



# COMPASSION

MAGAZINE

2014 ISSUE 1

[www.compassionuk.org](http://www.compassionuk.org) | [www.compassion.ie](http://www.compassion.ie)

➤ **MORE THAN WORDS**

How sponsors transform lives

➤ **THE SKY'S THE LIMIT**

Church partnership in practice

➤ **FROM MOLLAHATI TO MANCHESTER**

A story of transformation

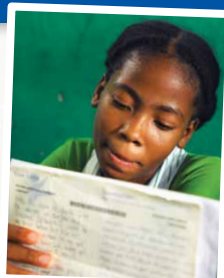
  
Releasing children from poverty  
**Compassion**<sup>®</sup>  
in Jesus' name



# Thank you for making 2013 special



Celebrating over  
**92,400**  
lives changed through  
Compassion UK's child  
sponsorship programme



Over  
**450,000**  
letters and  
cards exchanged



Over  
**£400,000**  
in donations to aid those  
affected by Typhoon  
Haiyan in the Philippines



Making it a  
**Christmas**  
to remember



## IN THIS ISSUE

- ▼ MORE THAN WORDS 4-6
- ▼ PAUSE FOR THOUGHT 7
- ▼ FROM MOLLAHATI TO MANCHESTER 8-9
- ▼ PEEK INSIDE A PROJECT 10-11
- ▼ THE BIG PICTURE 12-13
- ▼ BRICKS AND KNITS 14-15
- ▼ THE SKY'S THE LIMIT 16-18
- ▼ LIVING HOPE 19
- ▼ PARTNERS IN CHRIST 20
- ▼ FINANCIAL UPDATE 21
- ▼ NEWS 22-23

### Dear friends,

It's a pleasure to be writing to you again at the start of what I pray will be a blessed year for you and your family.

I am particularly grateful for your commitment in light of the recent rise in the rate of sponsorship. As you know this was a difficult decision for us to make. Four years have passed since our last rate increase and during that time our projects have experienced rising inflation and increased pressure on their limited resources. The increase was one we deemed essential in order to continue providing the very best care for the children in our programmes.

Through the Compassion family around the globe, more than 1.5 million children are walking through the doors of more than 6,200 church-based projects each week. That's through our Child Sponsorship Programme alone! Add to that, 2,900 Leadership Development Programme students and 29,000 Child Survival Programme beneficiaries and the number of lives we are touching is phenomenal.

Amidst the dazzling figures, I am mindful that everything we do is about transforming the lives of individual children; for the better, for eternity. Your personal sponsorship is ensuring that we keep the children at the centre of our ministry. Your monthly financial support is vital, but your letters of encouragement and prayers are also an essential component of Compassion's programme.

As we look forward to the year ahead, I want to thank you for playing a vital role in seeing lives transformed in Jesus' name.

With heartfelt thanks,

**IAN HAMILTON**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Compassion UK



Compassion is an international Christian child development and advocacy ministry. Partnering with local churches, we are committed to the spiritual, economic, social and physical development of children living in extreme poverty, enabling them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults.

For just £25 or €30 a month, you can ensure your sponsored child attends a church-based Compassion project where they will receive the practical, emotional, social and spiritual care they need to escape from poverty. Each child is linked to just one sponsor and you can encourage the child you support through your letters and prayers.

**COMPASSION UK CHRISTIAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT**  
43 High Street, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8BB  
Registered in England No. 3719092 Registered Charity No. 1077216

**CONTACT:** call 01932 836490  
fax 01932 831275  
e-mail info@compassionuk.org  
website www.compassionuk.org

**COMPASSION IRELAND CHRISTIAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT**  
Suite 3, Eden Gate Centre, Delgany, Co. Wicklow, Ireland  
Charity No. CHY 19426 Registered Company No. 493955

**CONTACT:** call [01] 5133719  
e-mail info@compassion.ie  
website www.compassion.ie

We'd love to hear your experiences of sponsorship or any comments or suggestions you have, so please get in touch.

-  [compassionuk.org](http://compassionuk.org)
-  [blog.compassionuk.org](http://blog.compassionuk.org)
-  [compassionuk](https://www.facebook.com/compassionuk)
-  [@compassionuk](https://twitter.com/compassionuk)
-  [youtube.com/compassionuk](https://www.youtube.com/compassionuk)

**DESIGN AND PRODUCTION**  
Red & Green Marketing Ltd

Articles may be reproduced with the permission of the Chief Operating Officer, Compassion UK.

**COVER**  
PHOTO: JAMES CLARKE

COM100563



Tapon writing to his sponsor.

PHOTOGRAPHY: David Adhikary

# MORE THAN WORDS

You matter; two words that can change a life. For the 1.5 million children who flock into Compassion projects each week, knowing that someone thousands of miles away cares for them can help them to see the future with hope and not despair.

**T**apon listens intently. The first rain drops have started to patter on his tin roof. His heart sinks. He knows exactly what this means. The monsoon is on its way. In a few days his home will be flooded, yet again. It might be weeks before the family can return to life as normal. But as Tapon hurries to secure what few belongings he has, he makes sure he takes his most prized possession with him. It's a green folder containing letters from his sponsor. The words of love and encouragement have helped Tapon to cope with tragedy in his life, and he knows they will provide inspiration for the next few difficult weeks.

about me. From this letter I also get to know different new things about my friend [sponsor]. I am always encouraged by these letters and it boosts my confidence."

It has been said many times that communities are only changed when the individuals within them are transformed. As a sponsor you are doing more than you might imagine to change the outlook of a child and their family through your letters, prayers and ongoing support.

