

COMPASSION

MAGAZINE

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2017 ISSUE 2

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**THE GIRL
WHO SINGS
TO WIDOWS**

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**EXPERIENCE ANOTHER
WORLD WITHOUT
LEAVING YOUR OWN**

**RELEASING
CHILDREN
FROM
POVERTY**

IN JESUS' NAME

 **Compassion**
Releasing children from poverty
in Jesus' name



IN THIS ISSUE

July's magazine takes you to the heart of Compassion's ministry, both in the countries where we work, and here in the UK and Ireland.

You may not be expecting to walk through the homes or projects of Compassion-supported children this summer, so you might be surprised to discover the Compassion Experience is bringing them to your doorstep! Turn to page 8 to find out more.

In this edition, discover how a medical check-up was life-changing for a young boy with a tongue-tie. And meet Fefe, a teenager who has been given bucket-loads of steadfast, godly character thanks to the local church and the love of one sponsor.

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DEAR FRIEND,

In our ever changing world, I take great comfort in knowing our God never changes. As we experience times of joy and of sorrow He remains the same; our faithful shepherd.



Earlier this year Compassion's operations in India ended after almost fifty years of fruitful ministry. Despite months of working to meet every requirement of the Indian government and exhausting every avenue of resolution, we were unable to secure the removal of government financial restrictions. It was with a heavy heart that we said goodbye and entrusted the children in our programme in India to God's care. We do not grieve without hope; we trust that our brothers and sisters in India will continue to practically serve the children who need it most. Thank you for standing with us in love, support and prayer throughout this time. We are always deeply impacted by your devotion and commitment to Compassion. We stand in faith that one day, Compassion will be able to work in India again.

We're always seeking to bring our supporters closer to the difference sponsorship makes to a child in poverty. The Compassion Experience is an exciting new way for you and your friends to experience a little bit of what life is like in a developing country – it offers you the chance to visit another world without leaving your own. See with your own eyes how sponsorship transforms lives through this interactive experience. You can read more about this brilliant innovation in this edition of the magazine.

As we reflect on all that has happened this year and the amazing opportunities which lie ahead, I am as thankful as ever for your generosity and support. It is my hope that this edition of the Compassion magazine helps you to see the extraordinary eternal difference you are making in the lives of thousands of children around the world. May you be enriched by the smiles, stories and prayers within these pages.

JUSTIN DOWDS

Chief Executive Officer
Compassion UK and Compassion Ireland

THE GIRL WHO SINGS TO WIDOWS



I'm sitting opposite the wisest teenager I've ever met. I expected to be distracted by the stifling humidity and falling ash from Mount Dukono. But Fefe's story is compelling. Not only is she overcoming her own family's poverty, she's bringing change to a whole village.

School books, nutritional meals and health checks. When I think of sponsorship changing lives, my mind immediately goes to the practical. Yet meeting 16-year-old Fefe has challenged my understanding. Yes, it's undeniable that growing up in rural Halmahera, Indonesia, she's been equipped and protected by the provision of education and healthcare.

Photographer: Chuck Bigger

But spending time listening to her story, it's clear the greatest gift the Compassion programme has given Fefe is character. Bucket-loads of steadfast, godly character.

"If there was no church and no Compassion project, I would be abandoned," Fefe begins. "At first, I did not know about my ability in singing. But the tutors here have encouraged me and motivated me. Now we have a choir at the project and we join in competitions. We have even recorded our own album.

I'm now able to help the widows around our community. I have compassion for them. Last Valentine's Day, me and my friends had an idea. We asked our tutors at the project and they agreed. We visited each widow in their own house. We prayed for them and sang songs to them. Even today we continue to visit and sing to the widows, giving them gifts for their daily lives."

I WANT TO BE A PASTOR

"The lessons at the project have taught me about helping others. My tutor, Ebris, supports and encourages me. He teaches me the Bible and how we should share what we have with others. Now I want to be a pastor.

I also try to help other teenagers in my community. I have a friend who one day said to me that she cannot bear to live because of her



Fefe and her friends

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If there was
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FEFE,
SPONSORED CHILD.

problems. Her mother already passed away so she only lives with her father. They couldn't afford the school tuition fee so she felt desperate. I explained, 'You still have God, God loves you more.' Now my friend has hope because she's given everything into Jesus' hands."

A TEAM OF EVERYDAY HEROES

As Fefe pauses, I have the chance to reflect on the depth of her wisdom and her heart for the poor. Her words challenge me personally to do more in my own community.

