

compassion explorer

Happy
With
Less

Special
pullout
DIG UP TRUE
TREASURES!

To the
rescue!

What's Inside?



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ABOUT THE COVER

No matter where they live, kids love riding bicycles. These girls from Indonesia are sharing a bike.



Hi, Compassion Explorers!

X marks the spot in this issue as we discover God's true treasure for our lives. Come with me to see what you can dig up!

Welcome to My World!

Look at simple treasures from kids around the world.

PAGE 4



To the Rescue

Learn how orphaned elephants are rescued and treasured.

PAGE 8



See how Compassion keeps kids healthy.

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Special Games Pullout! **CENTER**

Compassionate Kids

FRIENDSHIPS RUN DEEP

BY JEREMY V. JONES

Photos courtesy of the Dew family



Makela with Darisa and a boy named Francisco at Darisa's child development center.

Makela Dew was on her way to the Dominican Republic to meet a friend she had known for six years — but had never met. Makela's family sponsors Darisa. Both girls are the same age, 10, so they had written letters back and forth. Now they would meet face to face after Makela flew from her home in Ontario, Canada.

Makela was excited and nervous. She had never flown before or visited another country. She wondered if she would be left out because she was a kid. But she was eager to learn about another culture. When she met Darisa, it was like they were old friends.

"We had fun figuring out what the other person was thinking, even though we couldn't speak the same language," Makela says. "I taught her to play tag without using words."

It didn't take long for Makela to realize that life in the Dominican Republic is different from her life. In Canada, Makela goes to an arts school, takes piano lessons, plays soccer, and lives in a comfortable house. She quickly saw that many Dominicans live in shacks with outhouses, outdoor cooking areas and no electricity.

Thinking of her friends in the Dominican Republic still reminds Makela to be thankful for the life and opportunities God has given her. She was sad to say goodbye to her Dominican friends, but she will continue to write.



Makela playing the keyboard at a Compassion child development center.



Makela created a blog about her trip. Have your parents help look up her pictures at makeladew.com.

"Now it's like Darisa is one of my best friends, and we just write about the things we have in common," Makela says. "Instead of just being a picture on our wall, our sponsored kids are my friends who I played with."

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WELCOME TO MY WORLD!

Happy With Less

→ BY LEANNA SUMMERS



ERIC
Age 14

Kibenga Village, Rwanda

Eric loves to borrow his friend's bike. He hopes to save up enough money to buy his own bike someday.

About Eric's Family

Eric's father does small jobs and earns 15,000 francs a month (about U.S.\$22). His mother is learning how to sew and soon hopes to make some money sewing.

These Compassion-sponsored kids don't need a lot of toys to be happy or have fun. Here are some of their favorites. Are these similar to yours?



MARTHA
Age 5

Jagchara Mison Tila Village, Bangladesh

Martha's favorite toy is a stuffed monkey that her aunt gave to her. "I always carry this monkey doll with me," she says. "Sometimes I put her on my shoulder!"

About Martha's Family

Martha's father is a pastor at a church in her village. He earns 4,000 taka (about U.S.\$52 per month), and her mother stays home with her.



○ Mosquito net to reduce the risk of getting malaria from mosquitoes.



JOSE
Age 5

Canastica, Dominican Republic

Jose's favorite toy is a homemade squirt gun. To make squirt guns, he collects empty water bottles at a grocery store near his house and uses a neighbor's faucet to fill them up, since he doesn't have water in his house.

About Jose's Family

Jose's dad sells items on the street, and his mom washes and irons clothes.



SOMUEL

Age 5

Jagchara Mison Tila Village,
Bangladesh

Somuel's favorite toy is a stuffed elephant. It means a lot to him because his older sister, Mispi, gave it to him. Mispi's sponsor sent money to her Compassion center, and she used it to buy Somuel the elephant. Somuel's parents have never been able to afford toys for him or his sister.