## MORE THAN A LACK OF MATERIAL POSSESSIONS

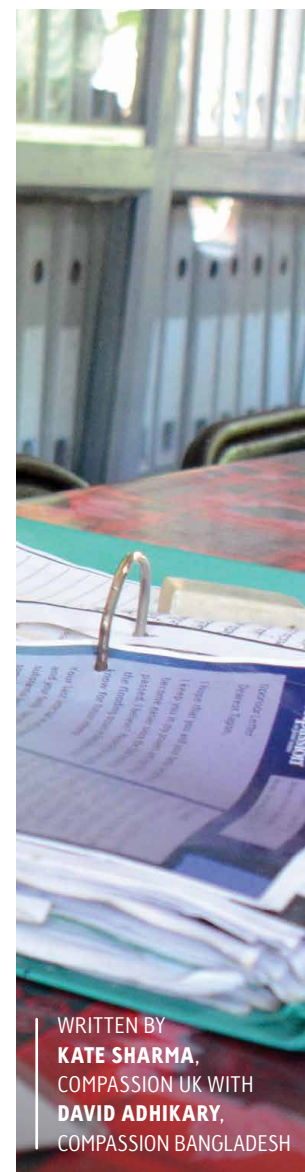
This change in mindset and attitude should never be underestimated. Poverty is typically defined in terms of material possessions, or rather a lack of them. But poverty stretches so much deeper than simply a lack of things. During the mid to late 1990s the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex conducted research to try and define exactly what poverty was. One interesting survey completed in Niger asked the poor to describe poverty for themselves. Here, the poor described the experience of poverty primarily in terms of suffering relationships and lack of belonging, dignity and freedom.

Compassion's experience of poverty over the last 60 years echoes this research. Time and time again we see individuals trapped in the desperate cycle of poverty who, with no power to change their circumstances, feel that their lives are worthless. Fatalism creeps into the despair and the belief that "it won't

**"I AM ALWAYS ENCOURAGED BY THESE LETTERS AND IT BOOSTS MY CONFIDENCE"**

It might sound ridiculous for a young man to be scabbling around for letters when a storm that could flatten his home is on its way, but for Tapon, and the millions of children who live with poverty, pain and desperation all around them, hope can be the most powerful thing they have. A few years ago Tapon's family suffered the devastating blow of losing their mother. Now Tapon's father struggles to support himself and three children on what little he earns as a day labourer.

But Tapon has not lost hope. "My sponsor always wants to know about me and my condition of living," he says with pride. "It is like a very close friend who is concerned



WRITTEN BY  
**KATE SHARMA,**  
COMPASSION UK WITH  
**DAVID ADHIKARY,**  
COMPASSION BANGLADESH



get any better” starts to undermine any initiative to improve things. To sum it up, where there is a lack of hope, it’s nearly impossible to bring change.

For this reason, Compassion’s approach to tackling poverty is long-term and complete. We don’t simply look at ways to remove the physical, economic and social barriers that keep people trapped in poverty – we look at the emotional and spiritual factors too. When a team from the University of San Francisco investigated the impact of Compassion child sponsorship between 2008 and 2012, they concluded that Compassion’s emphasis on building a child’s self esteem and sense of worth played a vital role in helping children to escape from poverty.

#### BUILDING SELF ESTEEM

But self esteem is hard to quantify. It’s not simply about feeling good about yourself; it’s how you perceive your value to the world and your worth to those

around you. For Tapon, the simple fact that someone took the time to write to him helped him to understand that he mattered. As Christians we believe that every child, regardless of their situation or circumstances, has been made in the image of God. We believe they are precious and unique with an innate sense of purpose. With the help of committed staff and sponsors around the world we are helping children to see themselves as God

sees them. As a sponsor you are crossing the divide of distance, language and culture to show a child that they matter.

You are doing something amazing.

ABOVE: Tapon showing the photo sent by his sponsors.

BELOW: Tapon with his father and his sister.

PHOTOGRAPHY: David Adhikary



## Writing hope: A story in three acts

We tend to grow into what we see around us, which can be good if we’re emulating a positive role model. However, this truth is anything but good for Murthy, a young boy in India. Each morning, young Murthy follows his dad, a bonded labourer, to a rock quarry in India. As Murthy crushes rock, his limited future etches away at his spirit. When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, the boy replies, “My dreams will never come true, so let me not have any dreams at all.”

**H**ave you ever felt tempted to give up hope? Even though I have bundles of opportunities compared with Murthy, I’ve had my moments. My sponsored child, Derrick, has too. He once urged me, “Please pray I would hold on to my dream of being a journalist. Every time I get any money I go to the internet café and I write. But my friends say I’ll never make it.”

Derrick’s friends douse hope in ways we see every day in the countries where we work. While I doubt Derrick’s friends know Wess Stafford, he knows their point: “Poverty says to a child, ‘Look around you. Nothing works, nothing’s beautiful, everything’s garbage and ... by the way ... so are you.’ The message of poverty ... is, ‘Give up.’”

As individuals, we may stifle hope when we lament, “What can I do? I’m only a [fill in the blank].” Jesus confronts this sense of inadequacy, saying we can do “even greater things” than He did, in His name [John 14:12-13]. So, a first act to

having, and offering, hope is this: agree with Jesus that we are called and able.

A second act is this: help children through a local church. Research from the Search Institute, an organisation that provides research on child development, affirms that attending religious services at least one

#### “SENDING JUST ONE LETTER EVERY SIX MONTHS MAKES A DIFFERENCE.”

hour a week is one of 40 developmental assets that help a child flourish physically and spiritually. Every child in a Compassion programme is invested with this hope-producing “asset,” attending a Compassion project at one of more than 6,210 churches in Africa, Asia or Latin America for four to eight hours each week.

The third act? Affirm children, both near and far. Sponsored children who receive

letters do better on the Search Institute’s self esteem scale, and sending just one letter every six months makes a difference.

Acts of hope like these can make a tangible difference. In that same rock quarry in India, another father labours near Murthy’s father. This man does not mirror his environment. He rises above it. This man’s daughter, a Compassion-assisted child, spends her days studying computer science rather than pounding rocks. She knows caring adults who strive to love her as Jesus does. She and her father have hope.

Will my sponsored child hold on to his dream? Will Murthy find one? We might just be the generation to end extreme poverty, but only as we act out our hope.

WRITTEN BY **NAOMI CRAMER OVERTON** USA ADVOCACY DIRECTOR, COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

PHOTOGRAPHY: Prospect Arts



Jane Alam today.

NEAR RIGHT: The slum where Jane grew up.

