

**HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO REACH OUT AND
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD.
BECOME A SPONSOR TO A CHILD IN AFRICA OR INDIA
OR INDONESIA OR SOUTH AMERICA OR CENTRAL AMERICA
THROUGH
COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL**

WHAT

WHERE

WHEN

WHY

HOW

Compassion International is a Christian child development ministry, which works for children in poverty in over 24 different countries in Africa, India, Indonesia, South America and Central America.

This ministry was founded by Rev. Everett Swanson in 1952 when he visited Korea and saw the devastation of the children living there in dire poverty with no one to help them. Through the compassion and love of God and the Holy Spirit, he helped children find their way out of poverty and introduced them to Jesus Christ to grow and become fulfilled Christian adults. This ministry puts the Great Commission to work by providing the resources necessary for the holistic development of each child through establishing a one-to-one relationship between each child and a sponsor.

I have been a sponsor to a little girl, Maria Brillith Ramos Pena, who lives in Peru since 2004. The cost for sponsoring Maria is \$32.00 a month. Maria was five years old when I began to sponsor her. The local church that is in partnership with Compassion International has a Student Center that Maria attends where the first thing she hears about is Jesus, and she and her family accept Him as their Lord and Savior. She, also, receives health services, educational services and any necessary daily survival benefits.

It is such a blessing to me to know that I am helping Maria mature as a Christian and assisting in her educational growth and making a significant difference in her life and her family's life to break the cycle of poverty that they were tied to before Compassion International came into their lives.

I write to Maria and tell her about my love for Jesus Christ and the blessing she is to me since God has brought her and her family into my life. I share stories with her about our family and our life. She writes back to me with the help of a volunteer tutor about her life and her family. I always get a drawing from her with every letter. As she is getting older her drawings are becoming quite good. I look forward to strengthening our relationship every year that I continue to sponsor her. Maybe I'll even be able to go to Peru one day and meet her, her family and friends. That would be one of the greatest blessings of all for me.

I have prayed about what God wants me to do to serve Him in a greater way. God has led me to believe that He wants me to share my story about my participation in Compassion International as a sponsor to Maria with my church family at LVUMC. Also, I have agreed with Pastor Harry and the Don Miller, the chairperson of the Council of Ministries, that I will accept the responsibility of helping any of our church members and friends join in the missionary work of Compassion International in any way that God may lead them to participate.

If you are interested in learning more about this mission ministry, make it a point to stop by the Compassion International table during the Mission Fair in the Family Life Building on Sunday, March 30th. We'll be glad to answer your questions and sign you up. You may also give me a call at 830-947-3084.

Your sister in Christ,
Rosalie Cochran

