



# THE CHURCH PLANTER

A newsletter of Church Planting International

December 2022

## CPI's Ministries of Compassion

By Steven Shepard

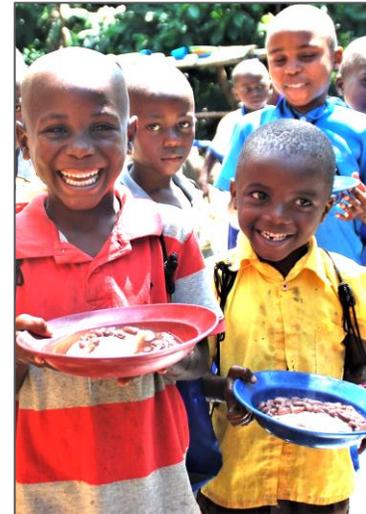
CPI's ministries include: church planting, leadership training, sending long-term missionaries, short-term mission teams, and ministries of compassion. The *mission* of CPI is to aid native workers to plant churches in un-churched communities, or in communities that do not have a strong biblical church. Church planting is our priority because God uses local churches to carry the Gospel to the people of all nations. People need the Gospel. Since the Bible clearly teaches that a day is coming when God will judge each individual for all eternity, no earthly or humanitarian need can compare with our need to be in right relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

But preaching the Gospel is not just important for the next life. It is also what is most needed in this life. The root cause of our suffering is not our circumstances. Changing our circumstances only helps for a short time. The real cause of suffering lies within our hearts: guilt, shame, insecurity, fear, selfishness, and hatred. The Gospel has the power to change the heart. When hearts are changed through Christ, people become more responsible and better workers. They are set free from addictions. Husbands and wives treat each other better. Then outward circumstances change too, but not in a way that is just temporary or stopgap. There is permanent change. The

Bible says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. All things have become new."

**But preaching the Gospel cannot be separated from showing compassion to people in need.** Compassion is the natural fruit of our faith. We are God's children; and because God is love, we will manifest His love. Mission work should be holistic. This means that although the spiritual need has priority, we minister to physical needs too. CPI focuses upon proclaiming the good news and planting churches. But as we go about our mission, we encounter many people in great need – people who are hungry, who had homes destroyed by flood or fire, or who are in critical condition medically. Our Lord wants us to minister to these needs as He gives us the ability. This is why over the years CPI has supported orphanages, helped the poor to start small businesses, restored homes, and provided food, clean water, clothing, medicines, and urgently needed surgeries.

The needs in all the fields where we labor are increasing. Rising prices and food shortages have especially impacted countries like Uganda, Myanmar, and Peru. You can help by designating a financial gift to CPI's Compassion Fund, which was established to meet critical humanitarian needs. Through the Compassion Fund, those in great need are ministered to by our trusted co-workers who live in their communities.



### In Uganda pictured from left:

**Fibbe** (18) lived in great pain for an entire year due to chronic appendicitis. Pastor Isaac said, "CPI provided an emergency surgery to rescue her life." Fibbe's father, Abraham said, "I almost lost my daughter, but by the grace of God my daughter is now fine."

**Baby Nadia** (pictured above with her mother) was born with excess fluid on the brain, so CPI paid for her to be transported almost 400 miles to receive corrective surgery at a special hospital. Thanks to the Lord and to generous donors the needs of Fibbe and Nadia were met!

**Families in rural west Uganda** often go without basic necessities like food, shelter, and clothing. In 2014, CPI went to Uganda to explore opportunities for church planting in unreached communities. We traveled to rural west Uganda to the Rwenzori Mountains to visit the work of Pastor Isaac Mugisa, who had planted churches and started a Christian school. Although we saw a great need for church planting, we decided to begin our outreach with a school lunch program, because so many of the children were coming to school hungry. Today the feeding program continues for over 300 children, and CPI is also involved in church planting and leadership training.



**In Peru Top left:** Baby Jazmin was born at seven months premature. In October, CPI provided medicine, vitamins, and travel expenses back to their Shipibo village on the river.

**Peru top right:** Orlando Franco is a church planter in Lima, Peru. In 2005, CPI provided Orlando with a new prosthetic leg to replace his old one, which was being held together by masking tape. In August, CPI helped Orlando purchase a motorcycle driven car that he can use to earn money as a taxi driver.

**In Uganda bottom left:** Pastor Isaac said, *“The condition of this little girl (named Surprise) was so threatening. She had a coin stuck in her throat. Her parents had no money for her treatment, but with CPI’s help, Surprise was treated at a hospital. Surprise’s mom, Enid, said, ‘I thank God for His mercy, for I had lost all hope for my daughter to live, but now I am very excited about her life.’”*



**Uganda bottom right:** Annet has seven children. Her husband died last year. Pastor Isaac explains: *“Some of Annet’s children ran away due to ‘sleeping hungry.’ Annet works in people’s gardens to get food, and sometimes her family does not get even one meal per day. Annet’s family did not have clothing, mattresses or blankets, so the children developed rashes.”* Now, thanks to a generous donor, Annet and her children have been supplied with bedding, food, new clothing, and school supplies.

## What is Compassion?

*Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another. (1 Peter 3:8a)*

*But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (1 John 3:17)*

*Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ (Matthew 25:34-36)*

Literally the word compassion means “to suffer with.” Biblically, compassion means to sorrow for the suffering of another leading to a desire to help. Matthew 9:36 says that when Jesus saw the multitudes, *“He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”* Psalm 145:8 says that the Lord is *“full of compassion.”*

Those who belong to the Lord are those that show compassion to others. No one, however, can be made right with God through their acts of compassion. That would be salvation by works. But if we have been made right with God through the grace of Jesus Christ, we will have new hearts full of compassion.

## YOU CAN HELP!

- Designate a gift to CPI’s Compassion Fund to help meet critical needs in Uganda, Peru, and Myanmar.
- Give to the General Fund.
- Give online at: [churchplantinginternational.org](http://churchplantinginternational.org)
- By check: 5186 Cressingham Drive, Fort Mill, SC, 29707
- To donate securities contact us at: [churchplantinginternational@gmail.com](mailto:churchplantinginternational@gmail.com)