FAR RIGHT: Jane with his family in their home.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Jane Alam

# FROM MOLLAHATI TO MANCHESTER

WRITTEN BY **JANE ALAM SHEIKH**,  
FORMER SPONSORED CHILD

One tap and two toilets for 10,000 people. It's hard to believe, but that is the reality for the 10,000 residents of the Mollahati slum in downtown Kolkata, India. Most residents go to the toilet in the open and, during the rainy season, faeces flood the slum dwellings. Death and sickness are everywhere. My name is Sheikh Jane Alam, I am 22 years old. The Mollahati slum is my birth place and my home, but I am living proof that it is possible to overcome poverty. This is my story.

**M**y father and mother were squatters in an abandoned horse stable, less than two by three metres, in the middle of Mollahati slum. My mother was 14 when she got married and my father was 22. As a child I saw babies starving, people dying due to lack of medication, families breaking up through alcoholism and teenage girls getting pregnant. Being exposed to these harsh realities took away the most important thing from my life – my hope.

Neither of my parents had any schooling and our family depended on my father's irregular job picking bricks and stones in construction sites. When we were crying for a full stomach at night, education was beyond our dream. I was sure that I would end up starving or dying from disease, but God had different plans for me.

### A DIFFERENT PLAN

At the age of four I was registered in Compassion's Child Sponsorship Programme and began attending a school

run by the Jeevan Jyoti Fellowship Church. I was the only child in a community of 6,000 children who had ever been to school! It was no less than a miracle. I didn't just get education though; I received many other benefits from the Compassion project. Nutritious food, warm clothes, medical attention when required, even little things like toothpaste and soap made a huge difference to my family.

As much as I appreciated these material benefits, I will be ever grateful to



### INVITE A FORMER SPONSORED CHILD TO CHURCH

Whilst studying, Jane is also sharing his testimony in churches across the country. You can invite Jane or another former sponsored child to speak at your church by calling 01932 836490.

Compassion for introducing Jesus to my family. Receiving Christ in my life was the best thing that ever happened to me. We found a God who was bigger than our problems and with that we found what was missing from our lives: hope. My parents were first to get baptised and by my early teens, we became the only Christian family in my slum. In Christ we found hope.

### NEVER GIVE UP

But when I was 16 my father died—a victim of malaria. I was ten weeks away from my high school final exams when he was admitted to hospital with kidney failure. My father didn't let me give up. I carried my books to the hospital and studied there. I wish he'd been there to see that I topped my class in the high school final exam.

With God's grace and the support of my church I was able to excel at school and was selected to enter Compassion's Leadership Development Programme. Between blackouts, in stifling conditions, I would study at a tiny desk in the corner of my home. My bed was the floor, the space not quite long enough for me to stretch out my legs. But, despite this, God helped me to complete a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, finishing second out of 1,500 students in my university!

My life was richly blessed, I had opportunities that none of my friends did, so I always carried a burden to help my people. In parallel with my studies, I worked with my church to provide



**"I AM LIVING PROOF THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME POVERTY"**

micro-credit to help women escape from prostitution in the nearby red-light district and to reach out to their children. Today, I am studying for a Masters in Business Administration at the University of Manchester. But my dream is not to land a well-paid job in Kolkata. I want to expand the micro-credit programme to other red-light areas in India and to challenge local businesses to meet the needs of my country's poor.

My life is a testament to God's unfailing faithfulness. I am very thankful for my sponsor who supported me for 18 years. He always told me that our backgrounds should never decide our future. The sky is everyone's limit if we are willing to work hard.



### SPONSOR A LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME STUDENT

Leadership Development Programme students are remarkable young men and women who have exceptional academic skills, a deep Christian faith and have demonstrated a flair for leadership.

If you are interested in sponsoring an inspiring leader through university and leadership training visit [www.compassionuk.org/LDP](http://www.compassionuk.org/LDP).



# TAKE A PEEK INSIDE THE PROJECT GATES

Last week, over one and a half million children ran through the gates of Compassion projects around the world. Run by 6,200 local churches, these projects are safe havens offering care and protection for children who have to battle the daily hardships of poverty.

**A**s well as giving children the financial assistance they need to attend school or additional training, sponsorship enables children to attend local Compassion projects where they are known and loved. Children go to their Compassion project for at least 44 weeks in a year and for a minimum of four hours every week. Although the exact format of the programme varies from country to country, here's an insight into a typical day at a Compassion project:

## 9.00AM – Prayer and devotion time.

Children are taught to pray and encouraged to develop a daily relationship with Jesus. Last year over 125,000 children gave their lives to Christ.



WRITTEN BY REBECCA STANLEY,  
COMPASSION UK



## 9.30AM – Spiritual lessons.

Children are given age-appropriate teaching about Jesus' love and the Bible. For example, children are taught the gospel story and helped to memorise Bible verses.

## 10.30AM – Break time.

Children can play in a safe environment and develop friendships.



## 12.00PM – Lunch and social time.

At most Compassion projects, children are provided with a nutritional meal or snack. In Ethiopia, children are given food supplies to take home instead.



## 14.00PM – Letter writing and career planning.

Older children work with project staff to identify their strengths and interests, setting realistic goals for their future.



## 11.00AM – Social lessons.

From conflict resolution to developing healthy self-esteem and a Godly character, children who often come from challenging home environments are taught social and personal skills.



