

Dear



Crispin, one of our Grade Seven pupils has been coming to Hands of Compassion School for four years.

He is 15 years old, having lost both parents, father died when he was a baby, and his mother passed away when he was 6 years old. Both his sisters have also died.

His elderly grandparents look after him, but they are not in good health, often quite sick.

As we walked to his home, Crispin told me he enjoyed coming to Hands of Compassion School, and in fact he had gained very good marks in last year's tests.

When we reached his house, I was quite shocked to see the bad state it was in. The roof was only cardboard and odd pieces of plastic and old tin sheeting, exposing many holes to allow the rain to get inside.

Inside are two rooms, one for the grandparents to sleep and the other, a sitting room, where Crispin just sleeps on a chair at night.



There was no mealy meal which is their staple diet, no charcoal for cooking, but merely a handful of vegetable leaves on a small table, that was their only food to eat that day.

It brought tears to my eyes to see such a sad situation. How is Crispin going to survive?

## ***Grade Seven Pupils***

How pleased we were to hear that all of our 25 pupils in Grade Seven passed the recent Government examinations. This means that we now have 84 pupils to sponsor this year at Government school – at £100 per pupil, this amounts to £8,400. Of these, 55 pupils will be sponsored in Grades Eight and Nine - this highlights our desperate need to raise funds to build extra classrooms, so that we can extend offering education to Grades Eight and Nine at our Hands of Compassion School, a potential saving of £4000 per year.

## ***The Rain in Zambia***

In the last few weeks, the rains have become very heavy, with tropical storms lashing down, destroying some crops, houses collapsing where they have been poorly built, and pit latrines collapsing which brings with it, a risk of dysentery, and other diseases.

The rainy season also makes it very difficult for our pupils to get to school, dodging the many large puddles and muddy paths. There is very little adequate drainage, with the result that there is a lot of stagnant water just sitting around - mosquitoes find this a good breeding ground, so there is widespread malaria.

## ***How can you help to make a difference in the children's lives in Zambia?***

### ***Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea party***

We need your help. We are very concerned that income has gone down, yet our expenditure in Zambia has risen. We are therefore asking everyone who supports us – can you arrange to hold a coffee morning or an afternoon tea party during the month of March, and raise some money for us. Invite your friends and neighbours. Some of you may be able to invite just a few, others perhaps can ask 20 people or more. But we appeal to you, please help.

We enclose a leaflet which you can use to invite your friends. If you contact us, we can send you more of these leaflets for you to use, as well as some of our Hands of Compassion leaflets to distribute, which will give your friends more information about the work of Hands of Compassion. The idea of a coffee morning/afternoon tea, is for people to pay a suggested £3 for a cup of coffee and cake. Hold a raffle and bring and buy at the same time. It can be a fun social occasion as well as helping our children in Zambia.

## ***10K London Run – 10 July 2011***

Why don't you take part in the 10K London Run this year? You will experience the enjoyment and challenge of running 10k along the Embankment, passing historic sites accompanied by the playing of music such as Rule Britannia or Chariots of Fire!



You will also have the chance to raise money for our children at Hands of Compassion School. This is a unique opportunity – there are four places left on our team, so do contact us as soon as possible for more information.

## **Sponsored Challenge – approx. 27 August to 10 September**

Why not come to Zambia and make a difference? It would be an amazing experience for you to meet the children, and help out at the school such as painting or assisting John our Gardener. We have already had two successful sponsored challenges and we are planning to have the same programme again this year. Do contact us for details if you are interested.



It is not just painting the classrooms that helped , but the group were able to raise much needed sponsorship money. One of the participants from our previous Challenge, said “ *This was a most amazing, life changing experience that I would not have missed for the world. It was a privilege to meet the children and staff and spend time in their community. I was able to get a real insight to a life so different to my own and meet people who were warm, welcoming, proud and very inspiring*”

***Take up this challenge and make a difference to their lives as well as a life changing experience for yourself!***

### **Further School Links**

It was good to meet the pupils and staff again in November at Bishop Henderson Church of England Primary School in Taunton, and also at Huish Episcopi Science College in Langport. We are delighted and so grateful that they are now forming permanent links with Hands of Compassion School in Zambia.

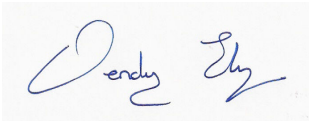


Crispin lost those whom he loved so dearly - both his parents and sisters. I saw grief and anguish in his face, he cries inside. He lives in terribly poor circumstances. He and his grandparents are desperate, some days they have no food whatsoever.

Is it so hard for us to stop and give help to children like Crispin? Your help could bring a smile and some laughter into his life.

***John 15 v:12 Christ tells us, “This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you”***

**Thank You**



Wendy Ely  
Director

Please take a moment to help us give hope to children like Crispin at Hands of Compassion School by sending us a donation.

## Making a difference ...

From: Full Name:.....  
Address: .....  
Post Code ..... Tel No. ....  
Email: .....

Here is my gift of £ ..... Cheques payable to: **Hands of Compassion**

Please tick this box if you would like to make a donation on a regular basis by Standing Order and a form will be sent to you.

I would like my donation to go towards offering further education to Grades Eight and Nine pupils.

### *Gift Aid declaration*

To ensure this form is valid, please complete for one person only and ensure that your correct address is given in this section. Please notify us of any change in name or address

I am a UK taxpayer and want Hands of Compassion to claim tax on any donations that I have made and all donations I make in the future. I will tell Hands of Compassion if I am no longer a taxpayer.

- You must pay an amount of UK income tax and/or capital gains tax for this tax year at least equal to the tax we will claim from H M Revenue & Customs on your Gift Aid donation
- If we have Gift Aid declarations from two married people we will share all donations equally between them for tax purposes unless you tell us otherwise. However, any donation made by cheque on a sole account will be applied to that person alone for tax purposes.
- The charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give.
- The Government will pay to the charity an additional 3p on every £1 you give between 9 June 2008 and 5 April 2011. This transitional relief for the charity does not affect your personal tax position.

Name

Signature

Date

**Please send to: Hands of Compassion. PO Box 386, Gravesend Kent DA12 9FE**  
**Email: [info@handsofcompassion.org.uk](mailto:info@handsofcompassion.org.uk) Tel: 01474 822683**