

A CHILD NEEDS YOU.

you **NEED A CHILD.**



PASTOR'S GUIDE


Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
in Jesus' name

Dear Pastor,

Today about 400 million children worldwide live on less than \$1.90 per day.* This number is so big it seems impossible to comprehend from a human perspective. But each of those children is known and dearly loved by God.

Throughout Scripture, God presents the need to care for the poor. For all who claim the name of Jesus, our spirits long to respond on behalf of those in need.

You may be asking the question: As a church, what can we do to serve those living in unacceptable poverty around the world?

As you wrestle with this question, God extends an invitation to join Him. Compassion would love to serve your church as you put your faith into action to care for the poor.

Compassion Sunday is one way to respond to God's invitation to love the poor. This guide gives practical tips so that you can lead each member of your church to an opportunity to live out his or her faith by sponsoring a child.

We are honored to come alongside your church's vision to love those who Jesus loves. May God bless you richly.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Mellado". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped "J" and a cursive "Mellado".

Santiago "Jimmy" Mellado

President and CEO
Compassion International



A child needs you...

The benefits to the sponsored child are clear: growth and development spiritually, physically, socially and economically.

You need a child...

The benefits to the sponsor may not be as obvious. James 2:17 references two things that contribute to spiritual growth: faith and action. Compassion complements your biblical teaching by providing practical applications that empower your congregants to put faith into action.

Here's what other pastors have to say about partnering with Compassion...



"We are called to take the gospel to the ends of the world. Compassion makes it easier for us to do that because Compassion is the visible love of God for those who don't believe."

JESSY PADILLA | SENIOR PASTOR
Iglesia Emanuel | Illinois



"We don't want to 'just' help the poor by providing food and water. We also want to bring them Living Bread and Living Water. Compassion puts these two things together for us so the poor can know Jesus."

JOE MEYER | SENIOR PASTOR
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church | Iowa



"Young adults are drawn to churches that are making a tangible difference in the world. Our partnership with Compassion helped us to become a church for the next generation."

LEE KRICHER | FOUNDER
Amplify Church and Future Forward Churches | Pennsylvania



An opportunity for your church members to put faith into action

Compassion Sunday allows church congregations to discover how child sponsorship helps them put faith into action as they release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Sponsorship opens the door for families and individuals to demonstrate God's heart of compassion to those in need, and it's a relational tool to help parents transfer faith values to their children.

Introduce your church to child sponsorship on Compassion Sunday. Your presentation can be 5 to 10 minutes long, or it can be your entire worship service — one where you teach biblical truths and use child sponsorship as personal application.

A typical event consists of:



A brief introduction from you or a member of your church who sponsors a child with Compassion



An announcement or short testimony from a Compassion sponsor



A short video (just 3 minutes!)



A sponsorship table where child packets will be displayed





Inspire generosity in the members of your church

By introducing Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program to your church, you give your congregants the opportunity to participate in world missions in a tangible way. Sometimes simply writing a check for mission efforts may seem distant, but sponsoring a child through Compassion makes missions personal and relational.

**... SO THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST MAY BE
BUILT UP UNTIL WE ALL ... BECOME MATURE,
ATTAINING TO THE WHOLE MEASURE OF THE
FULLNESS OF CHRIST.**

Ephesians 4:12-13, 15 (NIV)

Expand your congregation's global perspective with a relevant and relational call to action

As a pastor, you're busy! There's never a shortage of needs to be met or things to do.

Compassion Sunday is NOT yet another thing for you to add to your already full plate.

With support from Compassion, you'll be equipped to manage all the logistics of Compassion Sunday.

As the spiritual leader of your church, your voice and support carry influence. Consider the strategic value that child sponsorship plays in the spiritual growth of your members, and you will see the importance of your participation.



You'll empower local churches around the world

Every sponsored child is nurtured spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially at a child development center in a gospel-centered neighborhood church. Children hear the gospel of Jesus and have the opportunity to experience faith in Jesus that endures into adulthood.

