

# the promise





**giving hope.  
promising love.**

*by Drew Friedrich  
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# seasons of hope

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**Last month, we spoke about the commitment we've made to educate children around the world. Because of your generous giving, together we've been able to steadily increase our educational efforts year after year and give more children the chance to pursue bright, promising futures.**

But every year, as children pour out of schools for summer break, many of them begin to dream about sleeping late, spending lazy days by the pool, and taking off on summer road trips. Unfortunately, there is an entirely different group of children for whom the summer months are full of anxiety and uncertainty.

During the school year, the classroom is a place where children learn to dream, where they begin to grow and develop into the young people they were designed to be. At our Orphan's Promise projects, the classroom is also a place where children receive a warm meal—a safe place where they feel known and loved. When those things are taken away during the school break, due to poverty or complicated family relationships, it can be incredibly hard on a child.



## AN INVITATION TO SUMMER SUCCESS

When summer rolls around, we don't slow down at Orphan's Promise. In fact, because of your generosity, in many cases, we ramp up our programs to meet the needs of kids who no longer have the safety nets and services offered by their local schools. This summer, we're operating nearly 50 summer camps around the world where more than 6,000 children can leave behind the stresses and difficulties of home, make new friends, receive nutritious meals and snacks, and learn about their God-given value and purpose. Year after year, our camp counselors tell us stories of children who come to camp because they were invited by a friend who attends one of our projects—and after a week at camp, their whole lives are changed.

**Summer camp is a tradition many of us grew up looking forward to as a chance to experience freedom and develop new relationships while having fun. We were able to leave behind the stress and busyness of life at home and jump into the experience of summer camp with both feet.**

Most of us were probably coming from safe homes and arriving at safe camps, so the transition from one to the other was pretty seamless. For children from difficult backgrounds, however, trust has often been broken or betrayed, and many arrive at camp unsure of what to expect and scared about how all the new people they meet will receive them.

We recognize these fears are genuine and even warranted when considering the kinds of difficulty these children leave behind when they come to camp. We can't begin to describe all of the brokenness we see every single day, but we do know that we have a God who can use something as simple as a summer camp to bring about healing and transformation.



**When summer rolls around, we don't slow down at Orphan's Promise.**





## TRANSFORMATIONAL LOVE

**So many of the kids who come to our summer camps experience God for the very first time at camp. Their hearts become soft, their guards come down, and they begin to share and let others in for the first time. This change may seem like a small thing, but it is often the first step in a total transformation of their lives. When a young person begins to understand that they are loved, valued, and cared for, their potential shoots through the roof and they begin to live lives full of energy, excitement, and purpose, determined to make something of themselves.**

Our summer camps don't necessarily look all that different from the summer camp you might find down the road from your home. Days are full of games, activities, competitions, campfires, artwork, and songs; nights are spent in discussions with camp counselors and new friends. The great thing about our summer camps is that these discussions revolve around learning truths from God's Word, and understanding what He says about who these kids are. They are loved. They are worthy. They are beautiful. They are wanted.

We know that our education programs are critical to the long-term success of the kids in our projects, but often our summer camps are the keys that unlock the potential of these children to find success in school. A child who knows they are loved, they're smart, and they're capable of learning can finally give themselves the freedom to succeed.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US UNLOCK  
THE WORLD FOR THESE CHILDREN. YOU  
ARE TRULY MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
SIMPLY BY CARING ENOUGH TO SAY  
“YES” TO THEIR FUTURES.**





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