

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



by Ellery Sadler,
staff writer

Here at Orphan's Promise,
we talk a lot about
strengthening families and
transforming communities.

We believe that “Plan A” for
vulnerable children is keeping
families intact, so we often ask
ourselves not just “how can we
help this child?” but also “how
can we empower this family and
community to help their children?”

What does that look like in the
life of one child? Come with
us to East Java in Indonesia
and see for yourself...

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



Christi's Transformation





THROUGH THE LENS OF ONE LIFE

The lush green landscapes of East Java are home to Indonesia's second-most-populous province and a majority-Muslim population.¹ It is here that 10-year-old Christi lives with her grandparents, parents, and two brothers.

Ever since Christi was little, her parents have been convinced that she was incredibly talented but always too shy and introverted to express herself. They worried because she really struggled with low confidence and self-esteem.

Christi struggled in school, too. Every time there were math and English lessons, she felt so hopeless. She never could seem to get good grades, and she ranked in the middle of her class. While there was nothing wrong with this, it weighed heavily on Christi's self-esteem. As the school lessons got harder, her parents—who lacked

¹<https://www.britannica.com/place/Java-island-Indonesia>



formal education—did not have the ability to provide her with the support she needed to learn and do her lessons.

For parents anywhere to feel they aren't equipped to help their child reach his or her full potential is a heavy weight to shoulder. But it is particularly heavy when that burden is compounded by poverty, lack of resources, and generational strongholds. That's why one of our goals at Orphan's Promise is to ensure that families are supported, strengthened, and equipped with all the tools necessary to remain together and help each other grow spiritually, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

For Christi's family, this started with Christi getting the opportunity to attend School of Life at a local church, which partners with Orphan's Promise to provide education to vulnerable children in East Java. The ultimate purpose is for children who attend our Orphan's Promise education centers to have the opportunity not only to attend school but also to thrive and reach their full potential.

“For parents anywhere to feel they aren't equipped to help their child reach his or her full potential is a heavy weight to shoulder.”

After Christi had attended School of Life for a year, her family noticed an incredible difference. With the opportunity to receive free tutoring in mathematics and English, Christi saw her grades gradually improve—and with them, her self-esteem. Now, she consistently scores well in math and English and has gained a lot of confidence.

Not only that, but talents that were previously hidden are starting to emerge. At school, there are extra classes for vocals and music, and Christi has been getting involved. Throughout the year, School of Life hosts special programs where students are able to sing, dance, and showcase their talents. People who used to know Christi as an introverted young girl—who was often too shy to even hang out with her friends—are amazed to see her courage and confidence as she performs in public. It turns out that Christi has quite a natural talent for performing. She often represents her school in various competitions for dance, music, and poetry reading at other local schools and government offices. Her teachers all speak to the fact that Christi has made huge progress, and they continue encouraging her to keep going and develop all her talents.

On top of that, Christi is known for being warm, open, and caring, and she's made many dear friends at school. On November 10, which is Indonesia's National Day of Commemorating Heroes, the school held an event that gave students the opportunity to become heroes by doing something for others. Christi didn't hesitate to take all her savings and give it to her neighbors to buy food. She was so touched by their great need, even though she had been saving for quite some time to buy shoes because her own were worn out.



A young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue patterned shirt, is flexing his muscles with a confident smile. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery.

Automate Your Impact!

The most effective way to give and maximize your gift is to give a recurring monthly gift. If you'd like to become a monthly partner with Orphan's Promise, please fill out the enclosed "You Pledge, We Pledge" form and return it in the Business Reply Envelope. We'll count on you to ensure our commitment to these children is fulfilled!

If you'd like to give a special gift to Orphan's Promise, there are four easy ways you can give:

Give online by visiting **OrphansPromise.org/Promise**

Text PROMISE to 71777 and give from your mobile phone

Call 1-800-818-4016 to give by phone

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'spromise



A FAMILY AFFAIR

Another beautiful thing School of Life has provided to Christi is character education through the Superbook films about Christ. Learning about who she is as a child of God has played a huge role in Christi recovering her self-confidence, and it's begun to seep into the rhythms of the rest of the family as well. Every night, Christi and her grandmother diligently read a few chapters of God's Word together, and every morning they spend time in prayer.

Christi's parents have also noticed how much their daughter's faith has impacted her attitude toward them, as she has become a better listener and is more eager to honor her parents. It's a powerful example of how ministering to one child's heart can begin to transform the entire culture of a family. Your generosity makes this possible!

After 15 years, we know that meeting someone's spiritual needs must also be paired with meeting their physical needs. These tangible expressions of love are our way of being Jesus' hands and feet for families who have too often received the short end of the stick in this broken world of ours.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly difficult for Indonesia, which has one of the highest caseloads and death tolls in Southeast Asia. Consequently, the Indonesian economy has fallen into a recession.²

² <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/2/5/covid-slammed-indonesias-economy-hard-in-2020-data-show>



For Christi's family, that tangible love looked like addressing their financial needs, which were causing a serious strain on the family. In order to make ends meet, Christi's mother, Eka, sells various fried foods, snacks, cakes, and juices from a small shop outside of their home. As the COVID-19 pandemic hit Indonesia particularly hard, resulting in one of the highest caseloads and death tolls in Southeast Asia,³ fewer and fewer customers began frequenting Eka's shop. With almost no income and a large number of family members to feed, she didn't know what to do. Finding food became increasingly difficult. Thinking she needed to close her business, Eka almost gave up.

But thankfully, during those early months of the pandemic, School of Life stepped in and provided family care packages and basic food assistance, including rice, cooking oil, sugar, and other necessities.

Now, the staff at the church and school are also helping Eka rebuild her business to help sustain her family in the long term, including providing microenterprise capital that has allowed her to get back up and running. Besides operating the physical shop, she launched an internet store and sells basic necessities that include household appliances, food, and other supplies that have been so critical for families during the pandemic. The church staff from

³ <https://www.csis.org/programs/southeast-asia-program/southeast-asia-covid-19-tracker-0>

the Orphan's Promise School of Learning is teaching her basic bookkeeping, as well as marketing strategies and best business practices.

What began as an opportunity for Christi has now expanded to bless the entire family. By approaching our mission of caring for the world's at-risk kids holistically, we can tackle some of the long-term root causes that place children in vulnerable positions or hinder them from reaching their full potential. When we provide assistance for families to break cycles of poverty, illiteracy and homelessness, we see hope rush in and lift up entire communities.

This hope is powerful, because it isn't built on empty optimism or cheap platitudes. The proof can be seen in the lives that are transformed.

It's a hope that includes spiritual discipleship, financial empowerment, and educational support, with a lot of love mixed in. It is hope that says, "We are here for the long haul and we are committed to walking beside you as you create sustainable change." One day at a time. One child at a time. One family at a time.

That's how YOU are changing the world. Thanks for being along for the journey.







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



strong families



anti-trafficking

