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Compassion

HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM MAGAZINE

— EL SALVADOR —

A LIFE OPPORTUNITY

.....
Meet children and youth who are
light and have begun to expand
their territories.

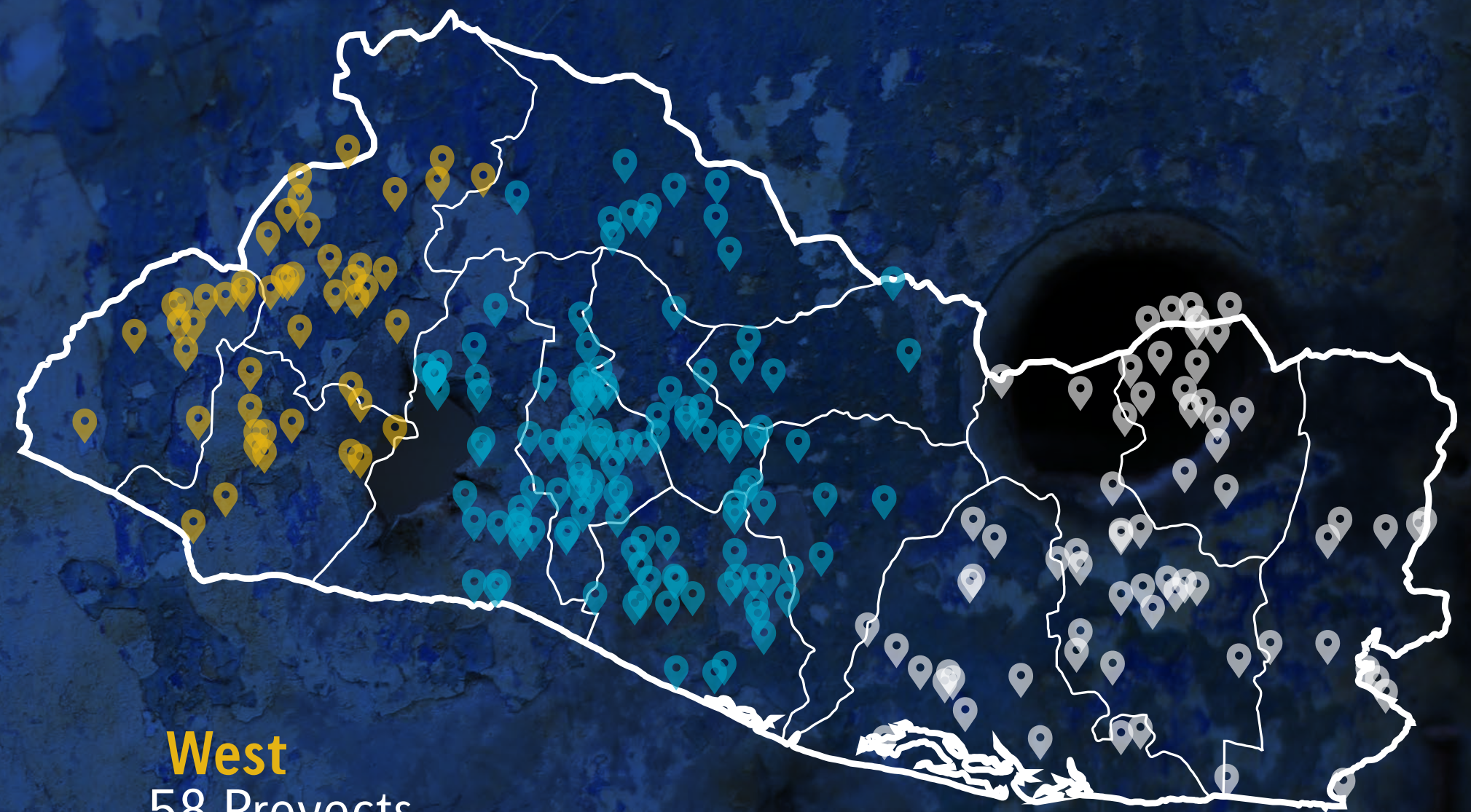

Releasing children from poverty
Compassion[®]
in Jesus' name

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El Salvador

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West
58 Projects

Central area
137 Projects

East
77 Projects

Let's ignite sparks



“

The development of children, so important and so little understood. “Children are not vessels to fill, but sparks to ignite”.
[Plutarch, 350-432 b.C.]

This phrase has been said so long ago and is still valid today.

The responsibility that God places in our hands begins with caring physically, emotionally and spiritually of children since they are in the womb. Then an equally great task will come: discovering their spark. That is a journey that takes us to discover what is inside children. How many times have we asked them: what do you like to do? What would you like to do in the future? Surprisingly, there you will discover their spark, that is our task and cultivating it will be our greatest responsibility [2 Timothy 1: 6,7]. God equips children even before their birth.

