

CHURCH@HOME

MISSIONS MONTH

Here are some activities to use this week about [COMPASSION LINK](#).

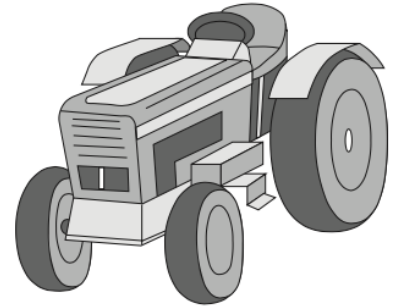
IN THESE PAGES YOU'LL FIND:

- What Compassion Link does
- Interesting ways Compassion Link helps
- “Sun Power” prayer reminder activity
- How to pray for Compassion Link
- Instructions on how to make your own solar powered oven

WHAT COMPASSION LINK DOES

Near a corn field an old tractor sits, rusting and weed covered.

Years ago someone brought this tractor to the village and taught a few farmers how to run it. With it they could plow more land than they could hoeing by hand. And the tractor helped them easily haul in crops.



The man who gave it to them left the village. One day the tractor stopped. The farmers had to go back to hoeing again. The tractor was a useful gift, but it couldn't keep going by itself. The people didn't have the money to replace the broken part.

This is an example of how Compassion Link wants to help people! Compassion Link workers help people learn new skills that will make their lives better and more healthy.

The first step is always to see what the people in the area need. Missionaries and/or pastors work with the team to study the problems. Together they decide what will best help—and what the people can sustain.

For example, when they work with a team of people in a village to dig a well, they teach the people how to dig the well themselves and how to keep it flowing. The projects are done with materials that are easy to get, so they don't have to depend on others for supplies. Best of all, they can then teach these skills to others.

Missionaries and pastors of local churches sometimes find it hard to get to know those in their neighborhoods. The people may follow another religion or think church is not for them. The Compassion Link team wants to help these missionaries and pastors find ways to reach their communities through helping with their needs. As these Christian workers learn these skills and then offer to teach them to others, they begin to make friends. People see their love and concern for them. They want to know the Source of this love—Jesus, the One who gives us hope and sustains us.

INTERESTING COMPASSION LINK PROJECTS

Bats and Trees Help Stop Disease

You've seen birdhouses, but what about bat boxes? Bats are good to have around, because one bat can eat more than 1,000 mosquitoes a night! In many parts of the world, mosquitoes carry dangerous diseases, such as malaria. Sustain Hope teams work with communities to build bat boxes with rough wood and to mount them w-a-y high so the bats would move in.

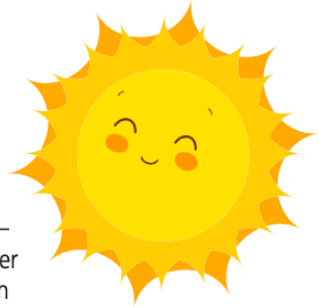


Another natural way to prevent disease is using parts of the moringa tree. This tree grows well in dry, hot lands. The leaves can be used to make soap. The pressed seeds can be used to filter water. The flowers, seed pods, seeds, and leaves can all be used in cooking and are packed with the vitamins and iron that people need to stay healthy.



Sunny Solutions

The sun gives off energy that warms the earth and makes plants grow—and does lots of other useful things. Sustain Hope teams have taught many people the SODIS (solar disinfection) method of making water safe to drink. They show them how to use clear, clean bottles, prepare the water, and find the best place to leave them so the sun can do its purifying work.



They also show the people how to use a simple box, painted black, that uses the sun to dry and preserve fruits. They help them use cardboard and aluminum foil to make a cookstove that heats the food in a black pot. And the sun is free energy, available to all!

Global TC Gardens

At Global Teen Challenge centers around the world, young people are leaving a life of drug abuse and finding hope in Jesus. The centers try to provide these recovering addicts with projects so they can work and earn some money as well.

