

# INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CARE

can help you teach **COMPASSION**

**Teacher's Compassion Curriculum 2023-2024**



In this packet you will find a simple curriculum to help teach compassion through sponsorship of orphan, abandoned and vulnerable children.



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What is  
**COMPASSION?**



**C**aring  
**O**rphan  
**M**erciful  
**P**recious  
**A**ffection  
**S**ympathy  
**S**helter  
**I**dentity  
**O**ppportunity  
**N**eighborly



International Children's Care can help YOU teach Compassion

# A TEACHER'S TESTIMONY

*Written by Beth Stevenson*

**W**anting to foster compassion in my first graders and help them develop a missionary spirit, I approached a child sponsorship/orphan care organization and requested to sponsor one child. They sent me pictures and information of an orphan in Tanzania. I knew my 6-year-olds had no idea that others live so differently than they do, nor that orphan children have so many basic needs.

Our fundraising goal for sponsoring a child was \$200. I shared this challenge with my students, thinking I would make up the difference between what they raised and the goal. The next day, one student brought a Ziplock bag of coins from home. This was my opportunity to use their peer influence so I made a big deal over their enthusiastic gift, telling them, "Put it on your desk until worship...then you can tell your missionary story to the class!"

After morning worship, I invited them to the front of the room with their donation. "So, tell me how you did your missionary work," I prompted. To their quick reply, "Oh, I just asked my Mom," I responded, "that is the best way to do Missionary work! You actually invited other people to help the orphans, too!"

The next day, multiple bags, bottles, and piggy banks arrived in eager hands! I would interview every little donor about their fundraising methods and then comment on what it was showing about their heart: "So, you brought this money to the orphans because you realized their need..."

"You started to care about these orphans...because Jesus wants us to share what we have." This is what ignited the other children to get involved and gave them ideas of how to raise money. After the missionary stories, I would pray, "Thank you Jesus for putting Your love in our hearts that makes us want to bring this money for the child in need."

It wasn't long until we'd reached our goal, and the children immediately asked, "What are we going to do now?" The Holy Spirit shot the answer into my mind as I replied, "Sponsor another orphan!" Kids made granola and sold it, did extra jobs at home and in the neighborhood, and asked for donations. Students were so excited to tell their stories that they would often be jumping up and

down in anticipation of the mission report time.

One girl had been saving up money over time for an iPad, but became deeply convicted to sponsor a whole orphan herself. Her Mom wasn't sure that was a good idea and tried to convince her otherwise, but she persisted to beg for the chance to give her whole savings. When her par-

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# A TEACHER'S TESTIMONY

*Written by Beth Stevenson*

## *Continued from page 3*

ents finally relented, her mother told me: "She was so convicted, that I felt 'How can I stop my child from giving this?'"

Both child and mother helped me tell their testimony as a children's story at church, inspiring others as well.

Another girl who had already given her entire savings, happily presented spare change she had found in the family couch. She sadly reported, "I don't have any more to give, and I can't find any more around the house!" None-the-less, the next Monday she appeared with \$20 from raking neighbors' yards!

The Holy Spirit's prompting of little hearts in my classroom allowed us to sponsor 22 orphans instead of only 1! I was able to deliver the money we'd raised on my mission trip

to two orphanages in Tanzania. From one orphanage, I was able to tangibly connect my students with the orphans via video conference. The orphans sang for my students in Swahili and shared from the Bible. My students cheered each time they saw an orphan they recognized from photos I'd placed in the classroom during our fundraiser.

God blessed us during the process of raising the funds for the orphan children, beyond imagination. His multiplication of our monetary goal paled in comparison to how powerfully my students were impacted spiritually, cross culturally, and missionally. God had given me an amazing way to create compassion in the hearts of my students and empower them for mission and in the process, taught us more of His desire to work through us!

*Beth Stevenson hails from Michigan where she teaches a first-grade, self-contained classroom, and mission training classes for the junior high.*



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# ***How to Implement***

*Partner with us to develop compassion in your students while they grow spiritually and missionally.*

## **Step 1**

Read Beth Stevenson's story of how she worked with her first grade classroom to raise funds to sponsor 22 orphan children in Tanzania.

## **Step 2**

Contact ICC for a sponsorship welcome packet of one, or more children, you want to help your students to sponsor as a class. You can sponsor one child at \$35 per month (\$420 per year)

1-800-422-7729 (Ask for Brian Manley or Eniko Sanford)

## **Step 3**

Once you receive a welcome packet with photos and the introduction, develop a plan for introducing the concept of sponsoring the child, or children, to your classroom.

## **Step 4**

Use our provided worship thoughts, orphan stories, and debrief questions to guide your students through a ten-day fund gathering experience for the orphan children. The stories will help your students understand the challenges that orphan and abandoned children experience and help them develop compassion and a passion for mission.

## **Step 5**

Complete your fund gathering experience and celebrate what God did throughout the process!

## **Step 6**

Follow up with ICC sponsorship department to complete the sponsorship funding process. Let us know your story of how God worked through your students and grew in compassion!

