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Alice is a 21-year-old student in Kenya, sponsored through Compassion. She's a passionate advocate for girls in her community

Photographer:

Compassion Kenya





Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

hank you for faithfully standing alongside us to partner with local churches around the world. In 2023, I had the opportunity visit some of Compassion's church partners in Uganda and Rwanda in my capacity as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

What struck me was the genuine love and concern our church partners show for their communities and the children in their care. They're engaged with every facet of a child's welfare. More importantly, their love and prayers cover each one. The staff and volunteers at the projects truly do immeasurably more than I'd realised, and they model our Saviour who has done immeasurably more in every sense.

The issue of global poverty can feel overwhelming, but God gives us each other. By coming together as the global church, we can have a bigger impact, using all our varied gifts. I hope by reading on, you'll see how your generosity and encouragement are a deeply valuable part of how a child living in poverty can know that they're loved by God.

As we look back over 25 years of Compassion UK, we also look expectantly towards the future. There's still so much work to be done. Recognising God's faithful provision over the years helps us move forward in prayerful, bold faith, trusting that he'll empower us to release children from poverty in Jesus' name.

God bless,

Shaun

Shaun Sinniah
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMPASSION UK



Patricia from Brazil shares how God used Compassion's sponsorship programme, run by her local church, to bring healing and hope to her whole family. didn't have a childhood. My mother was addicted to alcohol and my stepfather was violent and abusive. I used to sleep on the streets to avoid going home. I felt I had no value and that no one loved me.

When I got pregnant at 19, the baby's father abandoned me. My sister helped me rent a room and I found some work, but it wasn't enough to live on. So, when the time came to give birth, I decided I'd leave the baby in the

hospital. But as soon as I saw him, I changed my mind. Weslley's my son! I hadn't had a good mother, but I decided I would be a good mother.

THE KINDLING OF HOPE THROUGH SPONSORSHIP

Weslley was three years old when the pastor at the local church called to say my son could have a place at their Compassion project. I was so afraid we might miss out that I grabbed Weslley and ran straight there!

When we arrived, they wanted to take his photo. Weslley didn't have nice clothes; he didn't smile; and he was dirty because I'd taken him from the backyard. Nobody will choose to sponsor a child like mine, I thought. I was so grateful to learn the support from the Compassion project would start even before a sponsor was found.

HOW KINDNESS BROUGHT ME RESTORATION

Joining the Compassion project has been one of the biggest blessings of my life. God has used the staff and volunteers to do much more than support Weslley: he's used them to heal my heart.

I used to be so angry after many bad experiences from my childhood. Their kindness and love have meant everything to me.

I also love reading the letters from Weslley's sponsor. When they write they're praying for us, I cry! It's amazing that someone we've never met cares about us.

SUPPORT FOR UNDERSTANDING MY SON'S WORLD

About a year after Weslley started at the project, the staff asked if I was aware of his condition. To be honest, I knew my son was different from other children: he hardly spoke and never looked me in the eye.

In my community, which is part of a small town in north-east Brazil, there's very limited provision of special needs services. Without the staff at the Compassion project, I would never have known what Weslley's condition was or

received any help. They paid for tests, which confirmed Weslley is autistic and needs high levels of support.

The staff have helped me to enter into Weslley's particular world. They never treat Weslley as incapable; they understand both his limits and his potential.

THE POWERFUL RIPPLE EFFECT OF HEALING FOR OUR WHOLE FAMILY

Being aware of Weslley's condition has never made me despair, despite the prejudice we often experience; it's made me love him even more. My connection with Weslley is special because God gave him to me to change my life: to teach me the meaning of love.

When I was a child, I felt so heartbroken. I wish I could go back and hold that little girl and tell her everything's going to be OK. God is good — and he's powerful enough to mend our hearts. Today, I'm married, and we have a second son, Davi. My husband's a good father and we face every hardship together. I'm a proud mother willing to love my children with all my heart thanks to the kindness that's been shown to me and my whole family.



Thank you!

As a sponsor, you're part of a multiplying movement of transformation – for the child you sponsor, the lives of their families, and beyond. We're so grateful to you. Together, we're partnering with the global church as they reach out on a deeply personal level to ensure each child is known, loved and connected.

Reasons for hope: six ways we're tackling poverty together

Discover how your sponsorship enables our church partners around the world to make a powerful difference in the lives of people experiencing poverty.

id you know that 2.3 million children are currently supported by our local church partners, gaining skills and confidence for healthy, fulfilling lives, and learning about Jesus' amazing love?

