

# Compassion

January-February, 1975



## Compassion, Inc.

"... I have compassion on the multitude ... I will not send them away."

Matthew 15: 32

### Founder

the late Everett Swanson

### Executive Vice President

Rev. Wallace Erickson

### Office Manager/Controller

Lance M. Renault

### Director of Production

David Olson

### Director of Data Processing

James G. Floyde

### Board of Directors

Chairman—Gustav A. Hemwall,  
M.D.

Vice-Chairman and Assistant

Secretary—Miriam Swanson

Treasurer—Elmer T. Olson

Secretary—Robert G. Kinney

Arthur N. Knudsen

Henry L. Harvey

### Field Directors

South Asia—Edward A. Kimball

South Korea—Rev. William J. Adams

North and South America—

Home office direction

Compassion Magazine is published bi-monthly by Compassion, Inc., 7774 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, Illinois 60634. Printed in the U.S.A. Contents not to be reproduced without written permission of Compassion, Inc.

Managing Editor, Mary Erickson

Compassion firmly believes that every child deserves to be reared in the environment of parental love.

## Averting abandonment

"I have worked for Compassion in Korea for 12 years, but I have not known there are so many poor families," said Mrs. Che Eun Young (Compassion social worker) after several months of interviewing families in areas characterized by acute poverty. "Compared to these poor families, the situation is better for the orphans."

Twenty-two years ago, Compassion began collecting funds to feed and house the homeless orphans brought about by the Korean War. Although the number of true orphans is constantly diminishing, Compassion is still caring for thousands of needy children in our homes.

In recent years we have become quite concerned about the increasing number of *abandoned* children being admitted to institutions. And we ask ourselves, Why are these children abandoned?

A visit to the city slums, river bank huts, and mountain shacks soon revealed the answer.

The large, industrial cities represent wealth and prosperity to the struggling rural dweller of South Korea. As he sees pictures of the high-rise apartment houses, the subway, the department stores; as he hears about electricity, factory jobs, and running water, he has a hope, a dream that he, too, can find a steady job making enough money to buy clothing, the necessities of life, and



Compassion's Che Eun Young takes case history information on this needy family. Through our Family Helper plan, these children can receive a sponsor's help while remaining at home with their mother.

send his children to better schools.

As a farmer he now is merely eking out an existence on his small plot of land. Yes, he is able to feed his family, but without cash how can he provide other necessities of life?

And so the decision is made—he sells his plot of land and his humble country home. With all their earthly possessions heaped on a two-wheel cart the family migrates to Seoul (or Pusan, Taegu, or Kwangju).

Upon arriving in the city, he finds that there is not enough housing for the multitudes already there, that the cost of living is out of sight, and that there are thousands of men, like himself, who are seeking a job. Competition is fierce.

The dreams fade; hopes vanish. What can he do? Return? He has nothing to go back to. He must find a way to care for his family.

He relegates himself to the ghetto

life of the metropolitan city. On the outskirts of the city, the family joins thousands of other squatters living in shanties made of mud brick, packing crates, tar paper, cardboard boxes—scraps of this and that from here and there. Flattened tin cans make a roof to keep out rain and snow.

Now the squatter has a 6' x 6' shack that he and his family can call home. Thousands of families living in these hovels built along river banks, gulleys, sewage canals or under bridges are subjected to total loss of possessions and often life every-time it floods.

Needless to say, the living standard plummets quickly and drastically. Dreams of better schooling are shattered because the family can't afford the school uniform, books, and higher fees. Hopes of a steady job are never realized. Perhaps one meal a day is all they can manage.

*This 79-year old grandmother cares for three children. She's grateful for Compassion support.*

Encroachment of social deterioration makes steady inroads on each member of the family. While both mother and father are seeking day labor, the children are left to roam the streets—perhaps begging or committing petty thievery. Father may begin drinking to drown his discouragement. Older daughters may become involved in prostitution in order to bring home enough money to feed the family.

Sometimes in this hopeless environment the parents abandon the younger children, knowing they will be placed in an institution where at least the child will get fed regularly, clothed, and have the opportunity of an education.

