

Compassion

September-October, 1975



A victory team in Burma

by Ed Kimball, former Field Director of South Asia

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us." (Romans 9:31)

Missing — two bamboo walls

WHEN SAMSON'S FATHER died the only thing he left to his young son, two daughters, and his widow was a one-room bamboo and thatched house stilted on squatters land in Rangoon, Burma. Taking advantage of the situation the widow's brother-in-law, having lost his job and home, moved his family into the already crowded hut of the widow.

Four years later, in January of 1975, the brother-in-law and his family still shared the widow's home. Deciding that the house rightfully belonged to him, that he should



This family lost two walls to their house. Compassion will help rebuild them before the rainy season begins.

have inherited his brother's house, he tried to force the widow and her three Compassion-sponsored children out of their "grass shack."

The issue was taken to the headman of the village. After several weeks of debate, the village elders decided in favor of the widow and demanded that the trouble-maker leave the village.

Angered by the decision of the village counsel, the brother-in-law began dismantling the home, taking the two fluorescent bulbs and wiring from the house. He then proceeded to take down the bamboo walls. Before neighbors could be rallied to stop him he carried off two of the four walls.

Fire, wind, and nothingness

THE FIRE STARTED in a neighbor's hut. Because of a strong wind the flames leaped from one grass roof to another, encircling each bamboo and thatched hut on stilts.

As the fire neared Ma Shwe Mi's home, the young girl, along with her brothers, sisters and widowed mother, frantically carried all their belongings from the house to a safe place out of the path of the wind and flames.

As they stood watching their little home burn to the ground, the wind suddenly shifted; the fire jumped the road. For the second time that day the family stood helplessly by and watched their small pile of possessions disappear in smoke and flames.

When her house burned down, this widow found help through Compassion.

With the rainy season only a few weeks off, the widow became gravely concerned about her plight. She talked to the Lord about it in her "quiet time."

Several days later when John Thetgyi (Compassion's Burma representative) and I (Ed Kimball) arrived in the area to visit the family, we were quite surprised to see the terrible condition of the widow's home.

With money from an emergency fund provided by Compassion donors, we were able to give the widow \$50 to rebuild the two walls before the rainy season set in.

When we offered to help, the widow burst out crying and said, "What a wonderful Lord we have."





Ma Shwe Mi, with her mother, stands where their house once stood.

Twenty-one homes and shops burned to the ground before villagers were able to put out the fire. Kind neighbors opened their homes to the fire victims who had saved nothing but the clothing on their backs.

Meanwhile, Rev. John Thetgyi and I were on our way to visit our Family Helper Project in Toungoo. As we approached the burned-out section of the village we found Ma Shwe Mi and her mother looking through the ashes for valuables, but they found nothing.

The pastor of the local Baptist church had gathered some clothing for the fatherless family. Members of the church were already taking donations for building materials and making plans to build a small house for the widow and her children.

Compassion's donation included two chicken lunches which we hadn't found time to eat; enough money to provide food for our Compassion family for two weeks; and a contribution to the building fund that would enable the men of the church to begin building immediately.

We had a wonderful time of prayer at the site and praised God for his mercy and providential care.

TEAR Fund and Compassion join hands

TEAR Fund, a Christian relief agency in Great Britain, recently became affiliated with Compassion, Inc. Compassion was seeking administrators to handle our office in Great Britain; TEAR Fund was interested in a program which cared for neglected and destitute children through a sponsorship program. God brought us together in a wonderful and marvelous way.

TEAR Fund (The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund) came into existence in May, 1968. This relief agency channels its resources to projects in 40 countries, through Christian doctors, nurses, agriculturalists and others who are working to meet the needs of suffering humanity in the name of Jesus.

Supplying emergency relief when disasters strike all over the world is one of their functions; however, their main thrust is the prevention of tragedy before it strikes. Now in association with Compassion, they will help care for needy children through our sponsorship program.