Compassion is a catalyst for the church's mission, enabling us to respond to Christ's call to care for those in need. We surveyed* over 700 Compassion graduates and pastors from across nine countries to find out about their experiences of sponsorship and the impact it has.

Here are just some of the ways that, through sponsorship, you are partnering with the global church to tackle poverty.

1. Together, we help protect vulnerable children.

Compassion church projects allow local staff to know, love and connect with every child. This means they are well placed to protect vulnerable children Children like Marali, from Burkina Faso. pictured below.

All Compassion staff are trained in safeguarding. Children and caregivers are taught about protection against abuse, and what to do if they or someone they know is at risk.

2. Together, we support children's health and well-being.

Our church partners ensure children receive yearly medical check-ups and care is available when needed

Each of the 2.3 million children served through Compassion projects receives an annual medical checkup, including vaccinations, and ongoing care as needed.

Compassion volunteer, Dr Luis, from Dominican Republic, says, "It's difficult to see a child in poor health, to see their parents desperate to help them. That's why I love to work here; God uses me to be part of the integral treatment in the lives of these children and help them move towards a path of development [and] health."

3. Together, we help children stay in school longer.

Sponsored children and youth have opportunities to access formal education and vocational training. Project staff offer age-appropriate tutoring to support children who've often missed parts of their education due to ill health, having to work, or because their parents can't cover the cost of uniforms and school supplies.

For example, Compassion youth in Ethiopia are 180% more likely to be attending post-secondary education.

4. Together, we equip children and youth to be change-makers in their communities.

Encouragement from sponsors, alongside support given to children through their local church, empowers children and youth to positively impact those around them. Compassion graduates go on to become teachers, medics, engineers, and more.





94% of pastors reported graduates of the Compassion programme are making a difference in the local community.

5. Together, we inspire hope.

Support from sponsors and their local church helps children and youth believe in a future free from poverty.

90% of Compassion graduates surveyed agree that their relationship with their sponsor motivated them to be hopeful.

6. Together, we make a meaningful spiritual difference.

The church shares the gospel of Jesus, and sponsorship also creates a spiritually impactful connection between a child and their sponsor. When children realise that someone who doesn't know them and lives far away cares enough to send them encouragement, they're given a glimpse of God's love.

9 in 10 Compassion graduates say their connection with their sponsor made a meaningful difference in their life. especially spiritually.

Thank you!

Jesus said his mission was to 'proclaim good news to the poor' (Luke 4:18). He continually reached out to the marginalised, restoring their hope, health and dignity. He taught that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love other people — and that our love is shown through caring for others (Luke 10:25-37). By coming alongside a child through sponsorship, you are joining with the global church as we live out this calling together.

*The data in this article comes from three recent surveys: The Alumni Survey is representative of 516 Compassion graduates from 6 countries; the Long-Term Ripple Effect Report is representative of 99 graduates in the Dominican Republic; the Ripple Effect Survey for Peru and Guatemala is representative of 128 pastors.

Share your story

Imagine the impact if every sponsor encouraged one other person to join our global movement to release children from poverty in Jesus' name we'd surpass our goal of serving 200,000 children by 2030 (read more about this vision on pages 10-11).

Is there someone you could talk to about why you sponsor a child?

Why not give them this magazine or share the link to our online copy: compassionuk.org/magazine

Celebrating 25 years of Compassion UK

Join us in celebrating God's continued faithfulness as he works through his people to release children from poverty. Discover Compassion UK's role in the larger Compassion story and explore some of the key highlights.

Compassion Global

sponsorship of

180,000

children grows to

Tear Fund UK

affiliates with Compassion

child sponsorship in the UK

International to raise funds for



South Korea was moved to raise support for orphans in South Korea

1952

1963

The name Compassion is chosen, inspired by **Matthew 15:32**

Compassion stops working in South Korea as living standards have improved sufficiently. In 2004, South Korea becomes a fundraising partner

1993



Finding someone you

across Asia and Africa

have never met who CALLEC for you and believes in your own dreams is priceless."

Shamaika, Haiti



1999

Compassion as a new **fundraising** office



2007 Our first

2008

50,000th

with Compassion UK

child sponsored

Compassion Sunday, where supporters raise awareness in their local churches across the UK

2004

Compassion supporters raise more than £300,000 for the Indian Ocean **Tsunami appeal**

2010

Compassion's disaster appeal supports those affected by the Haiti earthquake with immediate aid and an ongoing rebuilding effort

2011

Compassion Ireland opens as a fundraising office

Compassion **UK's Blue Elephant** becomes a feature

It's thanks to our

parluership

with Compassion that

effective in our work."

we have the training

and resources to be

Pastor Fred, Uganda

2015

100,000

sponsored through

Compassion UK

children are now being

2023

Compassion **UK's Blue** Elephant features at Spring Harvest 2019

Compassion UK App launches - the easy way to write, pray and give



Dr Richmond Wandera, a Compassion graduate, joins Compassion UK's **Board of Trustees**

Together we raise an incredible

£2.2 million

including match funding from the UK government

A Different Path appeal launches.