Government officials, local pastors, Christian leaders, Compassion superintendents, and field workers have all expressed their concern about shanty-town families struggling to survive.

Examining the situation, we asked ourselves many questions: Can't we help these poverty-stricken families by supplying some of their needs before social deterioration takes its toll? Before the children are abandoned? Can't we keep the children within their family unit where they will know the love of a mother, father or other relative?

After much study and preparation Rev. Bill Adams (Korea field director) and his staff launched a Family Helper Program in Korea which we trust will not only prevent abandonment, but will also help provide some of the essentials of life which



the children are not now receiving.

Mrs. Che Eun Young, our devoted social worker, has been visiting many indigent families—some immigrants as described above, others needy for a multitude of reasons. Here are three actual case histories she has taken of families now receiving help through the Family Helper Program.

#### **Grandmother cares for three**

Both parents had died, and 74-year-old grandmother was left to care for her three grandchildren. With no income they couldn't even rent one room.

To help the destitute family, factory girls in the village began raising money by selling old bottles and newspapers.

When 70,000 won (\$175) was raised, a Christian man donated a corner of his property, and the girls began building a tiny kitchen and a bedroom for Granny and her trio.

Granny worked hard to feed the



*The Jang Family—they live in an "underground hut" which floods every time it rains.*

children and to send them to school. In spite of her bent back and creaking bones, she weeded gardens and climbed the mountain in search of reeds to weave baskets which she sold in the market.

Since Granny is now getting too old (79) to continue these activities, she is grateful that Compassion came along to help provide the basic needs so vital to health, growth, and training of her three grandchildren, one of whom is now the top student in his entire school.

#### **The Jang family**

Mr. and Mrs. Jang and their three children live in an underground hut which floods every time it rains.

Father is unable to provide a living since he is mentally retarded and in very poor health. Because the little hut is so crowded, he often sleeps on a board under the stars. Mother is also ill, but manages to cook bean curd which her son Te Ho sells to neighbors.

In spite of the fact that their house is like a cave, it is their home and the thought that they are about to lose it is very disheartening. The piece of land they call their own really belongs to the city. Since city officials plan to lay a street there in the near future, the family must

move on, and find another home.

Where will they go?

Mrs. Che writes, "The Jangs are a Christian family and are praying to God very earnestly to give them a place to dwell even though it be small and simple."

#### **Help for a handicapped father**

Mr. Kim Yong Nam once considered himself a very fortunate man. He had a loving wife, two healthy sons, and a beautiful daughter. Like a good Korean son, he was support-

*This young father is trying to care for his three children. His wife has left him, and he recently lost his right arm in an accident.*



ing his father. His work at the sawmill helped him put a roof over their heads and rice on the table.

However, one day tragedy struck! Mr. Kim caught his sleeve in the saw, and in an instant his right hand was severed. The mill owner paid the hospital fee, but offered no compensation for the loss of a right forearm.

How suddenly a happy home can become one of sorrow, disappointment, and extreme poverty.

His aging father left the home to live with another relative. His wife, emotionally disturbed and discouraged, ran off leaving three children crying for their mother.

Mr. Kim was tempted to commit suicide, but the love for his children and their dependency on him restrained him.

In order to feed his children, Mr. Kim began seeking a new job. But, in a country where unemployment has been a problem for centuries, who will hire a one-armed man?

The only work he could find was through his own ingenuity. With a basket strapped to his back, he walked the streets, collecting waste paper and selling it.

Now that Compassion has found Mr. Kim and his three children, they will have better food, warm clothing, and for the two older children, the opportunity of going to school.

More than one-half of the children presently being cared for by Compassion are being assisted in some way while still under the influence and guidance of a parent or relative.

It is our firm conviction that every child deserves to be reared in the environment of parental love.

And that's what the Family Helper Program is all about—fortifying family foundations to avert abandonment of precious children. □

1974 New Year's Resolution—  
a Reality

## Compassion in the Philippines

Last January we told our readers that Compassion was going to begin the Family Helper Program in three cities in the Philippine Islands. We did fulfill that New Year resolution, and now Compassion is helping care for 555 children in 52 projects located on three of the Islands.