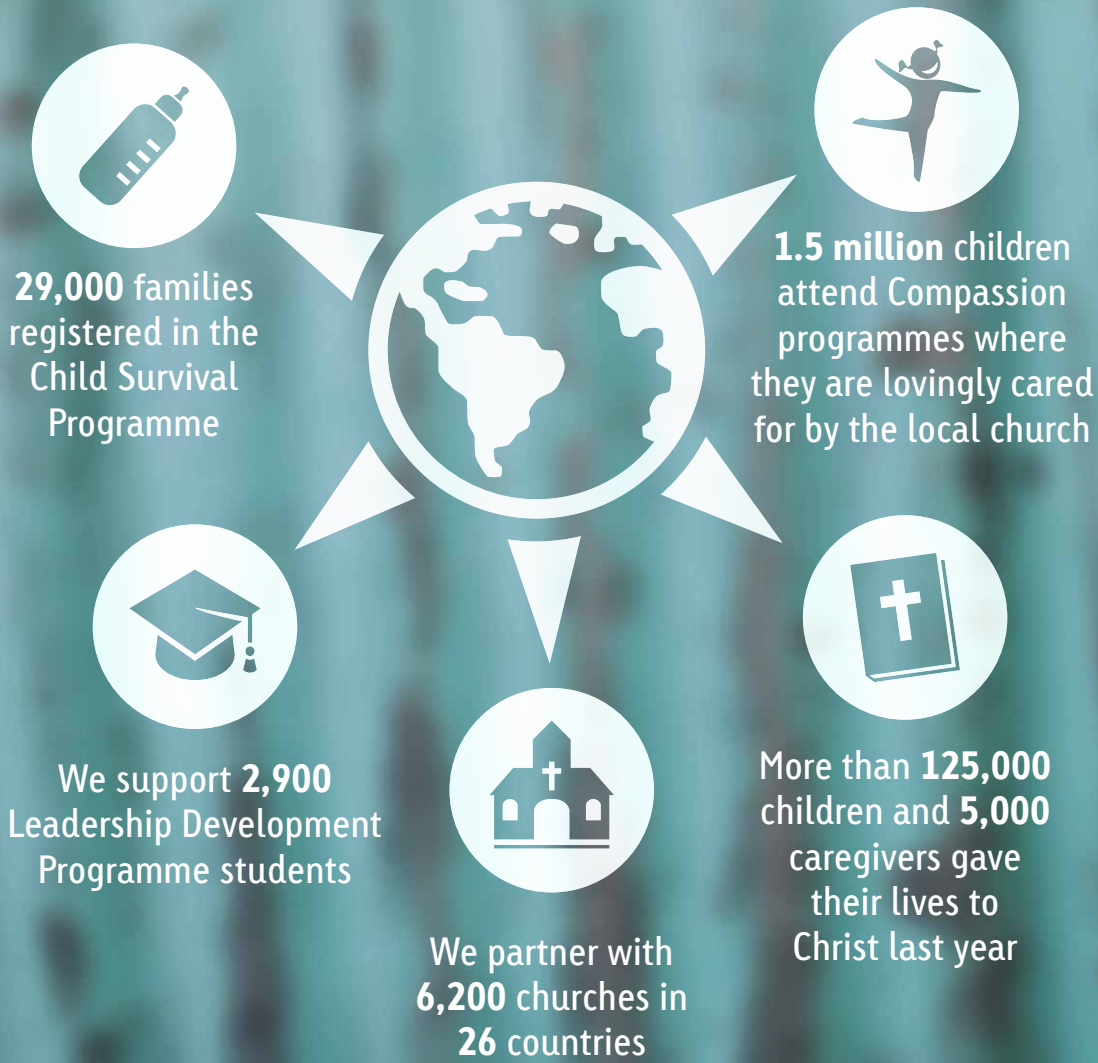
## 13.00PM – Health lessons.

Children are taught practical health and hygiene tips. Example topics include how to prevent malaria, HIV/AIDS, and the prevention, recognition and response to child abuse.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Every sponsored child is given a Bible or an appropriate section of scripture at their project.
- Every sponsored child receives a full medical check-up or health screening once a year.
- Every sponsored child is visited at home at least once a year so that Compassion staff can get to know their family and understand their individual needs.
- Every child is given the opportunity to learn a vocational or income generation skill that will help them access employment in the future.

# ACROSS THE WORLD COMPASSION IS PARTNERING WITH CHRISTIANS TO RELEASE CHILDREN FROM POVERTY IN JESUS' NAME



**TOGETHER WE ARE CHANGING THE STORY.**  
Thank you for faithfully partnering with us.

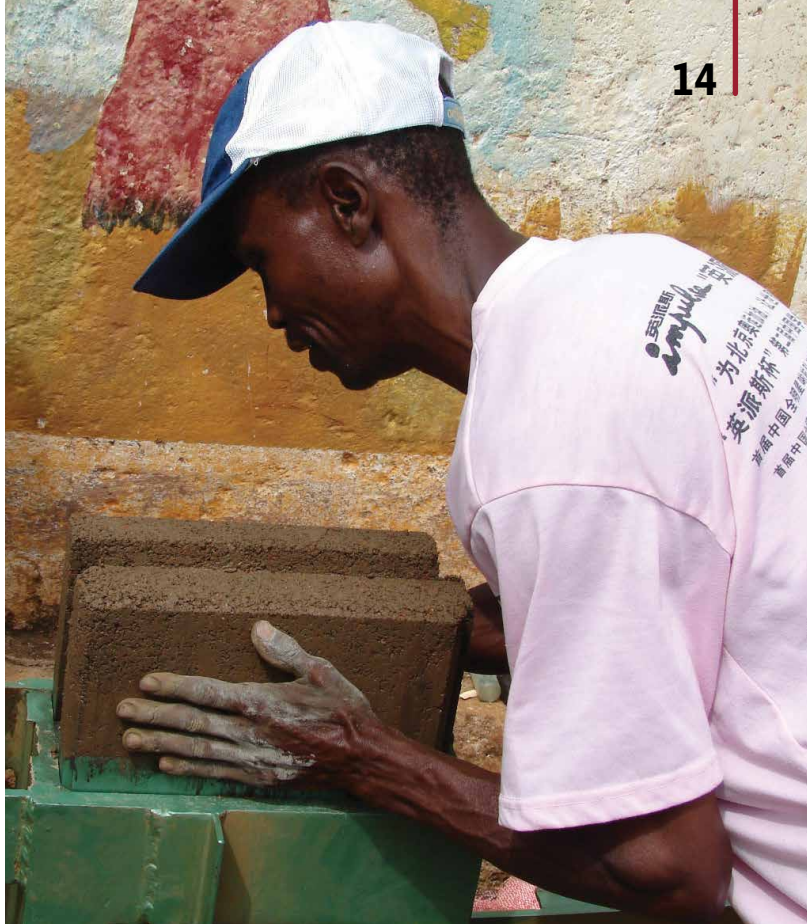
# BRICKS AND KNITS

What do knitting and brick making have in common? Not much you might think. But a Compassion RESPOND Initiative has been helping families in Kenya to develop skills in both these fields to generate sustainable incomes.