Rev. George Hoffman, Director of TEAR Fund, and Miss Sally Lambert, Supervisor in charge of the TEAR Fund Family Plan, visited our headquarters in Chicago in June, getting acquainted with staff members and the work of Compassion.

Compassion is happy to join hands with TEAR Fund—People who are "marked and motivated by the love of God in Christ Jesus. People who love people."



▲ Letter writing can be quite a chore for children who have never written a letter before, but oh the joy they bring to their sponsors.



Happiness is a two-way street

giving and receiving

◀ Receiving sponsor photographs brings great happiness to the children. Proudly they display them before their friends or tack them to the bare walls of their rooms.

“Operation long underwear” has come a long way



The winters were bitterly cold. Korean orphan children attended school in unheated classrooms by day. At night they slept in buildings made of stone or clay walls and rice straw thatched roofs where the only way to get warm was to huddle together on the ondul floor. (Heat circulates under the floor by a system of flues leading from a fire pit in the kitchen.)

Support money was needed to provide food, medicine, shelter and limited clothing. The superintendent just couldn't afford to spend an entire month's allotment on winter clothes.

Then a new idea was born: "Operation Long Underwear"—a program to help superintendents meet the added burden of extra clothing for the winter months.

In the fall of 1960 Rev. Swanson, founder of Compassion, Inc., asked sponsors to send a special offering to provide a complete outfit—a pr. of shoes, 2 pr. of socks, 2 pr. of heavy

long underwear, and a complete school uniform—for each Compassion child.

"I have written to all 69 homes telling the superintendents that they can expect funds for this purpose," wrote Rev. Swanson. "We must send the money by September; therefore, we will have to borrow part of the money, fully expecting we will get it in later from our dear supporters. Please don't fail us."

And they didn't. Over 6,000 Korean children were clothed that winter.

"My how you have warmed my heart," wrote Rev. Swanson to his supporters.

In 1961 the appeal for winter clothing was first called the WARM Program (Winter Aid Relief Money). Compassion had been growing and now, a year later, the plea went out to raise enough money to clothe 10,000 abandoned and destitute children. Once again the sponsors and friends responded in Christian love

and sacrifice.

By 1968 Compassion was expanding into Southeast Asia—into India and Indonesia. Then on into Malaysia, Singapore and Haiti, until today, in 1975, Compassion cares for needy children in 20 countries.

Of course, not all of these countries have cold winters. In fact, most of them do not, but the need for a new set of clothing is there, too. In many countries a child must have school uniforms or he will not be allowed to attend school. This rule of the local governments is strictly enforced and hinders many children from receiving an education.

Now in 1975 we are appealing to our sponsors and friends to help provide WARM clothing for more than 25,000 children. From 6,000 in 1960 to 25,000 in 1975. "Operation Long Underwear" has truly come a long way.

We hope that each of you can take part by sending \$12.00 to provide a new set of clothes for a child. For

some it will be a new set of school or Sunday clothes in the semi-tropical countries; for others it will be a snugly warm set.

A letter has already been mailed and many of you immediately responded. However, we would like to clothe those in our care who do not yet know the love and concern of a personal sponsor as well as all of our sponsored children. To do this we'll need some of you to send enough to cover 2 or more sets of clothing.

If you would like to participate, please mail your check in the postage-paid envelope included in this magazine.

*"I was naked and ye clothed me."
"When saw we thee naked and clothed thee, Lord?"*

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, 'Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'" (Matthew 25:38-40.) □



Myung Ho—Korea

This little boy is 9 years old. His father is dead and his mother is an unskilled laborer. Myung Ho is a quiet boy and his health is listed as "fair."



Lilliam—Nicaragua

6-year-old Lilliam is a friendly girl who likes to sing. Her father has poor health and cannot adequately provide for his children.



Moleste—Haiti

10-year-old Moleste lives in extreme poverty with his father in Haiti. His father is a destitute farmer. Sponsorship support will help improve his diet.



Devatha—India

This seven-year-old girl lives with her mother in the impoverished country of India. Her father died of a heart attack before Devatha was 1 year old.