## **INTRODUCING YOUR PROJECT**

“We are going to be discussing some special worship thoughts over the next few days on the topic of COMPASSION. Compassion is when we see the difficulties another person is having and we show kindness by helping that person in some way. Have you ever helped a friend or a family member who was having a hard time with something? What things did you do to help?”

Over the next few days we are going to be reading some stories of children in different countries of the world who had bad things happen when they were little. They were left alone, to take care of themselves. But Jesus was looking out for them and they were rescued! We are going to learn what it means to be COMPASSIONATE just like Jesus.” Psalms 145:8 says “The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.”

## DAY 1

# COMPASSION is Caring



**Verse:** “Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.” *James 1:27*

*CARING means we think about others and try to understand and help them.*

Let me tell you about David. David was born in Guatemala. He was born to an extremely poor family. His father was a gang member and involved in drugs. He eventually abandoned David and the family. David’s mother worked hard to try to support the children—all four of them.

However, she became sick from the chemicals at a fireworks factory where she worked. The powder got into her lungs and she died at 29 years old. After she died, David and his brothers were sent to live with a relative,

where they stayed for a short time. But they soon found that they were not welcome there.

Heartbroken, David picked up his bag and walked several miles to his uncle’s house where his siblings were already living. But there was no loving welcome there either. There was no human touch. There was no hug. There were no smiles.

That night, the same terrible thing happened to David and his brothers. Their uncle went to rent a truck, came back, and took out all of his belongings from the shack where they lived. He moved out and abandoned them. “Oh Dios ayudanos!” – “Oh, God, help us,” cried David! “What can we do?”

Not knowing what else to do, young David and his brothers sought help from friends. Their friends had no place for them to stay, so they took them to the government courthouse.

The officials called International Children’s Care, or ICC. An ICC worker talked with the official and with the children, and decided to bring David and his brothers to ICC’s children’s village several hours away.

At the children’s village called Los Pinos, they met 70 other children who had found a home in that loving place. The four brothers grew up there together in a safe environment with house parents who loved them.

**Summary:** God cared for David and He cares for you. He is gracious and compassionate toward all His children. The Bible says He is “rich in love”. Our verse today says he wants us to help “care for orphans in their distress.”

**Challenge:** What can we do today to show that we care for the needs of others? As we look for ways to care about orphan children like David, let’s find ways to bring money for the children we plan to sponsor so they can have a safe, home environment in which to live at a children’s village.

**Debrief questions/Missionary report:** (If anyone already brought funds or has a story related to sponsoring the children)

- How did God provide money for you to bring to support the orphan children?
- What did you do that God used to help provide money for the kids?

## DAY 2

# COMPASSION helps Orphans



**Verse:** “...I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.” *John 14:18,19*

*ORPHAN means a child who does not have a mother or father.*

*Blaise writes his own story about his life. He speaks French which is the language of Congo and this was translated into broken English. We've added a little so you can understand his story. He is so thankful to God for all that He has done to bring him to safety and the love of a family.*

I am called Blaise. I was born on July 2, 1996 in Kihumba north Idjwi on Idjwi Island in Congo, Africa. I lost my parents when I was still young. My father drowned in the lake while he was fishing and my mother died of Malaria. I was taken in by a man, who put me in school. At that time

my school supplies were two writing books and a pencil only. The diet at that family that received me was sweet potatoes and “sombe” (cassava leaves) which we had at supper time only. On many occasions we slept without supper. I am great pleasure to be in children’s family at Idjwi. Now I feel like I’m in a family. I am studying well without fear that I may lack school supplies or food.

This is so different from how I lived long ago, where I had very few options of where to sleep. Every day I had to fetch water, wood and graze (care for) goats so I can stay there. I was always tired and that made it hard to focus on my school work.

In school of ICC, we have good care because we have teachers who work as volunteers, so they

really want to teach us. They give us a lot of help with school work and learning about how God can change our lives. My earlier teachers didn’t spend very much time with us. They used to beat us a lot, but now we don’t get beaten. Now I eat three times a day and have enough food to eat. I am in good health now and that is why I completed this year at school with good grades!

When I am sick, I am treated at the small clinic by the doctor. Before I came here, I didn’t have a mattress or a blanket or anything else. Now I sleep well on a mattress and I cover myself with a blanket.

May God bless ICC and their kind staff that received us. They removed us from such a painful life to one of joy and good health! Thank you God!

**Summary:** God rescued Blaise and the teachers taught him how to have God in his life. He was no longer a spiritual orphan. Jesus promised to not leave any of us as spiritual orphans. He has compassion on us and promised to always be with us, so we are never alone.

**Challenge:** What can we do today to show that we care for the needs of others? As we look for ways to care about orphan children like Blaise, let's find ways to bring money for the children we plan to sponsor so they can have a safe, home environment to live in at an ICC children’s village.

**Debrief questions/Missionary report:** (If anyone already brought funds or has a story related to sponsoring the children)

- How did God provide money for you to bring to support the orphan children?
- What did you do that God used to help provide money for the kids?



## DAY 3

# COMPASSION is Merciful



**Verse:** “Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.” *Matthew 5:7*

*MERCIFUL means having mercy or showing kindness to someone.*

**T**imothy was a homeless boy on a railway station platform in India. On the best days, strangers took pity on Timothy and gave him morsels to eat. On the worst days, Timothy dug in the trash for food, or even ate nothing at all. He had little hope that life would ever change. Little did he know that God cared for him, and that He was preparing a new life for Timothy’s future!

