

Compassion

November-December, 1973



Christmas for Indonesian children



Pictured above, several sponsored children are busily preparing homemade Christmas cards for their sponsors. Some colored paper, a pair of scissors, and assorted marking pencils are the ingredients.

Christmas for our sponsored children in Indonesia is an exciting happy time. The local church is the center of activity, as special Christmas music and plays are featured. Compassion children are enthusiastic participants in singing, playing musical instruments, reciting Bible verses, and putting on plays.

The Christmas program is the high-

light of the activities. Our representative in Indonesia, Lynette Walters, visited a local church last Christmas and sent us this note:

"Here are a few pictures to illustrate a delightful children's Christmas program which I attended. (See photos at right). The Program was a real blessing to me because the children sang so beautifully. I got the impression that this was not a special performance put on for me but the usual way they did it, because none of them took the slightest bit of notice of me but went right ahead with the song or recitation they were doing."



The child in the center who is facing the wrong way is doubtless having a look at the camera! She is a Compassion-sponsored child. The children, when praying, would repeat sentence by sentence after the leader, and they really said it as if they meant it, too.

The children sang beautifully. Our Indonesian representative told them (and meant it!) that they sang much better than the children at the English and American churches in Jakarta.



Clothes being distributed to children at Bethesda Orphanage in India.



Christmas in India

Christmas is an exciting time for children in Compassion homes in India, too. The pictures shown here were taken last Christmas at the Bethesda Orphanage in South India. The superintendent of the home wrote the following letter to Henry Harvey, President of Compassion, describing the Christmas pageant:

"I am indeed very happy to share with you the joy of Christmas which was expressed through the Christmas pageant. The Orphanage children put up a witness to the guests who were Christians, non-Christians, men, women, and the youth. The audience was very appreciative of the way the children came, one by one, to the platform to recite by heart the prophecies and their fulfillment.

With the advice of Dr. Devasahayam, I invited Rev. Prasada Rao, the Baptist professor of the Theological College, as the Chairman of the

Christmas program. Mrs. Prasada Rao, the Dean of women, gave the message. Rev. Carder distributed Christmas clothing and shoes to the children. Everybody was very happy to receive them.

According to your advice, the teachers to the Upper Primary School and the Seminary student who comes from Luthergiri every Sunday trained the children to enact the Good Samaritan play-let after the Christmas pageant. I hope you take time to witness one of these play-lets when you next visit our Bethesda home.

We had a joyful time and the children had a nice supper after the function. I am sending you some pictures taken at that time for your kind perusal. Wishing you all the best and prosperity throughout this NEW-YEAR."

K. Surya Rao
Director



The director of Bethesda Orphanage, Surya Rao, introduces a speaker for part of the Christmas program.

All of the characters in the Christmas play pose for a group photo.



Compassion news briefs

Widows in Indonesia turning to Christ

Compassion sponsors nearly 5,000 children in Indonesia. Most of these children live with their mothers, who are very poor widows. Because all of the children have been involved with the local church and have received Christian training, many of their mothers have also been converted through the influence of the church.

In Pare, East Java, when children were assigned sponsors, only 35% of the widows were Christians. Today, 95% of the "Compassion widows" are Christians and baptized!

In Jember, East Java, the figure was

Ed Kimball, South Asian field director, poses with a Christian widow and her children, who are sponsored through Compassion.



5% and now is 60%. These are baptized Christians, and this is very important in a Moslem country.

Compassion enters Spain

Compassion is expanding in many areas of the world. Our newest project is in Spain, where we will sponsor needy children to help them especially with their schooling needs.

Spain has long been very difficult to reach with the Christian message, and many of its people have never even heard the Gospel. Our hope in sponsoring poor children in Spain is to give them a good education, and at the same time to reach them and their families with the message of Christ. Today, there is a great hunger for the Word of God in Spain, but also there is an indifference to Biblical truth. We are glad for this new opportunity to help.