Eliezer—Philippines

This boy is 8 years old, and because he is so poor he has not been attending school. His health needs improvement too. His father is dead.



Na Leh—Burma

Na Leh lives with her mother who is a destitute farm worker. Her father died 2 years ago of an illness. She is 11 years old.



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 \$15.00 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 1500 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! Fill out the coupon on the attached envelope and write to us today.

SPONSOR APPLICATION

Yes. I will sponsor a needy child for \$15 a month. Please assign a child to me and send me the child's name, photo, and case history. I understand if my circumstances change, I am free to cancel my sponsorship at any time. I am enclosing my first sponsor payment of \$15.00 (1 month), \$45.00 (3 months), \$180.00 (1 year).

- My choice is _____ from the pictures shown.
- Select a child who needs me most.
- I prefer a Boy Girl, about _____ years old.

I can't sponsor now, but will give \$_____ to help needy children.

Name _____
(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (Please Print)

Address _____

City _____

Province _____ Zip _____

All gifts are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to COMPASSION OF CANADA.

Thank you!



Myung Ho—Korea

This little boy is 9 years old. His father is dead and his mother is an un-



Lilliam—Nicaragua

6-year-old Lilliam is a friendly girl who likes to sing. Her father has



Moleste—Haiti

10-year-old Moleste lives in extreme poverty with his father in Haiti. His



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



Lynette smiles with some of her new-found Haitian friends.



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was heartbroken. She spoke their language; she understood their

Miss Walters is on a six-month assignment to Haiti where she will supervise 100 sponsored children who badly need a full-time supervisor to supervise the work. Miss Walters and Lynette for God's sake for their future. □

or the

Han Soon Ja is in the 1st grade at the Young Nam School for the Deaf. The aim of the school is to develop the ability or talent in each child so that they can become self-supporting. "It's very hard," said Soon Ja, "but my goal is to make a necklace of small balls like jewels." She is one of the other participants in the program. She made a beautiful necklace within a 50-minute time limit and won first prize in the contest. □



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Lynette smiles with some of her new-found Haitian friends.

Closed doors

To **Lynette Walters**, who has been Compassion's "Ambassador to Indonesia" for five years, the doors to Indonesia are closed. When Lynette's visa expired, the Indonesian government refused to renew it, saying that a national could do the same work she was doing. Her title was Financial Coordinator and Correspondent.

Lynette was heartbroken. She loved the people; she spoke their language; and she understood their culture.

Presently Miss Walters is on a six-month assignment to Haiti where we have 3500 sponsored children and where we badly need a full-time staff member to supervise the work.

Pray with us and Lynette for God's direction in her future. □



Hope for the future

Sixteen-year-old Han Soon Ja is in the 3rd grade at Choong Nam School for Retarded Children. The aim of the school is to find some ability or talent in each child and then train them so that they can some day become self-supporting.

"I have studied very hard," said Soon Ja. "One of my talents is to make a necklace with many small balls like jewels."

Along with 200 other participants, Soon Ja entered a contest for children in special education schools. She made a beautiful beaded necklace within a 50-minute time period and won first prize in the Hand-made Division. □

Duties of medical dollars

With a family as large as ours, medical needs are numerous and varied. So each spring we have an annual "Medical Fund" appeal, and with these funds received from sponsors and donors we are able to provide surgery, hospital care, emergency treatment, medications, and special equipment for some of our children.

When dollars are limited it is difficult for Compassion's staff to decide just where to use the funds. But decisions are made; dollars are spent; and children are made well and happy.

Let me tell you how a few of these dollars have been spent—No, I'll let the children themselves tell you.

For Crutches — Choi Byung Kwon, a middle school student, wrote a thank-you to Rev. Erickson. "I have been ill with my right leg and so I should have the physical treatment with kneeling, riding bicycle, standing on the table of an ankle stepping, and bed motion. Since I have taken treatment at Ai Hyang Hospital in Yo Soo City, I feel much better. But I need the crutch to walk. It is very precious to me. Thank you very much for this new crutch."



