are senior citizens now living on social security or some other income. These older people give of themselves wholeheartedly to do the work of the mission field. We could not operate long without the aid of these volunteers.

## 5. What is your reason for not having first grade?

We have had first grade and kindergarten classes; but then we began to expand, in an effort to reach the older children. We had to trim somewhere in order to expand . . . by cutting those two classes we were able to enroll more high school students.

## 6. Most of the children come from reservations in Arizona, but where

## do some of the others reside?

Yes, we do have students from other places. We have them from New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and California. Not all of them come from reservations . . . sometimes we find that their parents have moved away from the reservation into the cities.

## 7. How do these children hear about the school?

They hear about it from other children who have been here. We do not need to advertise. We have to turn some children away because we are limited in our facilities.

## 8. What are the names of some of the tribes represented here now?

We have children from 17 differ-



*Roland Smallcanyon, Navajo third grader*



*Indians are enthusiasts for sports.*



*Charlene Hill is a new second grader.*

ent tribes here now. The largest group is Navajo, and the second largest group is Papago, then come the Apache. There is a long list of other tribal children.

**9. Is there still a strong tribal feeling . . . do these children still stick by themselves quite a bit?**

We have always had strong tribal feelings, but more in the past than right now. That type of thing is fading out. We are seeing on campus more friendship groups composed of mixed tribes, but Indians have been most clannish.

**10. Do these children go back to their homes during summer vacation?**

Yes, they go home in May and stay until late August. In addition, they also are excused for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Parents also may visit their children at the school after the students have completed six weeks of school. In addition, students who maintain themselves scholastically may go home for a weekend once a month.

**11. We hear much these days about**

**drugs and other juvenile delinquency problems . . . do you have these problems?**

Yes, we have had some problems with drugs on campus. But as soon as we find out about it, we clean it up. This year we have not had anything like that and I really don't look for it. Our present student body is of the type that is not likely to get into that kind of problem. We do accept some children from the juvenile authorities of California and Arizona, and we have found them to be real jewels in our student body. One of our most outstanding students right now is a court case.

**12. Do the students pay tuition?**

Yes, they do. They are charged \$100.00 per year. In many cases, the parents pay the tuition. Sometimes we can find people who will pay it.

**13. Does the money you receive from Compassion cover tuition?**

No, it does not. The school must raise part of the money for tuition. It costs about \$400.00 per student per year. Compassion is undertaking to raise the \$300.00 that the school

must raise. Your money is being used to buy books, supplies, some food, and right now it is helping to support a teacher. Compassion's help, which is on a continuing basis, is at work even though the student may be home during summer vacation.

**14. Are there some children in school right now who may not have had the opportunities of a Christian education if Compassion had not come along?**

Yes, that is true. We do have quite a number of students in that category. In fact, we could not have commenced eighth grade this year if it were not for Compassion's help. In a sense, you are paying the salary of a teacher that we have hired. There are 13 pupils in eighth grade, and their teacher is Donald Emmerett, who came to us from the State of Oregon.

**15. We understand there has been a problem with children leaving for summer vacation and not returning in the fall. Is that a major problem?**

Yes, this is a big problem. It is rather typical of the Indian to want to change schools each year, and

many of the parents who have not had an education do not see anything wrong with this practice. They will switch from school to school, not only during summer time, but even during the school season. I am hoping that we can teach them the value of staying in one place. In order to firmly instruct them in Christian principles, we need several years with them.

**16. What if a sponsor should wish to visit his child here . . . what arrangements should be made?**

Sponsors should write to Compassion, or to me, in advance of the visit.

**17. Could sponsors visit a reservation?**

This is not too likely. Even our own staff do not go to a reservation without an invitation from the parent . . . unless we have the children with us. If a sponsor came and took his child to the reservation with him in order to meet his parents, such a visit might be in order.

**18. We trust that you are encouraging the children to write letters to**



*A spoonful of medicine for Karen Walema.*

**their sponsors . . . Are the children good letter writers?**

No, although we do sit down with them once a month and help them. They do find it rather difficult to write. They all speak and write English, but it is their second language. Their tribal language is number one . . . they use it mostly at home. Here we use English only because we have many tribes represented.

**19. You have some great expansion plans underway . . . you already have a new girls dorm and there is going to be a new campus here too?**

On our property to the north we are going to build an entirely new high school. For years we have had all grades mixed together . . . this has created special problems. The first building will be a classroom building.

