

Releasing children from poverty
Compassion®
in Jesus' name

VOL. 17 ISSUE #4

Welcome to Amazing Asia!

Explorers, together we've explored Africa, Central America and the Caribbean, and South America. Now there's one last destination on our adventure around God's amazing world!

Grab your Passport Adventure Book and get ready to add your final stickers as we travel across Asia. (If you don't have a passport, or if you need extras, scan the code on the back cover!) You'll meet awesome kids, discover fun games, taste some yummy foods and see what everyday life looks like in places that might be very different from your home.

We've loved adventuring with you this year and discovering God's big, amazing world together. Along the way, we hope you've learned more about the kids who live in it – and how you can help children in need.

One last stop, Explorers. Let's go!



OOPS! Asia is full of pandas!

TRUTH: Giant pandas only live in the wild in China. Across Asia, you can find lots of other amazing animals though, from elephants and orangutans to snow leopards and monkeys.

GIGGLE
See if your funny caption was chosen! Page 3

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GIGGLE

Remember Janloyd and Bitog from our last issue? These two friends from Mindoro Island in the Philippines seem to be having a very serious competition over who can carry the biggest coconut! Here are some of the giggle-worthy captions Explorers like you came up with ...

Find more at explorer.compassion.com/explorers.



Janloyd: You wanna play soccer?
Bitog: With this coconut?!?
Daun'drey

cococococococonut!!!
Matthew

What are you waiting for? It's COCONUT TIME!!!
Evelyn

Look at me, I'm a muscle man!
Hannah

Why did the coconut cross the road?
Oh wait coconuts cant walk!
Ruby

"Look at this cool rock I found!"
"Dude that's a coconut."
Mercy

Janloyd: What happens if I drop this?
Bitog: I don't know, but I like coconut milk!
Penny

This is my baby coconut!
Paxley

Janloyd: YES! I can carry the biggest coconut and stand with it!
Bitog: yeah well I can sit with the biggest coconut!
Jaqueline

Check out the next Giggle photo on the back cover!

DISCOVER myWORLD

Welcome to my life in Asia

What's it like to be a kid in Asia? Come meet Saron from Bangladesh and Ariel from Indonesia and find out!

Discover the games kids play, the foods they love, the clothes they wear and the different ways they get around. Along the way, you'll meet even more kids from across Asia and get a peek into their everyday lives.

What looks like your life? What surprises you?

I'm Saron!



I'm 13 and live with my parents in Dhaka, Bangladesh. I love sketching, playing hide-and-seek with my friends and eating *jhalmuri*, a spicy puffed rice snack. Most of all, I want other kids to know that you shouldn't let anyone's doubts stop you from chasing your dreams.

I'm Ariel!



I'm 10 and live surrounded by coffee trees high in the hills of South Sulawesi, Indonesia! I love playing marbles with my friends, riding around my village by motorcycle and even drinking coffee grown right here in my village. Come see what life is like where I live!

Meet my family



I live with my mom, Akhi, and my dad, Ripon, in the biggest city in Bangladesh. The city may be crowded, but I love the two-room apartment my family shares.



I love living in my village in Toraja! I live with my mom, sister, brother and my nephew. We're wearing colorful traditional Torajan clothes that we wear for special occasions.

Homes across Asia



Two-year-old Pavesh lives with his mom, dad and big sister in a small home that's made of gray concrete blocks in Sri Lanka.



Nawkaybu stands with her mom, Muekakue, and her brother, Joryopho, outside their home in Thailand. They're wearing colorful traditional outfits.



Jayven lives with his family in this bamboo house in the Philippines. That's his mom, Helen, sitting in the doorway, while Jayven and his neighbor hang out together nearby.



Welcome to Chhav and Mok's home in Cambodia! They live here with their five kids, including their twin baby girls.

Fast facts:

- Homes up high: In parts of Thailand, Cambodia and Bangladesh, some homes are built on stilts to help keep them cool, dry and safe from floods.
- Homes that float: Some families in Asia live in houses that float on lakes and rivers so they can rise and fall with the water.
- Built from nature: In many villages, homes are made using materials that grow nearby, like bamboo, wood and palm leaves.

Where I play



Saron

I love going to the National Botanical Garden with my friends! It's peaceful. There's lots of space to run around, laugh and play hide-and-seek away from the busy streets. When I'm at home, I like to sketch and make art.