About Somuel's Family

Somuel's father works in a tea garden and earns 60 taka a day (about U.S.77 cents). His mother stays home to take care of him.



- Somuel's house is made of mud, bamboo and straw.



HOMEMADE TOYS

Children often use recycled items to make their own toys. Take a look!

Uganda

Doll made from corn husks



Dominican Republic

Car made from an oil bottle



Haiti

Guitar made from a cooking oil can



Bolivia

Car made from soda bottles



MERY

Age 5

Canastota, Dominican
Republic

Mery's favorite toy is a tea set her mother gave her for her birthday. Mery likes to play house with it. She puts stones and dirt on the toy dishes and pretends she's eating with her friends.

About Mery's Family

Mery's parents make a small amount of money selling items on the streets.



"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

— Philippians 4:12-13

To the Rescue!

→ BY KATY GAUSEY

Hi! I'm Edwin. When I was a little boy, I was in the Compassion program. I lived in a small village in Kenya, but now I live in the big city of Nairobi. I am the head elephant keeper at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. It's a place where orphaned elephants are cared for.

At the Wildlife Trust, Kenyans call us when they find an orphaned elephant. An orphaned elephant has lost its mother. Sometimes people kill elephant mothers to take their ivory tusks, and sometimes a flood or drought separates baby elephants from their mothers.

Just like human babies, elephant calves depend on their mothers to care for them. The mama elephants protect them, feed them, keep them warm, and give them love. So when baby elephants are orphaned, elephant keepers become their family.

When people are sad and hopeless, they need God and their friends and family to come around them and remind them to keep going, too. That's what Compassion did for me. The workers helped take care of me when I was young. And now that's one of my most important jobs with the baby elephants. Have you ever heard that an elephant never forgets? That's true! Many orphans at Sheldrick are sad because they remember when their mothers died. Some elephants even die from a broken heart.

That's why the elephant keepers stay with the sad baby elephants 24 hours a day. We make sure they travel together as a group, and we sleep with them so they're never alone. We hug them and speak kindly to them.

I always remind the elephants that I believe in them, just as people at my Compassion center believed in me. I tell them, "Don't give up. Keep fighting. You can make it!" When you treasure people or animals, they can tell that you love them, and it will help them grow strong!

