

P O R T R A I T S O F
PROMISE

APRIL 2024



**at-risk
to thriving**

orphan'spromise

A Soft Place to Land



These are the stories.

These are the souls.

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

April is Autism Acceptance Month, and we are so excited to introduce you to Aman, a little boy who lives in Pakistan. Life in this country is particularly difficult for people with disabilities. That's why your partnership with Orphan's Promise is essential in helping them access the support and educational opportunities they need. Join us in Punjab, Pakistan, to meet this precious child.

**at-risk
to thriving**



AMAN'S EARLY YEARS

Aman is the second oldest child in his family. His favorite color is red, and he loves to play with his dog. He also enjoys music and dancing.

He lives in Lahore, which is one of the largest cities in the Punjab region of Pakistan. His dad is a driver, and his mom stays at home to take care of the house and children. They have a close-knit family and when Aman was born, his parents distributed sweets to all their neighbors in celebration!

But it wasn't long before Aman's parents realized something was different about their son. He didn't babble or practice getting up on his own like other babies did.

Aman did not learn to walk until he was almost 6 years old. He also had a hard time communicating with his parents. He could not do basic daily activities like feeding himself, getting dressed, using the bathroom, or brushing his teeth. It wasn't until he was 12 that his parents finally got some answers about what made their son unique: He was autistic. While that diagnosis brought clarity, it also came with an onslaught of questions and fears. Aman's parents felt helpless and unsure of where to turn for support.

Research shows that “in Pakistan, some 14.3 million people live with a disability. Right from birth, these individuals are often isolated and othered, unable to claim rights to the same resources as their able-bodied peers. In a country where accessibility is rare and acceptance even rarer, these people find themselves with little support.”¹



UNICEF reports that “despite overall progress in education attainment globally, children with disabilities remain one of the most marginalized groups.”²

DISCRIMINATION AND DIFFICULTIES

Autism can be very challenging because there is not just one “but many subtypes, most influenced by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Because autism is a spectrum disorder, each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. The ways in which people with autism learn, think and problem-solve can range from highly skilled to severely challenged.”³

People with a disability are often treated poorly in Pakistan, especially if they are Christian. Pakistan is predominately Muslim, so Aman’s family struggles with being discriminated against because of their Christian faith. Many people believe that having a child with a disability is a curse and, therefore, people who have a disability are shunned. Because Aman felt unaccepted, he did not play with any of the children in his community.

Aman’s parents sought help from several doctors, but their son was still mostly unresponsive. They knew he needed special care. While there are some government programs that provide education for kids with special needs, it was nearly impossible for Aman’s family to afford it. They would have had to pay for his transportation and tuition. And usually, children from Christian families are not warmly welcomed.

When one of their friends told them about an organization that partners with Orphan’s Promise called Mother Nest Special Education Society, Aman’s parents were overjoyed. Here was a place where their precious son could thrive in a safe and loving environment.

A MINISTRY OF HEALING

Mother Nest provides free day care and education for 35 children and young adults with disabilities. Children now have a place to stay during the day so their parents can work and make a steady income.

At Mother Nest, kids with disabilities also get nutritious meals. For children from impoverished families, the security that provides cannot be overstated. Knowing where their next meal is coming from and having stable nutrition are essential for kids to grow healthy and strong.



Our Orphan's Promise regional manager shared, "This ministry is made with so much love, compassion, and delicate care to children with disabilities in the poorest communities, to Christians who are facing discrimination in the community, and to children who are despised and sometimes rejected even by their families. They also provide support to the family systems and offer individualized support for each child with a variety of therapies, education, and life-skills training—as well as teach them biblical values. What I most like is that they describe their work as a healing ministry."



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 check out the information below. 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:



OrphansPromise.org/Promise



Text PROMISE to 71777



Call 1-800-818-4016



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



Mother Nest has given Aman an environment specifically designed to help him learn and grow. His parents were amazed to see tremendous improvement in Aman. He's learned how to do daily activities, such as getting dressed on his own. He loves music so much that he has even taken an interest in learning how to play guitar and the piano. And he enjoys creative activities like painting. He also interacts with other children and young adults with disabilities. Instead of being marginalized, he is an integral part of the Mother Nest community.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Aman means hope, peace, and trust. What a fitting name for a boy who cannot verbally communicate and trusts those around him to meet his needs. Aman's life is a testimony to what child-like trust looks like and a beautiful reminder that God takes care of His beloved children.

Because of dedicated partners like you, Aman has access to the support and specialized education he needs to reach his God-given potential. His family now has peace of mind knowing that their son is getting the care he needs. They have the joy of seeing him happy.

Thank you for giving kids like Aman a soft place to land in a world that often misunderstands and marginalizes them. As we honor and celebrate Autism Acceptance Month, your partnership with Orphan's Promise is making a life-changing difference for kids with disabilities around the world. Thank you for being love in action!

1. Anmol Irfan, "Why Pakistan Still Struggles to Overcome Its Stigma Around Disability," Telegraph Media Group Limited, August 11, 2023, 1:37, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/why-pakistan-still-struggles-to-overcome-disability-stigma/>.
 2. UNICEF, *Disability-Inclusive Education Practices in Pakistan*, August 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/17011/file/Country%20Profile%20-%20Pakistan.pdf>.
 3. "What Is Autism?," Autism Speaks, accessed December 28, 2023, <https://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism>.




SCAN TO GIVE



orphan's**promise**



 1-800-818-4016

 orphanpromise.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.