

INTRODUCING COMPASSION

Christ-centred | Child-focused | Church-based



CONTENTS

Introducing Compassion	5
Children and Poverty	6
Committed to Christ	9
Committed to Children	10
Committed to the Church	13
Where We Work	16
Compassion’s Holistic Child Development	18
Child Sponsorship Program	22
One Sponsor, One Child	24
A Relationship more Powerful than Poverty	25
Critical Needs	27
Compassion and Your Church	31
Compassion Partnerships	32
Advocacy	33
Compassion Sunday	35
Gifts of Compassion	36
Include a Gift in Your Will	40
Prayer Partners	41
Field Experiences	43
Financial Integrity	44

INTRODUCING COMPASSION

Compassion International started in 1952 with 35 children orphaned by the Korean War.

Everett Swanson, an evangelist from Chicago, was ministering to troops when he saw children dying in the streets one morning and made a promise to do something about it. By 1977, more than 25,000 children were being supported. Compassion started in Australia in the same year.

The ministry of Compassion International grew to 250,000 children, babies and students by 1998, to 500,000 in 2003 and, eventually, one million in 2009. Today, Compassion is transforming the lives of more than 2 million children around the world through more than 12 international partner country offices. More than 120,000 of these children are currently supported through Compassion Australia.

Compassion's ministry is holistic child development in partnership with local churches in over 25 developing countries around the world.

Our child development program is unique in that it is:



CHRIST-CENTRED. Every child has the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel message in a culturally relevant way.



CHILD-FOCUSED. The program engages each child as an individual, fostering their spiritual, physical, socio-emotional and economic development.



CHURCH-BASED. Program centres are run exclusively in partnership with local churches in the children's communities.

CHILDREN AND POVERTY

More than 730 million people around the world still live in extreme poverty—and around 385 million of them are children.

Poverty causes children to struggle with frequent illness, chronic malnutrition and impaired physical and mental development. It denies children access to basic health care and education, weakens their protective environment and leaves them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Poverty robs children of opportunities and choices. It saps them of their energy and undermines their confidence in the future. It tells them they don't matter, their stories aren't worth being told. It damages a child's self-worth and steals their hopes and dreams. Poverty can even destroy a child's belief in a God of love, hope and justice.

The world often overlooks children. They're too small; they can't vote; their rights are often unprotected. But God makes it clear that all children are precious to Him and should not be hindered or disregarded in any way. As Christians we have a responsibility to take up the mandate of Jesus and care for children, especially those living in poverty.

He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

— MARK 10:14B-15



2.3 BILLION people don't use an improved sanitation facility, and more than 890 million practise open defecation.



Children from the poorest households in the world are **1.9 TIMES** as likely to die before their fifth birthday as children from the richest households.



884 MILLION people still lack access to a basic drinking water service.



830 WOMEN DIE EACH DAY—303,000 each year—from complications in pregnancy and childbirth, 99 per cent of them in developing countries.



5.9 MILLION children under the age of five die every year, most from preventable causes. That's more than 16,000 children dying per day.



Unless the world tackles inequity today, **60 MILLION** children of primary school age will be out of school by 2030.

Sources: UNICEF (2014) Issue Brief: Child Poverty in the Post-2015 Agenda, WHO UNICEF (2017) Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2017 Update, UNICEF (2016) State of the World's Children 2016, WHO 'Maternal Mortality' <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality>; World Bank 'Poverty' <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview>.

COMMITTED TO CHRIST

Jesus Christ is at the heart of Compassion's ministry.

This commitment is the basis of our mission to release children from poverty—in Jesus' name. It drives our child development program, informs our relationships and guides our decision-making processes.

Our clear and consistent Christian identity is something that we never seek to hide or compromise. It is the main reason why so many people choose to support a child with Compassion.

Compassion's ministry is holistic child development, which is taking a child through a process of growth and fulfilment in all dimensions of their life. We believe we must do more than meet the physical needs of people living in poverty. We must share the hope and grace of the gospel, so they can experience true transformation in every area of life.

Each child in Compassion's program has the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel in a culturally relevant way. When children are introduced to the love of Jesus Christ, they experience new hope and a sense of value.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

—COLOSSIANS 3:17

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

COMMITTED TO CHILDREN

Children are often the hardest hit by poverty's effects, yet they are the least able to do anything about their circumstances. We, as the Body of Christ, are called to act on behalf of children living in poverty.

