


COMPASSION



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1992

*Founder
Everett Swanson
with a Korean Child,
early 1950's*

**FORTY
YEARS OF
COMPASSION**
*Success, Challenge,
and Hope*



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COMPASSION International fosters the spiritual, physical, economic and social development of more than 180,000 children in 26 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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IN MEMORY OF BRENT AND MARCIE CAMERON

BRENT AND MARCIE CAMERON DREAMED of conquering each of Colorado's 54 mountains that towered over 14,000 feet. They had successfully climbed 42 of them. Before dawn on Saturday, June 13, they joined five other climbers and began the journey up South Maroon Peak, a mountain near Aspen that stands 14,156 feet tall. Six hours into their ascent, the climbers were stretched out along the mountain face in a steep, narrow snow chute. Someone yelled "Avalanche!" In an instant, the Camerons were caught in the middle of a snow slide. They tumbled about 1,000 feet and died of internal injuries.

Brent Cameron enjoyed a 31-year relationship with McDonald's. He was the former executive vice-president of the corporation, and former president of McDonald's international division. When they died, the Camerons owned and operated 11 McDonald's franchises in Colorado Springs.

Marcie was a warm hostess who opened her home and heart to everyone. She was a volunteer at the Crisis Pregnancy Counseling Center, a volunteer worker at the Ronald McDonald House, a Bible study director for the women of Village Seven Presbyterian Church, and a prayer warrior whenever we needed one.

The Camerons moved to Colorado Springs in 1986 and made an indelible impression on the citizens here. In addition to serving on the COMPASSION International Board, Brent was also involved in other community organizations and charities. These included the Colorado Springs Symphony, Special Olympics, the Olympic Training Center, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was president of the Colorado Springs Executive Association.

Brent joined the COMPASSION Board of Directors in 1988. His business expertise was invaluable. In 1991 he was elected to serve as treasurer of the Board. Brent and Marcie traveled to Kenya, Uganda, Peru and Ecuador to visit COMPASSION projects and to see the differences Compassion was making in the lives of children. The Camerons contributed a great deal to the changes going on in those young lives. They did it by their leadership at the helm, by their generous financial support, and by their love, concern, and prayers for children and staff.

Marcie and Brent served joyfully because they loved people. Their hearts were full of compassion, and they reached out to all who had a need.

—Mary Erickson



CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS

Dear Friends,

We're celebrating forty years of outreach to children in Jesus' name this fall. COMPASSION's work has grown from one country, Korea, to having impacted over thirty countries in its history. We began working through one evangelist, and today assist hundreds of evangelical church outreaches that represent scores of mission organizations and denominations.

Our fortieth anniversary is an opportunity to give thanks for the success God has brought. I've been with COMPASSION for twenty-five of its forty years. I can testify to the positive impact that the consistent application of a few resources — like the Gospel, education, encouragement, and health care — can have in the life of a child, especially when God's hand is in the process.

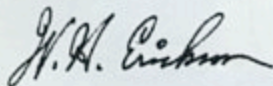
Forty years produced challenges, too. COMPASSION has had to adapt to accelerating change worldwide. We began with an orphanage mentality, and learned to broaden that focus into developing and discipling children from a variety of life situations. We've had to learn to act rapidly and appropriately in response to children and their needs.

It's also been a unique privilege to be agents of hope all these years. Tomorrow begins with kids. That's why we're zeroed in on them. Continuing to provide a Biblically-based, developmentally sound program for kids will demand effort and creativity. We're committed to do it.

Thousands of sponsors like you share in COMPASSION's history of investing both ourselves, and our resources, in deserving children across the world. This magazine addresses forty years of COMPASSION, and our hopes for the years to come.

We invite you to celebrate with us. Forty years and nearly half a million sponsored kids later, COMPASSION still works. We're grateful to God, and to you, for providing the means to keep it working.

Yours and His,



Wallace H. Erickson



One Tough

Everett Swanson with Korean troops, early 1950's



Question

Forty years of response to the question that started it all

COMPASSION can trace its corporate history back to a single question: "You have seen the tremendous needs and unparal-

leled opportunities of this land. What do you intend to do about it?"

The question was directed by a missionary friend to Everett Swanson. It was 1952. Swanson was about to leave Korea, where he had preached the Gospel to thousands of Republic of Korea troops. Contrasting with his successful evangelistic services, though, were his encounters with war orphans and abandoned children. Swanson had been shocked to discover kids frozen to death on the streets of Seoul. More fortunate children were begging for spare change or food.

Everett Swanson took his friend's question to heart. He determined on his flight home to do something for the needy Korean children he had seen, even though he wasn't sure where the financial backing would come from.

Swanson didn't have to wait long to find out. The day his plane landed in Seattle, he was given \$50 "for Korea." A check for \$1,000 designated "for the needy of Korea" was waiting for him when he arrived at his Chicago home. Swanson later wrote in a report, "This was conclusive proof to me that God was in it."

Swanson used his evangelistic platform in the United States to raise money to support a Christian orphanage

in Korea. Later, money was used to help support the work of Korean Christians who had also begun orphanages, many by converting their own homes from private dwellings into makeshift dormitories.