News from Haiti

Several months ago we shared with you the drought conditions in Haiti and asked you to pray for rain. The drought is over and the rains are falling. Thank God for answered prayer.

Compassion sponsors "circle the world"

Did you know that Compassion has sponsors who live in more than 24 different countries? That's right . . . at last count we had sponsors who reside in Africa, Australia, Mexico, West Germany, France, Japan and Saudi Arabia . . . to name just a few. Compassion truly is an international agency for good will.

We thank God for the great good that has been accomplished these past 20 years . . . not only in thousands of little lives, but also in the hearts of

dedicated sponsors who live not only in the U.S. and Canada, but in distant regions of the world.

Compassion, International is formed

You will be hearing more about Compassion, International, Inc. which is now incorporated under the State of Illinois as a Not-for-Profit organization and has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a Not-for-Profit corporation.

Compassion, International has been specially organized to provide disaster relief and to alleviate suffering, both in areas where Compassion, Inc. offers sponsorship programs for children, and in other areas as well. Compassion, International will be able to receive contributions, or to purchase food and drugs and medicines at low cost for worldwide distribution.

The Board of Directors and the Officers of Compassion, International are the same as those of Compassion, Inc.

Please . . . no packages

We have an urgent note from Ed Kimball, our South Asian Field director. He writes: "During the past six months, our Jakarta office has received a number of gift packages directly from sponsors. Prior to 1973, we have had no problems with the gifts."

Ed strongly urges us to remind you that we cannot care for gift parcels in South Asia, or in any of our fields. Huge import duty charges, breakage, and pilferage are among the reasons.

If you would like to send a gift to your sponsored child, please send a check to Compassion with your instructions as to what you want purchased.

The maximum gift should be no larger than \$5.00, except for sponsored children living in Korea or the U.S., in which case the limit is \$10.00.

"Our son is grown"



Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Sycks, and the Korean boy they sponsored.

A beautiful letter came to our Chicago office a while back from longtime sponsors of a Korean boy who is now grown up and on his own. The letter came from Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Sycks of Walker, Minnesota, who wrote: "We received word today that our boy is now on his own. We did a little reminiscing and wanted to share it with you:

We never heard your voice . . . we never touched your hand. We never heard you laugh or cry. We never saw you at all. But tonight we are lonely. We sorted out all the many letters from you that we have saved over these years. We looked at each picture and there were lots of them too. You always smiled at us and somehow we managed to see you talk through that smile. Your printed words to us were always happy . . . thankful, and sometimes we would shed a tear when we read those words. They were so different from most chats with people your own age. Now you are out on your own. And somehow we feel you need us more than before. Will you keep the faith you so beautifully shared with us? Will you be able to meet the world? Will you find all the love we so want you to find?

Dear God . . . take care of him . . . he was our 'adopted' Korean Orphan boy!"

Grandfather in his traditional white robe and horsehair hat.



Korean holidays

While you're in a festive mood—recovering from too much Thanksgiving dinner and already busy with Christmas shopping, we would like to share with you some of the festivities of the Orient.

The Korean people love holidays and they have many of them. Each holiday brings the opportunity for a gay, colorful celebration with food, fun and games.

There are two types of holidays in Korea: the traditional, based on the lunar calendar, and the national, based on the solar almanac and designated by the government since Korea's liberation in 1945.

Even though the solar calendar is the official almanac in Korea, the lunar calendar is more widely used in rural areas. As we speak of the lunar festivities we cannot give you a definite solar date. This changes every year because the lunar calendar is based on the revolutions of the moon around the earth which takes about 29½ days. Each of the twelve lunar months has 29 or 30 days alternately.

Therefore, the lunar calendar has eleven fewer days than the solar calendar. Every third year the lunar calendar has a leap month of 30 days.

The traditional holidays are by far the more colorful and exciting. Lunar festivities are celebrated every month. Since they are centuries old, the customs have become imbedded in the lives of the people. While it is true that many people in modern Seoul are discarding some of the ancient traditions and superstitions, this is not true in the rural areas where the culture is preserved and folks still faithfully follow the customs of their ancestors. We would like to share with you four of the most important lunar festivals.