A kind pastor from Flaiz Adventist School stood on the platform where Timothy lived. As the pastor waited for the train, he glanced around the station. There, he noticed a heart-breaking sight. Timothy stood in tattered and dirty clothes, obviously hungry. Worst of all, the boy had a look of hopelessness in his eyes.

The pastor’s heart melted with compassion. “Lord, please be merciful to this young boy” he prayed

in his heart. Then he walked toward Timothy.

“I know of a place where children get good food, clothes and a good education,” the pastor said. “Children live with a mother and father who love them. It’s called the ICC Sweet Home Children’s Village. Would you like to live there?”

It sounded like a dream to Timothy. In fact, it sounded too good to be true. Although the stranger had a kind face, Timothy felt uncertain. He refused, and the pastor hesitantly walked away. Not knowing what else to do, the man said a silent prayer for the homeless child.

A moment later, the train approached. The pastor bent to pick up his briefcase, but it wasn’t on the ground anymore. It was in the arms of Timothy. “Sir, that is our train,” he said. “Let us go.”

The next morning when Timothy arrived at Sweet Home Children’s Village, the staff welcomed him

warmly. They quickly found out that he didn’t know his last name, the names of his parents, or the name of the village where his parents lived. He could not remember anything about his family. He had lived on the platform of the railway station ever since the death of his parents.

Fortunately, thanks to generous gifts from the worldwide ICC family, it is possible for the Sweet Home Children’s Village to be a safe haven for children like Timothy who desperately need a home, a family and an opportunity to go to school.

The kind support of donors made possible a great transformation in Timothy’s life. He is grateful for the prayers and financial support of his sponsors, as well as the love shown to him from that moment on the train station and onward. Timothy stands as an excellent example of how investment in the life of an ICC child pays forward a wonderful blessing as they give back in a life of service to others.

**Summary:** Timothy was rescued from homelessness by a merciful man. God is merciful to us and helps us through our problems in this life so we can help and bless other people.

**Challenge:** What can we do today to show that we care for the needs of others? As we look for ways to care about orphan children like Timothy, let’s find ways to bring money for the children we plan to sponsor so they can have a safe, home environment to live in at a children’s village.

**Debrief questions/Missionary report:** (If anyone already brought funds or has a story related to sponsoring the children)

- How did God provide money for you to bring to support the orphan children?
- What did you do that God used to help provide money for the kids?

## DAY 4

# COMPASSION sees others as Precious



**Verse:** “Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” *Matthew 19:14*

*PRECIOUS means worth a great deal to someone. Diamonds, rubies and gold are worth a lot of money; we are precious to God.*

What you see here appears to be ordinary children (see photos). However, look closer. These children are extraordinary. Dernai, Makanai and Duanghathai once had a family. Their father was killed by an elephant in the jungles of Thailand, a country far away from here.

Their mother, grief stricken over the news, abandoned her three children and never returned. The children were left all alone in the jungle where Dernai, the oldest brother, had to search for whatever food he could find to feed his siblings. He was all alone, hungry, afraid. Look close and you can see the bruises on his young face as he tried to protect his little sister

and brother. When these tragic events happened, Dernai was only five and his little brother was just a baby!

A caring person found Dernai and his little sister and brother and brought them to the children’s village that International Children’s Care (ICC) has in Thailand. The very first thing the kind people at the village did was to get a plate of food for each child.

The woman handed the plate of food to Dernai, the oldest. Immediately he handed the plate of food to his little sister. When he was handed another plate, he gave that to his little brother.

Dernai loved his brother and sister and thought more of them having food, than of himself. After they’d eaten all they wanted, the people at ICC listened to his story, and determined that Dernai had taken care of his siblings by himself for 3 long rainy sea-

sons, 3 years. Do you know a child who is 5 years old? Can you imagine him taking care of a two-year-old and a baby? In a jungle? At ICC the children were introduced to their new mommy and daddy (or house parents). They would now have a home, a family and enough food to eat. Their new mommy and daddy picked up the younger children and held Dernai’s hand and said something like this to him: “Now you are my little boy.”

Look at their smiling faces today! Dernai goes to school in the children’s village and the children play with the other boys and girls in their new family. They are now safe! They are loved! They belong! They have food to eat! You can help boys and girls like these three children, by helping them to have food, a home, houseparents, clothes and a chance to go to school and learn about Jesus.

**Summary:** Dernai, Makanai and Duanghathai are precious to God. You are precious to God too! Jesus loved little children and always helped them feel loved and cared for.

**Challenge:** What can we do today to show that we care for the needs of others? As we look for ways to care about orphan children like Dernai, Makanai and Duanghathai, let’s find ways to bring money for the children we plan to sponsor so they can have a safe home environment to live at a children’s village.

**Debrief questions/Missionary report:** (If anyone already brought funds or has a story related to sponsoring the children)

- How did God provide money for you to bring to support the orphan children?
- What did you do that God used to help provide money for the kids?

