



Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship through mentorship and funding

Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

Hebrews 13:7



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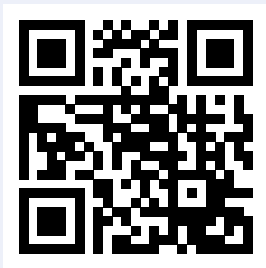
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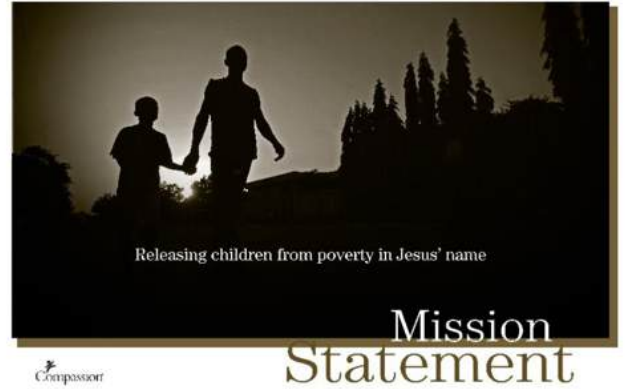
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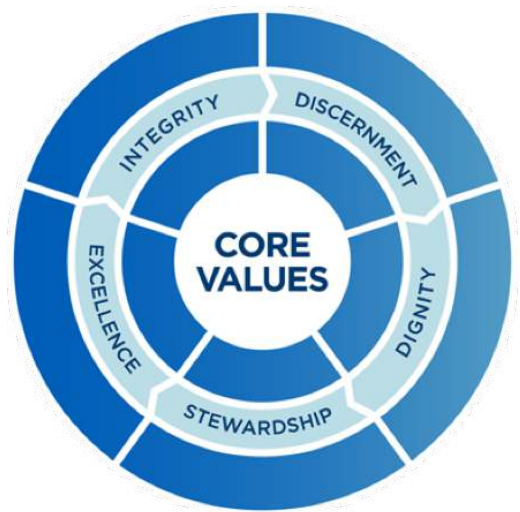
Our Mission



Our Vision



All children in poverty thriving toward their God-given potential.



Vice President of African Region, Palamanga Ouali's visit at Lifespring Chapel, Embakasi



Regional Vice President, Africa - Palamanga Ouali, speaking at the church.

On October 19, 2022, our Vice President of African Region, Palamanga Ouali, visited one of our programs at Lifespring Chapel Embakasi. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, he has not visited Kenya, mainly due to restrictions. Thus, during his stay, he visited one of our church partners and was hosted by our National Director, Samuel Wambugu.

Being introduced to the community in Embakasi, he gave a few words:

“Every time we visit a country, we make sure that we do visits of our church partners, so that we can engage and learn and be encouraged. Because you people are a source of encouragement to us. When we visit, we have the opportunity to meet with the youth, children, and staff and only hope to be inspired to want to do even more and more.”

We spent the day at the church, partaking in their daily activities, such as devotions and prayers. Moreover, we listened to testimonies from caregivers and former program participants as well. Their testimonies were quite inspirational and eye-opening regarding how the program impacted them. We even went on to visit one of the business establishments of one of the caregivers, Charity Munyiva, to see how far she has progressed since joining the program. She has endured tough times and faced numerous obstacles in her journey. However, today, she is a proud owner of a salon and an uber transport business as well.

In the case of the youth, we saw how they have been able to be innovative in their approach to releasing themselves from poverty, since leaving the program. For example, Zachariah Syendwa spoke about his business of selling mobile accessories, such as chargers, screen protectors and earphones, among others. Through his business, he has been able to save up and even set up a small shop for his merchandise. This only motivated him to keep pushing and save more to build for his future. Eventually, he reached his goal and is currently the owner of a piece of land on which he has already begun construction.

The testimonies touched our hearts as we could realize the impact of joining the program on their lives. Coming to the end of the day, the Regional Vice President, Palamanga Ouali, expressed that:

“From the testimonies I heard from the youth, the program participants, and the caregivers, I could see that the project has a huge and positive impact. Not only on the life of program participants but also their entire families.”

Contributor: Michael Mugwe



From the left:

Director of Program - Africa Region- Christine Musau, Samuel Wambugu - National Director – Kenya Office, Palamanga Ouali - Vice President of African Region and Fredrick Otieno – Partnership Facilitator are taking part in devotions and prayers.