To provide ongoing support for the Korean ministry, Swanson developed a one-to-one sponsorship program.

For a few dollars a month, individuals could provide a Bible-based education, food, clothing, shelter and medical care for a Korean child in need.

Ten years after the question was posed to Everett Swanson, more than 10,000 Korean children were sponsored through the Everett Swanson Evangelistic Association (ESEA). The expanded work demanded a move of offices from the Swanson's basement to a one-story office building on West

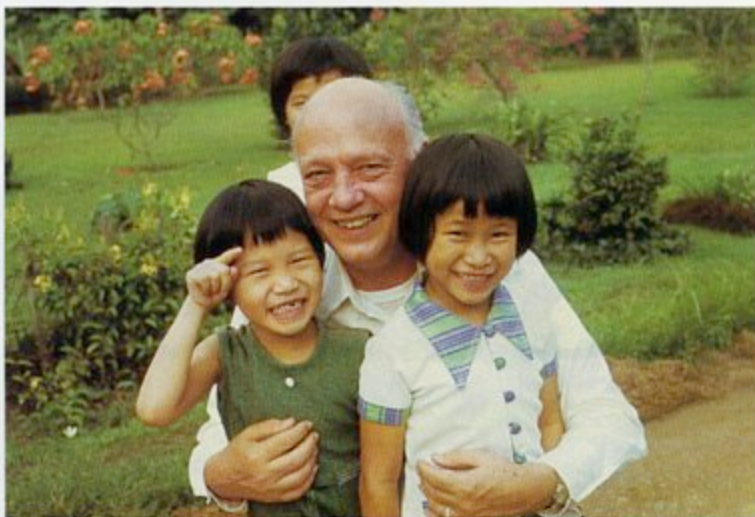
Irving Park Road in Chicago. One year later, ESEA changed its name to COMPASSION, Inc. The name came from ESEA's newsletter, "COMPASSION," which had Matthew 15:32 at the top of each issue: "I have COMPASSION on the multitudes...I will not send them away."

Solid foundation for an expanded vision

Everett Swanson brought Biblical integrity and heartfelt passion to bear on each step of



Swanson with Korean children



Rev. Henry Harvey with Korean kids



Ed Kimball, COMPASSION's Overseas Program Director



Wherever he's been, Wally Erickson has practiced a COMPASSION standard: listening to "locals" who know best about their needs

COMPASSION's early development. Swanson's death from a malignant brain tumor in November 1965 grieved those who knew him on two continents.

The groundwork laid by Swanson was seized upon by a committed board of directors who, after months of prayerful consideration, chose the Reverend Henry L. Harvey to be COMPASSION's president, and Mrs. Miriam Swanson, Everett's widow, to serve as vice president.

Besides a warm affection for children, Henry Harvey had a degree in business administration, management experience in industry, and 13 years of missionary field experience in India when he took the helm of COMPASSION. Harvey's unique background proved itself valuable when opportunities came to broaden COMPASSION's ministry beyond Korea.

COMPASSION focused its efforts on Korea until 1968. The Korean experience had proved the need for orphanages in some settings. It also gave rise to the thought that COMPASSION could be instrumental in keeping many children from being abandoned in the first place by destitute parents. So a concerted effort to assist children of widows (or handicapped fathers) by extending COMPASSION sponsorship for two or three children per family began.

The Family Helper Program was launched in Indonesia in 1968. It was pioneered by Ed Kimball, now COMPASSION's Overseas Program Director. After meeting success in Indonesia, the Family Helper Program was implemented in India and other countries. Thousands of children over the years have been blessed with school tuition, Bible teaching, medical care, and nutritious meals through the program.

COMPASSION's leaders became determined to offer responses to the particular needs of children based on the unique circumstances they faced. It was soon apparent that another type of program — one that focused on providing children the opportunity to be educated — would better suit countries like Thailand, Haiti, and Colombia.

In 1973, COMPASSION designed the School Project Program under the direction of Wally Erickson, then Field Director of Central and South America. In a decade, it would become COMPASSION's most-utilized program of service to children. Sponsorship of children through school sponsorship pays for teacher's salaries, books, supplies, school clothing, medical care, and supplemental nutrition.

During Henry Harvey's tenure as president, COMPASSION expanded its work into 17 new countries. Two strategic programs that would define COMPASSION's approach to children for years were developed and successfully implemented.

Henry Harvey retired in 1974. Dr. Wally Erickson, who had served COMPASSION as Field Director of Korea, then of Central and South

America, and as Executive Vice President, was chosen to succeed him.

Changing the world one child at a time

Wally Erickson was an experienced pastor and youth worker when he began with COMPASSION. His pastor's heart dictated from the beginning that no child be perceived as a mere number, keeping full faith with the precedent already established in COMPASSION.

That attitude preserved the core of COMPASSION's philosophy toward kids in a time of phenomenal numerical growth for COMPASSION. In 1977, COMPASSION was helping 33,000 children. By 1982, the number had over doubled to 68,000 children. The tally of sponsored children in 1987 came to 106,000. Today, 180,000 children are receiving the benefits of COMPASSION sponsorship.

