



BY: TREVOR DICK

More than 40 years ago, Dr. Kenneth Dick, a medical missionary in Nigeria, Africa, helped to build a small hospital and schoolhouse. With the help of his wife, he provided healthcare and education to the locals of the jungle village of Iyale. This was their mission, to be servants to those in need.

While in Africa, He died in a car accident leaving behind his wife and seven children. I was four years old, and my father was gone. When he died, I found myself very confused and asked my mom, “Who will be my Dad now?” She paused and answered me, “God will be”. It may seem to be a simple answer, but it says in the Bible that God will be a husband to the widowed, and father to the fatherless. This has stuck with me my entire life. Perhaps this is, in part, why I find myself where I am today.

I was walking up a hill in Peru. Each step made my heart sink. I still can't describe the overwhelming emotions that raced through me. A smell that gagged me; Flowing sewage; Garbage laid everywhere. And then finally, nothing more in front of us than a small shack.

I stood there in that room with an entire family sitting before me. A young boy was bringing out his most prized possessions. He was holding an old shoebox. He dumped the contents on the floor revealing every single letter and picture his Compassion sponsors had ever sent

him. They were so worn. I could see he had read them over and over.

His mother sat quietly beaming with pride and thankfulness that her son had been shown such love. She shared with me that she and her husband had begun attending church and that through her son's influence she had accepted Christ as her Saviour. That little boy, through prayer, the church, and the work of Compassion, has been used by God as a testimony to his family.

Meeting that family changed my life. Seeing that young boy showing me all those letters revealed to me the impact that his sponsor had on him. Sponsorship is not about sending money. Yes that is part of it. And to be honest, if that's all you do, you are helping. But as a sponsor you have an opportunity that far exceeds a financial commitment. You have the chance to bring a young person into your life and help give hope to a child that needs a father, a mother, or a friend.

We have the chance to develop a relationship with a young life. One who needs encouragement, support and love. These children are being given hope through Jesus Christ and through the work of His servants, servants like you.



Through prayer, writing letters and sending photos you are becoming part of a child's life. And a child is becoming part of your own family. Research has shown that children whose sponsors write to them do much better in the Compassion program. It is through consistent encouragement from their sponsors that these children have stronger motivation.

My family has been so blessed through the friendship that we are developing with our sponsored child. We have been blessed from his courage. Our sponsored child has become part of our family. He prays for us every day. We are so thankful that God has brought him into our lives. Our children have begun writing him their own letters. The interaction is a blessing for all of us. We watch him grow and see how much he is learning. He receives education, clothing, food and the message of Jesus. What a change. What a chance, one that he didn't dream of just a few short years ago.

Until I stepped foot into that impoverished home, I have to admit, I never really got it. I never understood how my life could impact someone in need. I really

believed that simply sending money was doing my part. I've learned that sponsorship is so much more. I have the opportunity to be part of someone's life. I can be a friend, someone to confide in, someone to give encouragement, someone to help give hope to a child in need.

I look at my own children. They are about the age of that boy in Peru. I cannot turn my eyes from them, and I find myself unable to turn from him.