Compassion International Kenya commits to improving the livelihoods of the youth through mentorship and funding

High unemployment and underemployment rates have forced the youth to innovate to sustain their livelihoods. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics Quarterly Labour Force Report for January - March 2021, the overall employment-to-population ratio for the working-age population (15-64 years) was 63.7 per cent. The age groups 20-24 and 25-29 continued to record the highest proportion of the unemployed.

We support over 135,000 children from ages 0 - 22 from all over the country. We are doing this by improving health care, providing access to basic, and technical education, and empowering caregivers with knowledge and competencies to increase their income and become financially independent.

In July 2022, we launched the second edition of the Youth Business Challenge for our program participants. The challenge seeks to recognize the best business ideas, provide mentorship, and build peer cohorts that support sustainable business growth. The Initiative attracted 103 applications this year with actual businesses.

After the applications were submitted, twenty businesses were shortlisted to pitch in front of a panel of judges. Daniel Mwayayi emerged victorious, taking home a mobile phone and Ksh50,000.00 as seed capital to reinvest into his leather shoe manufacturing business. The second and third-placed winners received Ksh.30,000.00 and Ksh.20,000.00, respectively. He beat 102 other applicants and emerged victorious, taking home the grand prize.

During the Award ceremony, our National Director, Samuel Wambugu commended the participants for daring to dream and rising to the occasion. He reiterated Compassion Kenya's commitment to building innovators and problem solvers through mentorship and funding opportunities.



The top three winners at the 2022 Youth Business Challenge



Daniel Mwayayi receiving his prize from Samuel Wambugu, our National Director

“We are building youth to focus on the available opportunities. Nothing can be in the world without business, and Compassion International Kenya is committed to developing professionals in any field,” he said.

We have also partnered with Sote Hub and Sinapis through the Aspire Launchpad to offer post-event mentorship and incubation for young entrepreneurs. The remaining top seventeen winners each received Ksh.10,000.00. All 20 participants will be inducted into incubation programs to equip them with more skills to scale up.

Through this contest, Compassion Kenya’s Program participants have been challenged to expand their minds beyond being employees to being job creators instead of job seekers. We are proud of what they have accomplished in the contests and we cannot wait to see how they fair in their contribution to nation-building.

This initiative has been a success thanks to the support and kindness of Christian Business Angels and Compassion of Tomorrow.

Contributor: Lolyne Onger

Leadership Training in Mombasa

In October, we held a Leadership Development Initiative in Mombasa. The training was for both Compassion International Kenya and Uganda university students. The students attended leadership training covering areas, such as work preparedness, current work trends, and behavioural and mindset skills. Also, they had an opportunity to learn from each other as they networked. Moreover, they visited the Changamwe Baptist church program. At the program, they got to interact with the youth and the children who were present at the church. They took part in praise and worship, sharing the word of God, and gave personal testimonies to encourage the participants. Afterwards, they toured Fort Jesus and experienced the ferry ride as well.



Praise and worship sessions



Participants at skills sessions at the FCP



Uganda participants at Fort Jesus in Mombasa County, Kenya

Health Feature:

What you need to know about Cholera



On October 20, 2022, the Ministry of Health issued a Cholera alert following confirmation of 61 cases reported across six counties. Here is everything you need to know about Cholera, its symptoms and interventions.



Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by the ingestion of food or water contaminated with a bacteria known as *Vibrio Cholerae*. Cholera is an extremely virulent disease which affects both children and adults and can kill within hours. People with low immunity such as malnourished children or people living with HIV are at a greater risk of death if infected.

Transmission

Cholera transmission is closely linked to inadequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Typical at-risk areas include peri-urban slums, where minimum requirements of clean water and sanitation are not being met as well as camps for internally displaced people or refugees. Public gatherings where food is served can also be a source of mass infection. It is important to note that the infection is spread through any of the following means:

- Through faecally contaminated water.
- Through food contaminated by food handlers and flies.

- Fruits and vegetables washed with contaminated water may transmit the infection.
- Person to person contact particularly in overcrowded dwellings without sanitary facilities.