I like playing marbles with my friends because I usually win the game and take home a lot of marbles!

Ariel



Eleven-year-old Pornsiri plays *hkaw shi*, a traditional spinning top game, in Thailand. The handmade tops are often passed down from dads to sons.



Six-year-old Dilu and her friends love playing *jillbole*, a popular marble game in Sri Lanka. It takes a sharp eye and a steady hand to hit your target. Ready, aim ... roll!

My favorite outfit



This is my favorite outfit! It's a colorful *salwar kameez*, a traditional outfit worn in Bangladesh. The red dot on my forehead is called a tip.

Saron



My favorite outfit is this traditional Torajan one that we wear for special occasions. Behind me are Tongkonan, traditional houses with roofs shaped like buffalo horns!

Ariel

How I get around



I take a cycle rickshaw to school every day! The streets in Dhaka are really busy, but my school and my parents' work are close to our home.

Saron



Motorcycles are how we get around my village! My family and our neighbors use them to travel from place to place.

Ariel

In rural Bangladesh and along the Thailand-Myanmar border, some kids travel to their Compassion center by boat!



Fast facts:

- Millions of kids across Asia miss out on school. Poverty, disasters and living far from a school can make it hard for some children to get an education.
- Floods, storms and other disasters can turn kids' lives upside down, damaging homes and schools and making it harder to find food and clean water.
- Compassion helps more than 407,000 children across Asia to learn, stay healthy and safe, eat good food and discover Jesus' love!

My favorite snack





Nothing beats the taste of *jhalmuri!* It's made with puffed rice and it's spicy and yummy. I eat my vegetables too, but jhalmuri is my favorite treat!

Saron

Fast facts:

Get to know some of Asia's most famous (and yummy!) food:

- **Indonesia**: *Nasi goreng* (fried rice with veggies and often a fried egg on top).
- **Thailand:** *Pad Thai* (noodles fried with veggies, egg and a tasty sauce).
- **Sri Lanka:** *Kottu roti* (little pieces of flatbread cooked with veggies, egg and sometimes meat).
- **Philippines:** *Adobo* (chicken or pork cooked in a tasty sauce made with soy sauce, vinegar and garlic).
- **Cambodia:** *Fish amok* (fish cooked in a creamy coconut sauce, often inside a banana leaf).
- **Bangladesh:** *Kacchi biryani* (rice cooked with meat, potatoes and lots of tasty spices).



In our village, we grow coffee, and children my age are used to drinking coffee every day. I help to pick the coffee beans.

Ariel

Where we buy our food

No shopping carts here! In Cambodia, many families buy their groceries at busy open-air markets, where stalls are piled with colorful fruits and vegetables, fresh fish, meat and other foods for the family.





My village is far from the city, and we don't have a market. Every day, vendors from a nearby village ride their motorcycles here with vegetables and other things we need! I'm buying some fresh fruits and vegetables.

Cook Klepon



Sweet treats with a surprise inside!

Get ready for a cooking adventure! These chewy green treats from Indonesia are rolled in coconut, but the best part is hiding inside. Take a bite and you'll discover a gooey center of melted palm sugar. Yum!

But first, you have a mission: Find the ingredients. You might need to hunt beyond your usual grocery store, so ask a grown-up to explore an Asian grocery store or search online for what you need. Think of it as an ingredient scavenger hunt!

We promise your taste buds will thank you later.

Ingredients

- 3/4 c. shredded unsweetened coconut.
- 1 1/2 c. glutinous rice flour. Make sure it is glutinous rice flour, not regular rice flour. It's what makes *klepon* so deliciously chewy!
- 1 c. coconut milk.
- 1 tsp. *pandan* paste, extract or flavoring.
- 100 g palm sugar, cut into small pieces (about 1-2 cm each). Look for palm sugar called *gula melaka* or *gula jawa*. Don't use liquid palm sugar.
- 1/2 tsp. salt.

