



CHILDIMPACT INTERNATIONAL



EMPOWERING EDUCATION. ERADICATING EXPLOITATION.



Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO, center, receives a group hug from students at Twing Memorial School.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

2024's Accomplishments and 2025's Goals

I'd like to share a special verse with you:

"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you but will rejoice over you with singing." —Zephaniah 3:17

The human voice has been described as the most advanced musical instrument in the world. No two voices are the same in terms of timbre and sound quality. How would you describe yourself: A concert soloist? Choir singer? Congregation singer? Shower singer? Or does your dog howl when you attempt to sing? Despite voice lessons as a young adult, I would best describe myself as a necktie tenor...not quite reaching the notes in a melodic way.

Two Italian singers top the list of producing the most beautiful sounds with their voices. Andrea Bocelli's voice has been described as "angelic" and "breathtaking."

Luciano Pavarotti performances were often described as "transcendent."

Zephaniah 3:17 ends with a climactic statement, "God will rejoice over you with singing." The same voice that called to Adam and Eve in the garden "Where are

you?" is lifted in euphonious melody far surpassing the greatest masterpieces of Bocelli and Pavarotti.

As I reflect on the children we serve through Child Impact, I am impressed with God's passionate love for them. They have innate value as children of God, created in His image. He rejoices over each one of them with singing.

In this issue of our magazine, we reflect on our top accomplishments for 2024 and highlight five of our goals for 2025. Thank you for your support during 2024. You are indeed making a world of difference! As we look forward to the year ahead, thank you for partnering with Child Impact on behalf of these precious children and for bringing hope to them.

Blessings!

Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO

"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you but will rejoice over you with singing."

—Zephaniah 3:17

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EMPOWERING EDUCATION. ERADICATING EXPLOITATION.

Child Impact International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit humanitarian organization focused on the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children. We believe that education empowers children to break the chains of generational poverty. Our sponsorship program first launched in 1966 in India under the name Asian Aid and has grown to support 5,000 students. In 2014, Operation Child Rescue was initiated to help eradicate exploitation. Ten years later, Child Impact International is a global leader in the fight against human trafficking. Our generous donors have partnered with us to bring hope and a brighter future to thousands of vulnerable children in over 20 countries.

Special Feature

TOP 5 WINS OF 2024

TOP 5 GOALS FOR 2025





Clockwise from above: Angel attending class at Twing Memorial School; Angel shows her bed in the girl's dormitory; Angel at age 12, begging on the streets of Kigoma, Tanzania.



TOP FIVE WINS OF 2024: #5

Twing Memorial School Infrastructure Improvements

By Dr. Tom L. Evans

On many of my international trips, my mind repeats the same scenario. I try to immerse myself in the culture and imagine what it might be like to be faced with similar circumstances. What if I switched places with the person I'm observing right now?

"I'll share one such scenario. That girl... begging on the streets in Kigoma, Tanzania. What is her name? Angel. She is 12 years old, the most vulnerable age for abuse, trafficking, and exploitation.

Switch places. I haven't had a proper meal for two weeks. At night, I'm locked out of my house because my mom is mentally ill and all my relatives are drunk. I'm sleeping on the ground at an open-air train station. What happens when it rains or when it is cold? How can I keep safe from people who want to harm me? Will anyone have compassion on me?

Snap back to reality. I'm ready for my warm bed, clean clothes, delicious food, hot shower, and a safe place. My life is comfortable. Every time I mentally try to trade places, I recognize that I am truly blessed. I'm also convicted that not only what happens next door or in my immediate community or country matters, BUT what happens halfway around the world matters to God, and it should matter to me as well.

Now let me be transparent with you. I cried multiple times the day I tried

to mentally put myself in Angel's shoes. To maintain sanity and avoid being overwhelmed, I've had to reduce the masses to ONE: to Angel. I can do something to change her world. And I can invite others to join me in making a world of difference for one child at a time.

Today, Angel is living in a dormitory at the Twing Memorial School. She has her own comfortable bed and three meals a day. Angel is surrounded by new friends and loving teachers. She has a bright future.