One of the projects is among a very poor tribe living in poverty on a small island in the Davao Gulf. Mrs. Zenida Doromal, a staff worker, wrote to one of our new sponsors, Miss Regina Corns of Cincinnati, Ohio:

"We are surely praising God for the help you sent to one of the unfortunate children of the Philippines, Milagros Serane. She belongs to a poor family of six children under the care of a mother who washes clothes for others in order to live. She and all the rest of her family have just heard about the Lord and it was only through Compassion. Her mother could not write, but she wants to extend her deep appreciation and sincere thanks for the support you have sent to Milagros and the additional money you gave for a gift to the family."

Located near Manila is another project receiving Compassion support. Superintendent Angelito Astillero is a fine Christian and has devoted his entire life to helping destitute children.

His home—The Rescue Mission for Children—is well named, and the



*Laudemira, age six, living on a small island in the Philippines, was not sure what it was all about when she was assigned a number and had her picture taken. But now she is a member of the Compassion family and has a sponsor of her own.*

found suitable work and left the home, but Francisco and his two younger brothers still remain.

As a big brother to the other children in the home, Francisco leads them in regular Bible study, assists them with their school work, and sets up his own barber shop in the yard. He also helps with the building and carpentry.

A talented and versatile young man, Francisco enjoys playing the guitar and is quite athletic, excelling in basketball.

Now in the 9th grade, he is an outstanding student. His ambition is to complete high school, go on to Bible school, and then go into evangelistic work.

Francisco is a testimony to the fine work being done in the Rescue Mission, and Compassion is happy to be identified with such a program. □

*Francisco Espina and his two younger brothers are being cared for at the Rescue Mission for Children.*



story of Francisco Espino demonstrates how Mr. Astillero truly does rescue children from hunger and poverty, from sin and sorrow.

In 1965, Mr. and Mrs. Espino both died of malnutrition within four months of each other, leaving five children to fend for themselves.

Feeling the heavy responsibility of caring for her younger sister and three small brothers, the eldest daughter searched for a job, but in vain. Soon the rent was due and the rice sacks were empty. Discouraged and desperate, she was at the point of going into prostitution when Mr. Astillero discovered and rescued the orphan-family.

Soon after entering the mission the children began to understand the true meaning of Christian love exemplified in the life of the superintendent, and each came to know the love of a personal Saviour.

Several years later the two girls



**Vilnerd—Haiti**

Vilnerd is a quiet six year old living at home with his family. His parents are extremely poor, and cannot provide adequate care for him.



**Sun Sook—Korea**

Sun Sook's father is dead, and her mother is very poor. She is eleven years old, enjoys singing, and she has a cheerful personality.



**Jadiman—Indonesia**

Both Jadiman's parents are dead, and he is now living with an older sister. He is ten years old, and has fair health.



**Bhulakshmi—India**

Eleven year old Bhulakshmi lives with her widowed mother. Her father died in 1965 of a disease. She helps carry water and does other simple chores.



**Yung Suk—Korea**

Yung Suk's name means "clever boy." He lives in extreme poverty with both parents. Yung Suk is 10 years old.



**Lydwine—Haiti**

Seven year old Lydwine lives with her parents, who are desperately needy. She has fair health, and enjoys singing and jump rope.



## Choose one needy child to love

Each of the 6 children pictured above currently needs a sponsor. Your support for one of these children will help provide food, clothing, elementary schooling fees, basic medical care and Christian training.

You'll have the special opportunity of providing your child with a gift for his birthday and for Christmas, and you can exchange letters and photographs too.

As a sponsor, your help can make a genuine difference in the life of a very needy child. The cost is only \$12.00 a month, and if for any reason you are unable to continue, you may discontinue sponsorship at any time.

In addition to these six shown, there are more than 3500 needy children waiting for help. If the child you select is already taken when we hear from you, we will substitute another child of similar needs. Please hurry, a child is waiting for you!