For Appendectomies — "At first I thought it was a simple stomachache by some wrong foods," said Oh Hai Yung. "But the next day I was brought to the hospital and diagnosed appendicitis by the doctor. I have taken the operation on the merit of your help and now I am well."



For Cavities — Dr. A. Clifton Hanna, a Baptist missionary dentist who has been serving in Korea since 1966, has given free treatment to thousands of needy people. During March and April, Dr. Hanna visited a number of our Compassion homes (free of charge) examining the teeth of the children and prescribing treatment. Upon receiving his reports, our nurses arranged for the children to be taken to various dental clinics for treatment which we received at a considerably reduced rate.

For Cataracts — Another middle school student, Kim Yung Ho wrote: "Years ago, when I climbed an electric pole to catch the bird, my eyes were touched by electric wire. Since that accident my eyesight became very poor. I even had to quit school. The doctor diagnosed my problem cataract, and said I may even become blind. So I received cataract surgery. Before surgery a picture of Rev. Swanson hung on the wall looked like a clock, but now I can see it as it is. Really, I don't know how to thank you enough. I promise to study hard and be a good boy."

These are only a few of the thank-

you's we have received from Korea and other countries for the medical assistance given through our special fund. So far this year we have received more than \$55,000.00. Each month that folks keep contributing to this Miracle Ministry we are able to provide operations, eye glasses, medicine, etc., for more and more children.

Thank you for caring and sharing.
"No man ever stood so straight as when he stooped to help a crippled child." □





On Laurie's first visit to Compassion projects in Indonesia he was warmly welcomed. Children presented him gifts of cloves while banners made out of bamboo and coconut palm leaves gave the grounds a festive air.

Compassion's new face in South Asia

This month we welcome Laurie McCowan and his wife Olive with their three girls—Annette Ruth (14), Kerrie Joy (12), and Leanne Gai (10) into the ever-growing family of Compassion, Inc. Mr. McCowan is our new Field Director of South Asia.

The McCowans have been living in Indonesia since 1969 when Mr. McCowan accepted the position of business manager for the Leprosy Mission—an international medical mission sponsored by the Indonesian Government and working with leprosy patients throughout Indonesia.

"Both he and his family are used to his traveling all over Indonesia," said Edward Kimball, former Field Director of South Asia. "Since he already spends one-third of his time



The McCowan Family: Laurie, Annette, Kerrie, Olive and Leanne.

traveling, it won't be too difficult for his family to get used to his being away about half of the time. He also speaks Indonesian which will be a great asset since more than half of our work in South Asia is in that country."

As a Field Director of South Asia, Mr. McCowan will travel more than 40,000 miles a year. His territory includes Burma, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. In these six countries Laurie will supervise 52 projects with over 12,000 needy children.

His two main objectives are evangelism for children and administra-

tion. He supervises field personnel, directing them so that every dollar is wisely and honestly spent to care for the greatest needs of the children. As he visits each country he inspects the projects to see that Compassion standards are maintained.

Attending services, listening to the joyous singing of the nationals, and preaching to them the Gospel of Jesus Christ will certainly be among his most rewarding experiences.

We truly believe the McCowans were sent to us by God. We trust you will pray for the McCowan family and that our work under his leadership will prosper. □

Christmas gifts for your child

Most of us haven't started getting tangled up in red wrapping paper and green bows yet, but if you want your sponsored child to receive a Christmas gift it's time to start planning.

For many of you this will be your first Christmas as a sponsor, and I know you're wondering, "What can I send to my child?"

First, we must tell you **DO NOT SEND ANY PACKAGES** to your child or to this office for several reasons:

1. Many packages become lost in a foreign postal system.
2. Contents are often pilfered.
3. Strict custom regulations will not allow many items to be brought into the country.
4. Excessive amount of duty that is charged by foreign governments

often exceeds the value of the package. Your child is very poor and cannot afford to redeem the package at any price.