For Child Impact's top 5 accomplishments of 2024, our team selected the Twing Campus Impact and Expansion as #5. Through generous gifts and donations, both the primary and secondary school campuses have newly built commercial kitchens, a new girls and boys dormitory are nearing completion on the secondary campus, and both campuses have been upgraded and renovated. While the infrastructure is a significant blessing, the children like Angel who are being served are the true highlights of this past year's accomplishment. ■

"I'm convicted that not only what happens next door or in my immediate community or country matters, but what happens halfway around the world matters to God, and it should matter to me as well."



To support projects like this, make a gift at childimpact.org/ocr.

TOP FIVE WINS OF 2024: #4

Impact of Colombia Projects

By Jason Churchwell

During 2024, Child Impact saw God working in unbelievable ways in Colombia! We completed construction on a girls dormitory in Fusagasuga, where up to 40 girls will have a safe space to live, attend school, and, most importantly, learn about Jesus. Already seven girls have moved in, some with infants and toddlers born out of situations of abuse and violence. During my visit in 2024, I personally witnessed the transformation of children's lives who have been a part of our rescue program.

When I first visited Colombia in 2023, I was privileged to be part of a rescue operation relocating four siblings from an abusive village deep in the Amazon to our rescue home in Fusa. I had the opportunity to meet these children one year later, and it was so exciting to see the changes happening in their lives. Three of the older children were baptized and are thriving in school! I happened to be visiting during the time when one of them was to have a birthday. I was so sad to hear that they had never

celebrated a birthday, and for the first time at 11 years old, this rescued child received a birthday party with all their new friends and staff attending! These little moments that help bring hope and healing in the life of a child are what make Child Impact and our partners so special to children.

We are now completing a cafeteria and study hall space where the rescued children living in the dormitory can gather with local children who attend the school to eat and study together. The space is nearly finished and will be a great blessing.

Our team will soon fly back to Mitu to meet with the governor and head of the police, who have helped us identify the best properties for building a new rescue campus in 2025. Please pray for God's guidance as we select a property!

In April, we opened the only rescue home for indigenous children in the entire country, located in Guaviare. Subsequently, this home received national attention from some of the highest-ranking

members of the government, including the president of parliament, who visited in person and gave his full support of the project. None of this would have been possible without the perseverance and determination of the director, Dellys Guerrero. In addition to tragically losing her father during the construction phase of the home, Dellys has endured multiple threats to her life from the neighboring community who want nothing to do with indigenous people. Despite these challenges, Dellys has been nominated by the State of Guaviare to receive a special award for women for her outstanding achievements and leadership of the rescue home. Citizens from all over Colombia will vote on who will receive the highest award in March 2025. The national government plans to send a film crew to the rescue home to share the story of the campus with the entire country before the voting takes place. We praise God for her leadership and the national exposure our rescue home is receiving, bringing awareness of the dangers of human trafficking and violence toward women and children in Colombia.

Dellys recently shared a story of a young lady at the home named Lana*. As staff began decorating for Christmas, putting up lights and decorations for the girls to enjoy, she became very upset and cried continuously. As Lana opened up, she shared she had previously been attacked and abused by a group of men around Christmas, and the lights reminded her of the incident. As the staff rallied around Lana to comfort her, Dellys began sharing with her the story of Jesus and some similarities in their upbringing. Just as she had spent nights sleeping out on the street, Jesus was homeless and even slept in a manger. Jesus was also physically abused by people in the town where he was from. He was verbally abused just as she had been taunted by her attackers.

Lana is still going through the healing process, but she shared that knowing Jesus had suffered like her has brought her great comfort. We praise God for the incredible staff He has placed in each of our projects to reveal His love for children. We also praise God for you, because without you, these stories of children celebrating birthdays for the first time and hearing the Christmas story would never be possible. ■

*Name changed to protect identity



Clockwise from above: The new rescue home in Guaviare; the indigenous children living in the new rescue home; portrait of Lana.



To support Child Impact's ongoing work in Colombia, make a gift to Operation Child Rescue at childimpact.org/ocr.



L-R: Nan with her family; Nan in the hospital after her sustaining shrapnel all over her body from the waist down; Nan's family home after a bomb struck it.