Instructions

1. *Adult help needed.* Mix the shredded coconut with the salt. Steam it for 15 minutes or until soft and fluffy. Cover with a tea towel to keep it moist.
2. Warm the coconut milk, pandan flavoring and salt over low heat, mixing as you go. Once combined and warmed through, remove from heat.
3. Mix the glutinous rice flour in with the warmed pandan coconut milk. Stir until combined, then knead until the dough is soft and smooth. Cover the dough so it doesn't dry out.
4. Time to get rolling! Scoop out a heaping teaspoon of dough and roll it between your hands to make a smooth ball.
5. Make a little dent in the middle and tuck in a piece of palm sugar. Pinch the dough around the sugar until it's completely hidden, then roll it into a ball again. No cracks allowed – you don't want that sweet surprise escaping!
6. Place your finished ball on a tray and keep it covered with a dish towel while you make the rest.
7. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Carefully add the *klepon* to the boiling water. After about eight minutes, they should float to the top.
8. Carefully scoop out the klepon with a slotted spoon and gently shake off the extra water.
9. Roll each warm klepon in the shredded coconut until it's covered all over.
10. Now for the best part – eating them! Klepon are best enjoyed warm, but let them cool a little first. The melted sugar hiding inside can be very hot!
11. Store any leftovers in an airtight container in the fridge for up to two days.

What's pandan?

Pandan is a tropical green leaf used in Asian cooking! It smells sweet and tastes a little like vanilla mixed with coconut. Yum!





Glutinous rice flour



Palm sugar



The Compassion EXPERIENCE®

At the Compassion Experience, you can step inside the story of a real child and discover what life is like for kids in different parts of the world. Plus, you'll see how the hope of Jesus can change a life! **Scan the QR code to find a Compassion Experience near you!** One of the stories you'll see is Kiwi's. Here's how it all began ...

THE GIRL WHO DREAMED OF APPLES



DEAR CARLA,

I GREW UP IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHERE WE DIDN'T HAVE APPLE ORCHARDS. APPLES WERE VERY RARE. WHEN THEY FINALLY SHOWED UP IN STORES, EVERYONE WANTED ONE!



AS A LITTLE GIRL, I BELIEVED SOMETHING IMPORTANT: IF I COULD GO TO SCHOOL AND LEARN, MAYBE MY LIFE COULD CHANGE.



AT THE COMPASSION CENTER, I LEARNED ABOUT GOD AND HE BECAME MY BEST FRIEND. ***I DISCOVERED MY DREAMS AND PEOPLE HELPED ME CHASE THEM ...***



care

Kindness Quiz!

What kind of advocate are you?

An advocate is someone who speaks up, cares and takes action to help others! Just like Kiwi in our comic, you can be an advocate too. And there are loads of ways to do it! Take our quiz to discover your advocacy superpower!

1. You hear about children who have had to leave their homes after a big storm. What are you MOST likely to do?

- **A.** Pray for the children and their families to be safe and have everything they need.
- **B.** Make encouraging cards to send to families going through a tough time.
- **C.** Dream up a fun way to raise money or gather supplies to help.
- **D.** Tell your family or friends what happened and explain how to help.

2. Your school wants to help people in your community. Which job would you choose?

- **A.** Help lead a time of prayer for people who need support.
- **B.** Put together little care packages with kind messages inside.
- **C.** Organize a giant bake sale or crazy-hair fundraiser.
- **D.** Make posters so everyone knows how to get involved.

3. Your friend is having a really hard week. What sounds most like you?

- **A.** Talk to God about your friend and ask him to help.
- **B.** Write them an encouraging note or surprise them with their favorite snack.
- **C.** Think of something practical you could do to help with what they need.
- **D.** Help others understand what your friend is going through so they can care for them too.

4. Pick a Saturday adventure!

- **A.** Go on a prayer walk and pray for the people and places you pass.
- **B.** Bake cookies and deliver them to someone who could use some cheering up.
- **C.** Set up a lemonade stand or organize a drive to collect items for a cause you care about.
- **D.** Make a video about something important and challenge your friends to get involved.

5. You learn about a problem that is affecting kids around the world. What's your first thought?

- **A.** "I want to spend some quiet time praying about this."
- **B.** "How could I make someone affected by this feel better?"
- **C.** "I wonder how I could take action to help?!"
- **D.** "More people need to know about this!"

6. If your friends described your superpower, what would you WANT them to say?

- **A.** "You always remember to stop and pray when someone needs help."
- **B.** "You always know how to make someone feel special."
- **C.** "You can turn almost anything into a way to help!"
- **D.** "You get people excited about making a difference."

7. You have $10, some craft supplies and a free afternoon. What do you do?

- **A.** Create a prayer board and fill it with people and places you want to pray for.
- **B.** Make small gifts or cards to surprise your friends or family.
- **C.** Use the money and supplies to organize something that helps right away – like a mini donation drive.
- **D.** Create signs or flyers to teach people about a cause and ways they can help.

