

Promise UPDATE



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Going the EXTRA MILE

Abandoned, destitute, and orphaned children in our homes have dreams. A 10th grade Cambodian child dreams of being a doctor one day and providing medical services for the children in the 100 children's homes of our partners, Foursquare Children of Promise. He is already inquiring, but doesn't know how it will be paid for, but his dream is alive within him and he is hopeful that it will be fulfilled.

Luis Evelio, who has been in our ABANSA partnership home, is another child who has just begun to step into his dream. He aspires to be a civil engineer. His sponsors are going the *extra mile* by funding his college education, including room and board and taking care of his miscellaneous expenses of books and transportation. Sponsors are encouraged to become as involved as they would like to be to give their sponsored child hope and encouragement for a bright future. When children, like Evelio, exhibit the ability and desire to further their education beyond high school, we inquire of the sponsor if they want to go the *extra mile* to see their child fulfill their destiny. It is not always financially possible for a sponsor to make the future of their sponsored child more secure. When they can, it is a joy to behold.

Let us tell you the rest of the story. When Evelio was very young his mother abandoned the family. After his father was killed he went to live with his uncle. His uncle milked cows and sold the milk and some fruits from a pushcart in the streets of a city in Colombia. When Evelio was 13, his uncle could no longer care for him. A neighbor contacted our partners, ABANSA, who might be able to receive him in their farm home project. Barbara Decker, Children of Promise missionary assigned to the farm project, made arrangements to meet Evelio at the Cucuta home on a specific day at 5 p.m. to accept him into the farm project. They did not show and Barb was concerned that if she left the area too late, the Venezuela/Colombia border would be closed and she would not get back to the farm home location. No one showed up by 5:20 and she had to leave. Evelio and his neighbor showed up at 5:30 as they were caught in traffic. They got off the traffic jammed bus and ran the rest of the way. They were devastated that they missed his opportunity on the farm and set out on the long trip back to his uncles.

As Barb was at the last turn before the highway, something inside her was telling her to go back—make one last round and if he's not there, then go on. So she made a last round and stopped at the

curb in front of the home. The director saw her and hurriedly sent a child down the side street while she called to Barb—"don't leave, don't leave." In a moment a woman and a boy came around the corner. Barb got out and said to Evelio, "You must be Evelio." "Yes Ma'am," he responded. "Do you have a bag with some clothes?" Barb asked. "Yes ma'am," he replied. "Well then, let's go," Barb responded.

Once again, in the next step to his destiny, a barrier was put up recently when Evelio had to present himself to the army in Colombia for a possible tour of duty. When he told them he was an orphan, the Commander told him to continue to try to get into college and return in August, and for now, because he is an orphan, they would not take him. Evelio says now he thinks being an orphan is okay and that he is very thankful to God for everyone's compassion toward him.



Luis Evelio Prado Perez (on left) with one of the young boys on the farm.



Children of Promise is soon to enter the 35th year of serving the physically and spiritually poor. The years have been filled with challenges that takes "faith" all along the way. If you are contributors to this work—monetarily or through prayer—you, along with the enabling hand of God, have been a part of bringing thousands of lives to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and have been His provision for starving children.

With your help, we can continue to forge ahead in saving more lives of children and fulfilling their dreams. You have already given so much, but with a \$ GiveAway of \$50, \$25, or even \$5 per month to *World Operations*, each of our little bit extra will make a significant whole amount.

Together we are a "team" fulfilling the dreams of orphans, destitute children, and peoples of the nations, working together for one common cause—the cause of Jesus Christ—to set the captives free.

Extra Mile (continued)

God had Evelio's future in His hands and the obstacles that tried to keep him from his destiny did not succeed. Evelio

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was a treasure and joy at the farm. He was a great helper and grew physically and spiritu-

ally. In 2002 he received Jesus as his personal savior, showing a rebirth and renewed life. He was baptized the same year and continues to grow as an intercessory prayer warrior with a burden for the youth and his peers. He is a natural leader and graduated high school with honors at age 16. He took a computer course and "submersion" English for a month in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, USA, and covered the position of 4th grade teacher in The Way, Truth, and Life School in Venezuela.

Our homes are full of Evelios who have a dream and God-given destiny; and there are those we have not even touched waiting for their opportunity for hope and a future. Children of Promise International and their sponsors and donors have responded to God's mandate, "look after orphans...in their distress." James 1:27 That is how God takes care of them—through His people.

Please Pray

Barbara Decker, Agriculture Missionary in Venezuela, who had complications after knee surgery last year, has now developed cysts behind her knees and has a possible torn meniscus of the right knee. In addition, she has a finger that locks. Both may require surgery. Please pray for encouragement and healing. Pray that God will give wisdom concerning treatment and any surgical procedures.

Sponsorship Opportunities

... at The Purple Palace



Monica (EP004) — "Don't drop me!" cries 70 year old Pauline as Monica and Connie Youngkin are moving her over to her wheelchair. Her frail frame is racked with a painful deforming arthritis and bedsores. Fourteen-year-old Monica's heart is full of compassion for the elderly who have been deserted and are now in a Tijuana nursing home. (*The Purple Palace* children have spent a lot of time this summer working with these forgotten people according to Connie. Monica also was valedictorian for her class! She would not be in school if she was not at the home, and she is not following the footsteps of her mom who is a prostitute and drug addict. (\$30 /month sponsorship)



Sarai (left)— is one of the new girls. She was on her way to getting into drugs and prostitution. She now wants to be a doctor and is starting school. (\$30/mo sponsor is needed)



Damaris (right)— is 16 years old and works hard as one of the cooks for the summer, and loves it. She is the #1 student in her class, wants to be a doctor, and leads Bible studies for the other girls. Damaris would be in the streets if *The Purple Palace* were not there for her. (sponsorship \$30/mo)

Jenifer (left)— is 10 months old. Her mother deserted her at 3 months old because her boyfriend did not like kids. She has never come back and is seen walking the

streets just a few blocks away from the home. (sponsorship \$30/month)

Joselin (EP009) (right)— At 10 years old, Joselin is the flag bearer of her school, which is an honor given only to deserving girls. If she wasn't with *The Purple Palace*, she would not be in school but with her drug addicted father. Her mom died of AIDS. (Joselin needs a sponsor at \$30/month.)



Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

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