

Now what?

How can I help my brothers and sisters in need?



What you experienced in the REAL. LIFE. Exhibit often feels overwhelming. People have such great needs.

I feel so helpless. I have *nothing* to give.

But *are* we helpless? Or, can we do one thing that will make a difference for one person?

As followers of Christ, we can be His hands and feet to touch not only people like the ones we met in the REAL. LIFE. Exhibit but also to touch others in need around us.

Read these passages about God's compassion for His people, especially those who are suffering. (All verses are from the New Living Translation.)

In the Old Testament, God reveals Himself to Moses and declares who He is, announces His very identity and character: I am "Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness." (Exodus 34:6)

"The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation." (Psalm 145:9)

"Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick." (Matthew 14:14)

Think about it:

When Jesus sees the suffering in our world today, He still is filled with compassion. Through the volunteers of Medical Teams International, He still heals the sick.

So, what does God want from me?

Read these verses from the New Testament:

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3:12)

Think about it:

- *How can you "clothe" yourself with compassion?*
- *What does the word "compassion" mean?
(com = with; passion = feel)*
- *How can you feel with others, feel their pain?*
- *How can your attitudes and daily interactions reflect God's compassion?*

“If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?” (1 John 3:17)

Whoa. I need to think about this one. I have enough money to live well. Am I willing to really respond to a brother or sister in need?

Think about it:

- Who are the “brothers and sisters” in need in your life?
- Who are the “brothers and sisters” you saw in the REAL. LIFE. Exhibit?
- Who are needy “brothers and sisters” who live near you?
- What are specific things you can do to show compassion to them?

But how can I help the brothers and sisters I met in the exhibit?

At this point in your life, you are most likely not able to travel overseas to personally help your brothers and sisters in need, but that doesn’t mean you can’t help. You may be only one person, but ***you can make a difference.***

Read how these students have found creative ways to make a difference for their brothers and sisters in need around the world:

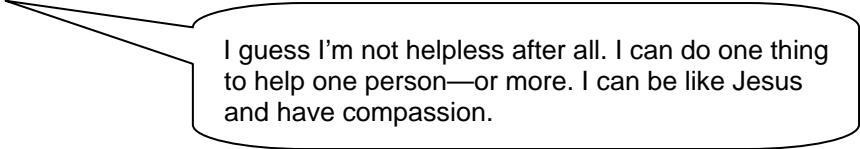
[Alex](#), an Eagle Scout, collected personal care items and assembled 400 [HOPE Kits](#) that were sent to brothers and sisters in need.

Steve has decided to put aside 20% of his allowance to help meet the needs of the brothers and sisters he met in the exhibit.

Grace and Preston were filled with compassion about the needs of their brothers and sisters whose lives are threatened by malaria. They began [Kids Fight Malaria](#) and have already raised more than \$6000, which has saved the lives of more than 400 of their brothers and sisters in need.

Just 33 [middle-school students raised \\$2,467.17](#) by hosting a skate-a-thon. Their teacher knew that at Medical Teams International \$1 can send \$130 of donated medicines and medical supplies to desperate hospitals and clinics around the world. The class used their money to send \$320,732.10 to help their brothers and sisters in need!

Eleven-year-old Caleb decided to ask the friends coming to his birthday party to give money for Medical Teams International instead of giving him gifts. Pleased by that response, he started [Kids CAN Help](#). Caleb, his siblings, and his neighborhood friends collect cans and bottles from their neighbors and donate the bottle-deposit refunds to help their brothers and sisters in need through Medical Teams International.



I guess I'm not helpless after all. I can do one thing to help one person—or more. I can be like Jesus and have compassion.

Read this passage about another impact of serving your brothers and sisters in need:

“I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me. . . . I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!” (Matthew 25:35-40)



Think about it:

When you have compassion on your brothers and sisters in need and serve them, you are actually serving Jesus Himself.

“Blessed are those who help the poor.” Proverbs 14:21