

**COMPASSION SUNDAY SKIT:
IN JESUS' NAME**
By Pauline Hawkins

Abstract

Title	In Jesus' Name
Topics	Compassion International
Premise	Our walk with Christ will strengthen through sponsorship.
Author	Pauline Hawkins
Date	August, 2002
Type	Interdependent monologues
Running Time	5-15 minutes*
Characters	3-9*
Synopsis	Each character tells how sponsorship changed their lives.

*Time and number of characters will depend upon the church—the skit can be adjusted to include as many or as few as desired.

Potential Characters

Rosa: Juan's Mother

Juan: 16 years old, from Ecuador

Tom: John's Father

Compassion Employee

Compassion Project Staff

John: 16 years old, from USA

Elena: Juan's teacher

Diane: John's Youth Group Leader

Joselyne: Child from Rwanda

Sarah: Teenager in youth group

Compassion Sunday Representative

Scene

Open stage. Testimonials.

Rosa

Compassion! I did not understand that word. My husband left. My daughter died. I thought Juan would die, too. But everything changed with Compassion.

Tom

At first, I didn't like the idea of "sponsorship." How was I supposed to know that my money was going to help an actual child? So, I did some research and found out that Compassion is rated as one of the best child development organizations, with 80% of sponsorship money going to program benefits that help the child. I didn't understand how that was possible at first. But I found the answer. God is in this organization. They do all things in Jesus' name, while respecting the countries in which they have programs. Not an easy task in today's world.

Juan

Hola. I greet you in the name of our loving Savior, Jesus Christ. I am Juan. I live in a small village in Ecuador. Today, I am strong and healthy. Ten years ago, when I was only six years old, it was not this way. We lived very poorly. My older sister died because she was very sick and weak. We could not afford medicine or food to help her get stronger.

Rosa

I was so sad. I thought Juan might die, too. One day, a man came to our village to help us.

Compassion Project Staff

I would like to help Juan, if I may. I want to enroll Juan in the Compassion Project. He will get opportunities for better health and education and we will teach him about Jesus.

Rosa

Yes! Oh, help my Juan. I don't want him to die like his sister!

Juan

He took my picture and said that he would send my picture to America, so the people there could see me and maybe want to help me. He also told me about Jesus and how much He loves me. I started going to church.

John

Hi. I'm John. I live in the USA. I've been told that I was born lucky—many times. But my parents just don't get it. In order to be a normal American kid, I have to have it all—everything that my friends have. My parents don't really care about me. They have no idea what it's like to be the only kid that doesn't get what everyone else does!

Tom

My wife and I decided to sponsor a child. We weren't sure what we were looking for. But as we looked through the child packets, we felt a tug on our hearts at the same time when we saw Juan. He was the same age as our Johnny, but much smaller. He had these big sad eyes and was so thin. We knew we found our child.

Juan

When I found out that a family wanted to sponsor me, I was so excited and thankful. I knew then, that Jesus was alive today. He lives in people who trust Him and have compassion for others who do not have as much. That's why I decided at six years old, that I wanted Jesus to live in my heart, too.

Elena

Juan was a little shy when he first came to my classroom. Most children who live in poverty are. When a child experiences compassion, at first, it does not feel like reality. It is almost as if they think that if they do not talk they can continue to live in the dream.

Rosa

I watched Juan grow healthy. He got a nutritious meal at his Compassion project everyday, a doctor came to the project to give him immunizations, and he learned to read and write. But the one thing that changed Juan was growing to know Jesus.

Elena

Little by little he began to open up. I remember the first time I heard him laugh. I was telling the class about Jesus' love for children and how he corrected the disciples for pushing the children away. Juan began to giggle. (*JUAN begins to giggle*) I asked him what was so funny.

Juan

I know how those children felt. I was poor, but now I am rich in Jesus. It's as if I am sitting in Jesus' lap and He is tickling my stomach. (*Laughs harder; ELENA begins to laugh too*)

Elena

I started to laugh too. I knew what he meant. I was once like Juan. Poor, hungry, sick. But Compassion saved me from poverty and now I work at the Compassion project as a teacher in the same village where I grew up. Now I get the greatest blessing of all. I can teach others about Jesus.

Rosa

When he came home from school, Juan was so excited and full of joy. He wanted me to learn, too. Juan taught me about Jesus.

Tom

The joy that came into our lives when we received our first letter from Juan is indescribable. He called us his (*JUAN says this with TOM*) "loving mother and father in Jesus' name." It's amazing that we could touch another life for Jesus. But, this relationship is not one-sided. We would share with Juan our prayer needs and he would write back that he was praying day and night for us!