Could you imagine the enormous impact that the church might cause with these discoveries? Regardless of the circumstances surrounding children, in Christ they gain strength and courage to walk, to be equipped and to shine in a world of darkness. When that happens, the spark will be ignited. The church is the resource that God has placed on this earth for those who suffer from violence, marginalization and poverty. The Church is the refuge where children find that unconditional love, support and hope, the place where a group of men and women teach them to dream and to allow God to make those dreams come true. Let the children come to Christ [Mark 10:14].



Guillermo Muñoz

Guillermo Muñoz
National Director
Compassion El Salvador

“...Oh, that you would bless me and **enlarge my territory!** Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain. **And God granted his request”.**

1 Chronicles 4:10 (NIV)



More than

600

Beneficiaries in the
Survival program

More than

272

Church
Partners

32

Complementary
Interventions

More than

60,515

Registered children
and youth

194

Counties

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



“And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.”.

Luke 2:40 (NIV)

Christian Holistic Development Model for Children and Youth of Compassion.

As we move into the future to the year 2020, we are intentionally integrating our program, emphasizing the need to follow the child's cycle.

Also, we recognized that no stage of development is more important than the other one and that all areas of holistic development are needed, so the children we serve can move forward to be released from poverty in Jesus name. Our goal is to have ONE program, with ONE set of results and indicators.

For Compassion, an age-appropriate program is equivalent to a high-impact program: a program that captures children's attention, keeps them committed, encourages holistic

development and learning in all the holistic areas, and promotes the attainment of the results: to train children to be successful in the future.

We will refer to the Development stages in the life of a child, as:

Survival Early childhood Childhood Youth

“

I feel happy and grateful to God and the Compassion Project because they have given me food, took care of my health and other things I needed. My favorite thing about the Compassion Project is the food. Without the Project, I would not have known about God and it makes me happy.”



Kerin Calles, aged 8

“

I am grateful to Compassion Project because I have learned many things in the different vocational workshops. Here at the Project I have met very special people whom I consider my friends. In addition, I am grateful to God for my sponsor because he has been very special to me.”



Leslie Guerra, aged 11.

“

This project is a blessing, because it helps me to seek God more and I have been taught the way in how my son can know God, as well as how I can stimulate him in the best way. Now I can see a difference between my son and other babies and it is thanks to God and all the support I have received from the Compassion Project and Survival.”



Vania Perdomo, Survival Mother.

“

I am grateful to God for putting the project in my way, because it has helped me a lot in all areas of my life, the Compassion Project is my second home. I spend time there as well as in my house. I have been in the Project for 15 years and these years have been a great achievement for me.”



Rigoberto Lozano, aged 19.

“

Miguel experienced significant trauma as a young boy. Thanks to Compassion, he is a thriving teenager with good health, productive interest, clear goals, supportive relationships and deep love for Jesus.”



Steve Sargent, Sponsor

BREAD-FLAVORED dreams

In a small house made of aluminum thin and pieces of wood, the inconsolable crying of a woman was heard, Natividad had just received the worst news, her youngest daughter had died of sudden illness. Her husband, a man of strong appearance, with tears in his eyes and without words of consolation, hugged his wife and two children who are 10 and 6 year old. Everything seemed to collapse, the only coins earned by a small sale of tamales (typical food) represented the only thing they had to survive.

Relatives and neighbors tried to give words of encouragement, but nothing seemed enough for the Hernandez Family. Until one night in August, the pain took them to the Columna y Baluarte de la Verdad Church, located in Santa Maria Ostuma. In this place, they found divine love and comfort. From that moment, God began to write a new story for this family.

After a few months, this family received the news that a new member was going to be added to the family. That is right, Natividad was pregnant with Génesis, who, from her mother's womb became a beneficiary of Survival Program, a complementary intervention of the Compassion Holistic Development Model for pregnant women. Despite the economic difficulties, the family continued with their small tamales sale and on Sundays, they offered their tithe as gratitude to God for His provision.

Her husband, José Hernández, worked in agriculture but always looked for ways to generate a better income for his family, even more because, his family was going to grow. His wife, Natividad, recalling the road traveled, said: "Thanks to God, in this program [Survival] they encourage us so much to be able to carry on, so that we do not only take care of our children, but we help our husbands".

And so it was, Leonel de Jesús Beltrán, the eldest son of Natividad, and José [Natividad's husband], learned how to make French bread from his uncle, and through the Compassion Project, they got the raw material to make the product and so the Hernández Family trusted in God and they made a handcrafted oven to set up their small business.



