

Dear Pastor or ministry leader,

When I was growing up, my dad was a church planter in a small town in Maryland, so I know the sacrifice and dedication that it takes to work in ministry. With the demands of the local church, my Dad lived in the constant tension between wanting to lead his local congregation well, while also having a heart for the nations.

In 2018 I sponsored a child in Mozambique named Sbossisso with ChildFund. He is the same age as my son and I wanted to understand what it was really like for a child to grow up in extreme poverty. I packed a hiking bag and flew across the world to live in my sponsored child's village for almost a month! In the village, there was no running water, no electricity, no bathroom facilities, and we ate only one meal a day. But what I did find there was: **community**. My neighbors on the other side of the world welcomed me with open arms as one of their family members. In fact, when the host-father, Mr. Dinise, introduced his family he said there were seven members. As I looked around, I only saw six people. So I asked him (through Google Translate) where the seventh member was? He answered, "YOU are the 7th member. You are part of our family now. We might not have a lot, but you are welcome to everything we have."





One day, I got to go to school with my sponsored child. When I arrived, Sbossisso came to me all excited because he had just received 19/20 on an assignment! I then spent the afternoon at his home helping him repair his bicycle and playing soccer together. All day, I noticed that he

hadn't had a single thing to eat, so I gave him a small bag of peanuts. Before he had even one, he went around to every member of his family and offered them some. By the time he got to everyone, his bag was empty, so his grandma shared with him. We have much to learn from our African neighbors.

Through relationships, I watched as **fear turned into love** and **neighbors turned into family**. After this experience, I wondered what it would look like if the U.S. Church embraced our neighbors in the same way, even if we never met face-to-face? That's why I am excited to work alongside of ChildFund to provide a **Church Partnership Kit** to Pastors and ministry leaders. I truly desire to equip you with the resources to reach the poor and make a huge impact in the life of children all over the world, while allowing ChildFund to financially invest in your local church!

As a father, pastor's kid, worship leader, and child sponsor, I highly encourage you to partner with ChildFund to sponsor vulnerable children through your church, and I hope this kit provides you with the resources to do that.

Email me any time with questions you might have.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeremy Willet'.

Jeremy Willet
jwillet@childfund.org

A photograph of a small, round hut with a thatched roof, situated in a dry, hilly landscape with sparse vegetation and trees. The sky is clear and blue.

www.childfund.org/churches