It is God's heart for children that compels us. With more than 1700 passages relating to children in the Bible, children play a prevalent and pivotal role in Scripture and in God's Kingdom. The Bible recognises the vulnerability of children to neglect, abuse and injustice, and urges us to not overlook their needs, suffering and presence.

When Jesus' disciples were having a (heated) discussion about the Kingdom of God (Matthew 18:1-3; Luke 9:46), He did something entirely unexpected. He invited a small, unnamed child into their midst, confounding their theology and confronting their pride. "Unless you change and become like little children," He said, "you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). And then, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me" (Matthew 18:5). Therefore, as children are strategic in building the Kingdom of Heaven, it is vital that they are nurtured and valued in their formative years.

That's why Compassion is deeply committed to child protection. Every national office has dedicated Child Protection Specialist staff—and local program leaders know each child individually, give specialised care as needed, and provide child protection training and support to families.

At Compassion, we believe one of the most effective ways to address poverty is by empowering children to become agents of transformation in their families, communities and, one day, their nations.

"A child may be born into poverty—but poverty is never born into a child."

—DR WESS STAFFORD, FORMER COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH

With deep roots in their communities, local churches are often one of the most reliable, stable and accessible institutions in countries where governance is weak and infrastructure is lacking.

They are uniquely placed to understand the real needs of people and best able to make strategic decisions about the needs of their communities.

Compassion has chosen to work exclusively in partnership with the Church to embrace individual children, develop their value, break through the unique obstacles confronting them and share a hope more powerful than poverty.

By partnering with local churches, Compassion can train, support and empower local workers to identify and address each child's specific circumstances. Every child can receive the opportunity to overcome their personal circumstances and be released from poverty in Jesus' name.

Compassion currently partners with more than 7400 local churches from over 70 denominations in the developing world—equipping and training them to administer the child development program in a way that benefits their specific communities.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

—MATTHEW 5:16



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

Speak up for those who
cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are
destitute. **Speak up and
judge fairly; defend the rights
of the poor and needy.**