## DAY 5

# COMPASSION shares Affection



**Verse:** “Love one another with brotherly *affection*. Outdo one another in showing honor.” *Romans 12:10*

*AFFECTION means to show love by our words and actions, often by a hug or kiss.*

**T**his week we are bringing our money to provide care for children who live in ICC’s Children’s Villages for orphaned and abandoned children. Today we’re going to hear about Brandy Moises and how he came to be at the Children’s Village.

He was very sad, very thin and very malnourished. Malnourished is a big word that means he has not had enough food to eat. His body has not gotten the vitamins and good things that would make him healthy and happy.

Little Brandy’s father was killed when he was run over by a big truck. His mother was left alone with five young children and no money to buy food. When she had another baby, she completely ignored Brandy. In fact, she never even gave

him a name. She wouldn’t give him anything to eat and would spend the whole day sitting in a chair. She had trouble walking.

When Brandy’s situation was discovered, he was taken to the hospital and was not expected to live. He was in the hospital for seven days and was given IV injections and a balanced variety of food. He only weighed 14 pounds and he was almost two years old. That is not enough for a little boy his age.

Miraculously, he survived at the hospital and began to gain some weight. After about a week he was brought to ICC’s Las Palmas Children’s Village. There he was welcomed into a family with his four older brothers. He was held by his new house mother and the older children.

Everyone in the family took turns walking and holding Brandy so that he felt loved and comforted. They didn’t want him to be sad. They all prayed for him. He was given special food to help him grow. Within 3

months he had chubby little legs and arms. It is a miracle that he is alive!

Today Brandy is 7 years old and you can see that he is happy and healthy. He loves to run and play. He is in perfect health. He loves to sing and listen to Bible stories. He likes to play cars with his brothers and basketball with his dad and older children. He is tall for his age.

Brandy’s first mother was not able to give him affection because of the things that had happened to her. God blessed Brandy with a new mom and dad who were able to shower him with the love and affection that he needed to become a healthy, happy boy

By bringing your money you are helping little children like Brandy Moises. Kids helping kids! These children are God’s little children too, just like you. Jesus wants us to help them. He is so happy to see you helping. Thank you for bringing your money and being missionaries with Jesus.

**Summary:** God has great affection for children like Brandy. And for you too. He is compassionate and kind to all His children.

**Challenge:** What can we do today to show that we care for the needs of others? As we look for ways to care about orphan children like Brandy, let’s find ways to bring money for the children we plan to sponsor so they can have a safe, home environment to live at a children’s village.

**Debrief questions/Missionary report:** (If anyone already brought funds or has a story related to sponsoring the children)

- How did God provide money for you to bring to support the orphan children?
- What did you do that God used to help provide money for the kids?



## DAY 6

# COMPASSION shows *Sympathy*



**Verse:** “Now when Job's three friend heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Elipaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophare the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come and show him *sympathy* and comfort him.” *Job 2:11*

*SYMPATHY is a feeling of pity or sense of compassion — it's when you feel bad for someone else who's going through something hard.*

**H**ave you ever been really, really hungry? Well this little girl, Karen, knows what it's like to be really, really hungry. She lives in the country of Guatemala in Central America. Because there are many problems in the country, often there are people who don't have enough food to eat and are not able to take care of their children.

Some people are so desperate that they will just leave their children in the market place and never come back. They hope someone else will feed them. Karen was abandoned as a very

young child. She didn't have a mommy to tuck her into bed at night or give her a hug when she fell down and scraped her knee. No Daddy to play with her and toss her in the air. She wandered in the streets until some bad people took her to their house, but they didn't treat her nicely.

She was rescued by the children's court when she was 3 years old from this very bad situation and brought to ICC's Children's Village.

She was welcomed into a loving family with other children who had been orphaned or abandoned and had no one to take care of them either. She was given food to eat, her own bed to sleep in, clothes to wear, and her very first toy. Most of all she was

given love. Now she has a new Mommy and Daddy who love her and take care of her. She has 9 other new brothers and sisters in her home.

The village where Karen lives today is called Los Pinos, which means “The Pines,” because all around the village are tall pine trees. She loves to run and play and to be hugged and give hugs.

You can imagine that it costs a lot of money to feed one family with 10 children in the family. How many meals do you eat each day?

All of these children need food, clothes, shoes, backpacks and school supplies. When they grow and get bigger, they need new clothes and new shoes. Each year, they need new school supplies just like you do. Would you like to help?

**Summary:** God has sympathy for suffering and hungry children. He invites us to have sympathy for others around us too. And we can all show sympathy for orphan children, even if they live far away.

**Challenge:** What can we do today to show that we care for the needs of others? As we look for ways to care about orphan children like Karen, let's find ways to bring money for the children we plan to sponsor so they can have a safe, home environment to live at a children's village.

**Debrief questions/Missionary report:** (If anyone already brought funds or has a story related to sponsoring the children)

- How did God provide money for you to bring to support the orphan children?
- What did you do that God used to help provide money for the kids?



## DAY 7

# COMPASSION provides Shelter



**Verse:** “Those who live in the *shelter* of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.” *Psalm 91:1*

*SHELTER means protection against bad weather or bad things happening in the world.*

I want to tell you another story about a special girl named Janet. Janet was a beautiful healthy little baby when she was born. In the country of India in the Hindu background that she was from they have a superstition that the third child is considered bad luck if she is a girl. However, the fourth child born is kept even if it is a girl.