The increase abroad demanded some expansion at home. Having extended its facilities on Irving Park Road in Chicago to its functional limits, COMPASSION moved its headquarters to seven acres in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1981.

The programs Wally Erickson and Ed Kimball pioneered two decades ago are still in force. In the last ten years, Dr. Don Miller (now Executive Program Director for COMPASSION) brought important modifications to those programs to make them even more responsive to the needs of the children involved. Further, Miller has directed the development of yet another generation of program that bases in a local church to provide both tangible economic assistance to needy children and their families, as well as a variety of formal and non-formal educational opportunities.

"If we've learned any lesson over the years, it's that nothing is static in this world," Dr. Erickson said in a recent interview. "We always have to ask 'What's next?' even in the midst of success. The world and its needs are changing, and COMPASSION must adapt to those changes for the sake of the children.

"The needs of the world are unlimited. The resources God gives us are limited. Therefore, we have to choose where we make those resources bear fruit. We must seek the mind of God, and utilize our experience to bring those resources to where they will bear their greatest fruit.

"We have chosen to invest in children because they are our future. We have chosen to minister to them one by one because we are constantly reminded that we may not change the whole world, but we can change the world for one child."

Forty years later, COMPASSION sponsors and staff continue to see tremendous needs and unparalleled opportunities for God's Kingdom to transform the lives of thousands of deserving kids throughout the world.

Our answer to the question posed so long ago continues to be the actions we all take for the sake of the children.

A HISTORY OF COOPERATION

Cooperating Country partners are a vital part of COMPASSION's history



David MacLeod,
COMPASSION
of Canada

COMPASSION SPONSORS IN THE U.S. PRESENTLY account for about 72 percent of all sponsorships. The remaining sponsorships are administered through five cooperating partners in other countries.

In 1963, COMPASSION of Canada was formed and housed in the Blenheim, Ontario home of two sponsors, Bob and Janet Forsyth. Now headquartered in London, Ontario, COMPASSION of Canada oversees nearly 11,000 sponsorships under the direction of David MacLeod.

Tear Fund U.K. was active in Christian relief work before affiliating with COMPASSION. In July, 1975, Tear Fund U.K. director Rev. George Hoffman announced, "In addition to supplying emergency relief when disasters strike, we want to help prevent tragedy before it happens. One way to do this is to team up with COMPASSION, helping children through the sponsorship program." Director David Adeny reports that Tear Fund U.K. presently accounts for almost 24,000 sponsorships, in addition to its continued relief efforts.

In 1978, COMPASSION Ltd., of Australia was started with COMPASSION's South Asian Field Director Laurie McCowan at the helm. At headquarters in Newcastle, the Australian staff administers another 11,000 child sponsorships under McCowan's direction.

Tear Fund New Zealand became a Cooperating Country partner to COMPASSION in 1986. Director Rob Cooper reports nearly 2,000 children are being sponsored through the New Zealand office.

Service d'Entraide et de Liaison (SEL) of France affiliated with COMPASSION in April, 1990. Almost 1,700 children are being sponsored through COMPASSION's newest Cooperating Country partner, according to its director, David Whisker.

If forty years of history prove anything, it is that God has placed active servants in strategic places throughout the world. The efforts of Cooperating Countries in affiliation with COMPASSION are clear evidence.



David Adeny,
Tear Fund
U.K.



Laurie McCowan,
COMPASSION Ltd. of
Australia



Rob Cooper,
Tear Fund
New Zealand



David Whisker,
Service d'Entraide
et de Liaison

NANKYA ROSE IS ON HER WAY TO SCHOOL. IT'S A three mile journey one way by way of the footpaths that crisscross the Nakateete area of southern rural Uganda, but Nankya doesn't mind the walk. She wants to be a doctor, and she knows education is the only way to achieve that goal.

After forty-five minutes, Nankya arrives at Nakateete Baptist School. It's the only school in the area that has any form of scholarship assistance, and that assistance is provided through COMPASSION sponsorship.

Nankya is only too happy to take advantage of the opportunity to learn. She knows it is an opportunity many orphans do not have.

Nankya is especially motivated because she wants to be an effective doctor. Her parents are both dead from AIDS. A few months before, Nankya watched some of



THE CHALLENGE OF Change

The principles of COMPASSION's child development program are intact. The challenge is to constantly refine the program to help kids meet the changes that surround them.

(Above) This Ugandan toddler's skin lesions — a form of epidermal herpes — could signal the beginning stages of fullblown AIDS. (Opposite) Nankya and a picture filled with memories



THINKING DEVELOPMENTALLY



Dan Brewster, COMPASSION's Program Operations Manager, in Kenya

COMPASSION BELIEVES IN CHILD development. Development is a change process. It takes time. It happens child by child. A sustained learning environment — like a school or student center — is critical for development.

"Development isn't 'stuff,'" Dan Brewster, COMPASSION's Program Operations Manager, recently said. "Development is learning and being able to implement what you learn. Development is opportunity, motivation, exposure, and people taking advantage of opportunities and resources."