### SPONSOR APPLICATION

- Yes!** I want to sponsor a child for \$12.00 a month. My first support check enclosed is for  one month (\$12.00),  three months (\$36.00),  one year (\$144.00). I understand that if it becomes impossible for me to continue sponsorship, I may discontinue at any time.
- My choice is \_\_\_\_\_ from the pictures shown.
- Please select a child who needs me most.
- I would prefer a  boy  girl, about \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
- Sorry, I cannot sponsor a child now but want to help by giving \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (Please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State (Province) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*All gifts are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to  
COMPASSION, INC. Thank you very much!*



**Vilnerd—Haiti**

Vilnerd is a quiet six year old living at home with his family. His parents are poor.



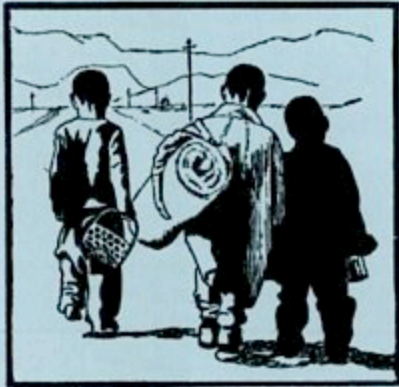
**Sun Sook—Korea**

Sun Sook's father is dead, and her mother is very poor. She is eleven years old.



**Jadiman—Indonesia**

Both Jadiman's parents are dead, and he is now living with an older sister.



### HIS COMPASSION OR MINE!

I have long since ceased to pray, "Lord Jesus, have compassion on a lost world." I remember the day and hour when I seemed to hear the Lord rebuking me for making such a prayer. He seemed to say to me, "I have had compassion upon a lost world, and now it is time for you to have compassion; I have given my heart, now give your hearts."

—A. J. Gordon



**FIRST CLASS**

Permit No. 48245  
CHICAGO, ILL.



**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

NO POSTAGE STAMP NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY

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

Children cheered the 1st on as she neared the with her egg rocking in

n began work in Ma-pring. Today sponsors 9 of these youngsters education through the ol project. □



**Vilnerd—Haiti**

Vilnerd is a quiet six year old living at home with his family. His parents are extremely



**Sun Sook—Korea**

Sun Sook's father is dead, and her mother is very poor. She is eleven



**Jadiman—Indonesia**

Both Jadiman's parents are dead, and he is now living with an older sis



### HIS COMPA

I h  
to p  
world.  
and hour v  
the  
mak  
se  
have  
a los  
compa  
heart,



## Birthdays are fun!

In Managua, Nicaragua, children, parents, and teachers celebrated the 14th birthday of the Galilean Christian School.

Pastor Juan Escoba said they held the celebration for two purposes: 1) to give the children a fun time, and 2) to raise money to help pay teachers' salaries.

Excited children cheered the 1st grade teacher on as she neared the finish line with her egg rocking in the spoon.

Compassion began work in Managua last spring. Today sponsors are helping 49 of these youngsters receive an education through the Galilean school project. □

# The insidious monster

by W. H. Erickson,  
Executive Vice President

At first it came creeping, sneaking up behind us.

"Just rumors," announced the government.

And Americans, like children, closed their eyes and hoped it would go away. But it didn't, and now with defiant, giant steps, *inflation* is moving across our continent and around the globe.

Reporters daily tell us what we already know—the cost of living is going higher and higher. We feel the pinch; we complain. But most of us still eat three good meals a day.

Where it hurts the most is in lands where they have the least.

Newspapers in Korea carry regular reports of the increase in the cost of living. Last February alone the government okayed price increases for 27 products, ranging from 7% to 57% increases. Every month since a new list appeared. September items included: rice, 12%; soy beans, 26%; eggs, 26%; and rubber shoes, 87%.

Gasoline in Korea currently sells for \$2.00 a gallon. Electricity is up 30%; oil rose 82%; and the poor man's fuel—coal briquets—climbed 39%.

Missionaries from the Caribbean shared some increases with us. In Jamaica last year rice more than tripled, going from 8¢ to 30¢ per pound, and codfish from 42¢ to \$1.35 per pound.