**A**lthough Kenya's tourist industry is thriving, life is a daily battle for the nation's poor. With more than half the population living on less than 60p a day, many young people move to cities in search of employment, only to end up on the streets. Compassion is working tirelessly to prevent this by intervening in the lives of children living in some of Kenya's poorest communities.

Through a Compassion RESPOND Initiative, support is being provided to train 44 caregivers from the Child Survival Programme to generate income through knitting and brick making. These caregivers were already engaged in low-level knitting or brick making activities, but had limited access to the technology and finances needed to expand their businesses.

WRITTEN BY KYLIE SCOTT,  
COMPASSION UK



14

## KNITTING

With the support of the initiative three knitting machines were bought and parents were trained how to use the equipment to make socks, sweaters and hats for their own children, as well as knitted products for sale.

As a result, families can make clothing for their children, rather than buying it. They can also sell products to the rest of the community at a competitive rate. The long-term plan is for each caregiver to make enough money to buy their own knitting machine. "Before the knitting lessons started, I was hawking second-hand clothes in the streets and the neighbourhood," says Rebecca Achando, one of the beneficiaries of the

programme. "I have realised that with the few sweaters I have made I can actually make a good income if I put more effort into my skills. This will improve the economic status of my family and the entire community since I will be making sweaters and selling them cheaper compared to what others are buying from the outside markets."

**"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SPONSORS OF THE PROGRAMME, IT'S LIKE THEY WERE GOD-SENT"**

## BRICK MAKING

A similar model has been used by brick makers in the programmes. Before the initiative, five caregivers were able to make an average of 3,000 blocks in a month, providing an individual income of just £1.20 a day. Finances raised by the RESPOND Initiative were used to purchase a new block press which has more than doubled their output. Now,



15

five people can make an average of 8,000 blocks a month. The raw materials used are also cheaper meaning individuals now earn approximately £3.40 a day. So far, 14 block press machines have been distributed to seven projects in Kenya.

The new process has also contributed to a reduction in deforestation as the previous method required caregivers to bake bricks by burning wood. By providing bricks that are cheaper to buy, more people will be able to build their own homes and provide safe, clean shelters for their children. "Looking at our financial background, we did not have hope but at least now we hope that someday, through this initiative, I might be able to construct my own house using these bricks," says Cenvile Odhiambo Ochuk, one of the caregivers

to have benefitted from the brick press.

## BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

To underpin these practical efforts, families have been given specific training on the use and maintenance of the new machines. They received training in personal finance, savings and bookkeeping so they will be able to manage profits well and market their products.

The impact is already being felt by the beneficiary families who can now look forward to the future. "I would like to thank the donors of the programme, it's like they were God-sent," says Hezron Ahono Agutu. "This is the first time in my life that I have realised that I can make an income from local resources that are provided by God for free like the soil."



» **RESPOND Initiatives are essential in supporting critical needs of children that cannot be met through the sponsorship programme. RESPOND Initiatives are focused on four core areas: health, education, stability and child protection. This RESPOND Initiative was funded by a generous legacy donation. To find out how you can leave a legacy to Compassion and help pass on hope to many more children and their families call 01932 836490.**

OPPOSITE: Interlocking bricks are carefully removed from the press.

ABOVE: An instructor shows caregivers how to use the knitting machine.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Nkatha Mwongera



# The Sky's the Limit

When a church from Clapham decided to hold a Compassion Sunday event, they never dreamed it would take their congregation to the roof of Africa, but that's exactly what happened to St Mark's in Battersea.

In June 2013, as 21 of the members of the church looked down from the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, they forgot the cold, the blisters and the altitude sickness to stand united for children in poverty. They represented not just themselves but a whole church committed to bringing the hope of Christ to some of the world's poorest children. Their achievement was the culmination of the church's five-year journey with Compassion.

"I remember it all started with a Compassion Sunday presentation," says Christine Perkin, associate pastor at St Mark's. "The young couple who introduced it were so enthusiastic and the Christian nature of Compassion was immediately evident. It was all about Jesus."

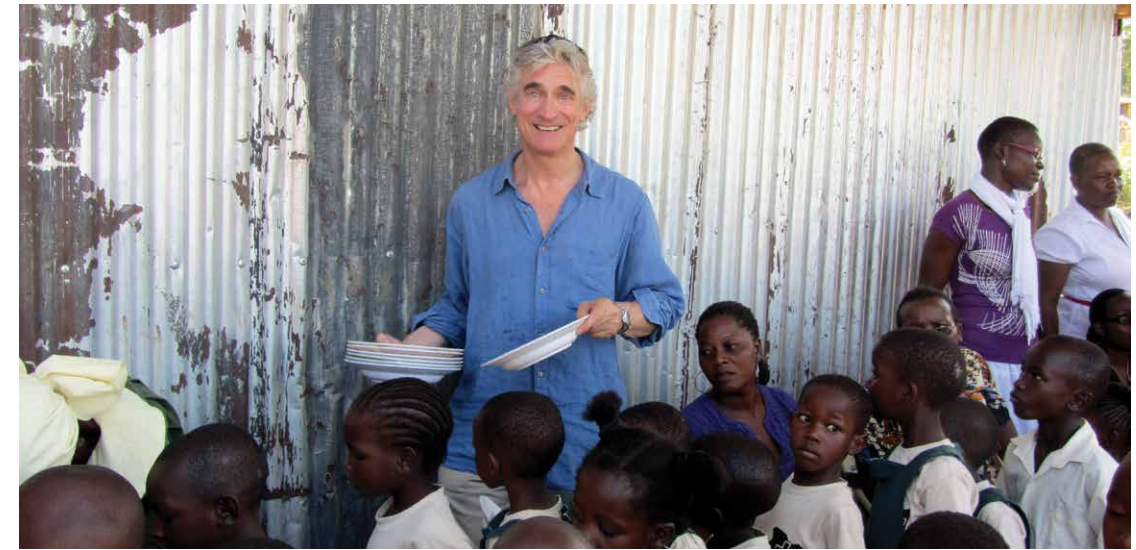
After just one Compassion Sunday presentation in 2008, 50 children were sponsored and the leadership team saw that the hearts of their congregation were being stirred. "We wanted a way to open the eyes of our congregation to the world around them," continues Nick Stott, a fellow pastor at the church. "But

so many interventions can be unhelpful; we wanted to get it right."