Photos by Silas Irungu

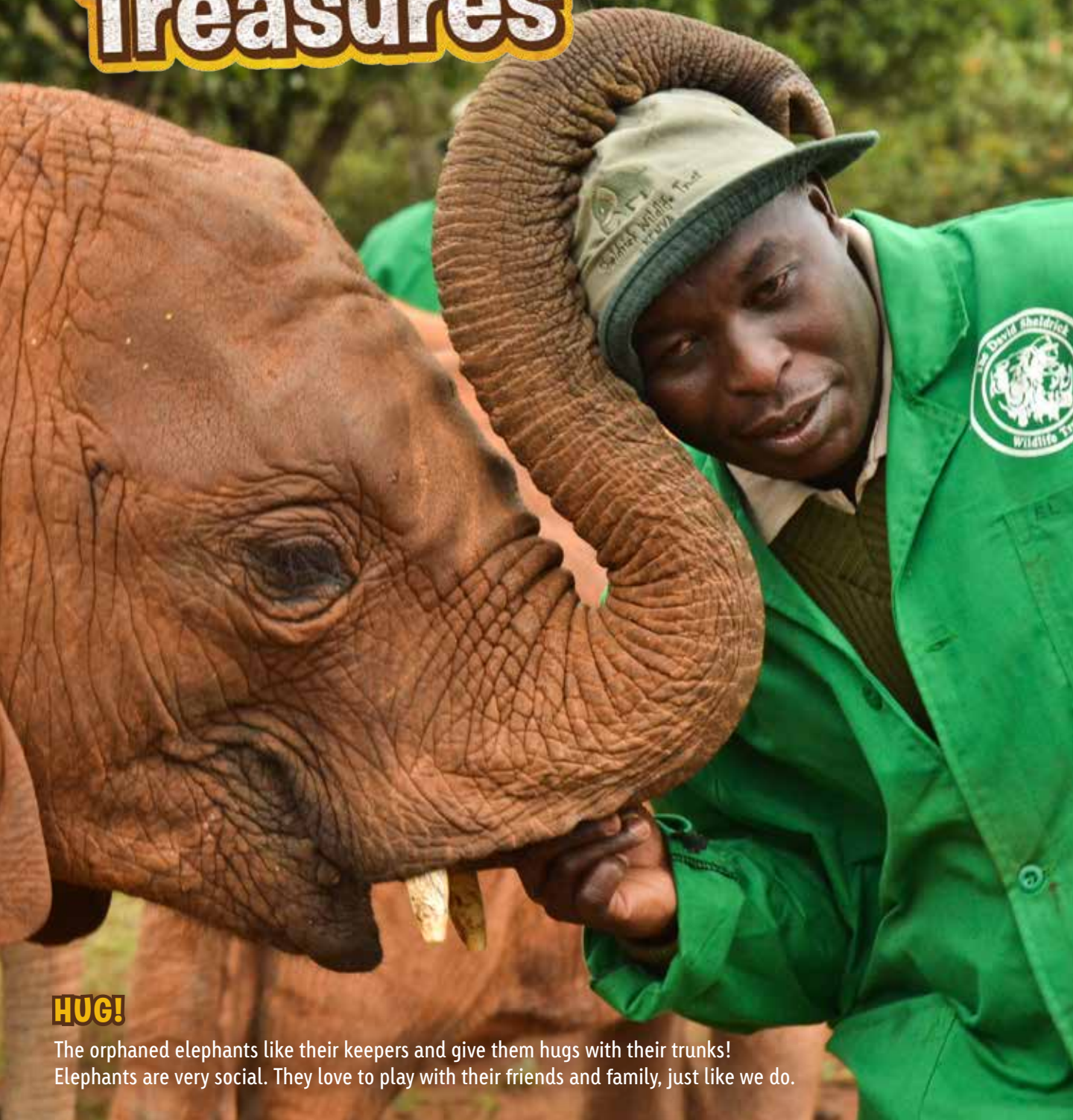


"Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, LORD, preserve both people and animals."

— Psalm 36:6



A Trunk Full of Treasures



HUG!

The orphaned elephants like their keepers and give them hugs with their trunks! Elephants are very social. They love to play with their friends and family, just like we do.



GROWING STRONG

David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has created a special elephant formula to nourish the babies.



HUNGRY FOR MORE

An elephant keeper feeds one of the orphaned elephants. Elephant calves weigh 170–250 pounds when they are born and need to eat every three hours.



A WARM WELCOME

The orphaned baby elephants get cold, just like human babies. Sometimes they need blankets to stay warm. Baby elephants also suck their trunks for comfort, just like some human babies suck their thumbs!

WEST AFRICAN PEANUT SOUP

Adult help needed.

In West African countries like Burkina Faso and Togo, people use locally grown vegetables to make soups and stews. Soups are often vegetarian, since many people can't afford to buy meat.



A Compassion center worker in Burkina Faso serves soup to a registered child for lunch.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 c. onion
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tbsp. fresh ginger, minced
- 1 tbsp. curry powder
- 1 14-ounce can diced tomatoes

DIRECTIONS

- ① Heat oil in a skillet and cook onion until soft, about 5 minutes. Add garlic, ginger and curry powder and cook for several minutes just until hot, making sure garlic does not burn.
- ② Add tomatoes, broth and peanut butter. Bring to a boil and cook for about 10 minutes.

- 3 ½ c. broth [chicken or vegetable]
- ½ c. peanut butter
- 1 c. sweet potatoes, cubed
- 2 c. okra
- 1 c. green beans
- chopped peanuts (for garnish)
- salt and pepper to taste

- ③ Turn down heat. Add sweet potatoes, okra and green beans and cook for about 15 more minutes until vegetables are tender.
- ④ Dish into bowls, sprinkle with peanuts and salt and pepper, and enjoy!



