Get to Know Emerson

Whoever is kind
to the needy honors God.
– Proverbs 14:31, NIV

Emerson Adoni Perez Sequeira

Birthday
NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Country
NICARAGUA

Child Number: NI032100070

Your Child's Life

Emerson lives with his father and mother. His father is regularly employed as work is available. His mother is not employed. Emerson helps his family by being good.He is too young to help around the house..

Emerson's favorite activities are playing games with balls and bicycling. In preschool, his performance is average and his favorite subject is art.

His Christian activities include Bible classes. His favorite activity at the Compassion project is learning about God.

Please remember Emerson in your prayers. Your love and support will help him to receive the assistance he needs to grow and develop.

Emerson's Center

CENTER
Apasionados por Jesús

LOCATION
Comunidad Monte Fresco

LANGUAGE
Español

HIS LOCAL CHURCH

Compassion has partnered with a local, Christ-centered church in Emerson's community to carry out a holistic child development program. The pastor, staff and volunteers are able to provide a safe haven for Emerson and the other children attending the center. The church is a cornerstone in the community and understands the needs these children face on a daily basis.

WHAT HE RECEIVES

Compassion's approach to helping the poor is unique. Our goal is to stop the cycle of poverty that perpetuates in families from one generation to the next, and we do so by coming alongside individual children like Emerson.

Caring staff from the church minister to toddler-age children and their parents or caregivers through regular home visits, supplemental nutrition, toddler-level education and developmental activities, and access to medical care as needed.

Over time, your sponsored child will engage in age-appropriate learning and play activities with other children at his Compassion child development center. There, he will begin to learn social skills and healthy habits, receive nutritious meals or snacks, engage in healthy recreation, and — most important — hea the gospel of Jesus Christ and learn abou His love. So you are making an eternal difference!

Emerson's Community

THE CHALLENGES OF GROWING UP IN NICARAGUA

Project: NI0321, Apasionados por Jesús (Passionate About Jesus) Child Development Center

Location, Monte Fresco, Managua Department, Nicaragua

Your sponsored child lives in the village of Monte Fresco, home to about 1,500 people. Spanish is the common language. Typical houses are constructed of dirt floors, wood walls and tin roofs. The regional diet consists of bananas, beans, chicken, eggs, maize, potatoes and rice. Common health problems include respiratory diseases.

Most adults in Monte Fresco make a living by doing day labor, performing domestic services, or selling items in the market or on the street. The average family income is equivalent to $127. This community needs health services, intervention for domestic violence, improved housing, steady jobs and vocational training.

Your sponsorship allows the staff of Apasionados por Jesús Child Development Center to provide your sponsored child with Bible teaching, food, health screening, hygiene and basic life-skills training, school supplies, uniforms, contests, art and music activities, soccer tournaments, birthday celebrations and community service opportunities. The staff will also provide lessons on child rights and child protection for the parents or guardians of your sponsored child.

Emerson's Country

With the Pacific Ocean on the west and the Caribbean Sea to the east, Nicaragua is the second largest country in Central America, after Mexico. The country has three different geographic regions: the Pacific lowlands, the north-central mountains and the Caribbean lowlands, also called the Mosquito Coast or Mosquitía. The climate is tropical in the lowlands and cooler in the highlands. The Mosquito Coast is an outlet for many of the large rivers originating in the central mountains. It is a sparsely populated rainforest area. Seventeen percent of the country has been given national park status.

NICARAGUA

Total Population: **5,907,881**

Population Under Age 15: **29%**

Population Below Poverty Line: **43%**

Life Expectancy: **72**

Adult Literacy Rate: **82%**

Primary Language: **Spanish**

Primary Religion: **Roman Catholic**

Total Number Compassion-Assisted Children: **48,436**

The Nicaraguan population, mostly of indigenous and European ancestry, is more urban than rural. Spanish is the official language but on the Caribbean coast, Creole English and indigenous languages are also spoken. Poetry is one of Nicaragua's most loved arts. Even though most Nicaraguans are Catholic, during the 20th century Protestant denominations increased their membership, particularly in the western half of the country.

In 1524, Hernandez de Cordoba founded the first permanent Spanish settlements in the region. Nicaragua gained independence from Spain in 1821, briefly becoming a part of the Mexican Empire. In 1838, Nicaragua became an independent republic. The country began free-market reforms in 1991, after 12 years of economic free fall unde the Sandinista regime. Despite some initial setbacks, Nicaragua has made dramatic progress. Nicaragua is primarily an agricultural country but construction, mining, fisheries, exports and general commerce have added to its stability and the well-bein of its people.

In November 1998, Hurricane Mitch ravaged Nicaragua. Heavy rains followed and triggered a mudslide at Volcán Casita that buried several villages. Over 3,000 Nicaraguans died as a result of the hurricane. Several nations cancelled Nicaragua's debt in late 1999 as a result of the tragedy and the country is rebuilding slowly.

Write to Emerson

he Power of a Personal Letter

hild growing up in poverty, like Emerson, typically feels
oeless and defeated. The message that poverty sends
is heart is: "Give up — there's nothing you can do to
ange your situation. You don't matter."