Little Janet was the third child. Her name was Poornima. But later, she came to be called Janet. Her family didn't want her because they thought bad things would happen

to their family if they kept her. This really is not true, but for many, many years it was passed on from family to family that the third child, if a girl, would be bad luck. They believed it and were going to abandon her or give her away. A kind neighbor found out about the child and asked the kind woman who is in charge at International Children's Care in India to come and save this little baby's life.

Little Janet came to the Children's Village and is still the youngest child to come to the village. She was just a baby. She has a friend who is close to her age. They look a lot alike and love to play together. She loves playing with all of her friends on the swings, slides and teeter-totter. She also loves to sing

and leads in the singing at some of the evening worships. She is learning about God and has memorized many Bible verses. All that she can remember is growing up in the ICC family at Dews Sweet Home Children's Village. Janet loves to eat good food. At Dews Sweet Home they grow a lot of fruits and vegetables and buy rice, beans and other food from the stores.

Because of people who want to save children's lives, she is alive today. Because of people who care, ICC is able to give children a home and a family. We have been bringing our money to help provide food, clothing and a safe home for Janet and abandoned children like her. We know Jesus is so happy to see you helping other children like Janet!

**Summary:** God helped Janet get a new family who would provide a shelter, or home, for her. Our Bible verse today reminds us that God watches over orphans and gives them shelter and rest. He will give you shelter and rest too.

**Challenge:** What can we do today to show that we care for the needs of others? As we look for ways to care about orphan children like Janet, let's find ways to bring money for the children we plan to sponsor so they can have a safe, home environment to live in at a children's village.

**Debrief questions/Missionary report:** (If anyone already brought funds or has a story related to sponsoring the children)

- How did God provide money for you to bring to support the orphan children?
- What did you do that God used to help provide money for the kids?

## DAY 8

# COMPASSION creates *Identity*



**Verse:** “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” *1st John 3:1*

*IDENTITY means who we are. Our name, our family, our likes and dislikes are all part of our identity. The most important part of our identity is who we belong to. Jesus said we are children of God. That means we belong to him and we have great worth!*

Let me tell you about Bonheur who lives at ICC’s Patmos Island Children’s Village on Idjwi Island in Congo, Africa.

Three years ago Bonheur’s aunt brought his two brothers James, Moise and him to the doctors at a children’s clinic in Goma, Africa. This village of Goma has volcano lava everywhere – on

streets, in yards and fields – as the volcano erupts, often popping up lava from the ground down below the mountain.

Bonheur’s mommy and daddy died from being sick with a very deadly illness. His aunt, Bonheur’s mother’s sister, took care of him and his brothers as best she could. Her husband had died too, and she had no money to buy food or clothes. She simply couldn’t take care of them. Bonheur and his brothers were sick and in poor health and she was afraid they would die, so his aunt brought them to the clinic to receive care.

Bonheur received food everyday and love and care from the kind

doctors and nurses. He got stronger and healthier and began to play with the other children. He learned about Jesus and how much He loves him.

In time, he and his brothers traveled from Goma to the Island of Idjwi and were welcomed into his new family at the Patmos Children’s Village. There are 12 children in his family. He goes to school everyday, has food to fill his tummy and loves to dance and sing with the other children.

Now Bonheur prays to Jesus and thanks Him for his new home. He thanks Jesus for being his friend and to God for being his Father in Heaven. He talks to God many times every day.

**Summary:** Bonheur and his brother found a new identity at Patmos Children's Village. Because of Jesus, now they know that they are part of God's family and they are his children. We are all his children too and part of the big family of God.

**Challenge:** What can we do today to show that we care for the needs of others? As we look for ways to care about orphan children like Bonheur, let's find ways to bring money for the children we plan to sponsor so they can have a safe, home environment to live at a children’s village.

**Debrief questions/Missionary report:** (If anyone already brought funds or has a story related to sponsoring the children)

- How did God provide money for you to bring to support the orphan children?
- What did you do that God used to help provide money for the kids?

## DAY 9

# COMPASSION makes Opportunity



**Verse:** “Therefore, whenever we have the **opportunity**, we should do good to everyone – especially to those in the family of faith.” *Galatians 6:10*

*OPPORTUNITY means the ability or a chance to do something, say something or become something different.*

**Y**our support will help to transform the life of children like Anne Marie Ivan from Romania. Anne Marie’s parents both died when she was very young. Without parents to guide her, Anne Marie struggled during early childhood. She lived with relatives for a while but they could not care for her well. Finally, she was taken to a family at the ICC Children’s Village in Romania.