Throughout its history, COMPASSION has faced the challenge of making its program

responsive to changes that impact the lives of children. Because COMPASSION specializes in long-term strategic developmental responses, a network of support must be in place for COMPASSION's program to be successful for the children. Months of careful analysis and planning are spent before COMPASSION commits to a ministry partner or a country.

Listening is one key to successful development.

"There's a lot of dialogue in COMPASSION's relationship with its partners," said Dr. Don Miller, COMPASSION's Executive Program Director. "We work to elicit the vision of those who know a culture best: those who are a part of it."

"The challenge then is to enable that vision within the context of COMPASSION's child development philosophy. We must be flexible to respond appropriately and strategically to the changing needs of children."

Sponsor Relations Specialist Lynette Walters has seen positive results of COMPASSION's approach in many projects. "Our program runs deeper, because flexibility has allowed us to think creatively."

"We're addressing specific needs of children in a given culture through group programs like non-formal education, as well as providing child-specific assistance in many cases."

"Another reason COMPASSION's program runs deeper is our emphasis on Christian commitment," Ms. Walters added. "That's helped us to strategize and partner with people of like minds, and similar goals."

her friends die from meningitis, which would have spread with disastrous effect had it not been for money provided through COMPASSION and its partners.

AIDS has taken at least one parent from 40% of the 650 children at Nakateete Baptist School. The number of AIDS cases in Uganda is doubling every six months, so the effects of the disease won't be going away soon.

The problem of so many children becoming orphans has changed COMPASSION's approach to its child development program in Uganda.

Nankya and thousands of Ugandan children in COMPASSION-assisted programs have a special insert for their Bibles. The insert has two columns: "What the Bible Says About AIDS," and "What Science Says About AIDS." It's a piece designed to give kids both the moral and scientific information they need to avoid AIDS. Many children can recite both lists.

COMPASSION is equipping children in Uganda toward greater self-sufficiency by emphasizing non-formal (out of the classroom) education. Depending on their location, children can learn skills like brick-making, weaving, broommaking, and construction. At Nakateete, a rural project, children are learning how to care for poultry, rabbits, and goats. Further, there is a small school garden with bananas and coffee — two local cash crops.

COMPASSION program benefits help Nankya practically, and strategically, toward her goal of becoming a doctor.

A formal education, of course, is critical to Nankya's success. Health monitoring is fascinating to Nankya, besides being a crucial part of evaluating her physical progress. Christian training is motivating Nankya to have a servant's attitude toward her goal, besides giving her the conviction and knowledge that a Biblical lifestyle is sound preventive medicine against AIDS. Nakateete Baptist School's non-formal education program gives Nankya knowledge that has improved her own family's approach to gardening and raising chickens, as well as giving Nankya job skills upon which to fall back should the need arise.

Nankya knows she is blessed to have been taken in by her aunt and uncle. They had six children of their own before taking in Nankya and her eight siblings. Without COMPASSION sponsorship, education would not even be an option for Nankya. Most likely, she would be the functional parent for her siblings. If anything happens to Nankya's aunt and uncle, Nankya would not only take over responsibility for her siblings, but also for her cousins.

It's hard to think of one's parents dying, much less having to care for yourself, or your siblings and yourself. Yet more and more Ugandan children face that prospect.

COMPASSION is responding to help children confront one of the harshest realities that can ever be

presented to a child.

Nankya is finished with another day of school. She says her goodbyes to her teachers and friends.

The trip home is uneventful, but six of Nankya's younger siblings and cousins greet her with an invitation to play.

Nankya says she'll have a few moments for fun between her chores and studies.

Nankya walks through the entrance of the family's sleeping hut. To her right on the wall is a treasured picture of Nankya, her mother, her grandmother, and one of her sisters. Nankya stops to touch the picture. For a moment, she is lost in memory.

But only for a moment. Nankya's world has changed, and just as it has been for thousands of other children for forty years, now it is for Nankya.

In the name of Jesus, one sponsor is bringing the experience and commitment of COMPASSION to help one child face the challenge of change.

Nankya and a friend share the burden of carrying water. It's part of their daily routine.



Ugandan photography by Tony Neeves

MASIKO'S HEART

JACQUES MASIKO IS COMMITTED TO CHRIST, AND TO THE CHILDREN of Uganda.

Masiko, COMPASSION's Uganda Country Director, lays and maintains the groundwork between COMPASSION and its Ugandan ministry partners. He encourages those partners and his staff to think creatively to develop the best possible responses to the needs of the children around them.

Masiko is keenly aware that changes in a culture must be met by new strategies in child development. That's why he has a broad application of COMPASSION's programs operating on behalf of Uganda's children.

At Kampala, the Meals Plus program is in full swing. At-risk preschoolers are being given supplemental nutrition at a COMPASSION-assisted center while their parents are being trained to prepare a balanced diet at home for them. Masiko's staff and project partners are tailoring the non-formal education component of the sponsorship program across Uganda on a project-by-project basis to train kids for the skills that are highly marketable right where they live.