At the beginning it was a small business and now their bakery is growing in sales gradually. They walk more than a kilometer (0.62 mile) from Sunday to Sunday but, they do not stop. The process of making French bread starts every day at 2:00 p.m. when they start baking, then the next day at 4:30 am they get ready to sell it.

Now, the Hernandez Family, besides having found God's love and comfort, they have found a mean to support themselves and to bless other families. They do not stop, and although it is a difficult activity, day by day they lift themselves up to the Creator with their work and so they may fulfill their dreams. It seems that many dreams have a taste of bread.

THE MOST POWERFUL ARMY

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” James 5:16. But, can you imagine a prayer said by one of your little children? Below, we have the prayers of three children and the places where they kneel down.



“

Oh God and Good Father! You who are at the right hand of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At this moment we present ourselves in your presence to ask forgiveness and I pray for adults, children, elderly people, and youth. I pray for people who are in hospitals, for those who do not have food to eat, those who do not have a father or a mother. Bless the sisters who work at the Compassion Project. God bless my tutor, and every child who goes to the Project. Bless my teacher and classmates and I ask you to protect us from all harm, amen.”

Noel Benítez Ventura, aged 6, he wants to be a Pastor and a dentist.

“

Our Father, I want to pray for the children who are in hospitals and those who are suffering and children who are homeless and have nothing to eat. I pray for myself and my family we can move forward, amen.”



Yanira Guerrero, age 8, she wants to be a teacher.



“

“Lord Jesus, I thank you for this day that you have given us. I ask you to watch over the Compassion Project staff. I pray for my sponsor, for our Pastor, and for his wife. I pray for my siblings, for my daddy and my mommy. I thank you for giving me another day of life and I ask you to watch over all the sponsors and watch over my teachers, amen.”

Cecia Orellana Salgado, age 7, she wants to be a doctor.

PREDIKIDS!



Preaching on YouTube

Fulfilling the great commission established by Jesus Christ in Matthew 28: 19-20 has been one of the greatest challenges for the Evangelical Church around the world. In the 21st century, many pastors and churches have challenged themselves to use the reaching power that the Internet and social networks have.

El Salvador is not the exception to this phenomenon, and as the time passes by, it grows every day and has led the Evangelical Church to seek strategies to be part of this phenomenon so they may share the plan of salvation.

The Churches partnering with Compassion El Salvador have seen in this digital era an opportunity to fulfill the “Great Commission” and have challenged children to use tools such as the Internet and social networks to make this mandate a reality. In this sense, one of the clusters of the western area, have selected a group of

10 children to create “Predikids” (Kids preaching, a YouTube channel about children sharing the gospel).

“Predikids” is an initiative born in the heart of project directors and tutors in the Sonsonate area, who, in addition to select different children between the ages of 10 to 14 years old, they have provided them with the tools so that they can develop and share the plan of salvation through YouTube.

The parents, tutors and directors of the preacher kids have played an important and irreplaceable role. They have invested their time to help them make their sermon sketches. Only 2 children out of the 10 that are part of “Predikids”, had preached in public and the remaining 8, had never done it and much less, in front of a camera.

The children preacher’s YouTube channel has 81 subscribers. In addition, the most-viewed video has been watched 417 times. The first season of Predikids, was supported by the

social service youth of the degree in communications from local university, who were in charge of the multimedia production.

As they continue to grow in wisdom and in grace with God and men, many people will know the God of love and mercy. Now, YouTube becomes a tool for Churches and children to fulfill the great Commission.



Find them as:
Predikids!



My future starts today



“

The future starts today, not tomorrow. Today I have decided to be the present of my country, with a vision set on a future of opportunities. I open my heart to evoke memories of the past, it is usually an exercise of gratitude because, although the journey has not been easy, it has allowed me to see the hand of God taking care of me.

Because of the poverty and the difficulties of my mother's work, we only had a meal per day, which was shared between her and me, because of that, I became severely malnourished

since I was 3 years old and because I did not receive any medical checkup, my health worsened and because of it, I suffered from alopecia which caused hair loss.

My mother started working in a house where her bosses attended an evangelical church which had a Compassion Project. Almost immediately, my mother's boss helped me to be enrolled at that Compassion Project and I started receiving medical help. My medical diagnosis said that I would have learning and growth delay

and my hair would not grow. Due to the illness, many children made fun of me at school, they gave me nicknames and it hurt me, but at the Compassion Project it was totally different, to the point that only once someone made fun of me and immediately my tutor intervened protecting me and talking to that child. I felt loved, protected and valued!

In the ICP they gave me a lot of support and encouraged me to dream big!