TÔ

Adult help needed.

People from Burkina Faso love to eat this dish with stews and soups (try it with the West African Peanut Soup). It's similar to a dish called *ugali* in Kenya and Tanzania.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. millet flour or cornmeal
- 8 c. water
- 2 tbsp. butter or margarine

DIRECTIONS

- ① Bring water to boil in large pot over high heat. Slowly add about ¼ of the flour or cornmeal to the water, stirring quickly and constantly for about 5 minutes so no lumps form.
- ② Reduce heat. With large spoon, scoop out about ¼ of the flour-water or cornmeal-water mixture and set aside in a bowl.
- ③ Add remaining flour or cornmeal, about a cup at a time, to pot. Stir vigorously each time a dry ingredient is added. If mixture becomes too thick to stir, add some of the mixture you set aside. After about 5 minutes of adding flour, the smooth paste should be too thick to stir.



A Kenyan man is mixing a large pot of *ugali* at a street market.

- ④ Reduce heat to very low. Cover pot and cook 10 more minutes.
- ⑤ Remove from heat. Shape into balls, sprinkle with salt to taste and serve along with stew, sauce or soup.

STOMPIN' FEET Adult help needed.

Families who live in poverty often can't afford toys, so kids make their own. You can do the same by recycling cans and pretending you're one of the baby elephants on pages 7, 8 and 9!

SUPPLIES

- 2 empty tin cans
- punch-type can opener
- black marker

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Place cans open-end down, which will be the elephant feet. Punch 2 holes in each side of cans near the tops.
- 2 With marker, draw an outline of 4 toenails on bottom open edges of cans. Paint toenails and let dry.
- 3 Cut two cords to about 5 or 6 feet, depending on your height. Thread cord through holes, then tie loose ends in a knot.
- 4 Stand on cans, pulling up on cords, and try walking around. You could even have an elephant-feet race!



UNFORGETTABLE WATERING CAN

An elephant never forgets — and you'll never forget to water your plants once you make this watering can!

SUPPLIES

- 2 empty, 1-gallon milk jugs
- X-ACTO-style utility knife or scissors
- craft foam
- hot glue gun
- googly eyes

DIRECTIONS

- 1 For the trunk, cut off the handle of one jug, leaving an edge around each end
- 2 Remove the cap from the other jug and cut a dime-size hole in the center. Replace the cap and set the jug handle-side up.
- 3 To attach the trunk, carefully put a line of glue around the outside of the cap. Then glue the slit end of the trunk around the cap. Make sure the trunk is pointing up and that the cap doesn't get glued to the jug!
- 4 For ears, cut out two large circles of craft foam. For eyes, cut out two circles that are a little bigger than the googly eyes. Glue large circles to sides of jug. Glue small circles on each side of handle. Then glue googly eyes to the small circles.
- 5 To fill jug with water, remove the trunk cap after the glue has dried. You're ready to water plants!



→ What Does God Say About ...

True Treasures?

BY LORIE BARNES

SET SAIL FOR TRUE TREASURES

Modern-day treasure seekers think they have found the ship and sunken treasure of Captain Kidd, a famous pirate who sailed the high seas in the late 1600s. They think his ship got off course and sank off the coast of Madagascar near East Africa, and they hope to find gold when they explore it!

Sometimes kids are looking for treasures, too, like a better bike or a new doll. But these aren't true treasures. To discover true treasure, set a course for God's Word and start exploring!

In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Jesus is saying that a happy life doesn't depend on the things we have. The true treasures that make us happy come from loving Jesus and loving others.

How can you find true treasure? Here are a few ideas! Discover more on page 14.

- Make and give a gift to a friend.
- Share your toys with someone who doesn't have as much as you.
- Make two toy piles in your room: one for toys you use and one for toys you don't use anymore. Consider giving away the toys you don't need to a friend who could use them.



