

# the promise

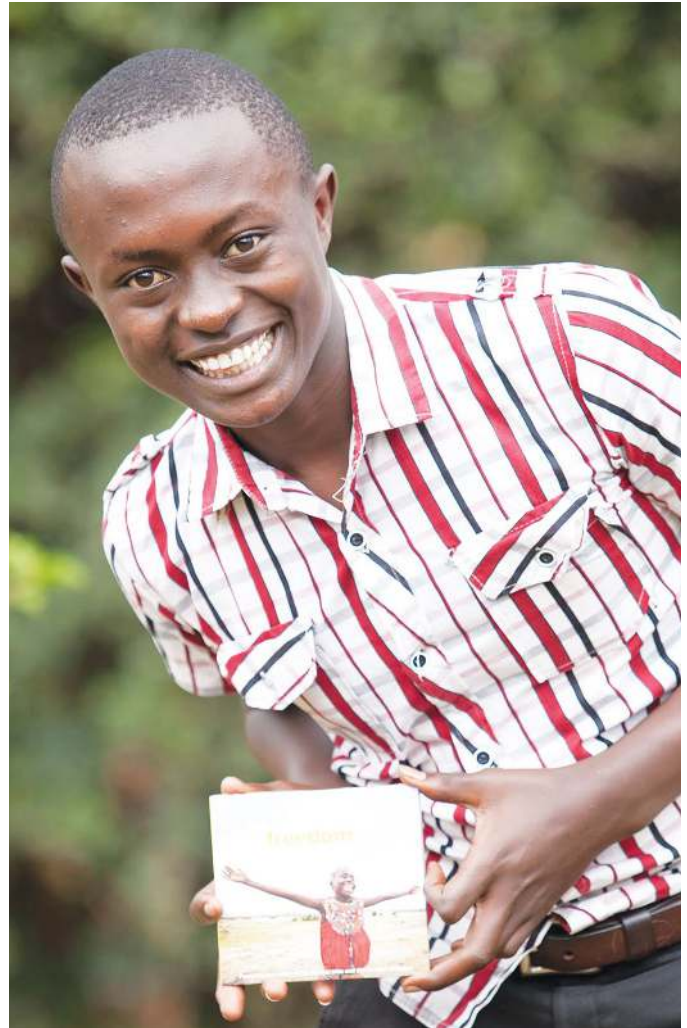


# was I a mistake?

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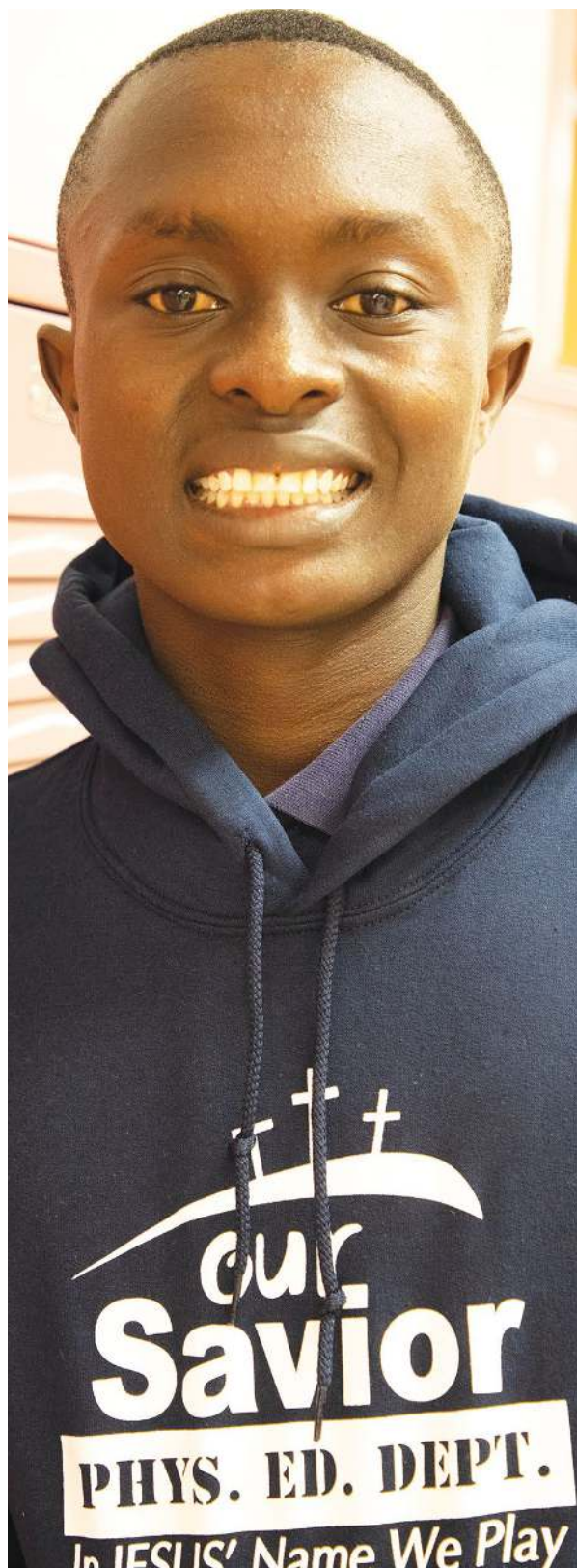