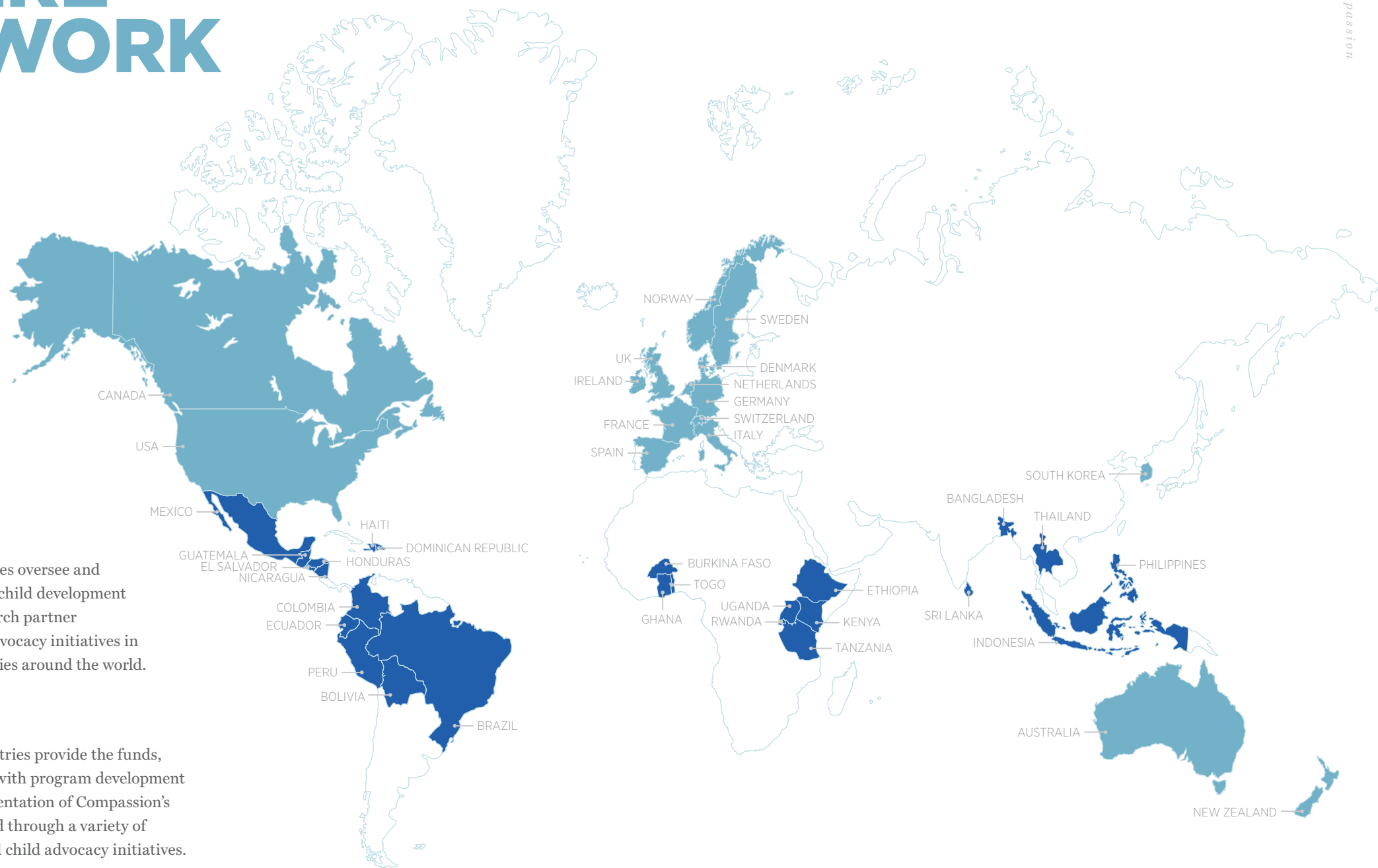
WHERE WE WORK

FIELD COUNTRIES

Compassion national offices oversee and administer Compassion's child development program and develop church partner relationships and child advocacy initiatives in over 25 developing countries around the world.

PARTNER COUNTRIES

Compassion partner countries provide the funds, resources and assistance with program development for the successful implementation of Compassion's program around the world through a variety of marketing campaigns and child advocacy initiatives.



COMPASSION'S HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Holistic child development is taking a child through a process of growth and fulfilment in all dimensions of their life: spiritually, socio-emotionally, economically and physically.

Poverty is complex and has a devastating impact on every area of life. Therefore, the response must come in all of these four areas.

Compassion believes holistic development is a long-term approach that starts before a child is born and continues through to school age and beyond. Holistic child development means we recognise that every child is special, uniquely made by God. That's why everything we do is tailored to meet the specific needs of individual children.



COMPASSION'S CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM is the core of Compassion's ministry to children and gives every registered child access to life-changing opportunities to be released from poverty in Jesus' name.

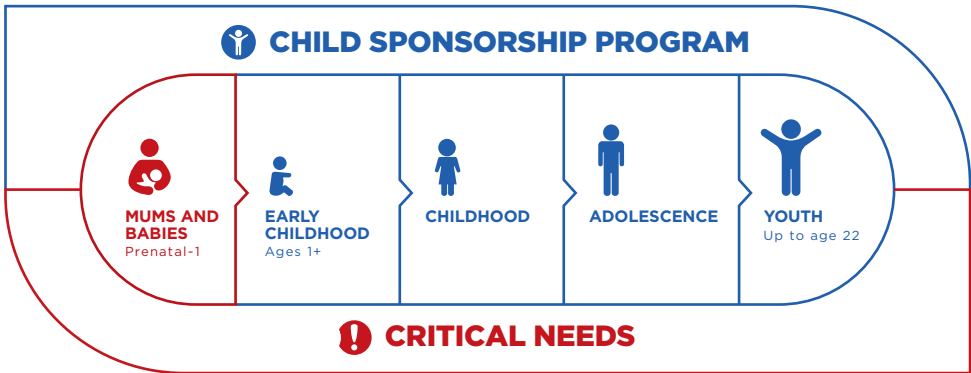


COMPASSION'S CRITICAL NEEDS builds upon the Child Sponsorship Program to address the issues facing children, their families and their communities. Critical Needs removes obstacles to children's development and implements preventative action. This can include providing safe water, emergency medical care, infrastructure, vocational training and disaster relief—all issues that need to be addressed for a child to be released from poverty.

