

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

ISSUE 62

**at-risk
to thriving**

orphan'spromise

Donalson Discovers Hope



These are the stories.

These are the souls.

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

The first thing you'll notice about Donalson is his big, infectious grin. It's hard not to smile when he does. The second thing you'll learn is that he lives on the outskirts of the Duquesa dump. Come with us to Santo Domingo and see how your partnership is bringing the light of Jesus to a little boy and his family in this corner of the Dominican Republic.

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ON THE EDGE

Donalson lives in the Dominican Republic with his mother, baby sister, and stepfather. They live on the edges of the fifth-largest dump in the world, where hundreds of trucks unload 4,000 tons of waste into a massive open landfill every day.¹ Trash stretches as far as the eye can see.

Their life is marked by severe deprivation of basic necessities like electricity, clean water, and proper housing. They live in a tiny one-room hut with dirt floors and no electricity, running water, or a bathroom.

Thanks to the steadfast support of partners like you, Donalson and his family are finding hope in the midst of this extremely challenging environment.



Dubbed “nobody kids,” these children—mainly immigrants who fled from Haiti—exist on the fringes of society, unrecognized and disregarded by both the Haitian and Dominican governments.



**According to the World Bank,
23 percent of Dominican
people live in poverty.²**

THE REALITY OF LIFE AT DUQUESA

In the heart of Santo Domingo, the Duquesa dump stands as a haunting reminder of the harsh realities faced by many children. Dubbed “nobody kids,” these children—mainly immigrants who fled from Haiti—exist on the fringes of society, unrecognized and disregarded by the government, making it impossible for parents to find formal jobs.

Life in this environment means a daily struggle for Donalson and his family. Donalson’s stepdad is a “diver,” which means he spends his days scavenging through trash heaps and looking for plastic, metal, and other discarded materials that can be sold to recycling companies. Donalson often joins him. Their meals frequently come from what food they’re able to salvage from the dump. It’s also a dangerous area with a lot of drug trafficking, and children are often coerced into transporting drugs. Living on the edge of the dump also means constant exposure to health risks, including pest infestations, toxic waste, gas emissions, and uncontained trash fires.³ Needless to say, Donalson’s parents want him to have a different life and a better future.

TRANSFORMING POWER

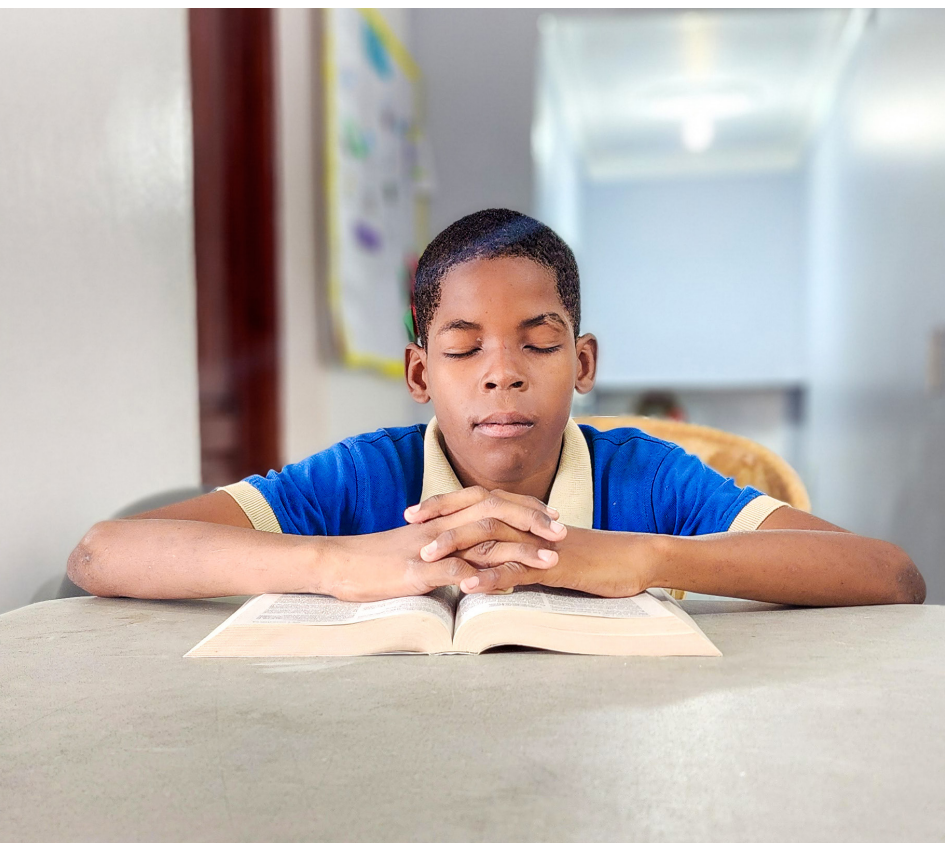
Three years ago, Orphan’s Promise began partnering with a local ministry called Kids to Christ Missions through summer camps aimed at bringing the Gospel to marginalized children. Now, our partnership also provides a food program for 85 at-risk children who attend the Kids to Christ School. Instead of worrying about finding food from the dump, these children are given healthy meals.