NEW YEAR'S FESTIVAL

The biggest celebration of the year is the lunar New Year which lasts for 15 days, beginning on the first day of the first moon. (Solar—late January and early February).

Everyone arises early and dons his best traditional Korean clothes—the grandfathers in white, grandmothers



in gray, children and young women in bright colored dress.

An early morning ceremony is held to honor the souls of their ancestors. After the ceremony younger members give a formal greeting to their superiors. A deep bow is made by children in which they almost touch the floor. Parents in turn bow to the grandparents as reaffirmation of family ties.

The new year bows are considered essential and must be executed before the 10th of the new year. Everyone must now begin visiting his friends and relatives, paying proper respect through bowing. The guest must bring a gift which is usually edible, such as fresh fish, raw beef or rice wine.

This is a time of feasting. Each household must be prepared to entertain any guests who visit during the fifteen day celebration. The visitors are always served rice cake soup. This signifies you are getting a year older, for in Korea everyone's birthday comes on New Year's Day. Instead of asking, "How old are you?" one would ask, "How many bowls of rice



Girls wear their bright traditional dress for all holidays. These girls pose near Suwon Water Gate.

cake soup have you had?"

The new year brings good luck to those who seek it. On the evening of the 15th day, children and adults carrying torches climb the mountains to watch the rising of the full moon. Those who bow to the moon will have their wishes come true. If a poor

Yut, a favorite game, can be played anywhere during any season, but is especially popular during the New Year Celebration.



woman can steal a handful of dirt from the yard of wealthy people and scatter it about the four corners of her own home, good luck and riches will come her way. If girls in bright native dresses cross the bridge on this night of the full moon, evil spirits will be driven away and good luck will be theirs in the new year.

Koreans, all ages, love to play games. The farmers, with very little work to do, spend the holidays playing "yut" (yoot) outdoors on a straw mat. Four long wooden pieces—flat on one side and round on the other—are thrown into the air. The way they land determines how far his horse (marker) should advance. The game can become quite complicated and the men very excited. Women often play inside using split red beans. Girls enjoy the seesaw and boys fly kites. Special kite-flying contests are held in the country. The strings are coated with glue and ground glass. With kites high in the sky the boys try to cut the strings of other kites with their own saw-toothed string. The winner is the last boy still flying his kite.

"CHUSOK"

The second most important holiday is "Chusok" (Chew-sock) or the Moon Festival, celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth month. (Solar-September). It is harvest time. The orchard trees are heavy with ripe pears, apples and persimmons. Golden rice is bowing low. Food abounds! This is the day of thanksgiving, merry-making and banqueting.

Once again the native costumes are worn by all as the entire family visits the tombs of their ancestors in order to pay homage to them. Rice cakes and first fruits of the harvest, dried fish and bottles of rice wine are carried to the graveyard where an offering is made. After the solemn affair is over the family enjoys a picnic with singing, dancing and games at the grave site.

Another custom of "Chusok" is to show thanks and appreciation to the living. Gifts of fresh meat, baskets of fruit, wine or money are presented to those whom you love or who have done favors for you during the past year.



Monks chant and dance before the altar of Buddha, which is lined with candles and incense.

BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY

Another important holiday is Buddha's Birthday. This past year over five million Buddhist believers celebrated the 2595th birthday of Buddha in over 3,500 temples across the peninsula. People visit the temple area all day where they worship and give offerings to Buddha. Lanterns with candles inside are hung on wires throughout the temple grounds. Each bears a special prayer request.

Once again native costumes are worn by people as they gather at the temple grounds and picnic on the mountain sides. Feasting, drinking, dancing, and singing, the people ob-

serve this festival with great enthusiasm.

The religious celebration reaches its peak in the evening when the believers parade for hours along city streets or over mountain trails with lighted lanterns in their hands, chanting as they go.