PRAYER

DEAR JESUS,

Thank You for all the good gifts You have provided for me and my family. Help me take care of them and know how to help others who have less. Thank You for teaching me about true treasures, like You, my family, friends, Your creation and our sponsored child.

IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

Truly Treasured

BY GWEN HERSHA

While it's fun to have toys, they aren't true treasures. True treasures are those things we do for others to show them Jesus' love. Here are more ideas for how you can discover true treasures.



Make a card for a member of your family, and leave it on their pillow so they will find it when they go to bed.



Do a chore (like making your bed or taking out the trash) before someone asks you to.



Volunteer to help your mom or dad make dinner.

The next time you visit your grandparents, ask them to tell you what it was like when they were your age.



Go for a walk with your mom or dad in your neighborhood, and tell them three reasons why they are special to you.

Help someone clean up a mess.



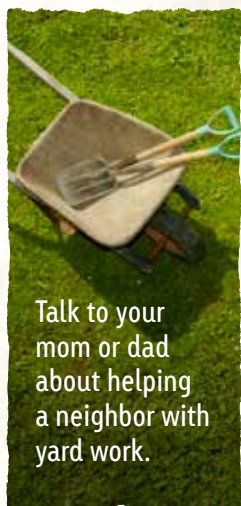
Tell someone you will be praying for her every day for a week.



When you see a friend who is sad, let him know you care.



Talk to your mom or dad about helping a neighbor with yard work.



Surprise! Six months after a friend's birthday, make him a "half birthday" card or cake.

Once a week for a month, send a postcard to a different person. Tell her how much you appreciate her and why.



A Healthy Start

Health care is not available to many of the poorest children around the world, but Compassion-sponsored kids get the care they need. Take a look!

TIME TO CLEAN THOSE PEARLY WHITES! ▲

The poorest children around the world don't have running water or a toothbrush and toothpaste. At Compassion centers many of these children get dental checkups and toothbrushes and toothpaste they can use at their centers.



WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD

Many children don't get enough to eat at home and are underweight. At Compassion centers children eat healthful meals and receive regular health checkups where they are weighed to make sure they are growing properly.

FIGHTING BACK DISEASES

While most kids in the U.S. are immunized, it is less common in the developing world. Immunizations can save as many as 3 million children's lives each year. Many children are immunized at Compassion centers, like these kids in Togo, West Africa.



UPBEAT UPDATE!



Often, during medical checkups at Compassion centers, doctors learn about kids like Joshua who need surgery. Joshua, a 9-year-old in the Philippines, had a cleft lip that made it hard for him to speak clearly. He



Joshua before

was featured in *Compassion Explorer* – Summer 2013. Compassion helped Joshua get surgery, and it was a success! The fourth-grader doesn't have as much trouble speaking since his surgery and feels more confident.

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→ Just for Grins and Giggles

At Compassion centers, children who sometimes don't get enough food at home can eat healthful meals — and even play games with nutritious snacks!



**WRITE A
CAPTION**

**SEND YOUR
CAPTIONS TO:**

Compassion International, Attn: *Compassion Explorer Magazine* Editor, 12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. Or email it to compassionkids@us.ci.org.



**Come join
our circle!**

Lily, 10
Clarence, N.Y.

**How many of us
were there again?**

Ella, 8
Beaver Falls, N.Y.

**Shh! Someone's
coming!**

Leo, 8
Springfield, Ore.

**This is me
with all my
friends!**

Caroline, 9
St. Louis, Mo.

**All right,
it's Baby
Brainstorm
time!**

Belinda, 8
Minot, N.D.

**It's time to play
Duck, Duck,
Goose!**

Jack, 7
Webster Groves, Mo.

**You put your head in,
you put your head
out, you put your
head in, and you
shake it all about.**

Lydia, 8
Philadelphia



Remember this picture from the Fall 2013 issue of *Compassion Explorer Magazine*? These are some of your great captions!

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