**20. You also have a beautiful new chapel.**

Yes, we are grateful for it! It is something that we never dreamed would be possible. A lady who came to visit us, gave us the property . . . the McDonald Foundation gave us a



*Roy Walters, a Navajo second grader, studies God's Word.*

grant that made the chapel possible.  
**21. I am sure you would like to see all your children sponsored and the sooner the better!**

Yes, we could do a great deal for these children if such were the case. We have dedicated our lives to serving these dear Indian children. Sponsorship would be a wonderful investment in the lives of these fine Americans. We are indeed grateful for the help already provided by Compassion sponsors—may God bless each and every one of you!

## Compassion sponsors...how great they are!

It was early in November last year when the urgent word came to us from South Korea. Wally Erickson, our man in charge there, wrote to Henry Harvey, President of Compassion. Here is the essence of his communication: The traditional high school entrance exams for Korean students have now been dropped! From now on, any student who can come up with money to cover tuition and other fees, may go on to seventh, eighth, and ninth grade.

For many years the Middle School children of Korea . . . including those that Compassion sponsors care for, have had to pass difficult entrance examinations in order to enter seventh grade. Many hours of hard study were required before the tests were taken. The outcome would sometimes be uncertain. Some would fail and others would make the grade . . . the entire future of the children depended on their performance on these tests.

This is where our wonderful sponsors stepped in and "saved the day" for students who are now eligible to go on to higher grades.

A brief "news bulletin" was mailed to about 1000 sponsors whose children in Korea were involved in the new arrangement. No pressure was brought to bear for anyone to give additional funds . . . above and beyond their regular sponsorship. The sponsors were told simply that it will now cost \$135.00 per year to pay for

tuition, books, uniforms, and other fees for their child in Korea. During November of last year it was necessary for us to remit \$30.00 per child in order that he, or she, might have been enrolled for the winter semester. The balance due the school is payable in three quarterly payments beginning in February, 1972.

We thought it would be financially impossible for us to meet such urgent demands. We certainly did not expect our sponsors to respond as they did. But respond they did! As of this printing, well over half of the 1000 sponsors who received our bulletin sent at least the \$30.00 initially required!

As we mentioned to those sponsors in our letter, it was not our intent to make a special plea for more educational aid. Our bulletin was merely one of information.

We were predicting some rather dark days ahead for many promising children in Korea. We envisioned a thousand children turned out in the cold because there would be no money for their schooling.

This tremendous rally by our wonderful sponsors causes us to rejoice and give special thanks to the Lord.

For all who responded and all who have made a promise of added assistance, we express the gratitude of the entire Compassion staff. Surely the new year will bring blessings to your life. May 1972 be the best year ever for you and yours!

## Sponsors needed for 2000 children of Indonesia



They've been pouring into our Chicago office for the last couple of months . . . we're talking about completed case histories and photos of more than 2000 children living in the vast country of Indonesia.

From Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and the Celebes Islands live boys and girls who will have little chance of life . . . unless a sponsor is found. Take the case of Nurbaini Situmorang (opposite page), a cute little 12-year-old who lives in Sumatra. Her father died of cholera in 1967, her mother is poor and works hard to support Nurbaini, another daughter, and a son. Nurbaini enjoys cooking

and does average work in third grade.

A bright four-year-old, Wahap Sinaga (opposite page) has not yet started school. Also a native of Sumatra, Wahap's father died of "sleeping sickness" in 1969. Along with his four brothers, Wahap also is cared for by his mother.

One would have to go a long way in order to find more intelligent and alert youngsters. How they respond to a bit of attention and help! What an exciting investment it could be for you to send regular support for one of these little ones. You'll become involved in the life of one of



Nurbaini Situmorang



Wahap Sinaga

these children. They'll write to you about their activities and their routine of life. You'll probably learn all about alligators, bananas, coconuts, water buffalos, and countless other aspects of their lives in the steaming regions of Indonesia.

It was during 1968 that Compassion began assisting children in Indonesia. In Korea, for example, our Compassion work is centered around the orphanage-type of institution. Throughout Indonesia, however, we work on a "family helper" program. Because of revolutions, disease, and accidents, there are many needy widows in this country . . . and, of course, many children. Indonesians frown on orphanages as such . . . feeling it is better to have the natural mothers raise their own children.

The cost of sponsorship is \$12.00 a month. We have made it easy for you to respond. Simply fill out the attached envelope and mail it back to us right away. Of course, you cannot help 2000 children, but we think you can become a sponsor of one, or maybe two children, on a regular basis.

We wish that you could see the faces of these children when they learn that they have a new sponsor! To them it means that someone cares . . . for some it is a brand new experience.