The Compassion Experience seeks to give people in the UI insight into global poverty:

2017

Compassion

and churches

International closes down all 589 projects

across India in March

2017, after 48 years of

serving Indian children

26,000 visitors and

5,600

school children visited the experience until it closed in 2



2020

Covid-19 disrupts operations. Church partners and staff remain committed to the children and families they serve, finding creative ways to continue showing God's love and offering practical support

2022

Stop the Weddings campaign launches. The Child Marriage Prevention Project was fully funded (£57,000) by 2023

Food Crisis Appeal launches, serving over 1.2 million individuals through support from local churches

Compassion UK becomes carbon neutral, offsetting our carbon emissions through a tree-planting project in Kenya and the Amazon

2024



Hope starts here

launches: a new way for UK supporters to gain insight into Compassion's partnership with local churches around the world

PHOTOGRAPHY: COMPASSION GHANA

A vision for the future

Our heart's desire is to see more children released from poverty in Jesus' name. We long for children to overcome the complex barriers that poverty places in their way; to know that they're loved by God, and to be equipped with confidence, opportunities and skills to fulfil their potential. Here, Justin **Dowds, CEO for Compassion UK and Ireland, shares our** bold vision for reaching more children.

LET'S 'DREAM BIG' FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Children and youth in our programmes are encouraged to 'dream big' about their futures. From the age of 13, they begin using a guide called 'My Plan for Tomorrow.' With support from their tutor, they explore their skills and interests and are helped to set goals. Vocational opportunities and tailored support equip them to make those dreams a reality. This is all done with prayerful expectation that their loving heavenly Father has a plan for their lives.

We want to embrace the same spirit of expectation. As a ministry, one of our core values is discernment. We believe God guides us in multiple ways, including Scripture, prayer, wise counsel and expertise. This means that as a worldwide partnership, we can make Spirit-led decisions as we pursue God's will in accomplishing our mission together.

RAYAN, 3 YEARS, LIVES WITH HIS FAMILY IN KAWANGWARE, EASTERN NAIROBI, KENYA, WHERE THERE IS HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND POOR WATER SANITATION. PHOTOGRAPHER: KEVIN OUMA

Compassion currently serves 2.3 million children in partnership with local churches around the world, 114,220 of whom are supported thanks to faithful sponsors from the UK and Ireland. We see how the Compassion neighbourhood of staff, volunteers, church partners, sponsors and more surrounds a child to enable long-term transformation, which ripples out to bless their families, communities and across generations. We also see that the need for such transformation remains far greater.

are struggling in extreme poverty (on less than \$2.15 a day). That's almost five times the total number of children living in Europe. The scale of the problem can feel insurmountable, but we believe God doesn't want us to passively accept it as an unchangeable reality. Our powerful, loving God is calling us to more. He's calling us to do all we can to see the eradication of extreme poverty within our lifetime. For Compassion UK, specifically, we believe God is calling us to grow our ability to support more children more quickly. We need to nearly double the number of children we're serving through Compassion UK and Ireland from 114,220 to 200,000 children by 2030.

The UN states that 333 million children

WITH GOD, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

Before I joined Compassion, I was a pharmacist. I visited Haiti often from 2007 onwards, organising medical relief teams for the small island of La Gonâve. Dedicated Haitian doctors and nurses were serving their people, but the 2010 earthquake rendered the overcrowded medical facilities unsafe.

When I spoke to the Medical Director about what support the hospital needed, he showed me an incredible dream: he'd drafted plans for an entirely new hospital complex. I must admit, his vision seemed impossible; I felt overwhelmed by its scale.

God provided wise Christians to pray and discern the viability of this vision and over time a team grew to fundraise and develop a network of skilled people from around the world. To cut a long story short, after many ups and downs, a solar-powered teaching hospital opened in 2013. It was so much more than we could ever have imagined.

I've come to understand that God allowed me that experience to equip me for leading the ministry of Compassion UK. And I've come to

believe that if we're not involved in something that draws us to our knees in prayer, something that we *need* God to come through for in our lives, perhaps we're not dreaming big enough.