Emerson's sponsor, you can help change that message
a very early point in life. The letters, cards and notes you
te to Emerson's parents or caregivers will help reinforce
message that someone cares about and believes in this
cious child.

ECIAL NOTE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USERS

Compassion sponsors who love to write blogs or use
ial media, thank you for spreading the word about child sponsorship! BUT … for the
e of your child's privacy, dignity and protection, we request discretion when you post
mpassion-related messages for mass consumption. Specifically, we ask that you do not
t your child's full name, the full name of his parent or caregiver, or the name of the
urch-based child development center your child attends. Thank you!

MOBILE APPS AVAILABLE!

You can keep track of Emerson conveniently on your mobile device by downloading the Compassion app.

- See photos of Emerson.
- Check the weather where he lives.
- Learn about Emerson's child development center activities.
- Write and send notes, letters and photos.
- Be better informed in your prayers for Emerson.

Just visit COMPASSION.COM/MOBILEAPP to learn more.

GET IT ON Google play Available on the iPhone App Store

YOU CAN ALSO SEND LETTERS ONLINE! JUST LOG IN TO MY ACCOUNT AT COMPASSION.COM.

Child Number: NI032100070

Emerson Adoni Perez Sequeira

Sponsor Number: 08195020

MATTHEW GOSE

"When I got your lette it was like God speaking to me.

Writing to Emerson

WHAT TO EXPECT

Children love to receive letters — but of course, toddler-age children are unable to read or write back. So for a time, you will be corresponding with an adult who is very close to your sponsored child. (This is also true for sponsors of children who start late in school, and children in remote locations.)

You'll receive at least two letters each year written by a parent, caregiver or program staff member on Emerson's behalf. Eventually he will write those notes and letters himself if he is able. Otherwise, program staff or teachers will assist him in writing.

In the learning process, some child development centers teach children to copy text from a board or use a fill-in-the-blank format to help them develop their writing skills. Most children need some assistance until they reach the fourth grade. (Some children with disabilities need assistance throughout their time as sponsored children.)

Please keep in mind that it can take up to three months for your child's parents or caregivers to receive a letter from you and for his letters to reach you. That's because postal service in poor, remote locations is typically slow. It also takes time for letters to go through the translation process in our country offices.

HOW TO START

To get started, you can use the letter form on the next page or send a letter using your own stationery. **Be sure to include your sponsor number, which is 08195020, and Emerson's number, which is NI032100070.**

You can also send a letter using our online letter-writing tool. Just go to My Account at compassion.com to use this option. With this online tool you can choose from a variety of fun stationery templates, upload family photos and even save drafts for a later date. It's that easy to send Emerson a personal message that he will treasure forever.

Tips for Writing

1. **Encourage and uplift.** Emerson's parents or caregivers need your ongoing encouragement and affirmation, and even at such a young age, Emerson needs to hear that he is special, valued and loved.

2. **Share about yourself.** As he grows older, Emerson will love to learn more about you, your family, and what your life is like. Share as much or as little as you wish!

3. **Ask questions.** You can ask your child's parent or caregiver questions about Emerson's life, home and family — but realize that some parents or caregivers, and their children, might be shy. Give them time.

4. **Include special mementos.** Flat paper items such as bookmarks, photos and stickers can be included with your letters — these are the only items we're able to send through customs. Just be sure to include your sponsor number (08195020) and your sponsored child's number (NI032100070) on each item.

5. **Be sensitive.** We have found that, in correspondence with children and parents/caregivers in developing nations, any references to controversial issues (such as politics, sexuality, smoking, alcohol or drugs) will only confuse the recipients — and even confuse the very positive ministry of Compassion in their lives. In some countries, such references can even be detrimental to the family's safety. We therefore reserve the right to decline to forward any letters, photos or materials that we view as incompatible with our ministry approach.

Our focus is on helping the child feel known, loved and protected — and on affirming and encouraging the child's parents/caregivers in Jesus' name.

There are so many positive and encouraging things to write to Emerson and his parents or caregivers, such as:

- God loves you and so do I/we.
- I/we believe in you.
- What would you like to do/be when you grow older?
- If you work hard in school, I/we believe you can succeed at anything you set out to do.
- I am praying for you.
- How can I/we pray for you?
- My favorite Bible verse is _____ because _____. What is yours?

SEE MORE LETTER-WRITING TIPS ONLINE AT COMPASSION.COM/WRITINGTIPS

Compassion encourages sponsors to write their sponsored children three times per year. Of course, you can write as often as you like and here is a convenient way to keep track of how long it's been since you last wrote to Emerson as well as some helpful writing tips.

Emerson Adoni Perez Sequeira

November 17, 2014

Nicaragua

As you write to Emerson here are some writing topics to consider.

- Talk about your family. Any kids or pets?
- Ask about Emerson's home.
- Ask about his church. Does he have friends there?
- Tell him about the difference God has made in your life.
- Talk about your favorite things. Share with him your favorite foods, what you like to do in your spare time.
- Ask him what his favorite things are?
- Encourage Emerson. Tell him that he is strong, smart, capable of great things.

Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
in Jesus' name