

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



by Ellery Sadler,
staff writer

Everyone deserves to have a fighting chance. No matter where you were born, who your parents are, or what happened to you.

Every person should have a chance to live a full and loving life. To discover and grow. To feel safe. To learn how they can provide for themselves and their children.

With your commitment to Orphan's Promise, you equipped us to give Fah the chance she deserved. The chance to hope. This is her story.

These are the stories.

These are the souls.

These are the portraits of the lives we're changing.



A Stacked Deck



This world we call home is fallen. It's broken and brutally unfair. While some children are born to safe homes, loving parents, and safe beds, others seem to be born with the deck stacked against them. That's how it felt for Fah.

She was only 3 years old when her parents separated, and she went to live with her mother and stepfather. She was 12 when her mother died and she had to flee from her abusive stepfather. After that, Fah's only choice was to live with her father and grandparents in a slum community in Thailand, where she was surrounded by drugs, alcohol, and gambling—both inside and outside the home. Still, Fah was determined to give herself a chance. From grade 7 to grade 9, she worked to support herself and put herself through school. Every day after school, she would work from 6 p.m. to midnight, making rice wraps for \$1.50 per day.

She was only 15 years old when she met a man who captured her heart but later abandoned her. What she didn't know at the time was that God was after her heart, too. Fah began working at a local bar to earn more money. Four



IF YOU ARE REAL



months into the job, she met someone who asked her if she had been to church. Fah said yes, because she had accepted Christ as her Savior when she was 9 years old, even though she wasn't actively pursuing her faith at the time. The man spoke with her a little more about God and asked to pray with her. A seed had been planted.

Thinking about what the man had said, Fah stopped working at the bar for a little while. But when money became tight, she felt she had to go back. Then she fell in love with a man she met at the bar and soon became pregnant. This man did not believe the baby was his, and once again Fah was abandoned. In this moment of desperation, she prayed to God: "Lord, if you are real, please help me. Help me to walk through this problem. And if it is Your plan for me to have this child alive, may I have a place where I can raise him without shame? Where I can study, and have a good future?"

HELP ME



Her Father heard her.

And He answered.



THE FIRST STEP FORWARD

Three weeks after that prayer, one of Fah's friends introduced her to a foundation where she could stay and have her baby. But there's no simple solution when your heart has been exposed to so much brokenness. After the birth of her son, Singto, Fah began experiencing effects from her trauma, becoming unpredictably angry and explosive, self-destructive, and often physically sick. When the foundation decided it was not safe for Fah to stay in the same room with her child, she left with her son.

Still, God was pursuing the heart of His beautiful, beloved child.

Before long, Fah met a missionary who told her about a home for young, single mothers, supported by Orphan's Promise. The home was established to help disadvantaged women



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You can **mail a check** made out to Orphan's Promise to:

Orphan's Promise
977 Centerville Turnpike
Virginia Beach, VA 23463

**Thanks for your generosity.
We look forward to making a difference together.**



orphan's**promise**

and children in Thailand, primarily single mothers and pregnant women. Its vision is to address the orphan crisis at the root and reduce the number of children being abandoned, sold, or given up for adoption by empowering and equipping mothers to provide for their children.

Here, Fah finally felt safe. She received free shelter, food and milk for Singto, clothes, personal appliances, plus training in money management, parenting, and other areas. But her battle was far from over. Deeper scars, arising from serious emotional trauma, ran beneath the surface.

For months, staff members accompanied Fah on trips to various hospitals as she visited different doctors, changed medication, and worked through counseling. This brave young mother

was a warrior—she never stopped fighting for her own healing. At last, Fah reached a point where she was stable enough to have her son live with her again.

Finally, Fah had a chance.

“They helped me with everything,” Fah says. “They gave me love, supported me, and taught me how to take care of my baby. When I get sick, they help me. They walk alongside me, teaching me how to live with other people. This place gives me space to know God and grow in Him.”

After staying at the home for almost three years, Fah joined the Orphan’s Promise “Keeping Families Together” Program, or KFT. KFT is a holistic family-strengthening program created to give orphaned and vulnerable children the chance to grow up in a strong, sustainable, and loving family.

BY TEACHING PARENTING AND VOCATIONAL SKILLS, AND PROVIDING COUNSELING, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, AND SPIRITUAL NURTURE, THIS HOME FOR YOUNG MOTHERS IS HELPING WOMEN TO GAIN THE INDEPENDENCE THEY NEED TO BE ABLE TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN.



Through home visits each week, KFT staff pray with Fah, give her counseling, and provide support where she needs it. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this has included help with rent and delivery of food and other essentials. Perhaps most importantly, Fah receives training on topics that include personal finances, vocational skills, parenting, child rights and child protection, social skills, and how to raise loving and healthy kids.

“If I hadn’t join KFT, I would not have known that I had a choice for living and providing for my family,” says Fah. Now, she both attends and serves at church regularly. One of her favorite things is to be the emcee at church events, where her infectious enthusiasm brings smiles to the faces of everyone in the congregation.

Without fail, Fah’s face lights up when she talks about her son, Singto. He is her biggest gift. “When I live with my son, it makes me smile and feel happy,” she says. “I’m happy I get to teach him homework and he has a lot of questions to ask me, but I like it!”

Fah loves to read Bible stories to Singto at bedtime. For his

part, Singto loves to help his mom wash vegetables and cook food, play hide and seek, and go swimming together. He says that when he grows up, he wants to be a soldier or policeman to catch bad guys. Because of his mother's brave persistence, he is being equipped to reach his full potential. Her chance has given him a chance.

For those of you who played a role in empowering Fah to have a chance at the healthy, happy life that she deserves, Fah has a special message.

“I would like to thank you for helping Thai people like me. Now, I can work and can support myself. It isn't perfect, but it is so much better. I can raise my son on my own. May the Lord bless you. If I did not get help here at the home, or attend KFT, my son might not be with me because I kept getting sick, and I couldn't raise him or control my emotions.

“Thank you for giving me this opportunity—I know not everyone gets it. Thank you for this new life. I can raise my son and be the role model that he needs. Thank you for the KFT project that never left me alone, but you always come to help me, and give me everything I need.”

Thank you for giving Fah and other brave young mothers like her a chance.

This is how we end the orphan crisis. One family at a time.





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

orphanspromise.org

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