It strikes me that Fefe's character has been nurtured over years by a team of servant-hearted men and women. Everyday heroes like Ebris, her favourite tutor and Thomas Edison, a music teacher so passionate he's crafted double bases, guitars

and an orchestra of woodwind pipes by hand. And faithful family members including Fefe's father, a man once deeply sceptical about the project, but now a church elder after being invited to services after Fefe was first registered.

Each member of this team has been empowered and spurred on by Fefe's generous and faithful sponsor. That's the beauty of Compassion. One local church providing one team of servant-hearted project workers to champion one child, all empowered by one sponsor. In Fefe's case the result is a young woman already overcoming the challenges of poverty. A young girl already discipling, already caring, already mentoring. Already bringing change to each person she meets – including me.



WHAT'S IN A MEDICAL CHECK-UP?

Every year, Compassion-supported children receive a medical check-up thanks to sponsorship. Ever wondered what was involved?



PHYSICAL

All children undergo a physical examination to make sure they are growing healthy and strong. For those who need additional help or follow up, they have the Compassion staff ready and willing to see them through treatment of any kind, even if they need to be driven all the way to the hospital.



LICE TREATMENT

Part of the medical check-up is a search for lice! Lice can carry deadly diseases like typhus as well as causing itchy skin and rashes. Doctors take note of the number of children affected and teach local staff how to treat lice in children's hair. Sometimes prevention can be as simple as getting a short haircut.



HYGIENE EDUCATION

Prevention is the best avenue to good health and best started young. The children are taught about a range of hygiene practices including how to brush your teeth, wash your hands, and how often to take a shower.



Fighting meningitis in Burkina Faso

LIFE-CHANGING BENEFITS

Each year more than 1.8 million children receive a medical check-up to help detect and prevent medical issues. These can be life-changing for some children.

When Fabrice first joined the Compassion programme in Togo, he had never spoken since birth. A shy boy, Fabrice clearly understood when someone spoke to him but his lack of speech meant he struggled to make friends. It was during his first medical check-up that Fabrice was diagnosed with a tongue-tie.

The doctor advised that after a simple operation, Fabrice would be able to speak. Project staff rushed to tell his father, Kpatcha, who was astonished. Together they took Fabrice to the local hospital and for less than £8, his tongue was fixed. Today Fabrice can speak normally and has lots of friends to play with.



His father, Kpatcha says, "My daily prayer is that God should bless those who keep on supporting our children because they are saving many lives. Today, thanks to them, I can talk with my son."

EXPERIENCE ANOTHER WORLD WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR OWN

This summer, leave your passport behind and travel to Ethiopia and Uganda.

Through faithfully replicated environments and living conditions, experience what daily life is like in these countries. As you stand in the homes of Compassion-supported children, surrounded by their possessions and memories, you'll hear their personal stories, told from their own perspective. The Compassion Experience follows

the lives of Sameson and Shamim – both released from poverty with the help of a loving Compassion sponsor and now respected leaders in their communities. Like Sameson, Shamim's story is a powerful testament of how sponsorship helped her overcome adversity and step into hope.



Inside the Compassion Experience truck

“

My first impression... was how real it actually is. If it was coming to my town, I'd say, 'You must go!'"

NATHAN TASKER,
COMPASSION AMBASSADOR

KUJAMBO! MY NAME IS SHAMIM



My mother's house was not a happy place; she made me do chores all day. Also, she did not have a mosquito net.

One day, I started to feel dizzy, then hot and cold at the same time. I told my mum but she didn't believe me. A week later, I woke up in a strange place. Doctors told my mother that I had malaria and the mumps.

They said that you can make the sickness go away if you have the money. She didn't.

My grandmother took me from that place, to the Compassion project where she knew they could help me. They took me to a better hospital right away. Everyone looked like they were talking, but no noise was coming out. So I watched my grandmother's face. And that told me everything.

It was too late. I was deaf.

In countries like Uganda, life is especially hard for people with disabilities. There is no help. There is no hope. You are cast away like you don't matter. But Compassion stood up for me. They protected me. They enrolled me in a specialist school where I learnt sign language.

Today I am a university graduate. I have hope. An entire house full of it!

EXPERIENCE ANOTHER WORLD THIS SUMMER

The Experience is a free, family friendly event which gives you a tangible way to share the realities of daily poverty with your own children, family, friends and community – all without getting on a plane.

THE COMPASSION EXPERIENCE IS COMING TO YOU!

Experience Shamim or Sameson's story for yourself at an event in your area. Book your space today by visiting the website or liking the Compassion Experience Facebook page.

