

# **LIVING JUSTICE: GLOBALLY**

November 21, 2021

**Church: Cornerstone Christian Community Church**

**Speaker: Allison Alley, President and CEO of Compassion Canada**

## **INTRODUCTION (5 minutes) - SLIDE 1**

Opening Story

Proposition Statement (From Series Launch) - Series framed by key watchwords:

- Justice
- Righteousness
- Shalom
- Hesed

Key questions and warnings:

- Where is God at work?
- Where is God nudging you?
- What's in your hands?
- Don't be a hero and don't go alone

## **ONE: Where is God nudging you? (5 minutes) - SLIDE 2**

Misphat (Justice)

- As Bethany said: Justice is what love looks like when it is lived out in public. The intersection of the two greatest commands God gives his people in Mark 12:30-31.
- A relational term: People living in right relationship with God, one another and the created world.
- Creation reality: God who is Just created a world of justice/right relationship.
- Current reality: Broken people, in broken relationships, building a broken world where things like extreme poverty exists.

Compassion: Child-Focused - The modern-day realities of children living in poverty

## **TWO: Where is God at work? (5 minutes) - SLIDE 3**

Hesed (Loving Kindness)

- Relates to mercy, compassion, love, grace, kindness, faithfulness, and goodness—and yet none of these summarize the fullness of hesed. (Some translators have used more than one word, like steadfast love or loving kindness).
- It's an essential part of God's character—God's steadfast, unfailing love for his people. His commitment to us and covenant with us. His unwavering compassion and kindness. His amazing grace and mercy. (Exodus 34:5-7. Lamentations 3:22-23)
- Through the Old Testament are grace-filled laws of compassion and hesed (Leviticus 19:9-10)
- Hesed means loving our neighbour not merely as a temporary feeling or emotion but through a commitment to acts of love. It is a love in action. (Micah 6:8)

- Jesus personified God's hesed and was moved with compassion (Matthew 9:36). The parable of the Good Samaritan is a parable of hesed, of showing mercy and compassion.
- Compassion has a front-row seat to the church at work around the world.
- The church as the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing justice and compassion to their neighbours in need.

Compassion: Church-Driven

### **THREE: Don't be a hero, and don't go alone! (5 minutes) - SLIDE 4**

Shalom (Flourishing/Rightness)

- If poverty is rooted in the brokenness (injustice) in our world, so the ultimate solution to poverty is rooted in the power of Jesus' death and resurrection to put all things in right relationship again.
- The paradox of justice and hesed (loving-kindness) of God's character is most beautifully displayed on the cross. The cross is not simply about forgiveness, it is about God putting right an unjust world. Both perfect mercy and perfect justice.
- Through Jesus, God is restoring not only our broken relationship with him, but also the brokenness within ourselves, in our relationships with others, and our relationships with the created world.
- Shalom: Everything as it was designed to be, rooted in the sense of 'rightness'. Wholeness, reconciliation, completeness, unity, righteousness, well-being, peace and the flourishing of creation. It embodies the vision of a harmonious, all-inclusive community of loving persons.
- Something only God can bring about. Cannot be experienced apart from Christ, and cannot be experienced outside of community.
- Although there is still trouble, and pain, and poverty in this world... We can have peace knowing that God has overcome the world. That He will rebuild all that is broken, restore all that is lost, and redeem all things - putting right all that is wrong with the world. Bringing complete harmony, justice, and peace

Compassion: Christ-centred o Releasing children from poverty in his name, in his way, and in his strength.

- The global body of Christ united in joining God in his mission of justice and compassion while playing our unique role.

### **ILLUSTRATION: What's in your hands? (5 minutes) - SLIDE 5**

### **APPLICATION: Global Action (5 minutes) - SLIDE 6**

Summary

- Where is God nudging you? As a child advocate, remember children and families living in extreme poverty as you seek be justice bringers.
- Where is God working? At Compassion, we are seeing God's hesed (loving kindness) lived out through His church around the world and here at home—transforming individual lives, churches, communities and cultures.
- Don't be a hero and don't go alone. Be shalom seekers in the Jesus' name, in His way, and in His strength. United in joining the global Body of Christ in God's mission of justice and compassion, and unique in our personal role.
- What do you have in your hands? How might God be calling you to steward your time, talents, treasures to release children from poverty in Jesus' name?

## **Sponsor a Child Appeal (Slide 6 goes up here)**

- Helping children develop: Healthy relationship with self (sense of agency, healthy self-identity, physical and personal well-being)
- Healthy relationships with others (known, loved and protected)
- Healthy relationship with the created world, while developing the skills and education to be self-sufficient
- All while discovering God's love for them and having the opportunity to build a relationship with the God of justice, hesed (loving kindness) and the giver of shalom.

### **Closing:**

- Everyday ordinary people, making an extraordinary impact.
- Focus in Sandino, Nicaragua
- (Brief throw to Video)