TOP FIVE WINS OF 2024: #3

Support for Myanmar refugees in Thailand

By Christina Donesky

The country of Myanmar has been experiencing a civil war for over seven decades, largely fueled by ethnic tensions and struggles for autonomy among minority groups, such as the Chin and Karen peoples. These ongoing conflicts have displaced millions and devastated local communities. Sadly, the conflicts in various regions have affected the students, families, and schools that Child Impact International supports. The Paw* family is one such example of the trauma and loss caused by the conflict. In February 2024, the Paw family was having evening worship when a bomb struck their home. The parents were miraculously unharmed, but sadly a large piece of the bomb hit one of the daughters and she died instantly. The youngest daughter, Nan*, who is a student in the sponsorship program, was covered in shrapnel from the waist down, affecting her ability to walk.

Nan was not able to attend classes because of her injuries and needed additional treatments. Her injuries required more extensive treatment than what could be provided in the city where the Paw family lived. Due to the conflict in many areas and roads blocked by the military, the family was unable to take Nan to the capital for further treatment. With financial support from Child Impact, Nan's parents decided to cross the border into India so Nan could get the treatment she needed. Using jungle roads, it took them a week to arrive at the hospital. Once at the Indian hospital, Nan was able to receive the surgeries and treatments that she needed to remove shrapnel and reconstruct damaged muscles. By God's grace, her healing exceeded everyone's expectations. She can walk again and has recovered from her injuries. She has returned to school and is finishing the third grade.

As a result of the conflict in Myanmar, Child Impact has begun supporting two

schools along the Thai-Myanmar border in Thailand. These schools primarily serve those who have fled the ongoing civil war. Some students cross the border with their families, whose refugee status limits them to working in factories or as day laborers for minimal pay. Others cross unaccompanied, uncertain about their parents' whereabouts or when they will be reunited. These children urgently need a safe place to live and study.

In 2024, Child Impact built two dormitories for primary-aged students—one for boys and one for girls. However, the children are currently crowded into every available space, highlighting the pressing need for a classroom building for grades K–6. To address this, we plan to raise \$200,000 in 2025 to fund the construction of a new classroom building.

Last year, we welcomed 400 new students from the two schools in Thailand into our

sponsorship program, with even more expected to join in 2025. We are deeply grateful for your prayers and support as we collaborate with our partners in Thailand and Myanmar. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring a student, please consider supporting a refugee student in Thailand—many are still waiting for a sponsor. ■

*Names changed to protect identity

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

-Matthew 25:40



To sponsor a refugee student from Thailand, visit childimpact.org/sponsor.

TOP FIVE WINS OF 2024: #2

Growing global brand of Child Impact International

By Jason Churchwell

Child Impact International originally began as an organization supporting children attending Seventh-day Adventist mission schools in India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. We partnered with existing departments of the church and various supporting ministries to implement our projects. These partnerships have allowed Child Impact to grow rapidly, developing a presence in 20 countries around the world and impacting the lives of thousands of children each year. Our partners have been, and continue to be, an invaluable blessing, and we are grateful to each of them for their service.

Much of Child Impact's rapid international expansion has been the result of our increased focus on our Operation Child Rescue (OCR) projects, which protect children and families who are exploited, trafficked, or abused. We initially began working with our partners to add rescue components to our current projects. However, we quickly realized that to make a global impact in the fight against human trafficking, we would need to launch a global brand. This would allow us to work more effectively—share resources, best practices, and lessons learned among our own internal network. A global brand would also

give increased credibility when coordinating with local police and government officials in rescue and aftercare operations.

In early 2024, we launched our first international office, Child Impact Brasil, in the city of São Paulo, serving children living in a hidden favela. While Child Impact Brasil started as a pilot project, by God's grace, the transformations we have seen in the lives of children has exceeded our expectations. In October, we launched two more international offices simultaneously: Child Impact Thailand and Child Impact Philippines. Each serves forgotten children living in the slums who are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. In December, we finished the process of registering our fourth international office, Child Impact Colombia. This office will serve children just outside the capital of Bogotá as well as in two states in the Amazon: Mitú Vaupés and San José del Guaviare.