The leadership team from St Mark's spent time getting to know Compassion and saw how their projects actually work in practice. Five years on from that first Compassion Sunday, and the church is even more enthusiastic about the work. It has been said many times that it is only in giving that we truly receive and St Mark's can certainly testify to the blessings their congregation has received as a result of their generosity.

"Sponsorship has helped people to connect with mission," says Christine. "Even those who have never been to the developing world." "And the children lead it," interjects Nick. "Our kids have been so excited about it. For six months they had a tub they put coppers into, occasionally with the permission of their parents, and altogether they raised more than £500 to buy toys for the Compassion children."

Perhaps the highlight of the partnership, so far, came last year when 21 members travelled to Africa. Before scaling the



"WE WANTED A WAY TO  
**OPEN THE EYES OF OUR  
CONGREGATION TO THE  
WORLD AROUND THEM.**"

heights of Mount Kilimanjaro, they stopped off at Mariakani, a community in Kenya where the church now sponsors around 150 children. Christine and her husband had been there a year before when the project had just opened. "When we first visited the project was surrounded by rubbish, they had to cook outside and the children were in scraps of clothing without shoes," remembers Christine. "When we visited in 2013 everything was different. The children had shoes, there was a playground, a barn had been converted into classrooms, they were building a kitchen and the wasteland had been cleared. It gave us real confidence."

The team also had the opportunity to meet with a group of Compassion Leadership Development Programme (LDP) students whose education they would be funding through their ascent up the mountain. "Having met the LDP students and then climbing the mountain, a lot of our conversation was about them," says Christine. With the support of their church back home, the team raised more than £51,200 to support LDP students in Kenya.

Although just a handful of the congregation made the trip, the whole church was involved. "It was something that brought everyone together," confirms Christine. "There were fundraising initiatives, a commissioning service and constant prayer for the group while we were out there."

Their adventures in Africa have only whet the church's appetite for more involvement with Compassion. They continue to find sponsors and have integrated Compassion into other activities in the church calendar. Although their feet have barely touched the ground, they are already planning their next African adventure.

"It's given us such a tangible way of connecting with poverty," says Christine. "It's made holistic mission available to every one of us," concludes Nick.



## YOUR CHURCH & COMPASSION

Your church can partner with Compassion to see children released from poverty across the world.

### As a Compassion church partner:

- You'll get regular updates from your children.
- You can focus your support in one country, or across the world.
- You'll have the opportunity to travel to see the work first hand.
- Compassion speakers are available to talk at your church.
- We provide training days for your church to attend.
- We have a wide range of resources to help inspire your congregation.
- You'll receive literature and posters specifically for your church.



Order the new *Your Church & Compassion* brochure today to find out your church can get more involved. Visit [www.compassionuk.org/church-partnerships](http://www.compassionuk.org/church-partnerships) or call 01932 836490 to order your pack today.

WRITTEN BY **KATE SHARMA**,  
COMPASSION UK  
PHOTOGRAPHY: St Mark's Battersea



# WHAT WOULD YOUR CHURCH LOOK LIKE IF EVERYONE WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN MISSION?

Together we can answer God's call for His Church to serve the poor.

We'd like to invite your church to partner with Compassion to release children from poverty in Jesus' name.

*"We've seen the projects at all levels and it's absolutely amazing. Compassion does not just meet a need, their work is changing nations. And Today's Community Church has been changed too."*

PASTOR DAVID BELFIELD,  
TODAY'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

To find out how your church can order a copy of our BRAND NEW church partnership brochure, call **01932 836499**, e-mail [partnerships@compassionuk.org](mailto:partnerships@compassionuk.org) or visit [www.compassionuk.org/church-partnerships](http://www.compassionuk.org/church-partnerships).



## LIVING HOPE

The day Emebet gave birth to her daughter was a fleeting moment of happiness in her short life. She brought the little girl home in a borrowed blanket and laid her on the dirt floor of her one-roomed home. She had nothing to give the child, not even hope. For the next six months, the family lived off hand-outs from the neighbours. Life was a painful cycle of survival, so when Emebet opened the doors to a couple of strangers she had little reason to believe they were bringing good news. But that morning changed everything.



ABOVE: Emebet and Mariamawit.  
PHOTOGRAPHY: Tigtist Gizachew

**T**he women invited Emebet and Mariamawit to join the Child Survival Programme (CSP) based at the Lideta Mekane Yesus church. "That morning I felt like God had finally turned his face towards me and heard my prayers," remembers Emebet.

When she was 15 Emebet lost her mother and had to leave school and find work in a local café. The small waitressing job didn't pay well and when Emebet met a young man who wanted to marry her, she thought life would take a different turn. Sadly things just got worse. Her abusive husband had many addictions and infected her with HIV before eventually abandoning her when she was pregnant. Emebet believed that God had forgotten her, but the arrival of the Child Survival Programme staff renewed her hope and her faith.

The support she received began to make a significant difference in their lives as they were given food supplies, clothing, medical care and hygiene materials. "I was provided with everything I needed to raise my daughter properly," says Emebet. "Moreover, my hope was restored. For the first time since my mother died, my life seemed to go the right way and I could see the future clearly."

Shortly after they were enrolled Emebet became dangerously ill with tuberculosis. The church took care of everything. They paid her medical bills, looked after her daughter and visited her daily. Without their support it's likely that Emebet would have died.

The project hasn't just been keeping the family alive; it has helped Emebet to plan for the future. With a small loan from the church Emebet set up a business baking and selling local injera bread. The profits are enough to support herself, and her daughter, who is now a healthy and happy three-year-old.