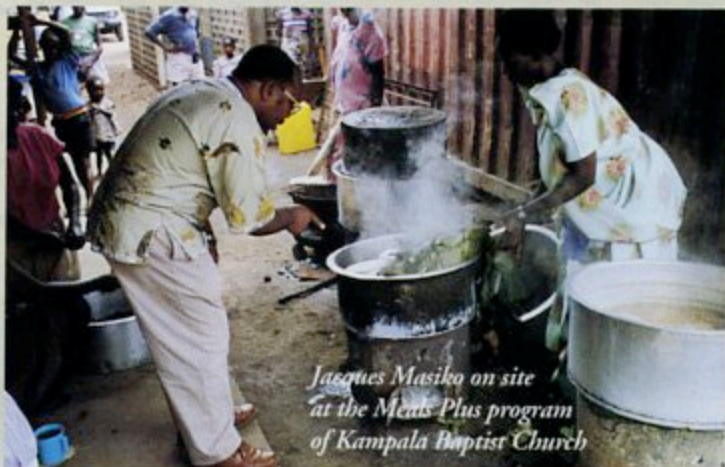
To broaden COMPASSION's impact, Masiko has widely implemented a new generation of COMPASSION program that bases in local churches. Student centers still offer Christian training, educational monitoring and tutoring, health monitoring, and non-formal learning opportunities. Freed from the task of formal classroom education, though, the church-sponsored student centers are able to be more flexible and individualized in responding to kids' needs.

For many kids caught in the crossfire of AIDS and being orphaned, that extra personal touch has made a great difference. The centers have provided Ugandan children safe recreation, grief counseling when needed, personal attention and encouragement. In many cases, the centers have also introduced kids to a caring church home.

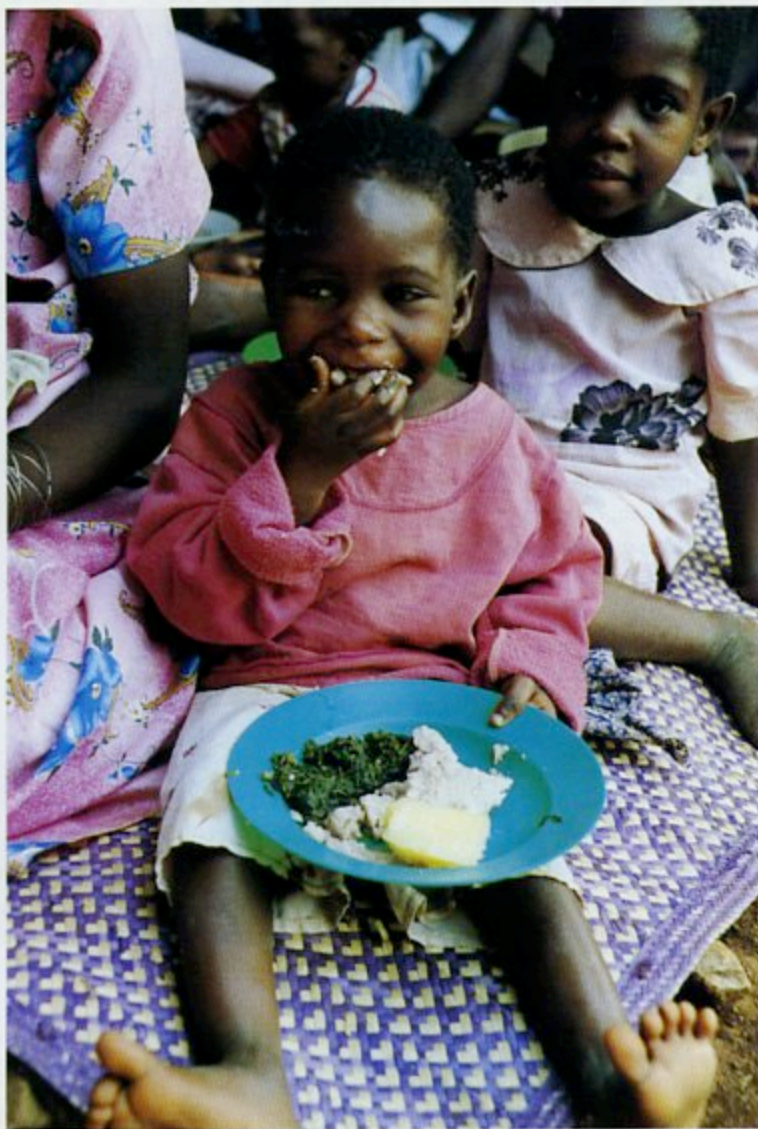
Jacques Masiko is greeted with respect when kids see him at a COMPASSION-assisted project. Formal greetings are exchanged, and Masiko usually will review the children by age group on some point of knowledge appropriate for their level.

It is in more private encounters that you see Masiko's heart. It's Masiko seeing his own six-year-old in the eyes of a child he holds whose remaining parent is in the final stages of AIDS. It's Masiko wondering how his own son would cope as he speaks to a teenager who is struggling to stay in school and simultaneously support his siblings.

It's Masiko who will be on the phone and at projects tomorrow. Like the other four hundred COMPASSION employees, he'll be working with the COMPASSION family to hammer out answers for the sake of the children.