Visit: www.compassionuk.org/experience



WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are some of the most enthusiastic, passionate people you'll ever meet. All across the UK, they hold coffee mornings, climb mountains, volunteer at New Wine, shave their heads, pray regularly for our work and speak to their friends about their sponsored child.

They know the difference sponsorship makes not only in the life of a child, but in their own lives. We love our volunteers and we couldn't do what we do without them!



We know God made us all differently, and we appreciate that everyone has unique skills and talents. Our volunteer network has been created with this in mind.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Prayer is at the heart of all we do and every week, prayer warriors support us by praying for our work and specific prayer requests which we email out every fortnight.

EVENT ENTHUSIASTS

Big Church Day Out, New Wine, Soul Survivor, The Message – all across the country, volunteers are sharing about Compassion. Our event volunteers always get free entrance to the events they're volunteering at plus an awesome Compassion t-shirt. Depending on the event, you may even get free food and accommodation, not to mention the buzz of changing lives.

SOCIAL SUPERSTARS

Our amazing volunteers use their sphere of influence to share Compassion stories, photos, and inspirational films via their favourite social media channels.

FANTASTIC FUNDRAISERS

From bake sales to a firewalk, across the country our volunteers are doing all sorts of energetic and creative things to raise money to support our work.

CHALLENGE HEROES

Our challenge volunteers are a group of like-minded people passionate about using their sense of adventure to see more children released from poverty. Whether you're looking to run a 5k or a marathon we'll be cheering you on every step of the way.

COMPASSION EXPERIENCE

Launching this summer, the Compassion Experience is an eye-opening event that will challenge visitors' views of poverty and transform their understanding of sponsorship. As a volunteer, you might greet visitors as they enter the Experience, set up iPods for them, or simply answer questions.

To find out more about the Compassion Experience, turn to page 8-9.

The team have been amazing! I have had so much fun getting to know new people. You don't need to feel worried about being thrown in the deep end, so go for it."

MILLIE, VOLUNTEER AT THE COMPASSION CAFÉ, FOCUS 2016

“

I saw the firewalk as an opportunity to help others and challenge myself at the same time. I believe every child has a right to opportunities, care and love ... and to live free from poverty. I am so proud because I now have an awesome testimony of how I walked on hot coal to tell Juma [my sponsored child] he can do anything he wants to do ... and fear should not be a barrier."

LUCY, COMPASSION VOLUNTEER AND FEARLESS FUNDRAISER

SO WHY VOLUNTEER?

Join a group of amazing people who are making a huge difference in the world. You'll receive free resources and be regularly inspired by real-life stories of how sponsorship changes lives. And you never forget the feeling of seeing a child sponsored thanks to your hard efforts!



TO JOIN, SIMPLY:

Visit our website:

Compassionuk.org/volunteering

Email:

volunteering@compassionuk.org

Join us on Facebook:

facebook.com/groups/compassionvolunteer

TWO LEADERS FROM MANCHESTER

ANDY HAWTHORNE AND ANTHONY DELANEY ON THE CALL TO BE WORLD CHANGERS AT HOME AND BEYOND

12 Friends of Compassion, **Andy Hawthorne** and **Anthony Delaney** have a lot in common. Both raised in Manchester, the two church leaders are about to celebrate exciting milestones in their ministries, with events Message 25 and LAUNCH coming this autumn. Both leaders visited Haiti together after the earthquake in 2010 and were profoundly impacted by the experience.



Andy Hawthorne



Anthony Delaney

DO YOU SEE THE LINK BETWEEN LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION?

AH: As believers we need to be praying and dreaming on two horizons. We need to ask the question, 'How can I make an impact where I am locally and then how can I change the world?' Through Compassion you have the opportunity to can change the world for one child. We were not created to stay in our bubble; we are called to lift our eyes up and bless the world. One of my favourite verses is Matthew 25:40 when Jesus said, 'When you do this for the least of these, you do it for me.'

WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CHURCH PLAY IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT?

AD: Compassion is about local children being supported. The local church is the cutting edge of transformation in that community, especially the communities where Compassion works. Mission is about strengthening local churches to do what God has called them to do.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST SPONSORED CHILD?

AH: The first child I sponsored was David, he was living in the slums in Port-au-Prince and had lost an eye in a terrible accident and was in really bad shape, he could have died from his injuries. Compassion provided the medical treatment he needed, along with access to healthcare, education, love and emotional support. 15 years later, it's been a privilege to see David grow up into a strapping young man who dreams of becoming a mechanic. It's great to be part of a ministry that God has smiled on for over 60 years.



Compassion is a beautiful way of connecting us to our global neighbour and reminding us that loving the poor is at the core of the gospel."