**"I WAS PROVIDED WITH EVERYTHING I NEED"**

"Thanks to the Child Survival Programme, my daughter and I have started to live a life filled with hope for the future," says Emebet. "I feel loved and cared for by the staff and the mothers in the programme and I know I have people I can depend on in times of trouble. I don't know how much time I have in this world but I ask God to let me share the joy of my daughter."

» Compassion's Child Survival Programme works with the most vulnerable pregnant mothers and young babies providing pre and postnatal care, nutrition and support to help mums sustain the growth and development of their children. To find out more visit [www.compassionuk.org/child-survival-programme](http://www.compassionuk.org/child-survival-programme)

**KATE SHARMA**, COMPASSION UK WITH **TIGIST GIZACHEW**, COMPASSION ETHIOPIA

# PARTNERS IN CHRIST

Compassion partners with some incredible ministries to find more sponsors for children in desperate need. Charlotte Gambill speaks to Compassion about the vision behind one of our oldest partners, the Cherish Women's Conference, and why, after all these years, Compassion remains a key part of the event.



In 2001, God placed a burden on Charlotte Gambill's heart to inspire and encourage women of God. In response, the Cherish Conference was born. 12 years on, the little conference that began life in a Bradford church is about to move to the 14,000-seat First Direct Arena in Leeds. "We had grown to a back-to-back conference and I was feeling that 'God nudge' and I knew it was time to believe for bigger," says Charlotte, recalling the decision to take the largest women's conference in the north of England to the next level.

It's been an exciting journey for Cherish and one that Compassion has had the privilege of being part of for more than a decade now. "It's not just a conference. It's a voice for women in the nation and a way to get outside the boundaries of the church," says Charlotte. "We enter Cherish with the attitude that it's God's

conference, not ours. We simply want to see more women equipped for the cause to which they were called."

"Compassion is an important part of what we do," continues Charlotte. "On a basic level, it helps people to fulfil the call of scripture to help the poor, but it can enhance your life in many other ways. It connects with people on so many levels; those who are single and want to pour love into the life of a child, those who can't have kids of their own and those who want to introduce their own children to God's heart for the poor."

Last year Charlotte joined the Compassion team in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, to see the impact that sponsorship has on the children themselves. "The slum was such a dark place, with young girls telling me that they had to be home before nightfall for fear of being raped," remembers Charlotte. "But the Compassion projects were like light in the darkness. They were a picture of God's power and goodness. The feeling

of hope, Christ and salvation was just tangible. As the conference grows, we hope the profile of Compassion will too. We are praying that thousands of kids will get sponsored!"

Preparations for Cherish 2014 are already underway and, above all else, Charlotte and the team are praying that lives will be transformed. If their past record is anything to go by, we can expect great things! So why don't you join us to make history at the First Direct in Leeds.

» **CHERISH 29-31 MAY 2014  
FIRST DIRECT ARENA, LEEDS**  
Hosted by Charlotte Gambill with speakers Holly Wagner, Lucinda Dooley and guest artist Natalie Grant.  
This year a children's conference will run in conjunction with Cherish so mums have somewhere to drop their kids off.  
For more information visit [www.cherishconference.com](http://www.cherishconference.com)

WRITTEN BY KATE SHARMA,  
COMPASSION UK

# Annual Report

Dear friends,

We have experienced so many of God's blessings at Compassion UK throughout the last financial year. We give thanks to Him for His amazing provision and the lives that have been changed in Jesus' name.

Throughout the economic uncertainty, Compassion UK has maintained a stable environment of holistic care and now supports over 92,400 children. Success stories continue to pour forth from all of Compassion's ministries, from children successfully completing the Child Sponsorship Programme to Leadership Development Programme students graduating and going on to be change-makers in their communities. Our ministry continues to grow and I am pleased to report a net annual increase of 6,622 sponsorships; a growth of almost eight per cent.

On behalf of the board of trustees I would like to extend a thoroughly heart-felt thank you to all our sponsors, supporters and advocates. Very little of what we do would be possible without your ongoing commitment. With your help, we look forward to blessing the lives of many more children.

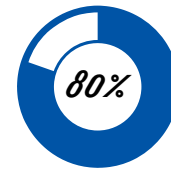
God bless you,

Graham Williams, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

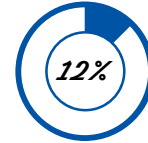


» To view the annual report in full visit [www.compassionuk.org/financial-integrity](http://www.compassionuk.org/financial-integrity)

## HOW YOUR MONEY IS SPENT



**80%** Development and implementation of Compassion programmes that directly benefit the child.



**12%** Fundraising and finding the next sponsor for a Compassion-assisted child.



**6%** Administration and governance.

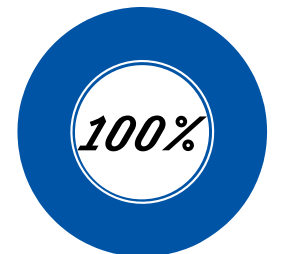


**2%** Child ministry to facilitate a personal, one-to-one relationship between the sponsor and child.



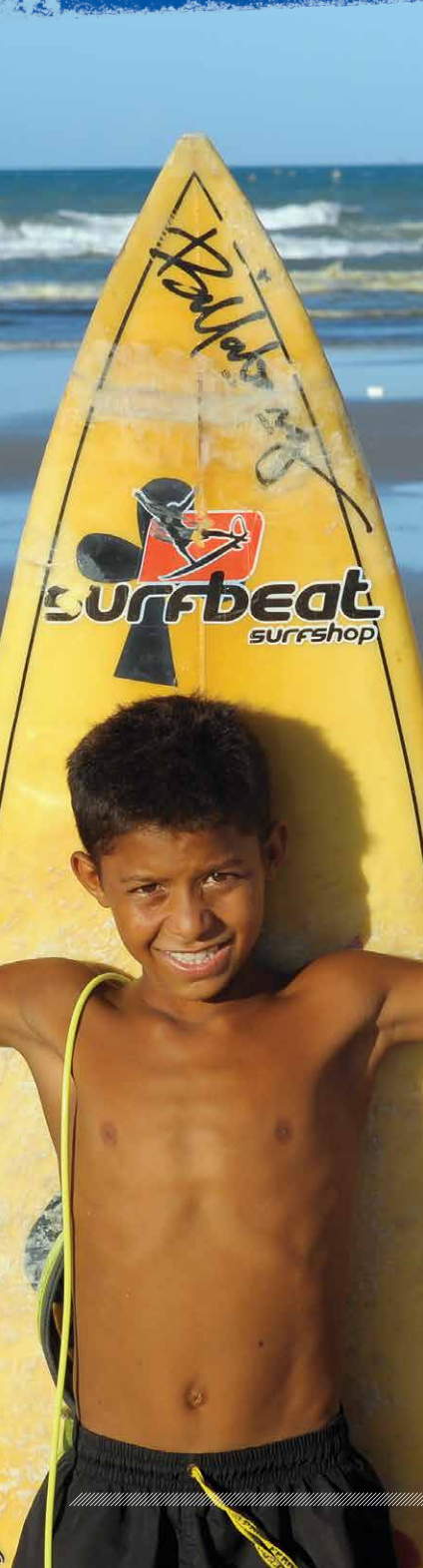
**100%** 100 per cent of additional child, family and project financial gifts given by a sponsor go directly to the beneficiary. Gifts are decided and bought in consultation with the pastor and Compassion project staff.