John

I knew about Juan. My parents started sponsoring him when I was six. We were the same age but very different. They acted like he was their real son. They put his picture on the refrigerator; they even put his drawings up there—next to mine. I was angry. They gave money for his sponsorship—money they could've been giving to me. I needed some new sneakers and jeans and a skateboard.

Rosa

Juan's sponsor family wrote him and we saved every letter and picture. I saw that they had a boy the same age as Juan. At first, I could not believe that people who lived so far away could care for my Juan. Then I knew it was because Jesus lived in these people, too. I started going to church with my son, and now know Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I thanked God for these people and prayed for their son like they prayed for mine.

John

Two years ago, my parents told me about the summer vacation we were going to take. We were going to visit Juan in Ecuador. I was bummed out. I wanted to go to Florida or California—places where my friends were going. But my parents insisted that I go with them. I also had to go through my closet to find clothes for Juan. That made me angry. But when I looked, I saw clothes that I wore one time—clothes I had to have—and then forgot about them because they weren't cool anymore. We had a duffle bag full of things to give Juan. I was a little nervous when we finally got to his village. It wasn't like anything I had expected. He lived in a little one-room hut with his mom.

Compassion Employee

I love going on tours. Introducing sponsors to their child is an amazing experience. The child's family will be so overjoyed to see them. They often want to feed the sponsors and give them gifts too. It's amazing that those who have so little want to give so much.

Rosa

When Juan's loving sponsors came to our village, it filled our hearts with such joy. We both cried because of their goodness. What could we give to these loving people? We presented them with some of our native crafts and decorated the Compassion project for them.

John

Juan was so grateful for everything I brought him. I don't think I was ever truly grateful for anything in my life--up until that day. When I saw the way he lived and how happy he was and how he thanked us and Jesus for everything he had, I was so ashamed.

Rosa

Juan told his sponsors that he wanted to help others the way they helped him.

Tom

Juan wanted to give back what he had been given. I wanted to make sure that would happen.

Juan

I am now in high school. I can read and write. Before, all I could see was darkness in my future. Now, I want to help others the way I've been helped. I want to teach other children about Jesus.

Rosa

He is becoming a great man because of Compassion. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

Tom

After our trip, I came back to a dire situation at work. They were laying people off. Mine came in the second round. We had to cut back until I found another job. How was I going to continue to pay for Juan's sponsorship? I called Compassion and told them our situation.

Compassion Employee

Prayer Partners. That's what we call it. When a sponsor has a need, we pray for it. Every employee gets a list of the prayer needs and we spend every Wednesday praying for them. With over 400 people praying for the needs, it's an awesome ministry.

John

Dad was looking for a job. Things got a little tight around the house. I decided to get a job delivering papers. Not for me, for Juan. I wanted to take over sponsoring him—in Jesus' name.

Diane

When my church asked if I could lead a youth group, I was scared. What do you do with a bunch of teenagers for two hours? The first meeting wasn't very exciting. We had a Bible study, but then they broke off into their cliques. I prayed that God would show me how to make this group about Him. When John came to youth group and shared his experience in Ecuador, we were all moved. He had a light within him that could only come from Jesus.

Tom

Eventually, our finances turned around. My son turned around. It's amazing how Compassion helped us all prioritize our lives. We now sponsor another child and are being blessed once again—in Jesus' name.

Diane

We decided as a group to sponsor a child. I asked everyone to bring in a few dollars a month. Our sponsorship has changed the focus of our youth group. We pray for our sponsored child, Joselyne, at the beginning of every meeting. We carry her in our hearts and wait for news about her health and letters from her. I write the letter to

Joselyne, but the kids help me write it. We take half an evening to compose the letter. It's amazing that we can help Joselyne in Jesus' name; it's also amazing that Jesus is helping these kids.

Sarah

I never knew what it meant to be Christian until we started sponsoring Joselyne. I am actually helping another human being. That's what Jesus wants us to do. As soon as I get a job, I want to sponsor my own child.

Diane

I have never been involved in a youth group like this before—in Jesus' name.

Compassion Sunday Representative

Thank you for sharing those stories with us. Even though these people are actors they are portraying a typical experience with Compassion. It is amazing how sponsoring a child can change a child's life, your life and the lives of people around you. Please, come look at the child packets we have on the display table and select one for sponsorship. Come help us free the world from poverty, one child at a time, in Jesus' name.

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