**As a young boy growing up in Kenya, Eric thought his life was a mistake. He learned that he was the child of an affair, and never had a relationship with his father. His mother felt unprepared to care for the boy, and began to experience depression when Eric was still young. One day, when returning home from a family gathering with his uncles, Eric found his mother had tragically killed herself. Lost and alone, he eventually moved in with his aunt and uncle hoping to find safety and stability. Instead, his aunt immediately began to abuse and neglect him, starving him and beating him mercilessly. To this day, the scar over his right eye bears witness to a savage beating with a high-heeled shoe.**



Eric escaped his abusive aunt, but he found himself sleeping in cold, abandoned shanties, surrounded by people he did not know and could not trust. He wondered how long he could endure such an existence. Eventually, Eric entered a children's home in Nairobi. Although it initially appeared that Eric's luck was changing, the director of the school was corrupt and failed to care for the children in the home.

By the grace of God, a Christian missionary heard about the trouble at the home and fought for the rights to take over ownership. Pastor Carla soon began to run the home, and shortly thereafter Orphan's Promise began supporting it. For the first time in his life, Eric began to experience unconditional love. He didn't know what the future would hold, but he knew deep down that this opportunity would change his life.



## HOPE RENEWED

As Eric became part of the family environment at the children's home, he began to learn what love felt like, and the emotional scars left by his abusive aunt began to heal. When Eric understood the forgiveness offered to him by a loving Heavenly Father, his heart softened and he was able to forgive his aunt for the horrible way she had treated him. Eric's brilliant smile began appearing more and more, and soon he began to dream again. He'd been given a chance at a future, and he was not going to waste it.

We helped support Eric as he enrolled at a private Christian school and became one of its brightest pupils. He is an extraordinary young man, full of purpose and determination. He recognizes that he has been given a second chance at a future, and he feels a responsibility to make the most of it. In fact, as he continued to excel in school, Eric began to dream about becoming a lawyer someday. He was passionate about helping other children who experienced the kinds of abuse he had suffered as a boy. When we heard of Eric's ambitious goals, we knew we could help.

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**I don't remember a time with my mom when she was ever hugging me. I don't remember a time with my aunt and uncle where they were ever hugging me. When Pastor Carla took over the home and began hugging me, it was a new experience.**

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## THE NEXT CHAPTER

There is an amazing family in New York that has supported Orphan's Promise for many years. When they heard Eric's story, they were excited to host him while he completed high school in the USA in order to graduate from an American high school and eventually attend a prestigious American law school. His goal was to return to his native Kenya and help those unable to help themselves.

Once bitter and looking for revenge, Eric now has a tender heart toward those who abused him, recognizing that forgiveness is easier to live with than anger. God's love has transformed this young boy.



Today, Eric is attending school and is a star on the soccer team, with volleyball season just around the corner. He is truly a joy to be around, and is a young man on a mission. We are so proud of who he is, and we're even more excited about who he is becoming. While he still has a passion to help children who have been through difficult times, Eric has also recognized a God-given talent for the sciences, excelling in chemistry and biology. He dreams about finding a job that would someday allow him to buy new property for the children's home in Nairobi and build a house that would accommodate many children who need the same chance he was afforded. Whether he makes a living as a lawyer or a doctor matters very little, because Eric will make a difference in Kenya and the world, no matter what path he chooses.



**“ I’m so surprised at what God has done in my life, seeing the kind of man I am becoming—a loving person, someone who is kind.**

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give us a call: 1-800-818-4016

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Orphan's Promise, a children's ministry of The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc., serves orphans and other vulnerable children around the world, taking them from at-risk to thriving through the transforming power of God's love. CBN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contributions to our ministry are tax-deductible.