We address the four key areas of a child's development.



We work with children at each stage of their lives.



 Funded through local and sponsorship resources  Funded through non-sponsorship resources

We work with children from the womb to the workforce, so they can develop their God-given potential and become healthy and fulfilled adults.

Our program addresses the individual needs of children that are unique to their stage of life—from prenatal care through to early childhood, school age, and adolescence.

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

—PSALM 139:13-14



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Developing, discipling and equipping children for life.

Core to Compassion's ministry, the Child Sponsorship Program connects one sponsor with one child living in poverty, providing not only education and health care but also the encouragement needed to be socially confident and economically self-supporting.

A sponsor has the opportunity and privilege to invest into that child's future. Through prayer, letter writing and support, a sponsor plays a vital part in their sponsored child's development and spiritual growth.

Through a child development centre run by a local church, children are given the opportunity to hear the gospel, receive education and health care and play and learn in a safe place.

In partnership with Compassion, local churches in developing countries deliver the Child Sponsorship Program and aim for a child to be:

- Physically healthy and able to make good decisions about their health
- Motivated with skills to be economically self-supporting
- Able to interact with others in a healthy and compassionate manner
- Given the opportunity to hear the gospel message



You can sponsor a child for \$48 a month.
To find out more visit compassion.com.au/sponsor



ONE SPONSOR, ONE CHILD

A vital part of a child's holistic development is the opportunity to build strong, healthy relationships.

The special relationship you can build with your sponsored child through letters, gifts and prayers is more important than you might think. It tells them they're loved, valued and unique. It shows them a glimpse of the great love God has for them. And that knowledge has the power to transform their life.

For more than 65 years we've seen how powerful the connection between sponsors and children can be, and the way it can change not just individual lives but entire communities. In fact, working with children is a highly effective way of transforming communities—because changed people inevitably change their circumstances.

As a sponsor you have the opportunity to invest in a child's life and see God work through your prayers and encouragement to create real change. It's a relationship more powerful than poverty!

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

—2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-17



To find out more visit compassion.com.au

A RELATIONSHIP MORE POWERFUL THAN POVERTY

The letters you share with your sponsored child are the cornerstone of your relationship.

A relationship is a two-way street. The letters you receive from your sponsored child can open your eyes to life in different parts of the world, inspire you and broaden your understanding of what it means to be part of the Kingdom of God.

But the effect on your sponsored child can be even more profound. The emotional, social and spiritual boost that your encouragement gives your sponsored child can be pivotal to their development. It can inspire them to study harder at school, to be more confident in their relationships and to draw closer to God.

Over and over, graduates from Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program point to their sponsors' letters and prayers as two things that gave them hope, courage and the belief that they could overcome their circumstances.

"I like to receive gifts, but I love to get my sponsor's letters more. I love it especially when there are photos of my sponsor. My sponsor, Miss Johnson, loves me and sends me nice photos of her. She wrote that she prays for me."

—SEVEN-YEAR-OLD TITHI FROM BANGLADESH

CRITICAL NEEDS


When more help is needed.

Poverty is devastating and affects every area of a child's life. For babies, children and students living in poverty, there is no safety net; they live in environments that are unstable. When a crisis hits their lives, they have little hope for recovery.

Critical Needs provides solutions to meet children's individual needs by building upon the foundation of the Child Sponsorship Program. Critical Needs addresses obstacles in a child's external environment so they can continue their development in all areas.

Giving to Critical Needs provides children with what they need for healthy development such as safe water, emergency medical care, extra nutritional support, infrastructure, vocational training and disaster relief.

Every child will benefit from Critical Needs giving during their time in Compassion's program. Your support for Critical Needs helps provide customised care for all registered children, allows for increased preventative action, and continues Compassion's ministry to release children from all forms of poverty in Jesus' name.