CHILDREN'S DAY

May 5th is Children's Day (neither classified as a traditional nor a national holiday), the celebration that small children love the most. In 1923, Pang Jong-hwan Sopa, a writer of children's literature and a leader of children's welfare movements, felt that children

had been neglected and he designated a day for children.

Now fifty years later, it has become a very important event, and gala celebrations are held all over the country to entertain, train and honor the youth. Historic palaces, museums, zoos and gardens are open to the children free of charge. Acrobatic shows of helicopters and sky diving are given. Children are admitted to barber shops and public bathhouses for one week at 1/2 price. Famous sportsmen give free instructions in their sports. A ceremony is held every year in Seoul Citizens Hall with over 3,000 children attending. Here the mayor gives out prizes and citations to teens, children and babies for their educational achievements, meritorious acts and healthy growth. Thousands of children line the streets or jam the stadiums to watch parades and shows presented just for their enjoyment. At a special ceremony the Seoul mayor said that children are the hope of a family and the lantern of the nation.

In addition to the monthly lunar festivals, the government has designated thirteen national holidays. Many of them are similar to those of the Western world, such as Memorial Day, Arbor Day, Armed Forces Day, Independence Movement and Christmas.

CHRISTMAS

The history of Christmas in Korea goes back to the late 18th century. Several scholars heard about Christianity and wanted to study its doctrine. In 1783, one scholar went to Peking where he found many answers to his disturbing questions. He was baptized and returned as the first Catholic to Korea in 1784. By 1786, six thousand Koreans had been converted under the ministry of a Chinese priest. He held their first Christmas Holy Mass. Clothes and rice were given to the

poor. Christian parents gave their children bags of fruit and nuts.

Then there followed four great persecutions, taking place between 1801 and 1866. History records 120,000 Christians killed during the last persecution alone.

By 1886 people once again were able to celebrate Christmas openly. Protestant missionaries came into Korea and helped spread the story of Christmas. Christmas Eve became a time of worship, a time of programs and carolling. Children received presents from a "grandfather named Santa Claus." Westerners had introduced their own customs and Koreans had accepted them.

The holiday is now observed by feasting and decorating, by sending cards and exchanging gifts. Christmas has become so popular that most city dwellers celebrate it regardless of their religious affiliation. It is fast becoming one of the most important holidays.

Pray with us that the Christ whose birthday they celebrate will become the Saviour of their lives and that Christmas will truly be the most meaningful celebration in all Korea.



Kawit, right, and a friend display happy smiles in their new boy scout uniforms.

A letter from Kawit

A 16-year-old sponsored boy in Java, Indonesia, sent the following letter and photograph to his sponsor in America. We were attracted to his happy smile and beautiful letter. Below is a condensed version of the long and charming letter that he wrote himself:

"Dear Generous Sponsor: I really do love you very much. This has happened because Jesus is really wonderful to me. I have become a member of Compassion. I do not have any job yet, but I did earn my living by selling lollipops. The heart of the minister

and his family has been moved by the Lord to take me in and stay with them. Now I am feeling so happy, my clothes are always clean, my body has become more and more fat and my face shines with cheer. I want to go to Sedor high school and college and become a minister. Also at our church I follow the scouting group of our school. I have my scout uniform, complete with beret, flute and its cord and signals. Thank you also for your gift at my birthday. Thank you for your love.

Yours, Kawit."

Choose one of these children to sponsor



Rosianna - Indonesia

Though Rosianna is 8 years old, she has been too poor to begin school. Her father died of a disease, and she lives in a tiny hut with her mother, who is very poor.



Sanim - Indonesia

Sanim is 5 years old. His father is dead and his mother abandoned the child. Now Sanim lives with his grandfather in great poverty. He is a quiet boy, and he has two brothers.



Kaithepalli - India

Kaithepalli is a cheerful 6-year-old. Her father died of a heart attack in 1969, and her mother is very poor. She has average health, though she and her mother live on very meager means.

