



Releasing children from poverty
Compassion[®]
in Jesus' name

Compassion

SUNDAY[®]

PASTOR'S GUIDE

An opportunity to disciple families in
your church and grow followers of Christ



Dear Church Leader,

You answered God's call to leadership because you're passionate about people and seeing them thrive as followers of Christ. This is where our ministries intersect.

It's a challenge to help your congregants grow from church attenders into passionate disciples of Christ who actively express their heart for the lost on a global scale. At Compassion, it's our calling and a true blessing to stand with the Church in growing devoted disciples both at home and abroad.

When you introduce your church to Compassion's child sponsorship, you empower individuals to put their faith into action, and you help parents transfer faith values to their children in a tangible way.

The following pages give you more details about Compassion Sunday and provide an opportunity for those in your church to grow spiritually as well as transform the lives of children in poverty. Please prayerfully consider bringing Compassion to your church on April 29, or another date that fits your church schedule.

It's an honor for us to come alongside your church's vision for discipleship and international mission to the glory of God.

In Christ,


Jimmy Mellado
President and CEO
Compassion International



Here's what other pastors have to say about partnering with Compassion ...



"Two-thirds of the people in our church sponsor a child through Compassion. In our experience, generosity begets generosity. As people are generous in sponsorship, they are in our church as well."

— **Joby Martin, Founding and Lead Pastor**
The Church of Eleven22, Florida



"Our church is energized by the opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families through child sponsorship. It's a huge way our church works together to make disciples."