Please join our ever-growing family of sponsors throughout North America and around the world who are finding fulfillment in their own lives by being a Compassion sponsor. We are waiting for your letter. Children like Nurbaini and Wahap are waiting. Thank you so much for your concern and for your compassion.

Compassion, Inc. is an international child-care agency caring for the basic needs of 23,000 children in 11 countries.

The agency was formed during the Korean War and now reaches into the following countries: South Korea, Indonesia, India, Singapore, Thailand, Afghanistan, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Haiti, and the United States. Compassion seeks to provide food, clothing, basic education, and Christian training for all the children under its care.

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**Compassion, Inc. Founder,**  
the Late Everett Swanson  
**President,** Henry Harvey  
**Vice-President,** Miriam Swanson  
**Canadian Representative,**  
Janet Forsyth  
**Editor and Chief Correspondent,**  
Ed Ronne



## Canadian pastor joins Compassion

**Compassion, Inc. would like** to introduce you to the Rev. James Somerville, a native Canadian and influential Christian leader.

The Rev. Somerville has just announced a one-year "sabbatical" leave from the pastoral ministry. For the past six years he has been serving Victoria Avenue United Church in Chatham, Ontario.

"I would like to see the number of Compassion sponsors doubled throughout Canada during 1972," says the Rev. Somerville. (At the present time we have about 800 sponsors in Canada.)

He will carry the message of Compassion throughout churches and to community civic organizations in the major cities of Canada in an effort to enlist help for our world-wide ministry to needy children.

The Rev. Somerville comes to Compassion with outstanding credentials. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Victoria University,

Toronto in 1959; and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Emmanuel College, Toronto in 1962.

He has organized a number of evangelistic programs, including groundwork for Billy Graham Association Crusades, both in Canada and the United States. He was also a representative of the United Church of Canada to the World Congress on Evangelism in Berlin, Germany.

He is deeply concerned about the leading social issues of our day. He has served as Director of the Canadian Children's Aid Society and has organized social action committees in the Chatham area.

Pastor Somerville, his wife Kay, and their four children make their home in Chatham.

The Compassion family joins in extending a warm welcome to Rev. Somerville. May his mission be multiplied and blessed as together we seek to serve the needs of helpless children of the world.

## Yes, Jeannie, there is a Compassion!

The following quote came from a letter that arrived in the mail room not long ago. The letter was addressed to Henry Harvey, our President. It was penned by an inquiring 11-year-old girl from Portsmouth, Ohio. In part, this is what she wrote:

*"Dear Sir . . . I have read about you and have really wondered one thing . . . do you really have this company? I would like to have proof mailed to me."* (Signed) Jeannie C.

Jeannie's letter was promptly answered. In addition to setting her mind at ease about our ministry to needy children, we also enclosed a copy of a recent newspaper article that appeared in the Great Bend (Kansas) Daily Tribune. A story about Compassion was written by Marjorie McCallum, Women's Editor at the Daily Tribune, who also had been curious to learn more about Compassion. Miss McCallum turned to her colleague in Chicago, the noted Ann Landers. Ann Landers promptly replied to Miss McCallum's inquiry.

We think the story is worth repeating . . . we are grateful to Miss McCallum and Ann Landers for the kind remarks about our work. Word for word, here is the feature that appeared in the Great Bend Tribune in the "It Seems to Me" column:

*A column that is probably more widely read than any other in our daily paper, is surely Ann Landers. Whether we merely enjoy reading about other people's problems, or we get our kicks from Ann's often salty answers, or whether we maybe*

*see ourselves in some of the problems and thus receive help ourselves is for each one of us to answer. But, whatever the reason, there is no question that most Tribune readers regularly read Ann Landers.*

*When recently I received a letter that raised doubts in my mind, I wrote to this source for information and by return mail, received a pleasant and informative reply from Miss Landers.*

*The letter that came to my desk was from COMPASSION, an agency that seeks to bring Korean orphans and American families together. As I frequently receive appeals of this nature, and as the address was given as one in Chicago, I wrote to Ann Landers, knowing that a phone call would provide her with any necessary information to pass on to me.*

*Her letter began by saying: "In response to your letter inquiring as to the validity of COMPASSION, the answer is: yes, yes, yes."*

*"This is a superb organization which has done a world of good for thousands of orphaned Korean children. I know the key people in this organization and I have been to their Chicago installation and met them personally. They are dedicated, energetic and completely honest. The staff is small and works for a fraction of what they could get elsewhere."*

