

the promise





**giving hope.
promising love.**

difficult lives masked by natural beauty

*by Drew Friedrich
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Brazil is the largest country in South America, and the fifth-largest nation in the world in terms of population. Its people are beautiful, and its landscape is iconic, with must-see destinations like Rio de Janeiro, Copacabana Beach, and the Christ the Redeemer statue drawing tourists into the country by the thousands every year. Despite the country's predominantly Christian

religion, in the nation's poorest neighborhoods, thousands of children face difficulty every day, uncertain of whether home is a safe place or where their next meal will come from. Orphan's Promise is meeting these challenges with hope and love, partnering with local outreaches to offer opportunities for success to disadvantaged youth in at-risk communities.





CEPHAS

In partnership with a local church, Orphan's Promise supports a program called CEPHAS, which offers three meals a day as well as Christian education to more than 120 young children from the city of Carapicuiba, one of the nation's poorest neighborhoods. Children often arrive at 6:30 in the morning, and many don't leave until 6 or 7 p.m. The staff here is literally helping raise these children, and the impact they have on the kids and their families is profound.

Communities like these are found in every corner of the world, and we see many of the same characteristics in each and every one. Here, children are anxious and uncertain, often quiet and closed-off at first. But when we begin to share our love with these kids and offer them the safety and security they long for, they open up, come out of their shells, and begin to thrive.



MUSIC AND ARTS TO HEAL THE SOUL

Another way we're making a difference in Brazil is through a program we support called CBC, Children of Brazil for Christ. It offers academic assistance and uses art and music to build relationships with children from disadvantaged backgrounds, helping them find purpose and healing. Luis is one of these children.

Luis and his six brothers live with their mother in Brazil. Luis is a very passionate child and has a strong desire to learn. He joined our project in his community a few years ago and quickly found stability and success in his studies. For that remarkable progress, Luis credits his teachers and staff, who help him with math and other subjects that he had struggled with previously. During chapel service every day, he is one of the most attentive children, hungry to learn more about the Word of God and to continue growing and create new habits in his life.



DISCOVERING THE TALENT WITHIN

Luis's talent was observed and assessed very carefully by the music teacher at CBC. Even the young boy did not know that he had such a musical genius. No one had seen it in him, but the first instrument he learned was the drums, which he quickly mastered. He soon began working to learn to read music and decided to learn other instruments as well, such as guitar, keyboard, bass, and flute. He is one of the student leaders for praise and worship at the project.

“When I arrived I would watch the music classes, and I thought it was too difficult, and that I could never do it, but when I started playing drums and began to learn guitar, I fell in love with music.”

“

My dream is to be able to play as a professional musician in a band and be able to serve God by playing in church.



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I learned in the project that salvation is for everyone, that Jesus died for me and that He loves me very much!

250 other children like Luis attend this project, which was established as the first complete after-school program in the city of Fortaleza to help low-income families keep their children. In communities where poverty is prevalent, families often abandon their children because they can't afford to care for them properly. But thanks to projects like this, where children receive food and educational assistance, families can remain intact—and they are raising a new generation of youth that will succeed in life thanks to stability, support, quality education, and life skills.

The primary purpose of the project is to train and equip future Christian leaders to impact Brazil and the world. Over the life of this project, we have been able to take children who had no hopes or dreams and support them all the way through college graduation, secondary degrees, and the launch of small businesses.



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