 You can help meet Critical Needs with a once-only gift or from \$12 a month. To find out more visit compassion.com.au/criticalneeds

**“Whoever welcomes one
of these little children in
my name welcomes me;
and whoever welcomes me
does not welcome me but
the one who sent me.”**

COMPASSION AND YOUR CHURCH

Engaging your church with Compassion gives your congregation the flexibility and freedom to support children in a way that complements your church's heart for missions.

Whether you choose to focus globally or within a specific developing country that's close to your church's heart, your church can invest in the lives of children living in poverty. Your support will provide them with practical care and the opportunity to hear and respond to the life-changing message of Jesus.

However you choose to connect with Compassion, your church will be involved with a proven, long-running, verifiable and strategic development program that respects and affirms churches in the developing world.

In partnership with Compassion, your church has the opportunity to transform families, communities and even nations for Christ—one child at a time.

"I would absolutely encourage any pastor to consider engaging in a greater way with Compassion. It will do something significant in you as the senior leader, in your leadership team and in the heart of your church. It has been powerful to watch our church's heart for children grow as we partner with Compassion."

—SENIOR PASTOR GERARD KEEHAN, GLOBALHEART CHURCH



To find out more visit compassion.com.au/church

COMPASSION PARTNERSHIPS

Many businesses and individuals choose to partner with Compassion to impact the lives of children living in poverty.

Compassion provides your organisation with a strategic, sustainable and effective way to make a difference in the developing world. Connecting your business with Compassion is a rewarding way to engage staff, demonstrate your strong sense of social responsibility, and use your influence and resources to help the poor.

Your partnership with Compassion enables this kind of impact by connecting you and your business with a program that makes a life-changing difference in the lives of children and families living in poverty.

Together, we can assist those most affected by poverty but least able to do anything about their circumstances: children. And as they are released from poverty, they will make a far-reaching impact on their families, their communities and ultimately their nations.

“As a business we wanted to go beyond ourselves and support something that was making a difference. Compassion was a great fit for us because not only are their programs effectively releasing children from poverty around the world, but they are a credible and financially accountable organisation. In partnership with Compassion, our impact has been greater than I ever expected and it has been something our whole business can really engage with.”

—TREVOR WILLIAMS, PRINCIPAL, PRICE WILLIAMS WHYTE



To find out more visit compassion.com.au/business

ADVOCACY

Become a Compassion Advocate and join a community of like-minded individuals raising awareness and support for children living in poverty.

Being a Compassion Advocate can be as simple as chatting to your friends, family and church about Compassion, volunteering at events, and using your own gifts and talents to make a difference.

Whatever you choose, you'll be equipped, inspired, and empowered to release children from poverty in Jesus' name!

“I really enjoy the opportunity I have to be an advocate for Compassion—it is truly an amazing feeling to be a part of releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. It's a fun way to be God's hands and feet in the world!”

—AMANDA, NSW



To find out more visit compassion.com.au/advocacy

COMPASSION SUNDAY

A powerful way to advocate for children and get your whole church involved is to run a Compassion Sunday event.

Compassion Sunday is an opportunity for you and your church to learn about the issues affecting children and give a hope more powerful than poverty through child sponsorship.

“Compassion Sunday was an easy way to talk in my church about children in poverty and what people can do to bring about change. People were inspired and wanted to sponsor a child after my presentation. I was really encouraged by the response.”

—CLAUDIA, VIC



You can get all the resources you'll need to run an inspiring, powerful event at compassionsunday.com.au

GIFTS OF COMPASSION

Gifts with global impact! The Gifts of Compassion catalogue includes a range of gift ideas—for friends and family members, at the office or in your church network—that can change the lives of families living in poverty around the world.

Each one comes with a card to explain that you have given a gift in their honour to children in need. Your gift goes towards supporting Compassion's Critical Needs to build toilets, start small-scale businesses and income-generation activities, care for vulnerable mums, prevent life-threatening diseases like malaria, and much more.

Gifts of Compassion are great for any occasion—birthdays, Mothers' and Fathers' Day, Christmas, Easter, or whenever you want to say 'I'm thinking of you'. Imagine the look on your friends' and family members' faces when they learn that their Gifts of Compassion are providing life-changing support to those who really need it.

So when you're looking for a meaningful gift for the person in your life who has everything, give a Gift of Compassion—and make a global impact!