Donalson had never been to school before, but his desire to study was so great that he dreamed about it at night. His dreams came true when he met the school principal of Kids to Christ at the dump. He asked for an opportunity to attend classes, and the principal welcomed him into the classroom. Thanks to the support of Orphan’s Promise donors like you, Donalson is now learning to read and write, receiving a nutritious hot meal every day, and making friends at school. His perseverance while studying is paying off, and he’s progressing by leaps and bounds!

When we asked what Donalson would want to say to you, he shared: "Thank you for the help you give me. Having the opportunity to read and study is very important to me. And the food is so yummy!"

It's a joy to see the transformation that happens with just a little bit of support so that kids like Donalson have access to basic necessities. While academics and nutrition are essential, the spiritual guidance the school offers is the most foundational change in Donalson because it's changed how he views himself. It's given him hope and a deeper understanding that he is loved, seen, and valued by God. And that changes everything for a kid who's been told they are a nobody.

"From the day I accepted Jesus Christ, I started to change a lot. I always felt that I was poor, that I would never have anything in my life. When I started to talk to God, everything got better," he said.



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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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Donalson loves books and while he isn't sure about the exact career path he wants to take, he looks forward to attending college someday. He also dreams of excelling in baseball, a sport deeply ingrained in the Dominican culture. He says that the first thing he'll do when he has enough money as an adult is to buy a home for his mom away from the dump and help other kids have access to education.

Our Orphan's Promise regional manager, Karina Nuñez, shared, "Looking at the incredible work that Kids to Christ is doing in the Dominican Republic reminds me of the Bible verse in Deuteronomy 23:5 that says God turns curses into blessings because of His love for us. The light of Jesus in this place is brighter than ever. The kids understand that they are cared for by God. The beautiful smile of Donalson is evidence of that."

COMPASSION IN ACTION

Donalson's story is a testament to the transformative power of your compassion. While he still lives in a very difficult place, he now has access to education, nutrition, spiritual guidance, and a community that will help equip him with the tools and skills he needs to build a better life. Education is an essential step to breaking the cycle of poverty and empowering kids to reach their God-given potential.

None of this would have been possible without your generosity. Your unwavering dedication has not only changed Donalson's life, but it has also sown seeds of hope in countless other children like him. As Donalson continues to pursue his dreams, your ongoing support ensures that more kids will find their path to education and a brighter future. Thank you for coming alongside these children and reminding them that they are valued and loved.

1. Alejandra Agudo, "The Largest Open-Air Landfill in Latin America Is Closing Down," El País, August 22, 2023, 18:37, <https://english.elpais.com/international/2023-08-22/the-largest-open-air-landfill-in-latin-america-is-closing-down.html>.

2. World Bank Group, *Poverty & Equity Brief: Dominican Republic*, April 2023,

https://databankfiles.worldbank.org/public/ddpext_download/poverty/987B9C90-CB9F-4D93-AE8C-750588BF00QA/current/Global_POVEQ_DOM.pdf.

3. Alejandra Agudo, "The Largest Open-Air Landfill in Latin America Is Closing Down," El País, August 22, 2023, 18:37, <https://english.elpais.com/international/2023-08-22/the-largest-open-air-landfill-in-latin-america-is-closing-down.html>.



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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.