At first, Anne Marie rebelled against the values of the Children’s Village. She struggled in school, too. Yet, the house parents took a special interest in helping Anne Marie to succeed. That’s when she began to realize

that they truly cared for her well-being. Now, years later, Anne Marie is studying to become a dentist! Thanks to the support of people just like you, Anne Marie was able to flourish in a loving family. This is something that she recently shared about her life:

*“My name is Anne Marie Ivan. I am 23 years old and I live in Bucharest, Romania. My dream is to become a dentist and right now I’m in my fourth year of university. I believe that this is possible only because God loved me so much that He had prepared for me a home and a safe environment where I was able to grow, study, and get to know Him.*

*Recently, I had a situation where I had the chance to see Him working for me. Normally we don’t have exams planned during the weekend but, because one of the professors had a cold, he decided that the only time*

*he had left for our class to take the exam was on a Saturday.*

*I knew I had a choice to make and I kindly asked him after that class if there was another option, because I wanted to keep the Sabbath according to my beliefs. He told me that I couldn’t be a doctor and keep the Sabbath at the same time and refused to give me another option. I was disappointed and upset. I wrote a letter to the secretary, but they also said there is nothing they can do. After this, I remembered to pray for my situation.*

*But, the next day, I received another letter. In that letter I was told they had found a solution to my issue and I was able to take the exam a few days earlier with another class!*

*I am very grateful because God always took care of me directly or through wonderful people who have always been there for me, supporting me and encouraging me to follow my dreams.”*

**Summary:** God heard Anne Marie’s prayers. She was important to Him. He gave her many opportunities to grow and become successful. He also gave her opportunities to witness for Him and influence her fellow students and teachers in positive ways.

**Challenge:** What can we do today to show that we care for the needs of others? As we look for ways to care about orphan children like Anne Marie, let’s find ways to bring money for the children we plan to sponsor so they can have a safe, home environment to live at a children’s village.

**Debrief questions/Missionary report:** (If anyone already brought funds or has a story related to sponsoring the children)

- How did God provide money for you to bring to support the orphan children?
- What did you do that God used to help provide money for the kids?



## DAY 10

# COMPASSION is Neighborly



**Verse:** “The second is this: ‘Love your *neighbor* as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” *Galatians 6:10*

*Neighborly means we treat others like we want to be treated; we take care of them with things God has blessed us with.*

Let me tell you about Anne who lives at ICC’s Children’s Village on Idjwi Island in Congo, Africa. Anne was born on New Year’s day, 11 years ago. Anne and her twin sister Sarah and another sister Ruth became orphans after their father died after a long illness. Their mother died during childbirth.

After their parents died, they went to live with some other adult family members. They had to keep moving from one home to the next as their family members were killed during local, tribal wars. Finally when they had no one left to care for them, they had to go from door to door begging for food and sleeping wherever they could find shelter.

**Summary:** The Patmos Children’s Village staff were good neighbors to Anne and her sisters. They were Neighborly. They saw the problems the children were struggling with and did their best to help. They gave Anne and her sisters a chance to live a healthy, happy life.

**Challenge:** What can we do today to show that we care for the needs of others? How can we be neighborly to orphan kids like Anne and her sisters? As we look for ways to care about orphan children like Anne, let’s find ways to bring money for the children we plan to sponsor so they can have a safe, home environment to live at a children’s village.

**Debrief questions/Missionary report:** (If anyone already brought funds or has a story related to sponsoring the children)

- How did God provide money for you to bring to support the orphan children?
- What did you do that God used to help provide money for the kids?

When Anne was rescued, she was very hungry, sick, afraid and sad; clinging to her sister’s hands. When the kind people at ICC’s children’s village took Anne and her sisters in, the first thing they did was to give them something to eat. Some rice, beans and cassava root.

They comforted Anne and showed her where she would sleep and told her that this would be her new home to live in until she grew up. They introduced her to other children who also had no mommies or daddies. These were her new brothers and sisters. They told her about her new school. And they introduced her to her house mother who would love and care for her as if she were her very own.

Anne didn’t know what to think at first. Was this real? Would she really be able to stay here and not beg for food? As the days and weeks went by, Anne began to feel

better as she ate regular meals and had a soft mattress to sleep on. Even though she shared it with her sisters, she was so happy to have a home to call her own that it didn’t matter if she was a little crowded on the mattress.

Anne loves her new family at Patmos Children’s Village. She is learning about Jesus and the Bible. She loves to sing in the choir. She loves Jesus and knows that He loves her. She is kind, and friendly and is going to Christian school at the village. Now she is no longer an orphan! She know she has a Heavenly Father who loves her. She has her new ICC family and people like you and me who care about her and want her to have a happy childhood and hope for her future.

Jesus is so happy when we help others. It’s as if we are helping Jesus when we help Anne and children who don’t have what we do.





# Prayer List

## Guatemala: Los Pinos Children's Village

1. Pray for the orphans and workers at Los Pinos.
  - Pray for continued funds for food and living expenses.
  - Pray for continued funds to pay for teachers at the school and pastor at the church.
2. Pray that the children will learn to love Jesus and give their hearts to Him.

## Mexico: El Oasis Children's Village

1. Pray for the orphans at El Oasis.
  - Pray that Jesus will continue to provide money to buy food, clothes and other things they need.
  - Pray that Jesus will be real to them and they will give their hearts to Jesus.
  - Pray that Jesus will keep them healthy and heal their hearts.
2. Pray for the house parents, teachers and pastors at El Oasis.
  - Pray that Jesus will protect and keep them healthy.
  - Pray that Jesus will encourage them and continue to provide for all their needs as well.