*Elsewhere in today's issue of the Tribune, you will find a story of a Great Bend couple who is sponsoring a Korean orphan through the liason of COMPASSION.*

*Thanks Ann!*



*Song Kap Jo and Doris Hanert enjoy browsing through a Compassion picture album at the Chicago office.*

## Mr. Song has something to sing about

**Song Kap Jo**, a sharp and energetic 24-year-old computer programmer, owes his opportunity in life to a Compassion sponsor. You see, Mr. Song was raised in the Compassion-supported Chinju Faith and Love Orphanage in South Korea. Since his early high school days he was supported by Doris Hanert of Deerfield,

Illinois. Dorothy was an employee at Compassion's Chicago office when a letter came from Mr. Song, addressed to the late Everett Swanson, founder of Compassion. In his letter, Mr. Song made no "bones about it" . . . he made it plain that he needed help for his education. Doris Hanert responded, and thus began a long history of correspondence and support.

Now married and on the staff of the brokerage firm of Shearson and Hammill of New York City, Mr. Song has the ambition of obtaining a Ph.D.

degree in chemical engineering and returning to his native Korea. His position with Shearson and Hammill opened up while he was attending Yonsei University in Seoul (the "Harvard" of Korea). There were 300 applicants for the job . . . he won despite no previous programmer training!

Mr. Song credits his Compassion home and a godly superintendent for his salvation. And, of course, who can deny that Doris Hanert must also be elated.

## Elder Lim—senior Compassion home superintendent

One of the highlights of your editor's visit to Korea a year ago, was when I had the opportunity to sit down with Mr. Lim Sung Eun and listen to the unfolding of a heart-breaking and yet a heart-warming story. With the aid of our interpreter, Elder Lim told us of his daring escape from North Korea during the early '50's . . . disguised as a street peddler.

It was an awesome decision for him to make in those early days of the war. It was a question of remaining in Communist North Korea with his wife and four children, or of fleeing alone to the South—and freedom. Staying in the North would probably have meant certain death for him. Elder Lim has been a Christian ever since his boyhood days. His father was a Presbyterian minister. Surely his open witness for Christ would have given cause for the Communists to take his life.

As it turned out, the decision was made for him by his family . . . they

urged him to flee as soon as possible. Destroying all identification cards and assuming the role of a lowly street vender, Elder Lim left a good publishing business and headed for the border and eventual freedom. On the way, one of his best friends was shot and killed by the Communists.

In 1950, he came to the Wandering Children's Camp at Pusan, the seaport fishing city of South Korea. It was while he was there that he began to take an interest in assisting the needy children at the home. He eventually began his own orphanage, consisting of 25 boys. It was soon evident that he needed help in order to feed and clothe his large "family." Repairing and tuning pianos brought some money in, but much more help was needed.

After correspondence back and forth with a friend in the States, Elder Lim was put in touch with the late Everett Swanson, the founder of Compassion, Inc. Rev. Swanson responded, and soon the home became a thriving institution. Today, Elder Lim oversees the operation of the Hillside Christian Home of 135 youngsters ranging in age from 5 to 25.

It is the oldest and one of the finest Compassion-supported homes in Korea, and Elder Lim has been at its helm more than 20 years.

Elder Lim has not heard from his wife and children since he said goodbye to them in 1950. He does not know if any of them are alive.

Elder Lim could have given up in despair many years ago . . . however, God has sustained him through all crises. His faith in Christ is all-en-

compassing.

It warms the heart of the Compassion family to have a man like Elder Lim in charge of one of our homes. I am sure he will appreciate your prayers for him as he seeks God's guidance in all things. Meeting Elder Lim has enriched this reporter's life, and we hope this story will also give you encouragement and a new faith in the One who makes life really worth living.



*Miriam Swanson, Compassion's Vice-President, makes "Elder Lim" an "honorary member of the Compassion Family." A Compassion lapel emblem was presented to Elder Lim and dozens of other Korean superintendents and government officials during her visit to Korea in late 1970.*

## SHORT NEWS ITEMS

**Kabul, Afghanistan**—Reports have reached here that some people in remote areas of the country are approaching starvation because of lack of rain. Some citizens have started to eat grass to sustain life.

We have had no indication that the children we help at the blind school in Kabul are being affected in any way. Perhaps the approaching winter season will bring badly-needed rain and snow to the area.