We are excited to partner with God in His mission to break the chains of darkness holding captive children on this broken earth. Thank you for your support of Child Impact International as we continue to expand our global presence in 2025! ■

CHILD IMPACT'S GLOBAL PRESENCE IN 2025

Child Impact International's growing global presence includes country offices in Colombia, Brazil, Thailand, and the Philippines.



Children gather at two of Child Impact International's country offices: Child Impact Brasil (left) and Child Impact Colombia (right).





Four of the children at the blind school who received eye surgery. Nandini (second from right) gained 90% of her sight as a result.

TOP FIVE WINS OF 2024: #1

Eye exams and sight-restoring surgeries for blind children

By Dr. Tom L. Evans

On my recent visit to the blind school Child Impact International supports near Bobbili, India, there were two verses that came to mind. The first is the mission statement of Jesus:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of

sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19).

Right in the middle of this verse, we read that Jesus came to give recovery of sight to the blind. Through

the miracle of modern medicine, Child Impact was able to witness this firsthand. And that is where the second verse came to mind, “I was blind, but now I see.” This was the testimony of the man whose eyes

were opened by Jesus in the gospel of John, chapter 9.

In 2024, Child Impact funded four students to receive surgeries who previously could

only see a beam of light. After one surgery, a girl by the name of Nandini gained 90% sight. She was able to enthusiastically wave at us from across campus. Nandini never stopped smiling the entire time we

were there. I had a chance to pray for three students as they traveled to undergo their second surgery. Two regained 80% of their sight and the third student regained 30%. As new students arrive at the school, Child Impact is committed to funding professional eye exams to determine if any sight can be regained.

This experience was so profound that our team at Child Impact voted this as the number one accomplishment for 2024. There is no doubt that the loss of sight so dramatically impacts a person’s life. To be blind and now see is truly miraculous and life-transforming! ■



To support more eye surgeries for blind children, make a gift at childimpact.org/bdo.

TOP FIVE GOALS FOR 2025: #5

Reach 100 church and school speaking appointments throughout the year

By Dr. Tom L. Evans

One day while in the office, I received an unexpected call. The person on the other end was someone I went to grade school with named Randy Ginter. He mentioned that he had noticed when I joined the Child Impact International team and thought he would reach out and reconnect. Randy and his wife, Shannon, had been sponsors for many years. I let Randy know that I would stop by and visit when a speaking appointment took me to the Walla Walla, Washington area.

Fast forward to today—the connection with Randy led to a reunion with several other classmates and beautiful opportunities to share about the work of Child Impact. One such reunion that Randy facilitated was reconnecting me with Craig Fisher. After talking with Craig, he got so excited about Child Impact’s initiatives to rescue children that he personally began fundraising among his work associates and invited me to speak at a gathering of farmers in North Dakota (read more on this story on page 12).

During 2024, there were 61 church and school speaking appointments by Child Impact International representatives. We have found this to be the most effective way to spread the word about the life-saving and transformational work we are involved with on behalf of children. This year, we have set a goal of 100 church and school appointments. You can help us meet this goal and spread the word! Child Impact speakers travel on our own expense so that there is no financial barrier to scheduling. **To schedule a speaker, contact Tony Dennis, Events Administrative Coordinator, at 423-910-0667 or tdennis@childimpact.org.** ■



Top: Tom Evans with former classmate Randy Ginter (far right). Above: Tom presenting at a church.

TOP FIVE GOALS FOR 2025: #4

Open an Operation Child Rescue project in each of Child Impact’s country offices

By Jason Churchwell

In 2025, Child Impact International is focused on expanding our work in areas of the world where we have opened country offices as part of our strategy to make Child Impact a global brand. Since establishing a presence in Brazil, Thailand, the Philippines, and Colombia, we have been able to form incredible partnerships with government officials, police departments, churches, schools, and other nonprofit organizations. These relationships have resulted in opportunities for us to open new Operation Child Rescue (OCR) projects that we are excited to share with you.

In Brazil, we have been offered land in two separate municipalities for free if we will establish a safe home for women and children who face human trafficking and domestic abuse. The stories shared with us by local social workers are a sad reminder that the world is fast becoming like the biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The situation is so bad that the state is suing the local government for not providing a safe place for victims of abuse, and they are now desperately looking for help.