## India: Sweet Home Children's Village

1. Pray for the children at Sweet home.
  - Pray that they will continue to have enough food to eat, clothes, water, shelter, and school supplies.
  - Pray that they will learn to love Jesus and want to follow him always.
  - Pray that they will be healthy and safe.
2. Pray for Ms. Susan and all the house parents, teachers, pastors and other workers at the village.
3. Pray that Jesus will continue to work through his generous friends on earth to send enough money to this village to keep taking care of his precious children.

## D.R. Congo: Patmos Children's Village

1. Pray for the 48 new orphans who recently lost their parents and other family during the flooding.
  - They are sad about their families and everything is new for them at ICC.
  - Many of them are sick from lack of food, medicine, clean water and healthy habits before coming to ICC in DR Congo. They are gradually getting better.
  - Pray that they will learn to love Jesus and give their hearts to him.
2. Pray for Mr. Desiree and all the adults who are helping them get well and learning to live at Patmos. Pray that they will be encouraged and healthy.
3. Pray that Jesus will provide the money needed through generous people to build new homes for the new children.
4. Pray that Jesus will provide money needed for food to feed all the new children as well as continue to provide for the children who were already there.
5. Pray that Jesus will provide money through his people to build a boat dock so the people can safely get their food and other supplies unloaded to the island where Patmos is located.

## Dominican Republic: Las Palmas Children's Village

1. Pray that they will learn to know Jesus and they will give their hearts to him.
2. Pray that Jesus will continue to provide money to pay their teachers and pastors at Las Palmas.
3. Pray that Jesus will protect and encourage the administrator, pastors and teachers and house parents and other workers at Las Palmas.
4. Pray that everyone at Las Palmas will be safe and healthy.

# Prayer Journal DAY 1

## C in COMPASSION Stands for Caring

**Verse:** “Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.” *James 1:27*

*“Lets thank God for being caring to us and to David at Los Pinos Children's Village. What can we ask from Jesus in prayer to help us to be more caring to each other and to orphans? Are there any other prayer requests?”*

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

### ANSWERED PRAYERS:

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**Prayer:** Dear Lord,

Thank-you that you are a caring God and you love each one of us and you loved David in Guatemala. Please show us how to have compassion like you do. Help us to be caring to each other and even those we haven't met yet. Show us how to be missionaries for you and help other kids who don't have many of the things we have. [Add other prayer requests here.]

In Jesus Name,

Amen

# Prayer Journal DAY 2

## O in COMPASSION Stands for Orphan

**Verse:** "...I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also." *John 14:18,19*

*"There are lots of orphans in this world. Lets pray that Jesus will teach us how to help him take care of orphan kids who don't have any adults to keep them safe; who don't have enough food to eat or any shoes and clothes to wear. What can we ask Jesus to do today that will help the orphans at ICC? Are there any other prayer requests?"*

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

### ANSWERED PRAYERS:

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**Prayer:** Dear Lord,

Thank-you that you love us and you love orphan kids. Thank-you for being a God that works through kids. Please help us to find ways to help orphans live in a safe place by sending our donations. Help us send money to buy some food and clothes and shoes for the orphans. Thank-you that we can be missionaries for you even without traveling to another country. [Add other prayer requests here.]

In Jesus Name,  
Amen

# Prayer Journal DAY 3

## **M** in COMPASSION Stands for **Merciful**

**Verse:** “Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.” *Matthew 5:7*

*“God is MERCIFUL and he wants us to be merciful too. When we are merciful, we show kindness to someone who we may not know or even be able to see. When we do a kind thing for an orphan at ICC by sending our dollars, quarters, dimes and nickels to help them have a better life, we are being merciful. Lets pray that Jesus will help us be merciful to the orphans. What other prayer requests do we have today?”*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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### **ANSWERED PRAYERS:**

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**Prayer:** Dear Lord,

Thank-you that you are merciful to us and to the orphans at ICC. Please help us to show mercy by bringing our money to help these orphans have a better life and learn about you. Thank you that we don't have to wait until we are adults to be missionaries; we can be missionaries right now. [Add other prayer requests here.]

In Jesus Name,  
Amen



# Prayer Journal DAY 4

## P in COMPASSION Stands for Precious

**Verse:** “Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” *Matthew 19:14*

*“Each one of us is precious to Jesus and each orphan is just as important to him. What can we pray for that will help the orphans today? What other prayer requests do we have?”*

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

### ANSWERED PRAYERS:

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**Prayer:** Dear Lord,

Thank-you that each one of us is precious to you and each orphan child is precious too. Please help us to continue to be missionaries for you by bringing our money to send to them. [Add other prayer requests here.]

In Jesus Name,  
Amen

# Prayer Journal DAY 5

## A in COMPASSION Stands for Affection

**Verse:** “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. *Romans 12:10*”

“Brandy’s new family showed him affection when they hugged and kissed him and made him feel welcome. We can show each other affection with a smile, kind words and encouragement. What can we pray that Jesus will do for other kids like Brandy? What can we do to show affection to our sponsored child(ren)(name/s)?”

