



on mission

Catalyst Missions News

November 2023



Compassion

Releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name

Children are very precious to God, yet they are often the hardest hit by poverty. Poverty is often defined as living on less than \$2 per day. But poverty is much more complex.

Poverty encompasses more than just a lack of financial resources. It involves the inability to access education, cope with health challenges, and enduring social stigmas, isolation, shame, and a sense of worthlessness. Poverty results from broken relationships, starting with one's connection to a higher power, extending to interactions with others, and ultimately affecting one's self-esteem, often making individuals feel powerless and inferior. An estimated 400 million children live in poverty worldwide, and while there has been progress, it's not sufficient.

Many children from impoverished backgrounds can't attend school due to factors like homelessness, orphanhood, or the need to work to support their families. Moreover, 17,000 children under five die every day from largely preventable causes, with a global child mortality rate of 43 deaths per 1,000 live births, disproportionately affecting the poorest regions and the first month of life. Malnutrition also plagues one in six children under five, with one in four experiencing stunted growth. Even before birth, a child's health may be at risk due to parents' struggles to afford healthcare, vaccinations, medication, and transportation, leading to unchecked preventable illnesses that can harm a child's development.

For more than 70 years, Compassion has existed to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. They partner with churches in over 25 developing countries so that support is driven and given by locals to locals. Through Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program, more than 2 million children are currently being released from poverty in Jesus' name.

You might wonder, what does the Child Sponsorship Program involve? Well, for individuals like you and me, it means that we can make a significant impact by sponsoring a child for just \$48 a month. Through this sponsorship, we empower local churches in underprivileged communities worldwide to engage with and uplift not only the child but their entire family. This support ensures that children have access to fundamental necessities like clean water, nourishment, secure shelter, proper clothing, healthcare, educational opportunities, and the chance to build meaningful relationships—all while also having the opportunity to encounter the Good News.



Story from the field:

Por Nor Tha Church in Thailand, in partnership with Compassion for 14 years, has been transforming the lives of vulnerable children and their families in a remote farming village. This partnership began in 2009, bringing holistic child development, including spiritual, relational, physical, and cognitive support to the children. It has instilled self-value, self-esteem, and leadership skills, enhancing their understanding of education's importance.

14-year-old Kittiya, 17-year-old Natcha and 18-year-old Sriprai were all registered at the child development centre when they were just three years old.

Sriprai loves working with children and dreams of becoming a primary school teacher one day. She is well on her way to achieving her goal and is now in her final year of high school, planning to continue her education in university. She too found comfort and strength through letters she received from her sponsor.

“My sponsor always says in every letter that he prays for me and my family,” says Sriprai. “Knowing that someone was always praying for me, made me feel that someone cared.”

The impact has extended beyond children, convincing parents of the value of education. Families have benefited from practical assistance and support, easing financial burdens and providing life skills. The program has unified the community, developing their church and resources.

“They [Compassion] were a big support in my children’s education. They taught life skills that we as parents may not have time to teach, because we had to work,” says Nipapon, Natcha’s mother.

According to Prasong, the impact has been felt by the whole community. “Compassion worked alongside our church. They helped develop many things for our church and community. And through the years, we’ve seen how the community became more unified.”

Read the full story here:

<https://www.compassion.com.au/blog/the-end-of-an-era-a-story-of-transformation-in-thailand>

Compassion Sunday: 26th November

On November 26th you will have the chance to hear more about Compassion from their very own Michael Keefe. Along with that there will be an opportunity to talk with, ask questions and potentially sponsor one of the many children who are eagerly awaiting your support.

Gifts of Compassion: Mid-November to end of December

This year we are also running a new initiative called Gifts of Compassion. We will have a Christmas tree set up in the Foundry Café with a number of different gifts you can purchase for children, families and communities supported by Compassion. Some of the gifts include seeds, chickens, a Bible, dental care, baby essentials kits and many more. We would love for you to consider how you can bless a child in need for Christmas this year.