Jacques Masiko on site at the Meals Plus program of Kampala Baptist Church



One happy pre-schooler is nearly at normal weight, thanks to Meals Plus

Horizons of Hope

*History and present change
are shaping COMPASSION's
strategy for the future*

FIVE YEARS AGO, 106,000 CHILDREN WERE SPONSORED through COMPASSION. Today, the figure stands at 180,000. A reasonable projection of future growth puts the number of COMPASSION-sponsored children at nearly 300,000 in five years.

COMPASSION has to plan today to prepare for that sort of expansion.

"Over the years, we've learned to anticipate change so we can answer it with a developmental response, and not just with a reaction based on the tyranny of the urgent," said COMPASSION President Wally Erickson.

So when the question, "What's next for COMPASSION?" is asked, COMPASSION staff members put their responses in the context of a strategy for a developmental response to children's needs.

Child assistance from infancy to independence

At the heart of COMPASSION's vision for the future is expanding its assistance to children.

"Our goal is to offer a stabilizing influence for children from before the time they're born until they can be self-sufficient," said Executive Program Director Dr. Don Miller. "We're moving in that direction now."

One program's recent modification shows movement toward that goal. For years, COMPASSION has offered a supplementary meals program through its projects. Now, that program has been refined to offer more than just food — thus its name, "Meals Plus."

"Many children are robbed of their God-given potential because of deficiencies caused by malnutrition during their formative years," said Dan Brewster, COMPASSION's Program Operations Manager. "Caring for the needs of under fives will help make the children more receptive and teachable when they enter our school programs, and ensure that more of them reach that point in the first place."

"Our focus for Meals Plus is the at-risk pre-schooler or infant. The 'meals' part of the program is nutritional intervention, where we feed a child in the program until they achieve normal weight for their age.

"The 'plus' of Meals Plus is a training component. Classes equip the adult who brings the child to the program to prepare a balanced diet for their families. Sometimes that involves physically supplementing a family's food supply; sometimes it means simply educating someone to utilize what they have already.

"We won't ignore the needs of nutritionally at-risk students being served by the program now. We're simply expanding our efforts for a specific target group, so our Meals Plus program can complete a continuum of child assistance 'from infancy to independence.'"

School-age children have been the focus of COMPASSION's program, and will continue to be so. Still, there is need to expand COMPASSION's ministry

to benefit kids about to launch out on their own.

"As our sponsored kids get older, we want to complete the investment we've made in them," said Don Miller. "Remember, we want COMPASSION kids to be equipped to fulfill Biblical principles, and that includes working to be a productive citizen and family member.

"So on the other end of the assistance spectrum from 'Meals Plus' is a concerted effort to research job trends in a culture and then channel kids into training that will meet those trends. Scholarship funds will allow sponsored children to enter trade schools, or to receive university training.

"We're still in the process of fully implementing 'infancy to independence' assistance," Miller said. "But we're on our way."

Expansion in the U.S. and Ethiopia

COMPASSION is expanding its strategic vision to address two countries with children of great need: the United States and Ethiopia.

"The needs in Ethiopia are still overwhelming, even though the TV cameras are gone," Dr. Wess Stafford said. "When the dust settles, when we know the real needs, when we find our real partners, we can start our work there."

Stafford, COMPASSION's Executive Vice President, continued, "We didn't go there five years ago because there were several things that prevented our developing the proper infrastructure.

"For instance, the overflow of aid agencies and the excessive media presence made it so we couldn't assess developmental needs accurately. Second, the church was underground, so we had no partner for accountability or for sharing the Gospel. The government schools would have been no help to us, and corruption was so great in the country that a strategic distribution of funds would have been impossible.

"Now, the government has changed. Local churches are above ground, growing, and ready to seize the chance to disciple children through Christian schools. The country is ready to move past a relief mentality into development strategy.

"God willing, we'll be there with them soon."

COMPASSION anticipates a great expansion of its child development program in the U.S. in the near future.

COMPASSION's present U.S. partners are putting together visionary proposals to expand their impact. Inner city prospects for COMPASSION partnership are under consideration. Personnel are

being interviewed and hired to pioneer this new generation of U.S. program. Pilot projects have already been researched and launched.

"The L.A. riots drew attention to our inner cities," Dr. Don Miller reflected. "But in city after city we've surveyed, comprehensive Christian ministry to inner city children in the United States is missing.

"We've been quietly active in support programs for several inner city partners. Scholarship funds, grants for inner city partners, day camps, and a few after-school centers are a few avenues of involvement we're already doing. We're about to broaden our impact to meet the needs of the kids."

Dan Brewster added, "The U.S. inner city program under development will meet a different kind of poverty than the kind we face overseas. The tide for overseas poverty can often be turned by supplying material goods.

"But there is a poverty of systems support for inner city U.S. kids. Gangs often substitute for families, schools, and churches. We have to provide other moral and social alternatives for our inner city kids."

In the U.S., or Ethiopia, or anywhere else, strategic child development takes time. It requires consistency and commitment. It means working out long-term solutions to long-time problems.

