

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

ISSUE 70



**at-risk
to thriving**

orphan's promise

Christine: A Teacher in the Making



These are the stories.

These are the souls.

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

Christine dreams of being a teacher one day and—thanks to you—she is well on her way! Unlike many children in the Philippines, she has access to a quality education. Your partnership is making it possible for this bright young girl to reach her full potential. Come with us to a community in the Philippines to learn how your support is unlocking a better future for marginalized kids around the globe.

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GROWING UP WITH GRANDPARENTS

When Christine was just a year old, her parents separated, leaving Christine and her four siblings in the care of their maternal grandparents. Christine's mother was unable to support them on her own. Her father was absent, until Christine sought him out later in life. This situation left the family in a precarious financial situation. Many families in the Philippines rely on extended family members to help share the responsibility of caring for kids. Living in extreme poverty is also common for many families in the Philippines, with around 5.14 million children living on less than \$2.15 a day and 43 percent of Filipino children (or around 17.8 million) living on less than \$3.65 a day.¹

Fishing is Christine's grandparents' only source of income, making education a luxury they couldn't afford. Fishermen and their families are some of the poorest people in the Philippines, as they have no financial margin to expand their business through larger, more dependable boats or equipment. Subsistence fishermen make up the largest portion of the fishing industry in the Philippines. The local fishermen are constantly competing with commercial fishing companies from China and Vietnam who are overfishing and exploiting the local waters.²

While improving the sustainability of the seafood industry may not seem connected to education, it directly affects millions of children in the Philippines because their parents and grandparents struggle to make ends meet. An estimated 75 percent of the nation's fishing grounds have been overfished, severely damaging the ability of indigenous and local fishermen to make a livable income. This affects those who live in poverty the most since fish is their main source of protein. The marine ecosystem is collapsing, causing their main food and income source to be depleted.³ This left Christine without the funds to pay for school fees or supplies.

ONE ARTICLE SAYS THAT THE PHILIPPINES “HAS STRUGGLED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN STUNTING RATES, A PERSISTENT ISSUE OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL DECADES. IT IS WELL UNDERSTOOD THAT EARLY CHILDHOOD NUTRITION PLAYS A DIRECT ROLE IN COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT.”⁴



THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

Not only is economic instability a factor, but natural disasters are increasingly common in the Philippines. Christine’s family heard about our Orphan’s Promise back-to-school project shortly after Super Typhoon Haiyan—one of the most powerful typhoons in recorded history—devastated their community. The World Risk Index ranked the Philippines as the highest-risk country in the world for natural disasters. It is extremely vulnerable to the impact of climate change like typhoons, floods, and landslides.⁵

Through the back-to-school project, Christine received educational support, including a sponsorship to cover her school fees so that she could regularly attend classes. Despite the precarious position she was born into, this program gave Christine the means to pursue her dreams.

In addition to financial help, Christine received school supplies every year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, your partnership also made it possible for her to receive a tablet so that she could continue her education with online classes.

She was also connected with a local church where she found spiritual guidance and a vibrant community. She’s become involved in youth ministry activities and has also enjoyed serving in the local food program at the church.

“We are blessed to be among the students you are helping. The only way we can repay you is to keep studying and reaching for our dreams so as not to waste your support. We will always thank you for all your help and your sacrifice for us.” –Christine

DREAMS OF TEACHING

After being part of the back-to-school project during those foundational years, Christine is about to complete her bachelor's degree in secondary education! She dreams of becoming a licensed professional teacher to help her family overcome poverty and inspire other children who are facing similar challenges. Education is key to helping break the cycle of poverty.

Christine shared: “We are blessed to be among the students you are helping. The only way we can repay you is to keep studying and reaching for our dreams so as not to waste your support. We will always thank you for all your help and your sacrifice for us.”



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.

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THANK YOU

Christine couldn't have said it any better. We are beyond grateful for your compassionate support and taking the time to truly see the potential in young people like Christine. Your investment in their future gives them education, nutritious meals, and spiritual growth. It also reminds them that someone sees them, believes in them, and values what they bring to the world.

Your contributions have transformed Christine's life and empowered her to pursue her dreams. Your support continues to change lives and build pathways to success for other kids across the globe. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and generosity.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for Christine as she finishes her last year of college.

Pray for favor and provision as she prepares for her new future and on-the-job training.

Pray for good health and provision for her family, especially her grandparents.

Pray for the community and the back-to-school program to reach more kids like Christine.

Pray for the teachers who are serving at the back-to-school program and for the local church.

1. Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson, "5M Filipino Kids Lived in Extreme Poverty in 2022—UN Report," BusinessWorld Publishing, September 13, 2023, 8:26, https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2023/09/13/545432/5m-filipino-kids-lived-in-extreme-poverty-in-2022-un-report/#google_vignette.
2. J.C. Gotinga, "Restricted Access, Trawlers Hurt Small-Scale Fishermen in Philippines," BenarNews, June 4, 2021, <https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/fishing-issues-06042021153603.html#:~:text=Subsistence%20fishermen%20make%20up%20the,basic%20gear%20in%20shallow%20water>.
3. "Fishermen in the Philippines Still Damaging Marine Ecosystem," CGTN, January 27, 2024, 22:57, <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-01-27/Fishermen-in-the-Philippines-still-damaging-marine-ecosystem-1qlgZDtINyl/p.html#:~:text=Conservation%20group%20Oceana%20said%20more,overfishing%20by%20larger%20commercial%20fishers>.
4. "State of Philippine Education Report 2023," Philippine Business for Education (PBE), June 2, 2023, <https://pbed.ph/blogs/47/PBE/State%20of%20Philippine%20Education%20Report%202023>.
5. USAID, *Philippines Climate Change Country Profile*, https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/USAID-%20Philippines-Climate-Change-Country-Profile_0.pdf.



SCAN TO GIVE



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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 may be tax-deductible.

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