In Haiti some increases were: cornmeal, 3¢ to 9¢ per pound; rice, 14¢ to 24¢ per pound; lard, 45¢ to 80¢ per quart; and powdered milk, 30¢ to 80¢ per pound.

In the Philippines, where inflation is 4 times greater than in the United States, what will a day's pay of \$1.58 buy? Sometimes all a family may have for dinner is a loaf of bread.

In India where 200 million of the 600 million population are already living below subsistence level, how can they stay alive with inflation at 50% increase and still climbing? An Indian proverb shows their

plight even better than statistics—"How can you take money from a naked man?"

Recently an article "Globe Reels under Inflation's Onslaught" (a report of international inflation gathered by Peter Reich from the Tribune's foreign staff, Tribune wire services, and the U.S. government) appeared in papers across the nation. A table revealed the scope of inflation worldwide by listing 51 countries showing their rank and percentage of increase in cost of living.

Several countries where Compassion is working were included in the list.

Rank	Country	% Increase
4	India	50
6	Philippines	48
7	Indonesia	47
10	So. Korea	43
18	Hong Kong	25
27	Burma	16
28	Thailand	16

The United States ranked 33rd with 12% increase in cost of living.

With every passing day, a dollar (won, rupiah, peso, gourd) buys less.

And in all these lands we have children who are feeling the effects of inflation. Field workers tell us that our support money just isn't stretching as far as it used to.

In India, where inflation is taking its worst toll, much, if not all, of our support money is required for food.

Compassion always has been concerned about the whole man. It would grieve us if we cannot give



*In India, where millions are already destitute, the cost of living increased by 50%.*

our children benefits of training the hands and minds as well as providing for their bodies.

We do not want to sit idly by and watch the child-care level diminish. Board members, management, and field supervisors are currently wrestling with this issue, and we are asking our sponsors to join us in prayer that we may find solutions to these crucial, world-wide, pressing problems. □

*This Indonesian family is seriously affected by the 47% cost of living increase in their country.*





## Award for a first-grader

March 21, 1974 was both a happy day and a sad day for 7-year-old Violeta Hernandez of Davao City in the Philippines.

Violeta was glad because it was graduation at Quezon Elementary School and she was graduating from grade 1. However, she was sad because her grandmother, who cares for her, was too old to attend the ceremony.

It was a happy day because Violeta received an academic award—2nd Honor in a class of 40 pupils. But it was a sad day because, while mothers and dads were pinning award ribbons on the other children, the teacher pinned the ribbon on Violeta, a “total orphan.”

Recently Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Dodson of Garland, Texas, became her sponsors, and we hope Violeta will soon find that this is something to smile about. □

## Quotes from our little ones

**Korea**—We decorated our Christmas tree more beautifully, and hung up cotton as various decorations. Due to bad conditions of electricity here these days, we couldn't put electric lamps on trees, but various colorful papers could enable us to decorate the tree beautifully.

**Indonesia**—Recently there was a cleanliness festival among all the villages of our area. The village headman has ordered all the people to clean their yards, to calcify all the fences, and to make the roads in good order.

**Java**—We are having our rainy season now. The streets are very muddy. We come to school looking like a soldier with high boots. Mud is as high as our knees and we imagine it is our shoes. Sometimes the teacher will ask us to clean our feet in the river. We use this chance for playing in the river, or catching crickets or shrimps. This makes us very happy, but please don't tell this to my teacher.

**Philippines**—I live on top of a mountain. Our house is a small hut with grass roof and wooden floor. We eat sweet potatoes and vegetables. On Sundays we go to church, all of us in the family. We have to walk at least one hour to reach the church.

**Borneo**—I apologize for being only in the second grade considering my age. Only when we were registered with Compassion I could go to school. I want to tell you herewith that before, my parents worshipped idols like the sun, wood, demons. But since I heard the gospel I left the idols. □



## WARM clothes and happy children

Sometimes WARM clothes are for winter weather; sometimes, for warm weather.

Some WARM clothes are for school; some are for church.

But everywhere WARM clothes are new clothes and they make Compassion children happy.

