

# PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



# Hope for a **Family's Future**

by Ellery Sadler,  
staff writer

We define our mission as caring for the world's most vulnerable children, but it doesn't stop with kids. We holistically empower families. We transform communities.

UNICEF reports that “the vast majority of orphans are living with a surviving parent, grandparent, or other family member.”<sup>1</sup> That reality is why we believe sustainable orphan care starts with strengthening families.

Take a trip with us to visit a little girl named Meriam and see what we mean.

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

<sup>1</sup><https://www.brandeis.edu/investigate/adoption/orphan-statistics.html>









## LIFE FOR A FAMILY IN VANUATU

Meriam lives in Vanuatu, a string of 80 remote islands dotting the South Pacific in Oceania.

Like many vulnerable children, Meriam has a father and a mother. She also has five siblings. So, unlike some of the children that Orphan's Promise helps, she doesn't need the role of parent or protector filled.

**What she does need, in order to succeed and reach her potential, is a safe environment where she can grow and learn**—and for her family to be equipped with the tools they need to create a better future for themselves. One of the most important ways we can help end the orphan crisis is through supporting families and empowering them to stay together.

As with most families in Vanuatu and other impoverished areas, Meriam's parents work long hours yet still struggle to keep their children fed. Subsistence farming is common here, and most daily activities revolve around the land. Meriam's mother, Rachel, is a





gardener and sells her produce at the nearby market. Meriam's father, Sakrae, was unable to find work for some time but recently landed a job, for which the whole family is extremely thankful.

**The family lives in a small shelter with a dirt floor, a tin roof, and pieces of plywood, tarps, and tin tacked together to create siding. This rough structure barely keeps the rain out, and in the oppressive heat it acts more like a trap for the humidity than a relief.** While they do not own the land where their home is, the landowner is allowing them to build a more permanent dwelling with a concrete floor that will provide greater shelter from the elements. Rachel and Sakrae are trying to provide a better future for their children, and with a little bit of support from Orphan's Promise, that dream is becoming a reality.



**Literacy rates and school attendance in Vanuatu are among the lowest in the Pacific, due to rapid population growth and insufficient resources and teachers in remote classrooms<sup>2</sup>. Your support of Orphan's Promise is working to change that reality.**

<sup>2</sup><https://www.britannica.com/place/Vanuatu/Government-and-society>





**We're kicking off our first-ever**  
**SUMMER OF FUNDRAISING**  
**campaign!**

If you love Orphan's Promise and support our work, this is your chance to take the next step in changing the world!

Launch your campaign today and invite your friends to help you meet the needs of children around the world! Whether you raise \$10, \$100, or \$1,000, every dollar makes a HUGE difference when we all work together!



Launch your campaign today by visiting  
**Orphanspromise.org/Fundraise**  
or  
scan the QR Code here!



## HOPE COMES IN MANY SHAPES AND SIZES

Of the six siblings, Meriam and her older sister are the only two able to attend school. They live just a few minutes' walk through the underbrush from the school, a place where Meriam's life and her family's future are being changed.

Here, Orphan's Promise supports the LifeChanger Christian College (LCCC) program for K through 10th grade for the families in this remote community. Offering more than just education, LCCC approaches care for vulnerable children from a holistic perspective, offering a safe place for kids to learn and grow and giving them the support structures they need to be resilient in the face of systemic poverty. The staff teaches classes and also makes sure kids have





nutritious meals. Initially offered as an immediate response to the community's need, these meals also help teach families the long-term importance of good nutrition and health for kids' energy and mental development. Older children are empowered with vocational training to prepare them for life as an adult. LCCC also runs a small school clinic to treat the infections and skin diseases common in tropical climates. Through the clinic and

school programs, we are seeing a reduction in these health issues and a growing sense of well-being in the community.

For Meriam, the program has been integral to her growth and development. She is in kindergarten, and through the loving care of her teachers—who are supported by compassionate Orphan's Promise partners like you—Meriam is reaching her potential. She is vibrant and





funny and outgoing, playing with her friends and telling stories to make them laugh. She loves art and Bible stories and spending time on the playground. Her teachers love her attentiveness in class and say that they have seen her grow so much in her first year attending school. Meriam is learning essential social skills, building good character, and receiving the support she needs physically and spiritually.

Rachel and Sakrae have the joy of watching their daughter grow and learn. They can see, day by day, how her studies are helping her prepare for a better future and how vocational training at the end of her time at LCCC will give her the tools she needs to break the cycle of poverty. Holistic care in the context of families is what creates sustainable, long-term change.





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**With your help, children like Meriam can grow up with opportunities and with confidence for their future. She lives in the blessings of the fruit that you have sown.**

Hope comes in many shapes and sizes. For Meriam and her family, it comes in a classroom, in the smile of a teacher, in the security of a daily meal at lunchtime, in the friendships formed on a playground. Her parents told us: “We thank the donors of Orphan’s Promise for the ongoing support. With your help, children like Meriam can grow up with opportunities and with confidence for their future. She lives in the blessings of the fruit that you have sown.”

**This is how we end the orphan crisis. We go to the root and start with strengthening families—because strong families create healthy, happy children who go on to create strong families of their own. And that is how we change communities. That is how we change countries. That is how we change the world. One child, one family, at a time.**



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.

education



nutrition



discipleship



community  
transformation



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