

Outstanding Leader: Barry Slauenwhite

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When Barry joined Compassion Canada in 1983, he found he could put his rich business and ministry background to good use to help the mission fulfill its mandate. “I place a high value on integrity”, says Barry. “If ministry is to be done in Christ’s name, then it must be done with the very highest integrity – we must give God our best!”

After graduating from Master’s College and Seminary in 1977, Barry began his ministry as a church planter on Prince Edward Island. After establishing a self-supporting church in Montague, he continued on to pastor a multicultural church in the city of Bathurst, New Brunswick.

During his years as a pastor, he was very active in children’s ministry, founding and directing summer camps for children. He has always had a heart for the underprivileged, and especially for children. It was no surprise he accepted the invitation to join Compassion and devote himself to serving poor children around the world.

Barry has become a spokesperson for the poor. He travels the globe motivating Christians to reach out and help children at risk. In 1988, he co-founded the **Council of International Children’s Ministry (CICM)** based in Oxford, U.K., and Colorado, U.S. which has gone on to become VIVA Network North America where he continues to serve on the board of directors. He has filled several leadership roles with the VIVA Organization including chair of the International Council and senior ministry advisor.

He also co-founded the not-for-profit **International Alliance for Missions**. He now chairs this Canadian initiative, dedicated to enabling missionaries and organizations working with needy children.

In his home city of London, Ontario, Barry initiated the **Servant Ministry Network of London** – an association of over 100 local para-church ministries. In his role as Chairman he coordinates local ministry activities, mentors leaders and serves as a spokesperson for the city’s para-church organizations.

Barry has now spent 25 years with Compassion Canada, serving as director of Church Ministries and vice-president. He became the organization’s third president and CEO in June 1993.

“Serving with Compassion is a matchless opportunity for me to use my gifts and skills to change the world,” says Barry. “I cannot imagine a better way to spend my life than investing it to build up children who otherwise would have no hope.”



Barry lives in London, Ont., with his wife Sharon. The Slauenwhites have two adult daughters, Krista and Heather and one grandchild.

BCWI: What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishment at your organization?

Barry: I believe my greatest accomplishment at Compassion Canada is building a remarkable and competent team around me who exercise ownership and passion for the Ministry at all levels. This team truly understands the concept of “team” and thrives in collaboration. Everyone plays an important part in the overall ministry here regardless of their corporate status.

BCWI: What do you believe is the key to success?

Barry: I believe the key to success lies in the old-fashioned values of integrity, hard work, and dependability. I believe a leader must lead by example both in his/her corporate and private life. I believe success comes when we truly put God first in all that we do.

BCWI: What advice would you give the leaders of other Christian organizations?

Barry: Respect and genuinely love the people you lead. Be a leader of integrity ensuring that who you are as a leader and what you live is always in alignment. Create a climate where people are allowed to fail and model that by admitting when you are wrong as a leader.