So when members of your church sponsor children, you are empowering pastors around the world to reach out to the poorest of the poor in their communities with the gospel of Jesus through goodwill (Acts 2:44-47).

Child sponsorship does just as much for the sponsor as it does for the children sponsored.

U.S. pastors see child sponsorship as a strategic tool to help congregants put their faith into action.

It provides:

- An outward-looking perspective personally and corporately
- A broader understanding of how God is working around the world
- A step of faith to give generously
- An opportunity to join God's movement to serve the poor

Bring compassion to your church on Compassion Sunday.

"Compassion is an avenue for us to teach our kids more about what life is like in a developing country. We give them a window through our Compassion child. It helps our children — and our congregation — have an expanded worldview from God's perspective."

JEFF MANESS

Senior Pastor

Element Church | Wyoming



Compassion Sunday is designed to be customized to your church

Your Compassion Sunday presentation can be as simple or as elaborate as you want it to be. Below are three types of presentations; you may choose the one that's most suitable for you and your church.

Simple Announcement

Sometimes a short announcement is all it takes. You simply announce that it's Compassion Sunday, cue the video, then point out the sponsorship table and invite people to go there after the service.

Easiest

Share Your Heart

For this presentation, share how child sponsorship is a catalyst for spiritual growth. You may want to share how sponsorship has impacted your own family. Then show the video and invite people to go to the sign-up table to choose a child to sponsor.

Most popular

Full Service

Show child sponsorship as a personal response to the biblical principles in your sermon. Design the worship music and Scripture reading to prepare hearts to put faith into action through child sponsorship.

Gets the most kids sponsored

Your participation makes a difference

Pastor, the more involved you are, the more likely your congregants are to take action. Many pastors choose to sponsor a child on Compassion Sunday, which excites and inspires people beyond what only sharing the facts and statistics of children in need will do.

Some pastors simply introduce the host and close the service with a reminder to visit the Compassion Sunday table. Other pastors desire to be more involved by presenting child sponsorship as an application for the biblical principles presented in the sermon (more details at left).

Whatever participation level you choose, we pray you'll lend your support in some way — making your church's Compassion Sunday even more effective for the kingdom.

Past results show that the more involved you are, the more people will respond to the call to sponsor.

"Compassion empowers the Church in the developing world to preach the gospel. Compassion makes a church our size (36 members) able to participate in world missions through child sponsorship."



PAT MARRON | Missions Director
Refuge Church | Rhode Island



About Compassion

Founded in 1952, Compassion International is a Christian child development and child advocacy ministry dedicated to helping more than 1.9 million children in need worldwide.

Compassion is Christ-centered, church-based and child-focused.

In partnership with indigenous churches, Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program helps release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Every child has the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus and experience faith in Christ that endures into adulthood.

A ministry you can trust

We pledge to use your contributions wisely so as many children as possible can be released from poverty — both today and through many future years of ministry together.

You can be confident Compassion is devoted to outstanding financial stewardship. In recognition of the ministry's commitment to sound fiscal management, accountability and transparency, Compassion regularly receives quality ratings or exceeds standards from monitoring organizations.

Financial accountability

Financial stewardship is a responsibility we take seriously.

Historically, at least 80 percent of every dollar is invested directly into programs that support our mission of releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name.

Visit compassion.com/financial for more information.





"All the work that Compassion does in a community is under the umbrella of a gospel-centered church. That is incredibly exciting to me because I know that child development is done through the structure of a healthy local church."

BRIAN BERG

Senior Pastor
Woodlands Church
Wisconsin



“We want to teach our children to love the things that Jesus loves and to care for the things that Jesus cares for. Getting involved in serving the poor does both of these things — Jesus clearly loved the poor and specifically asked us to care for them. When we do that, our hearts are changed too. We grow when we give.”

Santiago “Jimmy” Mellado

President and CEO | Compassion International