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

—ACTS 20:35



Explore our gifts with global impact at compassion.com.au/gifts-of-compassion



Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world **to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?**

INCLUDE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Including a gift to Compassion in your Will is a simple way to give hope to children living in poverty: a hope that has its roots in eternity.

Your gift, no matter how big or small, will be so much more than a financial donation; it will leave a legacy of kindness and generosity to echo across generations. It will be used with wisdom and integrity to transform lives and create new futures for children and their families currently living in poverty.

Leaving a gift in your Will can provide support for sponsored children all the way to graduation, save lives by providing clean water, lay a strong foundation for future generations by building classrooms, bring hope by supporting vulnerable mothers and babies, and more.

Whatever your heart for children in need, whatever your passion for creating change, including a gift to Compassion in your Will makes a life-changing difference in the developing world.

"I want to leave something for [my family] but I [also] want to leave something behind that will have a tangible effect. If you help even one child through Compassion, their family is helped, and the church or community is helped. If you [support] a project, a whole community is helped. It is far reaching. I would never be able to do all that by myself, but I can through Compassion."

—KASTURI, QLD



To find out more, visit compassion.com.au/donate/bequests

PRAYER PARTNERS

Compassion's Prayer Partners Network is integral to strengthening the ministry of Compassion worldwide. It is made up of passionate Compassion supporters from all backgrounds who share a desire to partner together in prayer for the sake of the most vulnerable.

Prayer is the most important way we can speak up on behalf of those who have no voice. It allows us to minister to children in ways that are powerful and eternal.

Prayer can reach into the heart of issues that no natural force can touch. Prayer can impact the smallest child and the most powerful leader.

As a prayer partner, you will receive regular prayer updates to guide you in prayer for issues affecting Compassion assisted children and the countries in which they live. Prayer is strategic, not only in changing the lives of individuals but also in changing communities and ultimately nations.

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

—JAMES 5:16B



To find out more visit compassion.com.au/prayer or log in to your My Account to sign up for regular prayer updates!

FIELD EXPERIENCES

Experience for yourself how Compassion child sponsorship transforms lives.

This is your opportunity to see God at work in the midst of devastating poverty. To be amazed by His love and goodness in the lives of vulnerable children—and in yours.

Visit your sponsored child, travel with your church group, join supporters from around the nation or embark on a once-in-a-lifetime Adventure Trip.

However you travel with Compassion, you can:



SEE GOD'S HEART FOR CHILDREN. God's hope and love are transforming children, families and entire communities as local churches partner with Compassion.



GAIN INSIGHT INTO POVERTY. Meet children and their families whose faith, talent and determination in desperate circumstances will leave you crying, laughing and praising God. Maybe all at the same time.



EXPERIENCE COMPASSION IN ACTION. There's nothing like a Compassion classroom for the wall-shaking, ground-breaking sounds of children learning, developing and being released from poverty.



MEET YOUR SPONSORED CHILD. Say hello to that one special face: the child you've been wanting to meet since you began your sponsorship journey.



Experience once. Remember forever. To find out more visit compassion.com.au/trips

FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

Your donations are used wisely and strategically, and always for the utmost benefit of the children we serve.



*For every dollar you donate to Compassion, around **80 PER CENT** is used:*

- For the development, delivery and supervision of the program
- For the purchase of goods and services for the direct benefit of the children in the program
- To inform and update sponsors and facilitate their personal relationship with their sponsored child
- For community education in Australia



*Approximately **20 PER CENT** is allocated to cover all administration and fundraising costs in Australia.*

Using a small portion of donations for fundraising allows Compassion to provide even greater support to the children in our program. For every dollar spent on fundraising, we receive more than seven times that in return, which allows us to assist even more children with a much wider range of development activities.



Fully audited financial statements are available at compassion.com.au/about-us/financials



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN ADAMS

THANK YOU

**for considering Compassion and for your heart to see
children released from poverty in Jesus' name.**

*God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have
shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*

— HEBREWS 6:10





**SEARCH FOR
COMPASSIONAU**

COMPASSION AUSTRALIA

PO Box 1, Hunter Region MC NSW 2310
Phone: 1300 22 44 53 | Fax: 02 4935 5099
ABN 67 001 692 566

compassion.com.au

Christ-centred | Child-focused | Church-based