

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



Being a Witness

by Ellery Sadler
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A witness is defined as “one who has personal knowledge of something; evidence or proof.”¹ How fitting, then, that we get to share the story of a little girl named Witness with you today. Her life is beautiful evidence of God’s provision for His kids. It’s our great privilege to come alongside at-risk families and be the hands and feet of Jesus. So join us in a small community in northern Tanzania, and let’s bear witness together to the great goodness of God.

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

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/witness>





Witness lives in the Arusha region of northern Tanzania with her mother, Leah, and her two little brothers, Joseph and Paul. Tanzania lies just south of the equator in East Africa and is best known for Mount Kilimanjaro, the continent's highest peak. The Arusha region is home to the Maasai tribe. Life in rural Tanzania isn't easy, as this area has one of the poorest economies in the world.² Most families survive off of subsistence farming, which means that nearly all the livestock or crops raised go to feeding the farmer's family and there is little or no margin for sale or trade. It's extremely difficult to save or prepare for the future that way. For Witness's family, it's even more difficult—because her father passed away in 2020.

This left Leah struggling to provide for herself and her three little ones. The COVID-19 pandemic, plus the devastating loss of her husband, made it very difficult for Leah to earn enough income to support her family. Many people across Tanzania struggled, particularly those who relied on self-employment and informal microenterprises, such as Witness's mom.³ It's estimated that an additional one million people in Tanzania fell below the poverty line in 2020 during the pandemic. Leah worked hard in the local food and beverage business, but she was barely able to put enough food on the table to keep her family together. Like many mothers who live in rural communities across Africa, she wanted more for her children.



The World Bank reports: “The poverty rate based on the international extreme poverty line is estimated to have risen from 49.3 percent in 2019 to 50.4 percent in 2020. Households that saw the highest drop in welfare were those relying on self-employment and informal microenterprises in urban areas.”⁴

² <https://www.usnews.com/news>

³ <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/tanzania>

⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tanzania/overview#1>



**She wanted to see her kids not just survive,
but grow and thrive.**

Fortunately, a friend told Leah about our Orphan's Promise partner on the ground near their village. Tumaini Education is a ministry that seeks to reach—and bring restoration to—needy and hurting children in Tanzania. The ministry helps at-risk kids like Witness gain access to education and learn social skills so that they can develop into healthy adults. When we heard the story of Witness and her family, we knew we needed to help.

One of the most powerful ways to help break the cycle of poverty is through education. But for many families in impoverished rural settings, accessing that education is extremely difficult. Not only do children have to walk great



distances to reach the nearest school, but schools often require students to bring their own school supplies, purchase a uniform, and have shoes. Small, practical things like books and pencils or a pair of shoes might not seem like much, but for children in Tanzania it can be the difference between receiving an education or not. Witness was one of many children who couldn't attend school because they didn't have the school supplies they needed.

But sometimes, the darkest situations offer us the greatest opportunity to bring hope and testify of God's provision. We were able to help Witness by furnishing her with school supplies and a uniform so that she could go to class and start learning. Because of compassionate partners like you, we are also able to help provide consistent, healthy meals for Witness and her family through a monthly meal packet. Nutrition is essential for small, growing

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a dark blue short-sleeved shirt with a white anchor pattern, is flexing his right and left biceps. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and sunlight filtering through.

INCREASE YOUR GENEROSITY!

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.**



bodies. Not having to worry about where their next meal is coming from helps little ones like Witness be able to focus during class. She is a very happy child and loves to play with the other kids at her school. At home, she helps with the chores and takes care of her little brothers. She dreams of someday being a doctor and told us, “I am happy to go to school. I want to help others when I grow up, too.”

“One of the most effective ways to help at-risk kids is by empowering their parents so the family can stay together.”



Through the Orphan's Promise program, we were also able to come alongside Witness's mother and help Leah grow a small-scale business selling groceries and fruit in their community. This new endeavor is providing a more stable, consistent income for her and giving her the opportunity to plan for her family's future. One of the most effective ways to help children at risk is by empowering their parents so the family can stay together. Keeping kids in loving, healthy families is the best outcome.



“I’m really thankful that you came our way. We don’t really know how things would have been if not for you. I’m now sure that God loves the least,” Leah shared.

Evidence of God’s love. Proof of His goodness. Bearing witness that a helping hand can make all the difference. Witness now has a brighter future ahead and the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty through education. Leah has a successful small business and a path forward to keeping her family together. What a gift to get to stand alongside mothers like Leah and little girls like Witness and help them become who God created them to be.







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

orphanspromise.org

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education



nutrition



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community transformation



strong families



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