



PORTRAITS OF  
**PROMISE**

ORPHAN'S PROMISE NEWSLETTER | JULY 2023



# Wisdom's Rescue

Wisdom is a 10-year-old boy in Nigeria. Like many other kids around the world, his young life has been severely affected by violence. This is the story of how your partnership with Orphan's Promise made Wisdom's rescue possible. Come with us to a children's crisis care home and discover how your support is bringing hope and healing to children in war-torn areas.

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







## THE FIGHT TO SURVIVE

Wisdom was born in a village in the Southern Kaduna region of Nigeria. After NATO's intervention in Libya, many displaced Fulani—a predominantly Muslim, semi-nomadic tribe that was listed in 2014 as one of the deadliest terrorist groups by the Global Terrorism Index<sup>1</sup>—began ravaging villages in this region, including Wisdom's community. Every time they come, they terrorize the community by killing, raping, destroying crops, and stealing livestock. Often, villages are burned to the ground.

Wisdom was only a baby when his father was brutally killed during one of these attacks. So, his mother, Dorcas, moved the two of them away to live with her father-in-law. She tried to make a living by selling bananas, but life was extremely difficult. Most of the time, the family did not know where their next meal would come from, and they often went without food. If they had enough to eat for one meal a day, they were lucky. On top of the daily battle for survival, everyone in the village lives in constant fear of the Fulani returning. This ongoing crisis—a combination of targeted hate and random violence—is particularly

---

***Because of the Fulani, “Nigeria remains one of the countries with the highest terrorism threat levels in the world.”<sup>2</sup>***



terrifying. One website explains that “terrorism combines two threats: of deliberate harm to a child’s community and of random harm to children and their families. These characteristics pose special challenges to the emotional balance of a community, and they require unique responses from communities and care providers.”<sup>3</sup>

## HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

When Wisdom was old enough to go to school, his grandfather and mother tried to scrape enough money together to pay the school fees for him to get an education. But in 2020, Wisdom’s grandfather passed away and life became even more challenging. Then, a few months later, Dorcas and Wisdom heard about a children’s crisis care home from their pastor. Dorcas was greatly relieved. Finally, there was an opportunity for her little boy to have a safer future. Orphan’s Promise partners with the home to provide a safe, stable environment for marginalized children who are displaced by violence and terrorism. Currently, more than 400 children receive education and care, and they’re away from the life-threatening danger in their villages.

The home is about 60 miles away from Wisdom’s village. When Wisdom arrived in 2020, he was suffering from a severe type of malnutrition called kwashiorkor. He was much too small for his age, and his stomach was distended. Although he had been attending school in the village





as much as possible, he could not read, write, or speak any English. Nutrition also plays a key role in education. Being constantly hungry and afraid significantly affects a child's ability to learn and focus. Wisdom was also suffering from ongoing trauma after growing up in a consistently dangerous environment.

## A HOME FOR WISDOM

Now, Wisdom is in a safe environment where he has the support and care he needs to heal. Over the last few years, with consistent investment from his teachers and caregivers, nutritious meals, and medical care, Wisdom is learning and growing. He no longer fears the constant attacks, and



## 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](https://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.**





he isn't worried about when he'll be able to eat again. He has access to plenty of eggs, fruit, vitamins, and nutritious meals and is eager to learn in school. His teachers have watched him thrive. He is also catching up on his studies. He is now in Primary 3 (similar to third grade in the United States) and is successfully learning English, math, and science. Every week, he gets to speak with his mom on Uncle Solomon's phone. Uncle Solomon is his favorite caregiver.

Over Christmas break, Wisdom returned home to see his mom. But during the three weeks he was visiting, the Fulani attacked yet again. Dorcas, her son, and their neighbors ran for their lives and hid in the bush overnight until the military came to drive the Fulani away before they could completely destroy the village. Praise God no one in the village was killed, and Wisdom was strong enough to run. If the attack had happened when Wisdom was suffering from such severe malnutrition, he may not have survived because he was too weak to run away. If he had survived the attacks, his small body would most likely have succumbed to the frequent problem of illnesses like malaria, diarrhea, or typhoid. Fortunately, his time at the children's crisis care home gave him the strength to escape, and he and his mom survived.

Wisdom is back at the children's crisis care home and is continuing to learn, study, and grow. He loves to be active, and his favorite part of the day is when he gets to play soccer. His favorite color is green, the color of Nigeria's national soccer team. He said he wants to be a doctor when he grows up.

And like every parent, Dorcas just wants her little boy to live without having to fear for his life. She shared, "May the Lord continue to help the donors and open doors for them."

**Every child should be able to grow up in safety. With your help, Wisdom has access to a safe, stable environment where he can flourish.**

*According to UNICEF, 46% of Nigeria's population is under 15 years old. The country also "accounts for more than one in five out-of-school children anywhere in the world." Sadly, this means that there is only a 25% chance that a child who misses school will come back.<sup>4</sup>*

1. Institute for Economics & Peace, *Global Terrorism Index 2015*, November 2015, <https://privacyinternational.org/sites/default/files/2018-02/Global%20Terrorism%20Index%202015%2C%20Institute%20for%20Economics%20%26%20Peace.pdf>.

2. Doris Dokua Sasu, "Nigeria: Deaths Related to Fulani Extremist Terror," Statista, September 29, 2022, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1197707/deaths-from-attacks-by-fulani-extremists-in-nigeria/>.

3. Pine, Daniel S., Jane Costello, and Ann S. Masten, "Trauma, Proximity, and Developmental Psychopathology: The Effects of War and Terrorism on Children," *Neuropsychopharmacology* 30, no. 10 (October 1, 2005): 1781–92. <https://doi.org/10.1038/sj.npp.1300814>.

4. "Situation of Women and Children in Nigeria," UNICEF Nigeria, accessed April 18, 2023, <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/situation-women-and-children-nigeria#:~:text=According%20to%20data%2C%20Nigeria%20is,7%20million%20babies%20are%20born.>







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 may be tax-deductible.

education



nutrition



discipleship



community  
transformation



strong families



anti-trafficking