— ANDY



I've never seen a sponsored child keep that blessing to themselves, they spread that blessing out to their family."

— ANTHONY

WHAT IS YOUR PRAYER FOR YOUR SPONSORED CHILDREN?

AD: As a Christian I may not see with my own eyes the different that my sponsorship is making. It may just look like crayon paintings of butterflies stuck on my fridge. I'll be in heaven by grace alone, but I'll never regret spending a penny on helping the poor. According to Jesus that's the stuff you get to keep forever.

WE CAN FEEL OVERWHELMED BY THE SCALE OF POVERTY - WHERE DO WE START?

AD: The fact that I sponsor a child in Haiti doesn't absolve me to care about people on my doorstep. Sometimes when people say charity begins at home I find that it doesn't move outside their homes. Compassion can always find a way to express itself. God will give you an opportunity today to go and love someone in Jesus' name, you just need to have a willing heart.

MORE INFORMATION

LAUNCH Church Multiplication Catalyst (in partnership with Exponential) will feature inspirational speakers including: Richmond Wandera and Ric Thorpe, as well as practical workshops from leaders and practitioners throughout the event.

Message 25 The first ever Message Conference focuses on evangelism, community transformation, creative mission and enterprise. Special guests include Danielle Strickland and Tim Hughes.

To find out more:

www.picatic.com/launcheurope

www.message.org.uk/conference

YOU'VE STARTED A MOVEMENT IN INDIA

On 15 March 2017, Compassion closed its operations in India after 49 years. It was a heart-breaking moment, one which came after every avenue of action to prevent this step had been exhausted.



We often work in challenging and complex environments but the beauty of the local church is, not only are they best positioned to know their community, but they are called to minister to their communities regardless of Compassion.

And from this calling, stories of hope are starting to emerge from India. Silas, the Vice President of the Asia Region and former Country Director of India, shares:

"Even though Compassion's programme has closed in India, the seed of mission to children has been sown. The work continues, maybe not on Compassion's terms, but on the Father's terms to save and care for His precious children.

"I am encouraged by the many actions of the local Indian church coming together to care for children, showing them that Jesus cares for them, that hope continues. This is an amazing assurance that God is not finished with India.

“

Remain blessed dear sponsor, God has and is still using you."

**SILIAS,
VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE ASIA REGION**

"Local Indian churches with resources are connecting with the churches impacted by the exit of Compassion. They are stepping into the needs to help provide support, not to the extent that Compassion provided, but to the end that the children continue to enjoy being known and loved.

What you have contributed to, has not stopped. Today this building continues under a new chapter, and the assurance is that this chapter, though new, is being written by the same author – Jesus Christ."



When the Hurricane Matthew came I was asleep. I woke up at midnight with rain coming down on me. The house was shaking violently. My father tried to put a carpet on us to protect us. I couldn't move because I suffer with a disease that gives me aches in my bones and joints. By the time it reached four in the morning the wind was so strong. When my dad saw the sheets on the roof were tearing apart, he bid us to move. By that point our house was tilting.

In my condition, I couldn't really walk. Thankfully my sister managed to help me – she almost carried me to the neighbour next door. Our neighbour's house was a

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When my dad saw the sheets on the roof were tearing apart, he bid us to move. By that point our house was tilting."

ANGELINE PIERRE, HAITI

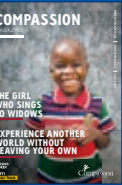
much safer place. If it wasn't for Compassion, I wouldn't have known God was with me during the nightmare.

The next day we saw our house was totally destroyed. Even the walls had collapsed. But despite this, I have shared my testimony in church. I told everyone that God is great and God is good. Even through my sickness and the storm, God helped me to survive. And I'm thankful.



Thank you for your faithful prayers for the children of Haiti. Thank you for your generosity which has enabled us to repair and rebuild 2,421 homes, including Angeline's.

Keep praying for children in poverty with urgent needs at www.compassionuk.org/prayer Sign up to get fortnightly prayer updates sent straight to your inbox.



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Design and production
The Drummer Agency

**RELEASING
CHILDREN
FROM
POVERTY
IN JESUS' NAME**

Change the world,

ONE CHILD

at a time.

this Compassion Sunday

Hundreds of Compassion supporters up and down the country will be speaking out on behalf of children in poverty this **September**. Join this life-changing movement and share Compassion with your church, friends or family to inspire others to sponsor a child in poverty.

Together, we can change the world, one child at a time.

To join in, order your FREE resources at
www.compassionuk.org/compassionsunday
or call us at 01932 836 490