By the grace of God at school my grades are among the best and because of my ability to speak, I took part in a contest when I was in eighth grade. I competed against youth of high schools and for the glory of God, I won the first place of the contest in the department of Morazán and I was chosen to be a senator for one day, presenting my life project. Which quoted as follows: "The future starts today, not tomorrow. Today I have decided to be the present of my country, with a vision set on a future of opportunities. Have you asked yourself what today's youth

want? To become a doctor, or an engineer, a lawyer or maybe a nurse, that's what youth visualize, but, what do you offer to us? Mourning, violence, lack of opportunities and in the worst cases the fear that forces us to give up on our dreams.

But, what is my dream? I dream to be part of the statistics of professionals who graduate each year, and to teach children like me, to dream. I dream of having a job and an economic well-being that I've never had. And I dream of a country with faith in God, where

the impossible becomes possible. Now I ask you, do you believe in this generation? If you do believe, help us to open doors; do not judge us for being young, even if we have many defects.

Someday we will be adults just like you. I also dream of having a family and I will have children and I will remember with gratitude those who believed in me, I will look back at the past and say "thank you" for what I have achieved. My life project is just beginning".



Running to enlarge TERRITORIES



The sound of her feet hitting the grass, the hesitant sound of the audience shouting her name, the drops of sweat caressing her face and that little shout of celebration when she scored a goooool, this was a recurring dream that only she was able to see when she played with her father's soccer balls. Tatiana Soriano, is a smiling young lady and a sports lover. At the age of six, she joined the Josué Compassion Project, located in the west of the country.

Tatiana remembers since she was very young, to feel that attraction towards sports, especially soccer. Her father observed that sporting talent and

without thinking too much, he decided to develop that skill. She remembers with smiles and amazement, that many children when training at school, they did not want to do the partner exercises with her, due to the fact that she was a girl, but it did not stop her desire.

"When I was 11 years old, I remember that I had to partner with the teacher because despite having several years of training, no child wanted to do the exercises with me because I was a girl," Tatiana says.

At age 14, her father took her to the women's soccer team training in her

state. Although she was the youngest girl there, she was chosen because of her great soccer talent. Since then, her results led her to be part of the "Minor leagues of soccer in El Salvador," representing the country outside the national borders. At age 16, Tatiana has fulfilled the dream that every man would wish: "To play soccer and represent the country."

She enthusiastically remembers how the Josue Compassion Project has supported her sports dream in different ways but she treasures a specific one. "I remember when the Compassion Project gave me my first pair of cleats, they were new! I had never worn new cleats. Some acquaintances always gave me secondhand cleats and because of the difficult economic situation, my father has never been able to buy me new cleats. But God blessed me through the Compassion Project." Tatiana said it with a smile on her face and some small tears about to come out.





Running to win



Compassion El Salvador, through the Youth Development Strategy, has been giving the opportunity to young beneficiaries to participate in different sports, among these, athletics. Tatiana is one of the beneficiaries. Her sporting talent led her to participate in the athletics tournament in her area representing her Compassion Project. She won the first place, and this gave her the opportunity to take part in the national tournament, in which surprisingly, she won the first place in the 100, 200 and 400 meter run.

Since she began practicing athletics in her Compassion Project, the Josué Church began to take her to compete

in different races, obtaining countless prizes that show her hard work. Now she has a reason to run and that is to give glory to God. Tatiana also wants to succeed in sports, become a pilot and show that:

“...my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19 (NIV)



IMPORTANT EVENTS IN | 2017



RENEW

El Salvador hosted the Renew Conference, this event was held in February, we had 191 volunteers and spokespersons of Compassion International from the USA. During their stay, they learned about the work and the impact that the ministry has made in El Salvador.

Compassion Olympics Closing Ceremony

On July 1st, the Compassion Soccer League of El Salvador reached the grand finale at the "Compassion Olympics." A total of 4,500 attendees from the East, West and Central area, were at the stadium to experience one of the greatest sporting events held by Compassion El Salvador in association with the Evangelical Churches.



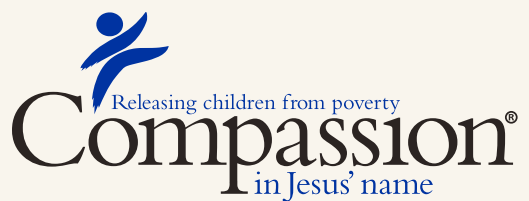
Compassion International CEO visits El Salvador

In July, the CEO of Compassion International, Jimmy Mellado, and his family visited El Salvador as part of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Compassion El Salvador. He was also a special guest at the "Compassion Olympics."



Christmas Concerts of the Choir and Youth Symphonic Orchestra of Compassion

In November and December, the first national tour of Compassion El Salvador's Choir and Orchestra, named "A Gift of Hope" was held at the National Theaters of Santa Ana, San Miguel and San Salvador, at these stages the youth, boys and girls of the Orchestra, made history, overcoming poverty by performing at historical and cultural places of the country.



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