Add Up Your Answers!

Mostly A's:
Prayer Hero
You believe prayer is powerful! When you hear about someone going through a tough time, one of the first things you want to do is talk to God about it.

Mostly B's:
Kindness Creator
You're great at making people feel seen and cared for. Whether you're writing an encouraging note, baking a treat or simply being a good friend, you love using kindness to brighten someone's day.

Mostly C's:
Action Whiz
Give you a cause and you're ready to jump in! Whether it's a bake sale, a lemonade stand or gathering supplies for people in need, you love turning ideas into action that helps others.

Mostly D's:
Super Sharer
When you learn about something important, you want other people to know about it too! You use your voice to help people understand what's happening – and show them how they can make a difference.

Got a tie? That just means you have more than one advocacy superpower!

Spot the Difference Compassion Makes

At Compassion centers in Sri Lanka, kids enjoy learning, singing, dancing, eating and playing with friends. Kids also receive school supplies and medical care. On special days, kids get to celebrate their birthdays or receive a letter from their sponsor.

Find nine differences in these pictures. Hint: Some of the differences highlight ways Compassion makes an impact in their lives.





In the mountains of northern Thailand ...

... families work together every year to harvest their rice before the rains arrive. Rice is very important because it helps feed their families all year long.

But these families don't keep all the rice for themselves. Even though they don't have much money, they give 10% of their harvest to their local church and Compassion center. The rice is stored in a special "rice bank" and helps feed kids and neighbors who don't have enough food.

This community shows us something important about compassion: You don't have to have lots of things to be generous. You can share what you have and help someone who needs it.

Now it's your turn to get hands-on with rice! Make your own rice squish ball. You could even make an extra one to give to a friend! Every time you give it a squish, remember what the generous families in Thailand taught us.

Craft

Rice Squish Ball



Supplies

- Balloons.
- 1/2 c. rice per balloon.
- Funnel.
- Spoon.
- Permanent markers.
- Optional extras for decorating your creation, like ribbons, cotton balls, googly eyes and craft glue.

Instructions

1. *Adult help needed.* Blow up the balloon to stretch it, then let the air out.
2. Place the funnel into the balloon and hold it in place with one hand.
3. Slowly pour the rice into the funnel.
4. Shake or tap the funnel gently to help the rice go into the balloon. You can use a spoon to help. Continue adding rice until the balloon is the size of the squishie you want.
5. Tie a knot in the balloon.
6. It's decorating time! Use a permanent marker to draw a funny face on the balloon. You could stick googly eyes on it, tie ribbons around the knot or make a pom-pom to give it exciting hair!

OOPS!
Everyone in Asia eats the same food.

TRUTH: Nope! Asia is huge with lots of different foods and flavors. Even favorites like rice and noodles are cooked in all kids of ways: fried, steamed, stirred into soups, and served with different meats, veggies and spices.

DISCOVER CAMBODIA

Individual birthdays based on a date on the calendar are not typically celebrated. Instead, everyone turns one year older on Khmer New Year.





Cambodia celebrates New Year's for three days ... in April! Choul Chnam Thmey (Khmer for "enter new year") is a time when Cambodians celebrate the end of the traditional harvest season.

Explorer Extra: How do you celebrate a new year?



Cambodia is a little larger than the state of Missouri.



Floating Villages



Tonlé Sap Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia. During the rainy seasons, the lake grows by almost 3,000 square miles! That's about the size of Delaware. The Tonlé Sap River connects with the Mekong River. During rainy season, this river changes direction!

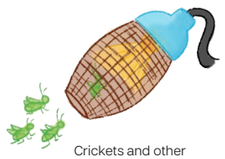


Cambodia has used African rats to sniff out and find buried explosives to keep people from being hurt. One rat found over 100 explosives in Cambodia, and was given a medal for bravery, and even has a statue in his honor!



Most Cambodians use the Khmer alphabet, which is the largest alphabet in the world, with 74 letters.

Cambodia is the only country in the world with a building on its flag. The building is Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument.



Crickets and other insects are commonly eaten in Cambodia. Kids and adults make cricket catchers to catch live crickets to sell.

Dolphins aren't just for oceans. Irrawaddy dolphins, which look like small beluga whales, live in the Mekong River.