THE POWER OF PRAYER AND PARTNERSHIP

The role of Compassion is to unite people here in the UK with churches worldwide as they serve their communities living in poverty. Together, we respond to God's call to reach out with the love of Christ to care for others in body, mind and spirit.

Our strategy for reaching our ambitious goal of serving 200,000 children through church driven projects by 2030 is underpinned by our total reliance on God. It isn't about the specific number; it's about following God's leading to be bold in both faith and action. It's a goal that will call us to our knees in prayer. It's a goal that's big and yet is sorely needed.

We're confident, because God is already at work. He's graciously opened the way for us to partner with churches in four new countries. We're discovering innovative ways to support

communities where sponsorship isn't possible. Working directly with our local church partners, we're helping and finding new opportunities for

As we look back over the last 25 years, we give thanks for God's guidance and provision. He's helped us through seasons of uncertainty with his unchanging faithfulness. And as we look ahead, we're encouraged by Ephesians 3:21, 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us.'

Commit to the **₩** whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."

Proverbs 16:3

them build resilience and sustainability, supporting displaced people groups.

> to help release more children from poverty in Jesus' name? Help us make our 2030 vision

You're vital

to this vision

Whatever role you already play in

the Compassion neighbourhood as a

sponsor, volunteer or staff member

- thank you! As you consider this

ambitious vision, is God calling you

to use your time, talent or treasure

Pray

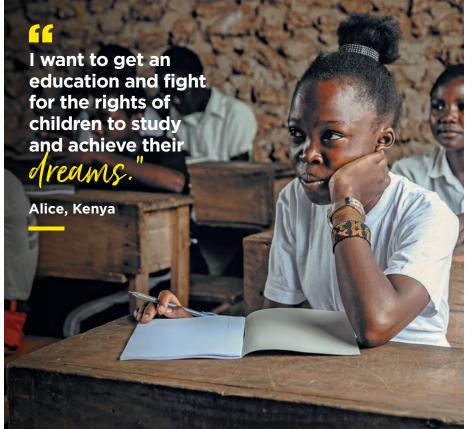
Prayer is powerful! Please pray

- an end to extreme poverty discernment and wisdom across
- for more supporters to stand with us so we can serve 200,000 children by 2030

Serve / volunteer / give

There are all sorts of ways ind our opportunities for making a difference at

compassionuk.org/get-involved



Love lives on

Over a lifetime, God is able to do immeasurably more with the gifts we give to children in poverty. Imagine what he can do beyond our lifetime, too.

way to ensure your generosity goes even further is by leaving a legacy. For seven years, Malcolm Bateman faithfully sponsored Yordanose, who lives with her family in a rural community in central Ethiopia. He prayed for her, encouraged her with messages, and his regular gifts helped her to stay healthy through childhood.

Malcolm went to be with the Lord in 2019. He provided for his own family in his will, then he left a legacy gift to Compassion.

For Malcolm's family, it's been exciting to see the ripple effect of his faith, love and generosity. God truly is able to do immeasurably more.

EMPOWERED BY GENEROSITY

Thanks to Malcolm's gift Yordanose's family now own a cow, five sheep, and

a set of feeding troughs. They've built their own animal shelter, and the cow has given birth to a calf.

"This has paved the way for the cow to produce milk," says Nathnael Assefa, Intervention Specialist for Compassion, who works with the community. "Yordanose's family is on the verge of selling milk, which will bring additional income for the family."

The ability to generate income is transformative for the family and it helps to secure a brighter future for Yordanose herself. Malcolm's giving began with a child, and now the impact is multiplying to many more.

RIPPLE EFFECT

In the wider community where Yordanose lives, many caregivers struggle to provide for their families. Essential school

equipment becomes a luxury item and food on the dinner table doesn't always stretch as far as it needs to.

Thanks to Malcolm's legacy gift, 20 caregivers in the community were given resources and training in business development, which has enabled them to substantially increase their household incomes. They have formed a support group and are able to build some savings for emergency needs. The increased financial security has improved the sense of peace and stability felt by the families.

STRONGER TOGETHER

Working together, the members of the group have stronger borrowing power than as individuals. So far, 15 of the 20 caregivers have taken out loans to start income-generating activities. These include baking injera (a white leavened Ethiopian bread); fattening sheep and goats to sell for meat; trading

vegetables, fruit, charcoal or spice; and raising poultry for eggs and meat.

