

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



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STAFF WRITER

“Testimony” is a powerful word.

It can make or break a case in a court of law. It can hold the power of life or death.

Paulina is only 13, but her story bears this out. It’s evidence of the existence of something powerful. Something we call HOPE.

Join us in the beautiful country of Ghana and a special, healing place called the Village of Hope. The words in italics are straight from the girls’ hearts to yours.

These are the stories.
These are the souls.
These are the portraits of the lives we’re changing.



A DOUBLE BLESSING: PAULA & PAULINA'S PATH TO HOPE



A MESSAGE FROM PAULINA

Paulina: “Hello. My name is Paulina Darko. I am 13 years old and in Junior High School, grade one.”

We wish you could meet Paulina face-to-face today! Her brilliant smile and sparkling eyes can't help but draw answering smiles from the faces around her.

Even though they are only 13, the girls have wisdom and maturity far beyond their years. You see it as soon as you speak with them, you hear it in their voices. Their little frames have already born a weight of sorrow, stress, and scarcity that no children should have to understand, let alone experience.

Paulina: “I praise God for the privilege to share my testimony. I feel blessed for my current status.”



What a testimony in those two simple sentences! Paulina has endured more in her young life than many adults growing up in comfort and security could ever imagine. And yet she praises God. She claims His blessing. It's no wonder that Jesus says: "The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14 NIV).

Paula: "My siblings and I, together with our parents, resided in a remote rural community. Shelter and access to education was a big problem."

While Ghana boasts stunning beaches and busy industrial centers, many rural communities still face extreme hardships meeting the basic needs of those living there. People have to walk miles to access water that is too-often contaminated, which puts them at risk of disease. Families regularly cook over an open fire, because kitchen appliances are a luxury beyond their means. Many remote villages lack electricity and are miles from a hospital or healthcare center. For children whose families need

An estimated **13.6 million** children live in Ghana today, of whom approximately 28% live in poverty. Three out of 10 children between the ages of 5 and 17 are involved in child labor.



their help farming or gardening, school may not be an option. Those who do attend school may be too exhausted to fully focus on their studies, after getting up early to work or fetch water and then walking several miles on rough terrain to reach the schoolhouse.

Paulina: “My father deserted and neglected us. My mother single-handedly brought us to Akuapem Apirede. Life was so unbearable—food to eat was a problem, I had dropped out from school, and clothes to wear were not available.”

For so many children living in poverty, a good education becomes impossible without proper nutrition. Here at Orphan’s Promise, we’ve found that although a lot of children were coming to learn at the education and training centers we support, far too many sat at their desks unable to focus because of the gnawing hunger pangs in their empty stomachs. Once we began to provide meals at our schools and centers, we watched these kids come alive. In fact, a number of children who had been previously diagnosed as “special needs” or





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We look forward to making a difference together.**



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“developmentally delayed” were transformed into some of our brightest students once they began receiving proper nutrition at one of our projects.

Paulina: “When it rained at night we would wake up as a result of roof leakage. I was always sad.”

Uncertain and unstable circumstances at home can take a tremendous toll on children’s mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Living in poverty—whether as an orphan or with a single parent serving as guardian—puts children at further risk of abuse, exploitation, or trafficking. In Ghana, 28% of children live in poverty according to UNICEF. Approximately 50,000 children are living or working on the streets. Nearly 200,000 children



For young women Paula & Paulina’s age, sexual violence and teenage pregnancy remain serious risks. One in three girls between the ages of 15 and 19 have experienced some sort of sexual abuse.

are engaged in hazardous work within the cocoa industry. This reality may be a far cry from our day-to-day lives, but it should fill our hearts with the pain that the Father feels when He sees His precious little ones suffering from such injustice. Every child deserves to feel safe and secure. Every child deserves to be cared for and loved. Every child is worth it.

Paulina: “But favor fell on us and I was rescued with my twin sister and two other siblings to the Village of Hope—Project Nyame NSA!”

Project Nyame NSA's Village of Hope is a partner of Orphan's Promise, based in Ghana, that exists to provide support to children who have been abandoned, abused, or neglected and are in need of a safe, caring place to stay. At Village of Hope, children are hugged and bathed and fed and prayed for. They



get to attend school, where they come to recognize their unique giftings and passions. They learn to build healthy relationships while allowing their loving Father in heaven to begin healing and redeeming their difficult pasts and hurting hearts. “The Village of Hope has become a place for children to dream,” says Devon, the founder of Project Nyame NSA, “to excel spiritually and academically, and achieve the impossible through the Lord’s love and never-ending grace.”

Paula: “At PNN I have been taught to love...I am fed in the morning, afternoon, and evening. Also, by the grace of God, I always have clothes and shoes to wear, unlike when I was at home. It has been a source of blessing to me!”

This is the beauty of hope, the power of transformation. From poverty to peace. From neglect to care. From sadness to joy. From abandoned to loved. It’s a testimony of what God can do in one child’s life and of what He can do through you—no matter how large or small your gift.



It is a testimony to who He is. He is a God who creates beauty from ashes and who promises, while He wipes every tear from our eyes, that pain lasts only for a night and in the morning, He'll bring joy.

Both: "God bless you for honoring the Word of God on our lives."

This message is for you.

It's not just another newsletter in your mailbox. Rather, it is the genuine heart-cry of gratitude from two precious children named Paula and Paulina, who you have been privileged to bless.

Let it warm your heart. Let it reverberate through your soul.

You have touched two lives on the other side of the world in the name of the Father. As the twins put it so eloquently, through your partnership, you have honored the promises of God. His Word has been spoken over their lives. There is no greater calling, and there is no greater joy. Thank you for being a partner in this mission!





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

orphanspromise.org

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.

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