From the beginning, that's what God has called COMPASSION to do.

The needs are still tremendous. The opportunities remain unparalleled.

With God's help, COMPASSION, its sponsors, its staff, and its partners intend to do something about it — for the sake of the children.

Part of the training component of Meals Plus covers basic hygiene



SPECIAL FUNDS FROM COMPASSION HAVE MADE BIG DIFFERENCES RECENTLY. HERE ARE JUST two examples:

COMPASSION's Philippines Country Director Joel Villamor reports that the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo covered farmland around the COMPASSION-assisted Jireh Children's Home with ash and sand. COMPASSION funds were used to purchase the engine and water pump for a newly-installed irrigation system for the home's farmland, which is turning the tide for the land's productivity. Children are learning to maintain the system, as well as care for the rice paddies and vegetable gardens the system serves.

In the Azandeland area of northern Zaire, a profound lack of iodine in the soil combined with the native diet has produced the world's highest incidence of goiters and cretinism. COMPASSION's Hunger and Health Fund gave a medical mission in the area funds to purchase and distribute Lipiodol, a drug that reverses the iodine deficiency for between two and three years. Twenty thousand people were treated in the area. The results in Azandeland both in measurable reduction of goiters and in the improvement of cretin children were "dramatic," according to Carol Dahlstrom, a worker who assisted in the effort.

THE RESPONSE TO COMPASSION'S RECENT SPONSORSHIP RATE INCREASE HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE. We've already heard from most of our sponsors, and the increase is making a great difference for sponsored children. To increase your support to the new level, you need only indicate your desire to do so when you send in your next payment. (As always, any current sponsor is welcome to stay at the support level at which they entered.)

FIELD REPORTS REFLECT GOOD NEWS REGARDING COMPASSION'S HEALTH SCREENING PROCEDURE, which equips children to gauge basic health for themselves and others. One example comes from a Ugandan program audit: "The project facilitator had the older children health screen all the children in the project, being close to 400. In less than half an hour it was accomplished with the following results: 19 were found to have head lice; 80 with dirty teeth; and 37 with long and dirty fingernails. I was surprised at how quick and effective the new health screen procedure is." The procedure is meeting with enthusiasm because first, it simply works; and second, because children are learning to become health monitors.

MARK WILLIAMS HAS BEEN A FAITHFUL WORKER IN COMPASSION'S MAILROOM FOR FIVE YEARS. Recently, Mark went to Guatemala to see "the front lines" of COMPASSION's child development program. "Stuffing envelopes and running mail didn't give me direct contact with what COMPASSION was all about. Seeing kids from really tough situations obviously full of the love of the Lord, seeing the quality of the staff, and seeing the projects in action makes all the difference. I saw Jesus at work in the kids' lives. COMPASSION actually does what we say we do."

"MORE CHILDREN ARE RECEIVING THE BENEFITS OF COMPASSION'S CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM because more people are remembering COMPASSION in their wills," Russ Reid, COMPASSION's Resource Development Director, reports. "Others are considering COMPASSION as a recipient of memorial gifts." To find out more about COMPASSION's "Living Memorial" program and the free gift/financial planning services COMPASSION offers to its sponsors, call Russ at 1-800-336-7540.

TO HAVE SPONSORS WRITE THEIR SPONSORED CHILDREN IS THE MOST MENTIONED ITEM ON the "wish lists" of Compassion field staff. Dr. Wess Stafford says sponsor letters need not be long, "...but need to let a child know a sponsor is proud to be associated with them." Family facts, prayer requests, and encouragement for a child's progress are all suitable subjects for the letter.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT INCLUDING A VISIT TO YOUR SPONSORED CHILD IN YOUR TRAVEL plans? Sponsor tours are available through Compassion's Sponsor Relations service. Tour dates and countries include Ecuador from November 6-17, 1992, Mexico from January 9-17, 1993, Kenya/Uganda from February 14 - March 2, 1993, Brazil from March 20 - April 4, 1993, and Mexico from May 1-9, 1993. Plans are also underway for sponsor tours to India in October 1993, and El Salvador/Honduras in November 1993. For more information, call Laurie Hodgson or JoAnn Stroup at 1-800-336-7539.



Mark Williams



*Wess Stafford chats with a
COMPASSION sponsored child
in South America*

THE MUSIC CONNECTION

Cooperating musicians have connected thousands of sponsors to COMPASSION's work. The beat goes on....

CHRISTIAN MUSICIANS HAVE BEEN A VITAL PART OF COMPASSION'S RECENT HISTORY. SINCE THE late 1970's, scores of dedicated artists have publically supported COMPASSION through endorsements and concert presentations.

One of COMPASSION's most enthusiastic supporters is Geoff Moore. Geoff has visited COMPASSION-assisted projects in Haiti and Guatemala. "I love telling people about how God uses COMPASSION International," Moore said. "I've been privileged to be involved as a COMPASSION sponsor since 1985. I know beyond question that COMPASSION makes Christianity real to thousands of deserving kids."

