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## COMPASSION



Compassion literally means “to suffer together.” It is the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve that suffering. In compassion we realize we are so connected to the other that we are bound up in their suffering and we can do non other than seek to help relieve that suffering.

I went to a Christian Concert with my High School girlfriend, Annie, when I was 16 or 17, where they shared about Compassion International. We decided to sponsor a child together. When we broke up I took over the sponsorship on my own and paid for it mowing lawns and gardening for neighbors. Wow, time flies, I can't believe I have had Compassion children for 38 years now! When I was 24 I went to Guatemala for mission work and went to visit my child but he was not there. His mother had left the country migrating north with him, but my seminary friend, Kelly, met her Compassion child and it changed her forever! She was so moved by the encounter that she went home and got a job with Compassion International, eventually became the West Coast Volunteer Coordinator! I, on the other hand, got a new child and grew to love him as well. He eventually graduated and I got to even send money to help him with post secondary education/college. Then I got a new child, Andres, who is an adorable 5 year old, also in Guatemala.

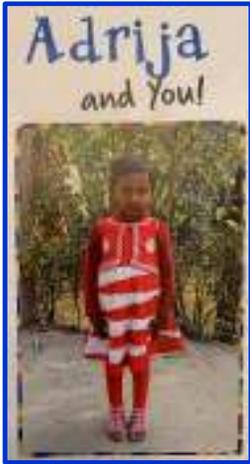
Compassion must come from your own heart, and God my lead you in other ways to Be Compassion in this world. In light of that call and not pressure, please consider sponsoring a child for \$38/month. If this is too much, share it with a friend/family member. (2 people \$19 month, 3=\$12.67 month.) It is a delight to get to know your child and to know you are actually making a difference. Child poverty feels so big and overwhelming, but it can be conquered one child at a time, and done with great joy! So you might say of yourself, “but I am not wealthy.”

However, If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep... then you are richer than 75% of this world.

The children Compassion serves receive, among other things: the opportunity to hear the gospel and learn about Jesus; regular Christian training; educational opportunities and help at the Compassion School; healthcare, hygiene training and supplementary food if necessary; a caring and safe Christian environment to grown in self-confidence and social skills; personal attention; guidance and love—all led by local leaders and connected to local churches and their pastors.

Your sponsorship also addresses the needs of a sponsored child's community, initiatives like clean water systems, improved schools, health clinics, farming co-ops, pastor training, and community savings groups are implemented to create a vibrant, sustainable future for vulnerable children, including the individual sponsored child. Compassion International's community development approach means that for every child sponsored, at least four or more children benefit also.

Many members of Westview sponsor either a child from Compassion International or from World Vision. Thank you!



Deacon, Mary Lou Hoffman, shared, “In April 2021, the deacons decided to sponsor a child from Compassion International. The child we chose is named Adrija, a five year old from Bangladesh (left photo). She is six years old and is attending the activities at St. John’s Rahutpara COB. Adrija lives with her mother, father and sister. She loves the three main festivals in her village: Christmas, International Language Day and Children’s Day. Here is the new drawing she made for us of her mom and dad.” (right photo)



If you would like to sponsor either a Compassion or World Vision child go to their website to sign up or call Mary Lou Hoffman or Pastor Dan and they can help you (Compassion.com, Worldvision.org).

If you sponsor a Compassion Child or a World Vision Child already please send Mary Lou Hoffman the information as we are redoing the Sponsors’ bulletin board map at church in the dining hall, send to [marylouhoffman@spcglobal.net](mailto:marylouhoffman@spcglobal.net) or Westview Church. Thank you.

It is a delight to see how our combined efforts at Westview can have such a large impact on so many children. Also, it is a joy and very mutually encouraging to be in-person again in our sanctuary on Sundays.

I appreciate you, the Westview family!

God bless,  
Pastor Dan

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