

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**

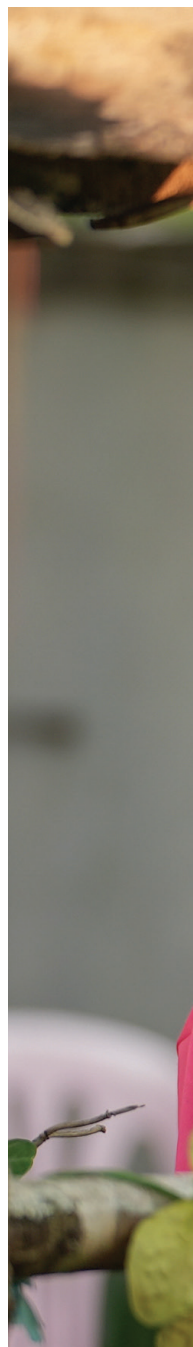


A Better Life for Chiva

by Ellery Sadler
Staff Writer

Chiva means “life” in Cambodian. It’s an appropriate name for Chiva because the first thing you’ll notice about this little boy is the life and spark in his eyes. Chiva lives in a rural, mountainous region of Cambodia called Koh Kong. His life has never been easy, but with the help of Orphan’s Promise partners like you, his future is getting brighter. Come with us to a small village on the other side of the world and see how you are making a difference.

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







Cambodia is located in Southeast Asia, situated between Vietnam and Thailand. Its lush landscape, beautiful architecture, and rich history make it a very unique place. But it is also a place of extreme material poverty. Many communities and families in rural areas live well below the poverty line, struggling to survive and provide for their families. According to the research made in 2017, approximately 70%



KOH KONG IS A PROVINCE FULL OF MOUNTAINS, SURROUNDED BY DENSE FORESTS. LOCAL CHURCHES REPORT ABOUT 98% OF PEOPLE IN THE REGION ARE BUDDHIST AND ONLY 2 PERCENT ARE CHRISTIAN.

of the population does not have access to a piped clean water supply, and many families make their living from subsistence farming.¹ This leaves them vulnerable to changing weather and disease. It also makes them dependent on their crop yield for survival.

Most people in Chiva's community live off of what they can grow. They

don't have any extra to sell or any way to expand their income. For Chiva and his family, it's no different. Chiva is one of six siblings. The older two siblings work as often as they are able to find jobs. While Chiva and his sister go to school, the two littlest ones stay at home with their mom.

¹ <https://borgenproject.org/top-10-facts-about-poverty-in-cambodia/>.

The biggest challenge facing Chiva's family is basic survival. Having enough food for the children is a constant struggle that weighs heavily on his parents. They work long hours every day and try their best to provide for their kids. They dream of a different future for their children, but breaking the cycle of poverty is incredibly complicated. Access to education plays a big role in changing the trajectory of





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Virginia Beach, VA 23463

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



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the future, and Chiva's parents knew it was important. But for a long time, sending their children to school was out of the question.

Since they were barely able to provide enough to keep their kids' bellies full, they had nothing left over to pay for uniforms, books, or school fees. A lot of the time, Chiva had to spend his days with his father fishing, searching for snails to eat, or tending the garden to try and get the vegetables to grow. He did not have time to

**THE GOAL OF KOH KONG
MERCY METHODIST CHURCH
IS TO SHARE GOD'S WORD
WITH THE COMMUNITY
THROUGH SERVICES AND
THROUGH THE SCHOOL OF
LIFE PROGRAM WHERE
MANY CHILDREN WHO
WOULD NOT OTHERWISE
HAVE ACCESS TO AN
EDUCATION ARE ABLE TO
COME AND LEARN.**



study or learn how to read because he was desperately trying to help his parents. In addition to the financial hurdles they faced, the public school was too far away for Chiva to be able to attend. Walking that distance back and forth every day would not leave enough time for him to help his dad with finding food.

UNICEF reports: "Without quality education, children face considerable



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**GIVING AT-RISK KIDS
ACCESS TO EDUCATION
AND A SAFE, STABLE
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AND LEARN IS ESSENTIAL
IN HELPING THEM THRIVE.**

barriers to employment and earning potential later in life.² They are more likely to suffer adverse health outcomes and less likely to participate in decisions that affect them—threatening their ability to shape a better future for themselves and their societies.”

We at Orphan's Promise heard about Chiva and helped this family through our local church

partner and the School of Life program near his community. Giving at-risk kids access to education and a safe, stable environment to grow and learn is essential in helping them thrive and receive the tools to build a better future.

With your partnership, Chiva was able to start coming to school five days a week. His teachers say he is a very faithful student and loves playing with the other kids. He always comes to school now, even when he is tired and the walk is long. He also has access to nutritious meals, which is important for his development and growth.

² <https://www.unicef.org/education>.

Being able to focus on his studies, and not wonder where his next meal is coming from or being tired from not having enough food, means that he is finally able to learn. He is receiving mentoring from his teachers and has learned how to read and write. He is also learning valuable social and life skills as he interacts with the teachers and other students at school. His favorite color is red, and he hopes to be a civil servant when he grows up.

Giving Chiva access to an education will serve him well for the rest of his life and equip him with tools to help him break out of the cycle of poverty. When we talked with him, he wanted to thank Orphan's Promise partners like you for helping him go to school and promises he is studying hard for his future and for his family.

"As a project coordinator [and] as a pastor, I am very proud to be involved in this project. This project is important, a good part of the



communities, and helps the [people here] know God,” Orphan’s Promise Cambodia Coordinator Malin Kim shared.

Every child deserves a chance. Every child needs access to education. Every child should be given the tools and ability to reach their potential and become the person God created them to be. Seeing how eager Chiva is to learn is one of the greatest privileges. It is an honor and a joy to come alongside little ones like him and give them a safe, stable environment for them to explore, learn, and tangibly experience the love of God.

Chiva means “life.” Through your partnership with Orphan’s Promise, you are bringing life and hope to many vulnerable kids around the world. Thank you for helping kids like Chiva have a brighter future!





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

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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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