Most of the kids Compassion serves speak **Khmer**. Learn to say some words in Khmer:

Hello ➡ សួស្តី (suh-SDEY)

Thank you ➡ អរគុណ (aw-koon)

Jesus loves you ➡ ព្រះយេស៊ូវស្រឡាញ់អ្នក។ ព្រះយេស៊ូ (Preah Yay-soo) ស្រឡាញ់ (sra-laing) អ្នក (ne-ak)

Stats

	Cambodia	United States
Population	17,847,982	339,665,118
People Living Below Poverty Line	17.8%	15.1%
Languages	Khmer, Indigenous languages, Chinese, Vietnamese	English, Spanish, Chinese, other
Religions	Buddhist 78% Muslim 2% Christian 0.3% Other 19.7%	Protestant 46.5% None/other 26.1% Roman Catholic 20.8% Jewish 1.9% Mormon 1.6% Muslim 0.9% Jehovah's Witnesses 0.8% Buddhist 0.7% Hindu 0.7%
Typical Family Income	$ 1,772 per year	$63,700 per year

Caring for a baby is difficult when you can't buy healthy food or visit the doctor. Some parents have to leave a baby with older children so they can go to work.

About 1 in 6 kids in Cambodia don't complete sixth grade. Kids that don't go to school often need to work.

Churches help pregnant moms and newborn babies with medical care and nutritious food. Moms, dads and grandparents learn how to be the best caregivers possible!

Compassion teaches communities about the importance of education. Tutors at the Compassion center help kids with their schoolwork in fun ways.

Compassion helps makes sure the kids and their families feel known, loved and protected.



GROW

About the artist

This is 8-year-old Apichaya, but her familiy and friends call her Snooppy. She is part of Compassion's program in Thailand and loves singing at church and playing with her friends.

"Things that make me feel joy are playing skipping rope with friends at school or at the Compassion center," she says.

Worship Through Play and Laughter

In the Philippines, people praise God in many ways. Some sing. Some dance. Some pray. But did you know there's another way to praise God? Through joy and play!

Jesus showed us that children are important to God. When kids laugh, play and enjoy the good things God has given them, they can praise him with their whole lives.

At Compassion centers in the Philippines, play is an important part of the day. Kids have time to laugh, play games, make friends and be themselves. Thanking God for these happy moments and the good things he gives them is called "praise" – and you can do it too!

And just as there are lots of ways to praise God, there are lots of places to do it! Churches in the Philippines and across Asia look different. Some are small bamboo chapels. Others are big, modern buildings. But praising God can happen anywhere.

You can praise God by singing in a church, praying at home or enjoying God's gift of play with your friends. In the Philippines, that might mean laughing and playing together in a field filled with coconut trees!

Wherever we live and however we praise God, we're all part of his big family around the world.

Read

- Matthew 21:16.

Act

- Play joyfully with a friend and remember God gave you laughter and fun.

Pray

Lord, thank you for joy and play. Help me praise you with my whole heart.

About the author: Edwin Estioko is an author and illustrator of children's books. He also loves writing stories about children in the Philippines, particularly about how children in Compassion centers learn about God and worship God. Edwin is a father of three. He says raising his kids is one of his most favorite things in the world!

OOPS! Everyone in Asia lives in a big, busy city.

TRUTH: Not at all! People across Asia live in all kinds of places, from huge cities and towns to mountain villages, farms and communities by the sea.

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in Jesus' name

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GIGGLE

Submit your caption at:

explorer.compassion.com/giggles

No Starbucks? No problem! Ariel and his friends have coffee plants in their backyard, so they are great baristas! They live in the mountains of South Sulawesi, Indonesia. When they are not drinking coffee together, they love to play marbles and learn about God at their local Compassion center!

How many passport stickers have you collected so far?

This year, your four Compassion Explorer magazines are taking you on a trip around the world. You've explored Amazing Africa, Colorful Central America and the Caribbean and Spectacular South America. Now it's time for our final stop: Awesome Asia! Open your Passport Adventure Book and add your Asia stickers as you complete the activities. Happy exploring!

Do you need a Passport Adventure Book? Visit compassion.com/ExplorerPassport to order more free copies.



Compassion explorer®

IN1366 (11/26)

About the cover

Vanesya, Febbyolah and Treeysia live in a village high in the mountains of South Sulawesi, Indonesia! Despite living in a remote area, the girls get support to learn, grow and become all God created them to be at their local Compassion center.