Therefore, the quickest, safest, and *only way* to send a gift to your child is to **SEND A MONEY GIFT** through Compassion's office. You may send a check for the amount you wish to give, up to ten dollars (\$10) per child. We will forward 100% of your gift directly to your child.

Since the project supervisor, parent, or staff workers know best what is available on the market and what your child needs most, it's best to leave the choice of what to buy up to them.

In order to assure arrival on time for Christmas, your check should be received by our Chicago office no later than **OCTOBER 20**.

These gifts will be distributed at Christmas time, so please do not expect acknowledgment from your child before the first of March.

If you cannot or do not wish to send a money gift, your child would enjoy receiving a Christmas card and photograph of you. Please do not enclose gift items in your letters; they cannot be forwarded. □

New president is appointed

At the June, 1975 Board of Directors' Meeting, Rev. Wallace H. Erickson (Executive Vice President) was appointed President of Compassion, Inc. The office had been vacant since Rev. Henry Harvey's retirement last October.

Rev. Erickson brings to this important position the qualities and talents of a spiritual leader who has devoted his life to the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and the service of others. Before coming to Compassion Rev. Erickson pastored for fifteen years. During his eight years with Compassion he has served in several capacities which have given him broad experiences and deep understanding concerning the work of our child-care program.

When he joined the Compassion staff in the fall of 1967, he became the Director of Public Relations and Stewardship. However, just six months later he accepted an overseas assignment and moved to South Korea to serve as the Field Director for 180 homes, caring for 18,000 orphaned and destitute children.

Four years later, in 1972, the Erickson family returned to the States, and Rev. Erickson assumed responsibilities of the Field Director of North, South, and Central America. Pioneering with a purpose, Mr. Erickson journeyed into the back country, over mountains and through jungles to open new projects where people were most needy.

For the past year Rev. Erickson has served as the Executive Vice President.



Rev. Wallace Erickson, Compassion's newly-appointed president, with a group of Compassion-sponsored children in Haiti.

However, his is not only a ministry to needy children, but his is a continuing pastoral ministry as he counsels with missionaries and their families on the field. His door is always open to staff members who need to talk—whether it be about personal problems or the work of Compassion. Wally is busy, yes, but never too busy to listen, counsel and pray with a burdened soul.

Our President-Pastor thinks of his new assignment as a ministry with an unlimited outreach: 60-70 full-time staff members at home and abroad; scores of missionaries and native workers; more than 25,000 children; and 30,000 sponsors and friends.

"The Lord has laid upon my shoulders and heart an international ministry of such magnitude, it seems beyond comprehension and human abilities," said Rev. Erickson. "In a sense my parish is far-flung; interracial, intercultural, and interdenominational. My call is a call to the ministry of the Lord to propagate a message. Please pray with the staff and me that the Lord will continue to give us His divine guidance and blessings." □

Compassion, Inc.

"... I have compassion on the multitude... I will not send them away."
Matthew 15:32

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The late Everett Swanson

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List of countries where Compassion has projects:

Burma	Malaysia
Colombia	Nicaragua
Dominican Republic	Philippines
Haiti	Puerto Rico
Hong Kong	Singapore
India	Spain
Indonesia	Thailand
Jamaica	United States
Korea	Venezuela
Liberia	Ecuador

Partial list of missions working in cooperation with Compassion projects:

Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM)
Mennonite Mission
Unevangelized Fields Mission
Salvation Army
North American Baptist Convention
Christian and Missionary Alliance
Assemblies of God
Free Methodist Mission
Oriental Missionary Society
West Indies Mission
American Wesleyan Church
Partnership Mission



Cover photo: These two kids live in Bolivia, South America—Compassion's next major area of expansion.

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Poverty

Rev. Wallace Erickson took this photo on a recent trip to South America. These kids, from Bolivia, are typical of many children who have need of Compassion's sponsorship program. Compassion plans to begin several new projects in South America during the months coming up.

