

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



Unlocking Suleman's Future

by Drew Friedrich
Director of Marketing

Attending Christian school in Pakistan is nothing like it is in the United States. The vast majority of schools there are Muslim and lack the love and compassion so many students crave at a young age.

Christian parents have few choices about where to educate their children, leaving curious minds underdeveloped at home while the parents struggle to find enough work just to feed them.

For these families, a quality Christian education is often a distant dream. But because of your compassion, one little boy has a different story.

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







Suleman lives in Pakistan, the country that globally has the second-highest rate of children not enrolled in school. Imagine living in this reality, where an estimated 22.8 million children do not regularly attend a school. Sadly, Suleman was one of the many children held captive by this unfortunate circumstance. His parents didn't want him to attend Muslim schools, and Christian schools are practically non-existent—or frequently too expensive.

His family struggles to keep body and soul together. They live in a small hut made of bricks and mud. The parents, Patras and Farzana, are hardworking and love their children. But with the COVID-19 pandemic, finding work has been even more difficult than before. Many of the jobs in agriculture and other manual labor occupations have disappeared. The economic impact of the pandemic has made it extremely difficult for Patras and Farzana to consistently provide for Suleman and his brother, Faras.



“Sometimes I get work, sometimes there is no work,” Patras explains. You can see the concern in his eyes and the burden he carries as a father who wants what is best for his boys. The stark reality of their situation makes it difficult for him to sleep at night. “Sometimes there is food, sometimes there is nothing to eat.”

“I work as a house cleaner,” Farzana shares. “But I do not make enough money to provide an education for my children.” The weight of this shortcoming brings Farzana to tears.

First and foremost, Farzana and Patras are parents. One of the most difficult things for them is when their sons are hungry but there

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is nothing to feed them. Sending your little ones to bed with empty bellies is heartbreaking for parents. They want a better future for their kids. They want their boys to be safe and happy and healthy. And they hope that one day, Suleman and Faras will be able to not just survive, but thrive.

It is our privilege to walk alongside this family. When we heard their story, we knew we couldn't change the reality for every child in Pakistan, much as we might like to. But we could help Suleman. We could show God's love to this little boy and his family.

We believe that one child, one story, one family is worth it. We believe each child, created in the image of God, deserves a chance.

With your support and the help of our partner on the ground, Hosanna in the Highest preschool, Suleman was able to begin his



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



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2 million more people have fallen below the poverty line in Pakistan in the last year.¹

1 https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/poverty-in-pakistan-rises-to-over-5-in-2020-estimates-world-bank-121062200084_1.html

education in a Christian environment. He now has access to an education that his parents would never be able to afford. The majority of the schools in Pakistan are Muslim schools that espouse Muslim ideals and traditions, but for children like Suleman, whose families are not Muslim, a place like Hosanna in the Highest is a godsend. Suleman is now able to get the individualized attention and spiritual discipleship he needs to grow. He's able to learn and has access to solid biblical teaching alongside his regular studies. His teachers are so proud of the progress he's made and the way he is engaging at school.



“When Suleman started school, he struggled to know what to say and what to do. It was hard for him to know what was good or bad, as he had never been taught,” his teacher says. “Together, we worked hard to transform him and his character with the help of the Holy Spirit.”

But Suleman’s transformation is about more than just education. Education is the key to unlocking the futures of children living in poverty.

Without the opportunity to learn and dream, Suleman would undoubtedly fall into the same cycle of poverty and hopelessness into which he was born. Instead, he’s laying the foundation for a bright future. Suleman dreams of being a doctor one day and helping others get the care they need. His parents are overjoyed that he is in

a safe environment and able to get the physical, mental, and spiritual support he needs to grow and reach his dreams.

Suleman's family is culturally Christian, which for many just means they're not practicing Muslims. The family has seen the practical evidence of God's love through the love and care of Suleman's teachers and the work of Orphan's Promise in their community. This practical expression of the Gospel opened a way for Suleman and his family to truly understand the Gospel message. Now Suleman's family prays together, reads the Bible together, and attends church together. They are finding hope in the midst of extremely difficult circumstances. As for Suleman, his favorite part of the day is worship. He loves singing and worshipping Jesus!



40% of households in Pakistan suffer from food insecurity.²

² https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/poverty-in-pakistan-rises-to-over-5-in-2020-estimates-world-bank-121062200084_1.html#:~:text=Using%20the%20lower%2Dmiddle%2Dincome,23%2C%20reported%20The%20News%20International

To see this little boy's transformation from alone and hungry to surrounded by love and support—with the opportunity to get an education, enjoy the stability of regular meals, and receive the prayers and discipleship of his teachers—is a beautiful testimony of God's faithfulness. Walking with Suleman and his family is a privilege.

It is our joy to be able to partner with you in helping kids like Suleman see and experience the love of God.





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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