Compassion is 100 per cent funded by our supporters and we do not rely on government grants.



Percentages are based on 2012/13 accounts and projected 2013/14 budget

## KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE WITH ALL THINGS COMPASSION



### HAITI HOSPITAL OPENS

September saw the opening of the first hospital on the Haitian island of La Gonavé. Work began on the hospital in 2009 in collaboration with the Wesleyan Church in Haiti. The hospital has a 44-bed ward, operating theatre and maternity unit. Compassion UK supporters generously donated more than £550,000 to support the project, which is the only facility serving the islanders, including 6,000 Compassion-sponsored children and their families.

Specialist technology has been used to ensure the hospital can withstand any future earthquakes, and solar panels have been installed to harness Haiti's natural energy.

### SURFING THE GOSPEL

Projects in Brazil are taking an innovative approach to reaching children. The Espaço Viva Vida Student Centre is engaging kids from favelas in Fortaleza by offering surf lessons. The project is the inspiration of Pastor Carlos Bezerra, a veteran surfer. The programme aims to keep children away from gangs and drugs, whilst teaching them discipline, self control and the gospel. "Surfing is a lifeline for many, but besides surfing, there is a need to become a person and feel that they are a part of society," says Pastor Bezerra.

### GREENHOUSE PROJECT ENGAGES CHILDREN

A Compassion project in Santa Lucía Utatlán, Guatemala, is giving pupils a healthy start in life by establishing a greenhouse on the project grounds. The project not only provides the children and their families with fresh tomatoes, it teaches students about agriculture and allows them to gain a sense of responsibility as they cultivate the crops. "We are seeing the benefit of it in the lives of children, their families and the wider community," says Isaac, project director.



"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed."

PSALM 82:3 (NIV)

### COMPASSION ARTISTS ON TOUR

Compassion is excited to be hitting the road again this year with some of our key ambassadors.

We'll be joining Graham Kendrick and Philippa Hanna on their 'Storyteller's Tour' and the REND Collective on their 'Art of Celebration' tour.

#### Graham Kendrick with Philippa Hanna 'Storytellers Tour'

Graham and Philippa will be bringing their unique gifts and talents to venues across the country between:

- 24-27 April 2014
- 1-4 May 2014



#### Rend 'The Art of Celebration'

The tour will be weaving its way through Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow and Manchester.

- 14-18 May 2014

Tickets for both tours are available from [www.spiltmilkbookings.com](http://www.spiltmilkbookings.com)



### COMPASSION PARTNERS WITH UCB

Compassion is delighted to be partnering with UCB over the next 12 months. The Christian broadcaster will be sharing Compassion through their radio and TV channels. In November they generously raised more than £20,000 through their annual Shareathon to purchase 400 water filters to provide families across the globe with safe drinking water.

For more information on Compassion's partnership with UCB visit [www.ucb.co.uk](http://www.ucb.co.uk)



### CHRISTMAS FUND UPDATE

Thank you so much to all those who generously donated to Compassion's Christmas Fund. With your support children in Compassion projects across the world were treated to special celebrations, parties and gifts this Christmas. They especially loved receiving personal cards from their sponsors.

### TYPHOON HAIYAN UPDATE

On 8 November 2014 Typhoon Haiyan ravaged the Philippines. An estimated 2,500 people lost their lives and more than 670,000 were displaced from their homes. 106 Compassion projects were affected and more than 11,000 sponsored children and their families.

Compassion was overwhelmed by the generosity of supporters as more than £400,000 was pledged by Compassion UK alone to support the relief effort. Staff on the ground were mobilised quickly to respond to the immediate needs of families by providing food, water, medical care and shelter.

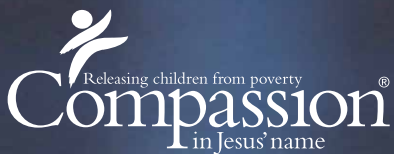
The country is now working to rebuild homes, churches and projects and to help rehabilitate children who have experienced great trauma.

Menchit Wong, Compassion's Child Advocacy Director in the Philippines said, "We have not seen in our history such a generous outpouring of aid and supplies from within the country, and from countries around the world. Everywhere, we see people wanting to help out and give their support. Please pray with us through the weeks and months ahead of relief, rescue and rehabilitation work, on behalf of the millions of Filipinos who are helpless victims of this tragedy."

Please keep the Philippines in your prayers as the country recovers from the devastation.



▶▶ To read more about these stories visit [blog.compassionuk.org](http://blog.compassionuk.org) or [blog.compassion.ie](http://blog.compassion.ie)



ANY SUNDAY  
CAN BE

# Compassion Sunday

Last year, over 900 children were released from extreme poverty by people just like you sharing a simple, five minute message about the work of Compassion with their church, small group or friends.

**You too can change the life-story of another child forever.**

Order your FREE resource pack today by visiting [www.compassionuk.org/compassionsunday](http://www.compassionuk.org/compassionsunday) or calling **01932 836490**.