**Seoul, Korea**—Tensions between Communist North Korea and the free South Korea were eased somewhat by the announcement of forthcoming talks between the Red Cross Societies of the divided nations. Meetings on the subject of "searches for separated families" have already been held at the truce village of Panmunjom. A letter from a Compassion-sponsored youth in Seoul expressed the feeling of all free Koreans: "This first exchange of 26 years may result in the finding of our departed families . . . it can mean the unification of Korea," he said. Despite the talks, there have been dozens of infiltrations by the North Koreans into the South . . . President Park also has expressed alarm over the increasing Communist threat.

Pray much for the freedom-loving nation of South Korea . . . Korea, and the world, is far from peaceful.

**More than 100 television stations** throughout the United States and Canada have provided free time for our two TV specials during the last 12 months. Compassion's specials—featuring Pat Boone and Dale Evans

—tell the simple story of our work with needy children in a way that has won the hearts of viewers everywhere.

From our hundreds of friends who wrote us after seeing the programs . . . just three sample quotes:

"I am a senior in high school here in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Surely, God will be with these children. Please send me information on sponsorship."

. . . and from LaSalle, Illinois—"Being an Appalachian, I know about poor children. I really want to do something about those Compassion children in another land. I was deeply touched by your Pat Boone special."

. . . and from Alamogordo, New Mexico—"I watched 'The Children of Compassion.' The Program interested me very much. I have always wanted to help a needy child."

**Our WARM thermometer** has gone over the top!

We have achieved our pre-determined goal of providing a complete outfit of clothes for all the children



in our care . . . with funds sent Compassion by sponsors and donors. Because of deadlines for printing dates, we cannot give you an exact figure at this time, however, suffice it to say a hearty "Thank you" to each and all who helped us achieve our \$160,000 goal!



Mark Bos sent "pennies from Heaven."

Six-year-old Mark Bos from Silver Spring, Maryland sent us a dear letter while we were in the midst of our 1971 WARM Program (Winter Aid Relief Money). He is probably the youngest to respond . . . and, we think, the cutest! His note said:

"My mother read me about your orphan boys and girls who need warm clothes. I had 200 pennies. I took 100 of them from my bank and put them in an envelope. My mother and father helped me, too. I added more pennies as I got them. I'm glad this will help one orphan with warm clothes. Love, Mark Bos."

**Editor's note:** Mark, your letter came to us like "pennies from Heaven"! You are a wonderful boy . . . and we love you!

## Excerpts From Our Morning Mail

**Seoul Mercy Life Orphanage**—Letter to sponsor: "We are happy to receive your letter and gift money and the 29 pictures of ourselves. Looking at the pictures, we again recall your love for the past 9 years.

**From Bethesda Orphanage, India**—"I praise the Lord that I now have someone to look after my welfare. I shouted with joy and I cried for I never have had the feelings of belonging to someone, as I never belonged to anyone before . . . just an orphan. I study mathematics, social studies, science, and three languages

**Java, Indonesia**—"We wear uniforms . . . light brown freckled shirts."

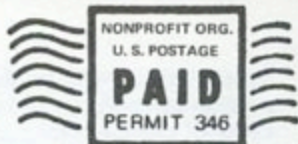
**Also Java**—"I was so proud and thankful receiving a first letter from you. How great the love of the Lord Jesus to us as He has made us to have connection."

**Northern Celebes**—"It is rainy season now, and when it rains our road is under water and when we walk our legs are drowned."

**Buena Vista, Virginia**—A sponsor says . . . "I am 73 years old and I would like to sponsor an older girl who might attend Southern Seminary during my lifetime. I am President Emeritus and also a Trustee.

**United Village School, Thailand**—"I am in the sixth grade, a member of the Lahu tribe. In order to go home and visit my parents, I must travel by boat for three or four hours. We are in the northern-most province of Thailand where there are many mountains and much green grass. Even though I have never seen you and you have never seen me, except our pictures, God has blessed us both by knowing one another."

COMPASSION, INC.  
7774 Irving Park Road,  
Chicago, Illinois 60634



Address Correction Requested

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## A special word to the Compassion Family

**You can help** spread the word about Compassion by doing us a small favor. We would like to send you extra copies of our magazine each month for distribution in your neighborhood. Many of you are doctors, dentists, nurses, barbers, librarians, teachers, and other professional people with many opportunities to tell about our work.

Why not leave a copy or two of our Compassion Magazine in your waiting room, reception area, or at the counter of your store?

Please use the attached coupon for your requests. Every other month, we will be pleased to mail you some extra copies of our magazine. Your help will be deeply appreciated! Thank you so much.

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To: Ed Ronne  
COMPASSION, INC.  
7774 W. Irving Park Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60634

( ) Yes, please send me \_\_\_\_\_ extra copies of Compassion Magazine for distribution.

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