— **Dave Wolf, Senior Pastor**
Grace Point, Pennsylvania

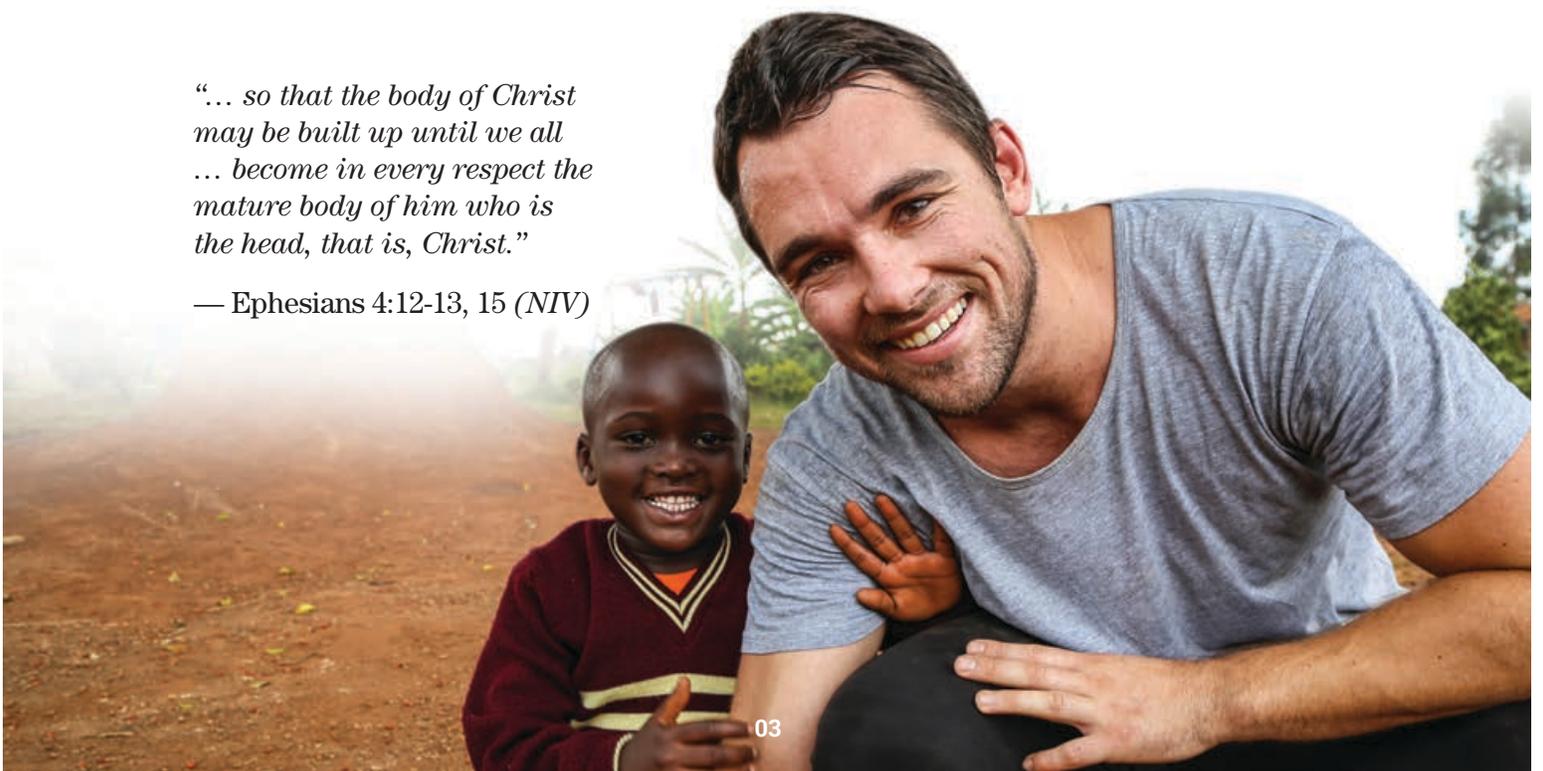


"Compassion increases our awareness of the things that break God's heart. We take great pleasure watching those in our church put that knowledge into action by sponsoring a child."

— **Bruce McEvoy, Pastor of Local and Global Impact**
Chapelstreet Church, Illinois

*"... so that the body of Christ
may be built up until we all
... become in every respect the
mature body of him who is
the head, that is, Christ."*

— Ephesians 4:12-13, 15 (NIV)







An opportunity for your church members to grow in faith

Compassion Sunday allows church congregations to discover how child sponsorship helps them grow in faith as they release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Sponsorship opens the door for families and individuals to demonstrate God's heart of compassion to those in need, and it's a relational tool to help parents transfer faith values to their children.

Introduce your church to child sponsorship on Compassion Sunday. Your presentation can be 5-10 minutes long, or it can be your entire worship service – one where you teach biblical truths and use child sponsorship as personal application.

A typical event consists of:



A brief introduction from you or a member of your church who sponsors a child with Compassion.



An announcement or short testimony from a Compassion sponsor.



A short video (just 3 minutes!).



A sponsorship table where child packets will be displayed.

Inspire generosity in the members of your church

By introducing Compassion's child sponsorship to your church, you give your congregants the opportunity to participate in the Great Commission in a tangible way. Sometimes simply writing a check for missional efforts may seem distant, but sponsoring a child through Compassion makes missions personal and relational.



Expand your congregation's global perspective with a relevant and relational call to action

As a pastor, you're busy! There's never a shortage of needs to be met or things to do.

Compassion Sunday is NOT yet another thing for you to add to your already full plate.

With support from Compassion, you'll be equipped to manage all the logistics of Compassion Sunday.

As the spiritual leader of your church, your voice and support carries influence. Consider the strategic value that child sponsorship plays in the spiritual growth of your members, and you will see the importance of your participation.



You'll empower local churches around the world

Every sponsored child is nurtured spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially at a child development center in an evangelical, neighborhood church. Children hear the Gospel of Jesus and have the opportunity to experience faith in Jesus that endures into adulthood.

So when members of your church sponsor children, you are empowering pastors around the world to reach out to the poorest of the poor in their communities with the Gospel of Jesus through goodwill (Acts 2:44-47).

Child sponsorship does just as much for the sponsor as it does for the children sponsored.

U.S. pastors see child sponsorship as a strategic tool to disciple the families in their churches. It provides:

- A channel for parents to engage their children in global missions
- A spark to start spiritual conversations between parents, children and peers
- A catalyst for spiritual growth as sponsors follow Christ's example of love and generosity
- A means to pass on biblical faith values to the next generation

Bring compassion to your church on Compassion Sunday.



