



A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

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Compassion International is a Christian child advocacy ministry that releases children from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty and enables them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults.

Historical & Current Outreach

Founded by the Rev. Everett Swanson in 1952, Compassion first provided Korean War orphans with food, shelter, education and health care, as well as Christian training.

Today, Compassion helps more than 1.2 million children in 26 countries through three main avenues:

- **Child Survival Program.** Since infant mortality is extremely high in some parts of the world, the first priority in promoting effective child development is to ensure that children survive the early years when they are most vulnerable to disease and malnutrition. This means educating the mother or primary caregiver, before and after her child is born, about providing critical care during the earliest years. They are provided education in these areas:

- o **Growth Monitoring** — steady growth is a good sign of adequate nutrition

- o **Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT)** — restores fluids lost to diarrhea

- o **Breast-feeding** — promotes infant growth, facilitates bonding with the mother, and reduces incidence of illness

- o **Immunization** — an effective way to reduce or eliminate many diseases that cause childhood death and disability

- o **Female Literacy** — the mother's level of education is directly tied to child survival

- o **Food** — food or supplements fight off malnourishment

- o **Family Planning** — greater spacing between births allows the mother's body to be better prepared for the rigors of pregnancy and to provide greater attention to each child's needs

- **Child Sponsorship.** In a world where more than a billion children live on less than U.S.\$2 per day, connecting one child with one sponsor is the most strategic way to end child poverty. Through monthly gifts, prayer and letter writing, sponsors invest in the lives of children living in extreme poverty. This relationship communicates, "You are an important little person!"

Children attend church-based child development centers where they receive life-changing opportunities that would otherwise be out of their reach. All Compassion-sponsored children have the opportunity to develop their God-given potential and be released from the poverty that has trapped their families for generations.

- **Leadership Development.** There's nothing like seeing a young person emerge from poverty, go to college, and return home as a true leader. That's what Compassion's Leadership Development Program (LDP) does — it identifies young Compassion-assisted men and women who have shown potential to become Christian leaders who can, in turn, influence their own families, churches, communities and nations.

The Compassion Commitment

Compassion International exists as a Christian child advocacy ministry that releases children from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty and enables them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults.

Our Statement of Faith

We believe in the Holy Scriptures as originally given by God. We believe in One God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe in the plan of Salvation and that the Lord Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh. We believe the Holy Spirit enables believers to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe in the Resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

Financial Integrity

Compassion International is deeply committed to limiting overhead costs while maximizing the opportunities and effectiveness of our time-proven, child-focused program activities. As a result, during fiscal year 2010-2011, less than 20 percent of every dollar spent was used for administration and development, and more than 80 percent of every dollar spent was invested in life-changing programs.

Leadership Principles

Compassion employees aspire to be more like our Savior, Jesus Christ, in who we are and what we do. We are called as stewards of the ministry of Compassion International.