LEGACY OF LOVE

If, like Malcom, you'd like your faith and values to live on beyond your lifetime, then please consider leaving a legacy to Compassion. The amount you give isn't important, as we know God can multiply the impact of any gift given in love. The value is the lasting change your faith can have for a child, their family, and their whole community.

AN EASY AND TRUSTED WAY TO GIVE

We've continued our partnership with Farewill to help make the process as straightforward as possible. Farewill offer a fantastic Will-writing service, which is completely free. You can find out more about Farewill by using the QR code on this page.

If you request it, your gift will support any children you sponsor until they complete their time in the Compassion programme. Any extra money will be used in partnership with local churches across Africa, Asia and Latin America to deliver life-changing programmes that release even more children from poverty in Jesus' name.

You can be confident that your gift, by God's power and grace, will have an impact that lasts into the future.



If you'd like to talk further

Get in touch with Esther at **giftsinwill@compassionuk.org** if you'd like to talk further.

For more details and to download our Gifts in Will booklet, visit compassionuk.org/giftsinwill

Claim your free Will

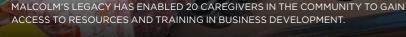
Simply scan the QR code or visit

farewill.com/cukmag2024 to use

the free Will-writing service*.









We can all probably think of some words that have had a profound impact on our lives. "I believe in you. I'm proud of you. I'm here for you".



ords have immense power. This is why we are so passionate about letter writing at Compassion. It's not a gimmick or a marketing tool. It's a way that sponsors like you can play a transformational role in the lives of children living in poverty.

When these children realise that someone who doesn't know them — someone who might live on the other side of the world - cares enough to write them letters, they see a glimpse of God's love.

The Bible describes words as having the potential to be "sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." (Proverbs 16:24). The right word at the right time can be a balm to a child who is facing immense barriers from poverty. Perhaps they have a loved one who is ill, or they are

facing sickness themselves. Perhaps a life of never having enough has made them feel like they themselves are not enough.

Your words can change that. They can inspire, soothe, encourage, motivate, heal and help. As they have done for Ike.

LOVE LANGUAGE

Ike lives with her mother and five siblings in Indonesia. In August 2022, Ike's father passed away due to sickness. Her father's death was a tragic loss, but their family's condition had not been much better when he was still alive.

"We might not have been able to survive if we didn't receive help from the Compassion project," Ike's mother, Mariance, tells us.

Yet as well as this practical support, it is the spiritual encouragement that Ike receives from her sponsor that makes such a difference.

9 out of 10 Compassion children surveyed say that*

- · connection with their sponsor made a meaningful difference in their life.
- they felt loved when they received sponsor communications.
- their relationship with their sponsor motivated them to be hopeful.

"My sponsor regularly writes to me," Ike shares. "She talks a lot about her family... Tina, my sponsor, lost her husband years ago. It makes me think that I'm not alone, because Tina also can feel what I feel as

a child without a father." The shared loss was also a comfort to Ike's mother: "I feel strengthened reading every letter sent by Tina," she tells us. "She also lives without a husband but tries to be strong for her children. I also try to be strong."

THE CALL TO ENCOURAGE

Scripture calls us, as God's people, to "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Words of encouragement are a way of building God's kingdom here on Earth — a way to bring salt and light into the world.

Through our app and myCompassion, sending a message to your child is quick and easy. We also have plenty of blogs with useful tips if you feel stuck. Remember, it's not the length of a message that matters, or how beautifully you word it, it's simply that a child knows you've thought of them and are praying for them.

*We asked 516 Compassion graduates across six countries about their experience of their time with Compassion



Be an encourager today

Ephesians 3:14-21 Philippians 1:3-6 Colossians 1:9-14

It's never been easier to write. Log on to myCompassion or use the app today!



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Let your compassion live on

MAKE A LASTING IMPACT AND GET PEACE OF MIND WITH OUR EXPERT, EASY-TO-USE WILL-WRITING SERVICE.

Compassion has partnered with a trusted Will-writing service, Farewill, to offer you the opportunity to make a Will for free.

GG

The Farewill writing service was easy to use and it got me to do something that I'd been putting off for a few years. I also chose to sign up for unlimited future edits at a minimal annual cost. It felt great to tick something so important off my list!"

Ineke Clewer

Claim your free Will

Scan the QR code below to claim your free Will*.





Or visit farewill.com/cukmag2024

To find out more about leaving a gift to Compassion in your Will, please visit compassionuk.org/giftsinwill

*There's no obligation to leave a gift to Compassion when using the Farewill service. However, after taking care of their loved ones, many of our supporters choose to leave a gift in their Will to support our work.

