

*Compassion, Inc.*

**For Immediate Release**



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## **Hungry Children Receive Help**

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There are so many groups, agencies and individuals helping needy people that it seems strange there is so much hunger and poverty left in the world. Only when we consider the staggering millions of people do we begin to see the monumental task that even our multiple, many-pronged efforts can't cope with.

It is not difficult to point to places on the globe where thousands are going hungry and living without adequate shelter. There isn't a benevolent nation in the world singly that can take care of them all.

But some of these people are getting help through various church affiliated, government sponsored and private efforts. The only trouble is that much of the assistance is stopgap, a meal today to prolong the hunger of tomorrow.

What is needed — and there are people working on this, too — are development programs which enable hungry people to gain the know-how and motivation to grow their own food and build their own shelter. The Peace Corps program has tried to do this sort of thing because it is the only long range answer.

In recent weeks attention has been turned to the millions in India and Pakistan who live in a perpetual state of hunger and misery. The U.S. government has poured billions of dollars into their areas to try to help. But the money has disappeared and the hunger remains. The essential problem of mere existence hasn't been solved yet.

The people simply do not have the means, the knowledge or the motivation to work

their way out of the morass. Until some way is found to solve this situation, every meal furnished by some humanitarian agency is a patch on a running sore. There is no healing medication.

There is no intention here to demean the helpful efforts to relieve the misery in the Indian subcontinent, Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. Thank God, there are people concerned enough to try to help.



One of those international agencies doing what it can to relieve hunger among children is Compassion Inc. with headquarters in Chicago. It was organized in 1952 by the late Everett Swanson, an evangelist, to seek sponsors for destitute children.

It has developed into a worldwide child care agency. Compassion figures that it has provided some 25,185,000 meals for hungry children during 1971. This is an estimate, of course, based on three meals a day, 365 days a year for 23,000 youngsters.

In South Korea, Compassion provides meals for 16,000

children, most of them orphaned or abandoned. The youngsters get the basic foods of their country — rice, fish, vegetables and fruit.

In Indonesia, Compassion is assisting more than 3,000 children and their widowed mothers. The need here isn't so great as in other parts of the world because bananas and coconuts grow extensively throughout Indonesia the year round. However, hungry children need more than that.

Compassion also serves children in India, Thailand, Singapore, Afghanistan, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the Southwest Indian School in Glendale, Arizona.

The organization actually does more than provide food. It is concerned about all the basic needs of children. Provision is made for spiritual, physical and material needs. Some of the children get clothing, shelter, medical assistance and elementary education. And that is good.

Thousands of individuals, Sunday School classes and civic organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada provide Compassion with the financial support needed to carry on this worldwide operation.

Anyone interested in learning more about the organization and its work should write to Compassion, 7774 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, Ill., 60634.

Compassion, of course, is only one of a great many such agencies trying to do what they can to relieve human misery. May they all flourish in the coming year in direct proportion to the good they are able to do.

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