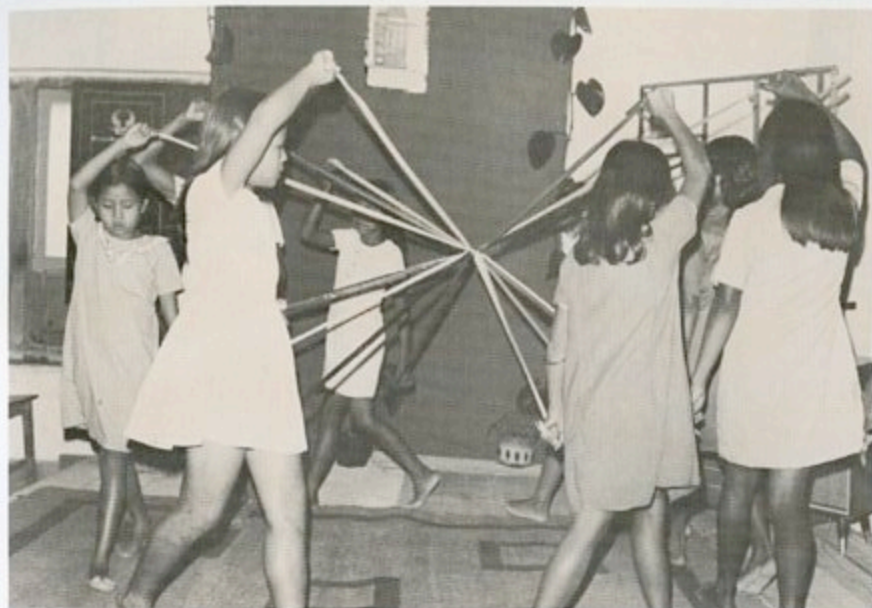
Each of these 3 children pictured above is currently in need of a sponsor. For only \$12.00 per month, you can sponsor one of them. Your support will help provide his or her basic needs—food, clothing, clean shelter, supplies for school, and in some cases, medical care.

You'll have the special joy of receiving occasional letters from "your child." And your child will treasure any letter or photograph that you may want to send him. 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.

SPONSOR APPLICATION

- Yes, I would like to sponsor a child.
- Please select the child who needs me most.
- My choice is _____
from the pictures shown above.
- Enclosed is my first payment of \$12.00 (one month), \$144.00 (one year)
- Name _____
- Address _____
- City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: Compassion, Inc.,
7774 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, Illinois 60634.
All gifts are tax-deductible.



All tangled up... on purpose

Compassion children in the Klaten Church in central Java perform a "Ribbon Dance" while singing at the same time. The performance is generally accompanied by the singing of "Jesus Loves the Little Children". Throughout the Islands of Indonesia, all social functions are centered in the local church. Christians of all ages enjoy the church meetings.

Letters from children to their sponsors

Korea—"The other day our orphanage bought some milk cows imported from foreign country. When I scratch their backs they stand silently for a while, probably thinking about something unknown to me."

N. Celebes—"Near my village there is a mountain that is volcanic and is pretty high. I raise ducks and dogs in my house."

Korea—"We have a goat at home and it gave birth to twins and they are very cute. It was cold last night at the stable so they slept in our room."

Korea—"Mama, I am learning the beauty skill now. Skill is the only way I can self support when I go out to society. I wish to become an expert in making hair styles. Wishing endless progressing of your business."

India—"Every day I knelt down and prayed to God to show me a nice sponsor through Compassion. The Lord heard my voice and gave me the great reward of foster parents. I am introducing myself as your beloved child."

Thailand—"I give thanks to you for being my sponsor and helping me. The money you send I will use in the most beneficial way. My parents are farmers and poor, we have not had a chance to go to school before."

Thailand—"Could you please send me a picture of yourself? I will try to study hard and to be a good girl. Finally, may God be with you always."

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