

"Go into all the world and preach the good news..."
(Mark 16:15)

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An update of the various
missions endeavours supported by
Hillview Baptist Church

March 2020

COMPASSION CANADA

Last month I introduced you to Chain of Love, one of the two children-oriented ministries that we as a church support. In this issue I want to provide you with some basic information about the other ministry - Compassion Canada. While these two organizations have some basic similarities, they also differ quite a bit from one another. But the fact remains, both have developed unique ways for ministering to needy children and are thus worthy of our support.

Compassion Canada is one of 14 national branches of Compassion International which was founded by evangelist Rev. Everett Swanson in 1952. He was motivated by what he saw and experienced while preaching to the troops of the army in South Korea. His heart was deeply moved by the plight of the many orphaned children caused by the war. In 1953 he began to raise funds, and the next year he developed a sponsorship program to help support the orphans. He was inspired by the words of Jesus: "I have compassion on these people...I do not want to send them away hungry" (Matt. 15:32).



From this humble beginning, Compassion International now operates in 25 mostly third-world countries in Africa, Asia, Central America/the Caribbean, and South America. Today there are some 1.5 million children registered in their child development centres.

Compassion Canada was established in 1963 by Bob and Janet Forsyth from Blenheim, ON, whose home served as its first Canadian office. They were anxious to see Compassion's ministry expand beyond its US base.

At the heart of Compassion's ministry is, in their words, "holistic child development." And by that they mean they don't simply respond to poverty by handing out food or Bibles, but instead, they seek to help children develop healthy bodies, minds, relationships, and a lasting faith in Jesus Christ. They do the latter by equipping local churches to teach them God's Word and love them in Jesus' name.

In fact, one of Compassion's distinctives is that they work exclusively with local churches in the various countries in which they operate because they believe churches can best understand and respond to the challenges in their respective communities. Furthermore, churches are generally known and trusted by their neighbours and are able to identify and reach those with the greatest need. This means that the children for whom Compassion is raising support are mostly children from Christian families who are facing severe economic and social needs.

Our church has been supporting a child for over 25 years. When one child has completed the youth development program, we are assigned another child. Currently, our Compassion child is Alexandra Pierina Borja Borja, a 16-year-old girl living in the coastal community of Chacarilla de Otero Las Flores in Peru. The



region is characterized by poverty and high unemployment. As a result, Alexandra's mother (father has abandoned the home), is finding it difficult to provide for the family's needs. Many diseases, such as respiratory diseases, malnutrition, tuberculosis, parasites and mumps are also prevalent here, and access to medical care is limited.

Through the work of Compassion in this region, Alexandra and other needy children are provided with Bible teaching, nutritious food, medical exams, health and hygiene education, special celebrations and social events, sports competitions, field trips, tutoring, and educational workshops.

We as a church sponsor her (at the rate of \$41 per month), along with special gifts on her birthdays (May 20) and at Christmas. We also exchange letters with her and regularly pray for her and her family at our church's Thursday prayer times. Here are a few phrases from some of her letters: "Thank you for your birthday gift, I bought two sweaters and two pair of socks...I did well on my report card...I love all subjects, but I don't like math...my favorite animals are the gorilla and orangutan...I send lots of kisses and hugs to you...please pray for me and my family...God bless you"

You can see and read more about her at our Compassion Child display above the landing of the stairway to the basement. Join us in supporting her in prayer.

Kurt Redschlag
Chair, HBC Missions Committee