"We need to get people engaged in missions so they can be the kind of disciples that Jesus commissioned us to be: people who don't just say it, but do it. When we neglect to help the least of these, we've lost the core essence of what it means to be a disciple of Christ."

— **Dr. Stacy L. Spencer, Senior Pastor**
New Direction Christian Church, Tennessee

Compassion Sunday is designed to be customized to your church

Your Compassion Sunday presentation can be as simple or as elaborate as you want it to be. Below are 3 types of presentations for you to choose the one that's most suitable for you and your church:

"SIMPLE ANNOUNCEMENT"

Sometimes a short announcement is all it takes. You will simply announce that it's Compassion Sunday, cue the video, then point out the sponsorship table and invite people to come back after the service.

Easiest

"SHARE YOUR HEART"

For this presentation, share how child sponsorship is a catalyst for spiritual growth. You may want to share how sponsorship has impacted your own family. Then show the video and invite people to go to the sign-up table to choose a child to sponsor.

Most popular

"FULL SERVICE"

Show child sponsorship as a personal response to the biblical principles in your sermon. Design the worship music and Scripture reading to prepare hearts to put faith into action through child sponsorship.

Gets the most kids sponsored



Your participation makes a difference

Pastor, the more involved you are, the more likely your congregants are to take action. Many pastors choose to sponsor a child on Compassion Sunday, which excites and inspires people beyond what only sharing the facts and statistics of children in need will do.

Some pastors simply introduce the host and close the service with a reminder to visit the Compassion Sunday table. Other pastors desire to be more involved by presenting child sponsorship as an application for the biblical principles presented in the sermon (more details at left).

Whatever participation level you choose, we pray you'll lend your support in some way – making your church's Compassion Sunday even more effective for the Kingdom.

Past results show that the more involved you are, the more people will respond to the call to sponsor.



"We teach biblical principles, but we also have to give people some tools to put these principles in action. We need something that is easy, tangible, accessible to most families and really makes a difference."

– Chris Brown, Senior Pastor, North Coast Church, California





“As churches we need to ask ourselves: where in the world is God calling us to create change? From experience I can tell you: when you unleash hope around the world for Jesus, you’ll feel it in your church too. Because when hope rises, everything changes.”

**— Ray Johnston, Senior Pastor
Bayside Church, California**

About Compassion

Founded in 1952, Compassion International is a Christian child development and child advocacy ministry dedicated to helping more than 1.8 million children in need worldwide.

Compassion is Christ-centered, church-based and child focused.

In partnership with indigenous churches, Compassion's child-sponsorship programs help release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Every child has the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus and experience faith in Christ that endures into adulthood.

A ministry you can trust

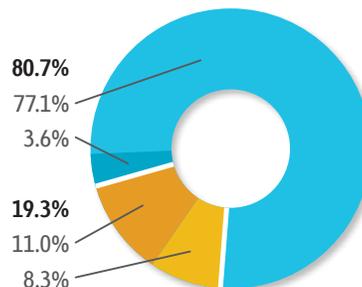
We pledge to use your contributions wisely, so as many children as possible can be released from poverty – both today and through many future years of ministry together.

You can be confident Compassion is devoted to outstanding financial stewardship. In recognition of the ministry's commitment to sound fiscal management, accountability and transparency, Compassion regularly receives quality ratings or exceeds standards from monitoring organizations.

Visit: compassion.com/financial for more info.

Fiscal Year 2017 Financial Summary

PROGRAM EXPENSES	659,761,000
Child Development Program	630,527,000
Sponsor/Donor Ministries	29,234,000
SUPPORTING SERVICES	157,526,000
Fundraising	89,530,000
Administration	67,996,000
TOTAL	817,287,000



A higher standard.



give.org





"We want to teach our children to love the things that Jesus loves and to care for the things that Jesus cares for. Getting involved in serving the poor does both of these things – Jesus clearly loved the poor and specifically asked us to care for them. When we do that, our hearts are changed too. We grow when we give."

**– Santiago "Jimmy" Mellado, President and CEO
Compassion International**