In Korea the S's tell the story of the socks, slacks, and sweaters.

Seeing and sorting,  
Struggling and striving,  
Succeeding and smiling.

Thank you, sponsors, for bringing sunshine into the lives of 22,000 children this year through the WARM program.

The death of Sujatha will not be forgotten by her Compassion sponsors.



## She died before she lived

By Richard Harney

We sat healthy at a table laden with food, and from the other room the television told of devastating floods, disease, and starvation in India.

We gave only passing interest to the situation as we left large portions of meat on the plate, selecting only the best morsels for our stomachs and the girls complained that they did not like peas, and our Scotty dog waited eagerly for the large portions of food she knew she would get from our table.

Then Thursday morning the tragedy of India came home to us.

Last November we had "adopted"

*Richard Harney, publisher of several newspapers in the Rockville, Indiana area, had been a Compassion sponsor for less than a year when Sujatha died. The incident so moved him that he wrote about it in his own column "Dick Harney's Viewpoint," which appears regularly in several papers.*

a little five-year-old Indian girl named Sujatha through Compassion, Inc. For \$12 a month—about the cost of a package of cigarettes a day—we could provide Sujatha with schooling, a hot lunch, and clothing.

There was always excitement when the long blue envelope came from Compassion for it meant that it was a letter from Sujatha, written by a teacher in Indian at the top and translated into English by Compassion personnel at the bottom.

But this time it was not a letter from the dark, wide-eyed little girl that Megan and Jessica called their sister. It was from her mother. It was short: "My daughter Sujatha died on July 1, 1974 with double typhoid fever. I am in sorrow now . . . please pray for me."

Our hearts were wrenched as we thought about that little girl who called me "Father," now lying in a small plot of earth in a country

where death is taken for granted because there is so much of it.

Her full name was Medipalli Sujatha. She was born in Bandikolanka, South India just six years ago. When we became her American family, she was one of three children in a fatherless home. Since the death of her father, her mother had been trying desperately to support her family in their extreme poverty. She was in elementary school and at the time was "doing well."

In India there are some 15 million people born each year and it is said there are more than a million beggars on the streets. The average wage for a man is \$1 a day—\$52 a year—and he is one of the lucky ones.

In the short time we had Sujatha, we received two letters. I would like to share them with you.

Our first came in December of 1973 and said: "Dear Father, Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My father died due to appendicitis. I have one older sister who is studying 3rd class. My mother is taking care of us. I am in 1st class now. We both go to school together. We both attend Sunday School regularly and learning everything nicely. I can play well. We are studying in Compassion Bible Missionary School. First of all I must thank you for your kind help. Please pray for us. My love and regards to you. With Love, daughter."

The last letter came in May.

"Dear Father, I am keeping well and received your letters and noted the contents of it. I received your family snap and very glad to see all of you. Received my birthday card and Christmas card, both are very nice. I showed your snap to all of my friends and my brother kissed your snap. I am going to school and Sunday School and learning Bible verses and songs. I am always praying for you. Please convey my wishes to my



The Richard Harney family—sponsors of Sujatha.

sisters. Please pray for me. With much love, daughter Sujatha."

Daughter—Father. A daughter I had never held, never tucked into bed. A daughter who had known what it was like to be hungry—really hungry. A daughter who appeared in a picture after Christmas so proud of a pitiful little bundle of clothing available because we had sent some money. A daughter that had never known a room of her own or a bevy of dolls, an ice cream cone, a Disney movie, or a circus.

Sujatha was not our child—she was the world's child.

There are thousands of Sujathas in the world—or rather, there is one less now . . . a six year old who died before she lived and who must now surely be sitting in the lap of her Father. □

P.S. The Harneys are now sponsoring their second child in India—another little girl, just six years old.

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

Address Correction Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ROCKFORD, ILL.  
PERMIT 4454



## Medicine for Compassion kids

Four Compassion nurses visited several children's homes in South Korea and distributed thousands of worming pills to our children. The medicine was provided through the Medical Fund.

If you would like to provide medicines or medical care for needy children, send your gift to Compassion, Inc. marked "Medical Fund."