Symptoms

In the early stages the infection is often mild or without symptoms but can sometimes be severe and life-threatening. It takes between 12 hours and 5 days for a person to show symptoms after ingesting contaminated food or water. The following symptoms can be attributed to cholera infection:

- Profuse watery diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Rapid heart rate
- Loss of skin elasticity
- Dry mucous membranes
- Low blood pressure
- Thirst
- Muscle cramps and restlessness or irritability.

Interventions

- Most of those infected will have no or mild symptoms and can be successfully treated with oral rehydration solution.
- Severe cases will need rapid treatment with intravenous fluids and antibiotics
- Provision of safe water and sanitation is critical to prevent and control the transmission of cholera and other waterborne diseases.



Action Points

- Ensure proper food handling during gatherings
- Ensure clean water is always provided
- Ensure hand washing facilities are available and functional
- Promote proper waste disposal through community dialogues at any opportunity
- Report any suspected case to the nearest health facility

Key points for public education about cholera



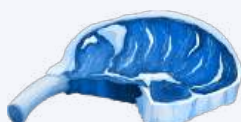
Drink water only from a safe source or water that has been disinfected (boiled or chlorinated)



Cook food or reheat it thoroughly and eat it while it is still hot.



Boil milk before drinking



Avoid uncooked food unless it can be peeled or shelled



Wash hands after any contact with human waste and before preparing food



Remember to dispose off human waste promptly and safely



Avoid ice creams from unreliable sources

Contributor: John Mbugua

My Consistent Bible Reading (CBR) Journey



I was intrigued when I first heard about the Consistent Bible Reading (CBR) Program. Being a follower of Jesus Christ, I knew that I ought to be reading my bible daily and meditating on His word. However, I couldn't fully testify that I had been reading the bible consistently, and daily. There were days I would wake up and pray, plan to read the bible later in the day but would end up forgetting. Other times I would slowly drift off to sleep as I read my bible before bed.

My desire has always been to have the word of God richly dwell in me, because I consider the word of God to be my point of reference in my journey on this earth. Being aware that God put me on this earth for a purpose, I just wanted to be within and aligned with His will for my life. I believe that the word of God works and that I can be successful in everything I do if His word is my guide. Thus, I was inspired to join the CBR program.

I could now testify, “... *whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*”

(James 1:25 NIV).

The program began with some ground rules. For instance:

1. We were required to read and meditate on the word very early in the morning.
2. We were required to keep a personal record of our progress and be honest about it, as we would share our progress weekly.

3. We would share from our bible reading any facts we identified, Insights we noted, and the Deeds we shall do as a result. Also known as FIDs.

At the onset, we began by reading the bible intensely, doing one chapter a day for the first week. This was very motivating. Now, I can keep up and read more bible verses every week.

There were challenges however on my part. For example, I struggled with managing to wake up very early. This was because I had been a night person for the longest time, yet we were required to read and meditate on the word very early in the morning with our feet touching the floor and fully awake.

This was my first training in discipline, and to be honest, I didn't quite like it at first. In Hebrews 12:1 we are taught that no discipline is enjoyable while it is happening, in fact, it is painful. But afterwards, there will be a peaceful harvest of right living (peaceable fruit of righteousness, according to the KJV) if you are trained this way. I wanted that harvest of right living, therefore, I trained myself to wake up early, read and meditate on the word, and then proceed with my daily duties.

One of the greatest lessons in my CBR journey is about training oneself to be Godly. Godliness is an attitude and lifestyle that acknowledges God's control and will over my life. It is a lifestyle of discipline in reading and obeying the word. Training to be Godly requires that one counts the cost. I cannot pray myself into godliness nor seek an anointing for the same. I cannot rely solely on teaching as a source of my spiritual food. I need to train myself by reading the bible on my own to become godly. It will take time to form the discipline. I will need to be patient, put in my effort, and rely on God's grace. God gives sufficient grace to obey him.

Recently I completed reading the entire New Testament, nine chapters a day, and did it in one month. The discipline paid off. The fruits are very rewarding. Would you like to take this journey too?

Contributor: Ruth Baraza



Ruth Baraza

Suffering is a gift. In it is hidden mercy



The twins

As young children, our parents are the first people we come to know in our lifetime. You depend on them for all basic human needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing. Your first ideas about the world are formed as a result of your interactions with, and observations of your parents. While we know that all living things must someday die, the death of a parent, can turn one's life upside down.

At two months, Mercy and Veronicah, twin sisters, lost their father to cancer. Afterwards, they were taken in by their grandparents. Although they had loving people to take care of them, the experience was not the same.