Moore and his band, the Distance, are celebrating COMPASSION's 40th year of ministry by offering a special presentation on COMPASSION's behalf during their "A Friend Like U" concert tour, which also features Audio Adrenaline and Two Hearts.

COMPASSION's history, present challenges, and hopes for the future will be expressed through Moore, Mark Stewart of Audio Adrenaline, and Michael and Carrie Hodge of Two Hearts.

"COMPASSION's successful track record and integrity speak for themselves," Michael Hodge said. "They deserve our congratulations, and continual support in all that they do for the precious children they touch."

"COMPASSION really fleshes out James 1:27," Carrie Hodge added.

Mark Stewart recently traveled to Ecuador to view COMPASSION's work there. Stewart commented, "I'm a missionary kid. I've seen COMPASSION in action. I know they meet kids where they live, and address real needs."

The "A Friend Like U" Tour will be coming to a city near you. We encourage you to attend not only these, but also other concerts in your area presented by the family of COMPASSION artists who have been faithful partners of COMPASSION's ministry to deserving children over the years.



(Left) Geoff Moore in Guatemala
(Above) Mark Stewart in Ecuador

"A Friend Like U"

TOUR DATES

October 2 Columbia, MO
October 6 Greenville, IL
October 8 Raytown, MO
October 9 Manhattan, KS
October 10 Littleton, CO
October 11 Grand Junction, CO
October 12 Scottsbluff, NE
October 14 Bozeman, MT
October 15 Kalispel, MT
October 18 Quincy, WA
October 21 Hermiston, OR
October 22 Boise, ID
October 28 Ruston, LA
October 29 Houston, TX
October 30 Dallas, TX
October 31 Shawnee, OK
November 2 McAllen, TX
November 7 Longview, TX
November 10 San Rafael, CA
November 19 Peoria, IL
November 20 Palos Heights, IL
November 21 Green Bay, WI
November 22 Redwing, MN
November 23 Thief River Falls, MN
November 28 Columbus, OH
December 4 Marion, IL

*Above dates are subject to change.
Additional dates are pending.*

Country Changes

COMPASSION REGULARLY EVALUATES HOW WELL THE PROGRAM support network in a given project or country is responding to COMPASSION development and accountability standards. That evaluation determines if COMPASSION remains involved in the partnership.

For example, COMPASSION has worked in Myanmar (formerly Burma) for twenty years. Prohibitive travel restrictions imposed by the Burmese government have been tightening for a decade. Those restrictions have made it difficult for COMPASSION to hire Burmese staff, much less maintain the on-site accountability standards it requires. So, COMPASSION regretfully ended its work in Myanmar this spring.

It's not always bad news when COMPASSION discontinues its work in country, though. In Singapore, the government has worked hand-in-hand with COMPASSION's Methodist and Salvation Army partners to place at-risk children in COMPASSION-assisted development programs. Recently, the Singapore government substantially increased their support of those programs.

Combined with the support of the church in Singapore and the blessing of a stable economy, COMPASSION's partners are able to continue their program without COMPASSION's assistance.

COMPASSION began its work in Malaysia in 1969. Malaysia's national religion is Islam, and the government maintains constant pressure on Christian outreach. For instance, COMPASSION cannot maintain a Malaysian country office to monitor projects there. But persecution has produced a strong and active Christian church that leads the way in addressing the social needs of Malaysian children. Local development agencies and the Malaysian church are providing viable assistance to children, and the Malaysian economy is quite sound. Although the needed support network for COMPASSION has been restricted, God is replacing COMPASSION with a visionary, obedient Malaysian church.

COMPASSION sponsors played a pivotal role in helping many children complete an education and know the love of Jesus in all three countries. Thanks to all of you who were a part of COMPASSION's ministry through you support!

Tremendous needs, unparalleled opportunities: 40 years and counting

In 1952, Everett Swanson saw the tremendous needs of children in Korea. He was challenged to think of the opportunities he had to impact the situation for the better.

You can be the impact that makes the situation better for one needy child. Over the last 40 years, caring sponsors like you have enabled COMPASSION to assist nearly half a million children through child sponsorship. Today, COMPASSION sponsors help 180,000 children in 26 nations.

You can make a profound difference in the life of one child. Thousands of children registered in COMPASSION-assisted projects throughout the world are waiting for someone like you to commit to sponsor them.

For only 80 cents a day, you can help a deserving child attend school, receive health monitoring and training and, most importantly, hear about Jesus Christ.

Take advantage of the opportunity to help one such child today.

YES! I want to sponsor a needy child.

I prefer a Boy Girl Either

From Africa Asia Caribbean Latin America
 U.S.A. (see note below) Any

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

If you wish to begin immediately, please enclose your first sponsorship check, indicating the amount here:

\$24 (one month) \$72 (three months) \$288 (one year)

I prefer to receive my sponsorship packet first. I will send my first check within 10 days, or return the packet so someone else can help

(Please print) Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone (_____) _____

Work phone (_____) _____

**Sponsorship of a U.S.A. child costs \$48 a month. All other countries are \$24 a month. Sponsorship is tax-deductible.*

Please make checks payable to:

COMPASSION
INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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