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

### ANSWERED PRAYERS:

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**Prayer:** Dear Lord,

Thank-you so much that you have affection for all of your kids like Brandy and each one of us. Help us to be affectionate to each other. Help us to show our sponsored child(ren) (name/s) affection by sending our money to help buy food, clothes and a comfortable place to live with his/her house parents. [Add other prayer requests here]

In Jesus Name,  
Amen

# Prayer Journal DAY 6

## S in COMPASSION Stands for Sympathy

**Verse:** “Now when Job's three friend heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Elipaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophare the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come and show him sympathy and comfort him.” *Job 2:11*

*“Do you remember the story of Job? He lost all his belongings, his family and had terrible sores all over his body. Job’s friends showed sympathy to him for all his great suffering. Karen’s new family showed her sympathy, by helping her take care of her needs like giving her food to eat, a bath, a soft place to sleep, and warm hugs. We can show sympathy to our friends, family and even those we don’t know when we see that they are hurt or having problems. We can do something to help them, say something comforting, and best of all, pray for them. What can we ask Jesus to do today for other kids like Karen and our sponsored child(ren) (name/s)?”*

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

### ANSWERED PRAYERS:

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**Prayer:** Dear Lord,

You are a friend who has sympathy for all of our problems and for the sufferings of kids like little Karen. Thank you for your sympathy and for comforting us when we are hurt or struggling. Please help us to show sympathy by bringing our money to help buy food and clothes and provide a place for kids like Karen to live. [Add other prayer requests here.]

In Jesus Name,

Amen

# Prayer Journal DAY 7

## S in COMPASSION Stands for Shelter

**Verse:** “Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.” *Psalm 91:1*

*“Shelter is a place to take refuge from bad weather and so we can be comfortable. It is important to have shelter to survive in many places in the world and without it people can die. For most people this is a house or apartment space. Because of their beliefs, Janet’s parents were going to abandon her to die. God rescued her and gave her a place to live with a new family in a house at ICC. What can we ask Jesus to do for the orphans like Janet and our sponsored child(ren)(name/s)?”*

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

### ANSWERED PRAYERS:

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**Prayer:** Dear Lord,

Your protection makes it possible for us to survive in this world. You provide us shelter from the weather and from Satan’s control. Thank-you for giving us homes to live in where we are safe. Thank-you for giving Janet a home to live in at ICC with parents to love and shelter her. Help us to keep finding ways to bring our money to help pay for the house(s) that our sponsored child(ren), (name/s) can live in. [Add other prayer requests here.]

In Jesus Name,  
Amen

# Prayer Journal DAY 8

## I in COMPASSION Stands for Identity

**Verse:** “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” *1st John 3:1*

*“Identity is who we are. Our name, our family, our personality, what we look like, and things we do all are part of our identity. God says that our identity is children of God! This is wonderful news because it doesn’t get any better than that. He loves each one of us just like he loves Bonheur in the Congo. Now Bonheur is part of the ICC family and he is also a child of God. What can we ask God for that will help children like Bonheur and our sponsored child(ren)(name/s)?”*

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

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### ANSWERED PRAYERS:

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**Prayer:** Dear Lord,

Thank-you for making us all your children. Thank-you for taking care of Bonheur and bringing him into the ICC family so he could learn about you. Please help each one of us to feel your love and know we are part of your family. Help us to share our missionary money with our sponsored child, (name/s) so they too, will know how much they are loved and are part of your family. [Add other prayer requests here.]

In Jesus Name,  
Amen



# Prayer Journal DAY 9

## O in COMPASSION Stands for Opportunity

**Verse:** “Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone – especially to those in the family of faith.” *Galatians 6:10*

*“After being at the ICC Children’s Village in Romania for a while, Anne Marie realized she had been given an opportunity to have a new family who loved her and would take care of her well. This was a chance to get a good education, even through the university level which many kids don’t have the chance to do. The best opportunity came in the chance to learn about God and how to serve him which makes her very happy. What do you think she thanks God for every day? What can we ask God to do for orphans like Anne Marie and our sponsored child(ren)(name/s)?”*

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

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### ANSWERED PRAYERS:

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**Prayer:** Dear Lord,

You gave Anne Marie an opportunity to have a loving family and to get a good education. You give us lots of opportunities too, like school, families, a church family, friends, and a chance to know you. Thank-you for so many blessings. Please help us to share these opportunities with other kids like Anne Marie and our sponsored child(ren)(name/s). [Add other prayer requests here.]

In Jesus Name,

Amen

# Prayer Journal DAY 10

## N in COMPASSION Stands for Neighborly

**Verse:** “The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” *Matthew 22:39*

*“Jesus said our neighbor is anyone who needs our help. Anne was able to have a safe, comfortable home with loving house parents in the Congo because the staff at the children’s village were neighborly and her sponsors were neighborly in sending money to take care of her. What can we ask Jesus for today to help us be more neighborly to orphans like Anne? How can he help us take care of our sponsored ICC child(ren)(name/s)?”*

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

### ANSWERED PRAYERS:

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**Prayer:** Dear Lord,

You told your disciples that we should be a neighbor to those in need. Many orphans need our help every day in this world. Please teach us to be neighborly to orphans that we can help. Please bless the missionary money we send to ICC to do great good in helping our sponsored child(ren). [Add other prayer requests here.]

In Jesus Name,

Amen