After a couple of years, they eventually got used to their new environment. They did this with the hope that one day they'll grow wings and fly far away, to meet their destiny and be responsible children under the sun.

Sadly, the family was struck by another loss, as their grandfather passed on only a few years after losing their father. This was quite traumatic for the family. This, therefore, meant that the burden became much heavier on their grandmother, as she was the only one left to care for them, their brother, their two cousins and their aunt.

“Hope is the only thing we had. We trusted in the Lord and we believed in the scripture, Psalms 68:5 - “Father to the fatherless, defender of widows— this is God, whose dwelling is holy.” says Mercy.

Although they wish the death never happened, the Lord is healing their memories and hearts daily.

“I don't blame God,” says Veronicah, the other twin. *“We will be a testimony to others of God's healing, care, protection and transformation one day. Also, I believe in the scripture Psalm 31:24 – “Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.”*

“As it is written in Psalm 27:14, “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” added Veronicah.

When they spoke to their Project Director, Diana Adeng'ero, they said, "Indeed, God is the father of the fatherless. The responder of orphans' cries. Soon after God heard our prayers and sent angels in the form of the Simbachai church program. Simbachai church has been a home to us and has helped our family so much. They have helped us to realize our talents and skills and has been very supportive of our education. If not for the partnership with Compassion International, our taste for education, basic human needs, talents and skills could have merely been vocabulary to us. We glorify our creator for this opportunity of introducing the church program into our life and give our thanks for standing with us and other children and families of our kind globally and giving us a new smiling face."

The twins enjoy watching animated films. They were fascinated by another kind of magic - how these movies got created, since they started watching them. This led them to develop an interest in drama and music. They received the opportunity to be part of the Simbachai Drama crew.

"We work together and understand each other without a word. When one of us has an idea, another adds something, and so we complement each other," says **Veronicah**.

Mercy and Veronicah, currently twelve years old, are in grade 6 and studying at a private Academy. They work hard at academics and extracurricular activities, believing that in the future they will be the best Doctors countrywide and even globally. The girls received their first awards in 2018 when they staged a play, "Chi-Chi" at during a Soft talents festivals at the regional level. Mercy and Veronicah are among the best Dancers, Soloists, Poetess, Guitarists and Actresses in Simbachai CDC.

"We were motivated by our first awards and we were immensely happy. Now we work on a relatively higher budget on seeing ourselves on another level in the drama and music fraternity," **Veronicah** laughs.

They are expanding fast and in all dimensions. "We are growing to be the developers as well. We have put together a team of five program participants as young computer assistant specialists in the project. We establish a creative innovation, work on computer maintenance, and software engineering," says **Mercy**.



The five young computer assistant specialists

"We have no words to express our gratitude and feelings. Where this program has pulled us from, it is only God who knows. It is unbelievable! It is like a dream, a big dream. The program has put food on our table, has covered our nakedness and has boosted our self-esteem as well as shielded us from immorality and social evils. Above all, the program has put a smile on our faces and that of our family.

Compassion International Kenya partners to offer Digital Marketing training to program participants

We are excited to announce Compassion International Kenya signed an MOU with WYLDE International under the Meta Boost project to offer Digital Marketing training support to 500 youth entrepreneurs within our program. We are looking forward to a successful partnership.



MOU signing photos. From the left: Our National Director Mr. Samuel Wambugu and WYLDE International Director of Strategy Mr. Kirinya Kithinji.

Strategic alliance visit by Baringo County Governor



From Left:

Regional Director of Program Operations -Christine Musau, Senior Manager of Business Support - Linet Ochieng, Senior Manager of Program - Catherine Wamiti, National Director - Samuel Wambugu, Baringo Governor - H.E. Benjamin Cheboi, Regional Vice President - Palamanga Ouali, Senior People & Culture Strategic Partner - Justus Muinde, Senior Partnership Facilitator - Caleb Munyoki, Senior Director of Regional Program - Agnes Hotay, Senior Manager of Partnership - Newton Midamba.



From the left:
Palamanga Ouali - Vice President of African Region and H.E Benjamin Chesire Cheboi Baringo Governor.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

(Proverbs 31:8-9)



**FOR ANY
FEEDBACK OR
COMMENTS PLEASE
CONNECT WITH US**



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