Sustain Hope has helped many of these centers with gardening projects. Even in cities, they can plant gardens on roofs, in tires, boxes, bottles, and sacks, even in water. They can make the soil better for growing things by composting. This involves making a pile of food scraps, leaves, paper—anything that will rot—and mixing it up every day until it makes a rich soil. The soil can then be spread on the garden.

Worms are great for making composting happen even faster. Using what they learn, students can grow nice vegetables to eat or sell, and learn skills that help them later.



Clean Food, Clean Water, Clean Hearts



In a West African town, a girl named Awa helps her mother fill a big plastic basin with water and add a splash of bleach. They put in lettuce and other vegetables to soak. This kills nasty germs on the food, and now the whole family is healthier.

Awa's father is a pastor in their town. He and many other pastors and church members attended a training program with a Sustain Hope team. They learned a lot about washing foods, making their own clean water, healthier ways to cook, and much more. Now her father and mother are both teaching people in the church what they have learned.

Even people from the town who don't go to church are interested. They come to learn about clean food and water—and they hear about Jesus and how He can clean their hearts.

SUN POWER PRAYER REMINDER

Sustain Hope teaches people how to make special ovens that cook food using the heat of the sun. This is called a solar oven. You can make a beautiful sun to remind you to pray for Sustain Hope.*

For each child, you will need:

- A large circle cut from yellow construction paper
- A sheet of light blue construction paper
- Glue stick
- Sequins

Instructions

1. Show the kids how to glue the yellow circle "sun" onto the blue paper.
2. Help the kids glue the sequins onto the sun.
3. Write "Pray for Sustain Hope" on the paper.
4. Remind the kids that Sustain Hope uses the power of the sun to cook food and to purify water.



HOW YOU CAN PRAY FOR COMPASSION LINK

PRAY:

- for training sessions being held this year, especially for those being held in countries where missionaries are not allowed.
- that God would help the Compassion Link team find even more ways to help people and share the love of Jesus.
- for the safety of team members as they travel, sometimes to dangerous and rough areas.
- that God would provide the money and materials the team needs to travel.
- that people who don't know Jesus would seek Him.

MAKE A SOLAR POWERED OVEN

Have you ever watched your parents cook? They use an oven, right? An oven needs electricity to work. There are people in the world who don't have ovens or electricity. Compassion Link helps them by showing them how to make a special oven that uses the heat of the sun to cook food. You can make one at home. **(Make sure you get your parents' permission and ask for their help!)**

SIMPLE SOLAR OVEN

Materials Needed:

- A shoe box with an attached lid
- Aluminum foil, enough to line the inside of the box and lid
- Black construction paper to line the inside the box
- Plastic wrap
- Tape
- Sticks to prop the lid up (cheap chopsticks work well)
- Glue
- Printed cooking instructions



Instructions

1. Line the inside of the box and lid with the foil, shiny side out. Glue it down.
2. Glue the black paper to the inside of the box, on the bottom and sides. This helps to absorb heat.
3. Lift the lid and lay the plastic wrap across the open top of the box. Tape it in place.
4. Prop up the lid with the sticks.
5. Experiment with cooking some of the items below.

Solar Oven Cooking Instructions

1. Choose what you want to cook from the list below.
2. Carefully remove enough of the plastic wrap so you can get inside the box.
3. Set the food on a glass plate, put into the box, and replace the plastic wrap.
4. Prop up the lid with the sticks.
5. Set the box in the sun. Turn it so the sun will directly touch the open lid.
6. Let the sun do the work! Watch to see when your food is done.

Foods you can make:

- Toast: Butter a slice of bread and put it in the oven.
- Nachos: Sprinkle tortilla chips with grated cheese and put in the oven.
- Hot dog
- S'mores: Put a thin piece of chocolate on a graham cracker and put a marshmallow on top.
- Cheese Rollup: Sprinkle a tortilla with grated cheese. When the cheese is melted, roll it up.

NOTE: Solar ovens will take longer to heat things than a conventional oven. For example, the cheese rollup could take up to 45 minutes. It is safe to leave the oven alone while it cooks.