In December, we opened an after-school program for children living in the slums of Chiang Mai, Thailand. Their houses are situated on a small stretch of government property along one of the canals on the outskirts of the city. Our team celebrated the opening of the center with a Christmas party, and 30 children along with 10 parents came to the special program. We have also been presented with an opportunity to open a second location in Bangkok in connection with the Seventh-day Adventist hospital. Please pray with us for God’s leading in Thailand!

In the Philippines, we have just completed the purchase of a 14-acre property on the island of Palawan where mission groups will construct a new girl’s rescue home and dormitory in the spring. We praise the Lord that fundraising has been completed on the purchase of the land, safe house, and high school classroom block! To complete the campus, we plan to construct a boys dorm, vocational training center, and missionary house in the second half of 2025.

In Colombia, Child Impact has just finalized the purchase of a property next to our rescue home in Guaviare, Colombia. The governor was generous in subsidizing the cost of the property to ensure that we were able to purchase it for the rescued girls. This land is an invaluable asset and will become a skill training center, complete with spaces for the girls to learn traditional weaving and handicrafts, a native agricultural garden, and chicken farm that will provide a source of income for the rescue home.

These projects are only possible with the support of generous donors like you. Thank you for providing hope to children in Brazil, Thailand, the Philippines, and Colombia! Please continue to pray for these new projects. ■



To support new Operation Child Rescue projects, make a gift at childimpact.org/ocr.

TOP FIVE GOALS FOR 2025: #3

95% retention of student sponsorships

By Melissa Moore

With your incredible generosity, Child Impact International has reached a record of sponsoring over 5,000 students! We are deeply grateful for every sponsor who chooses to support children through Child Impact each month. Some give out of abundance, while others give from the limited resources they have. In the Bible, we learn the story of the “Widow’s Mite,” where Jesus praises her modest gift, saying she was more generous than everyone else because she gave out of her poverty.

For many sponsors, their monthly sponsorship gift is a true sacrifice. Once I called a sponsor to update his monthly automatic donation, and he shared that he was living on Social Security. He asked me to schedule his withdrawal after his Social Security check was deposited to ensure it would process successfully. That conversation was incredibly powerful because it implied that this gentleman wasn’t sure if his account

would have \$32 in it until his monthly check arrived.

We are profoundly thankful for each person who gives what they can to make education a reality for these 5,000 students. We also understand that sometimes sponsors face personal hardships and may need to cancel their sponsorships. If you find yourself in such a situation, please do not feel bad if you need to make the difficult decision to suspend your giving. We are grateful for each person and the generosity they’ve shown when it was their season to give.

When a sponsorship is canceled, we cover the student’s education expenses through our Un-sponsored Child Fund until a new sponsor is identified. Please rest assured that your student will not be asked to withdraw from school because you are unable to continue contributing.

For those who can continue, we encourage you to maintain your sponsorship for as long as you are

financially able. In 2024, about 12% of sponsorships were canceled. Our goal this year is to reduce that number to 5%. Of the 5,000 total sponsorships, 1,461 were started in 2024. Unfortunately, we also experienced 600 cancellations during the year. These cancellations create challenges in expanding the number of sponsored students. With fewer cancellations, we can add more students to the sponsorship program and extend the impact of Christian education around the world, rather than focusing on replacing sponsors for existing students.

Will you help us serve more students by increasing our sponsorship retention rate? ■



To sponsor a child, visit childimpact.org/sponsor.

TOP FIVE GOALS FOR 2025: #2

Host 7 major fundraising weekends

By Tony Dennis

A large part of Child Impact International’s work relies on the financial support of those who give at our special fundraising events. Last year, we were inspired by our supporters who attended and contributed at these events, directly impacting the lives of countless vulnerable children through our transformative initiatives. These gatherings allow us to share profound stories of change and hope that demonstrate to our supporters the impact that these projects have.

Last year, we were especially inspired by the commitment of our supporters who attended and contributed to our special Heart for Children fundraising event in

Collegedale, Tennessee. Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, we nearly completed fundraising for phase one of our Operation Child Rescue project in the Philippines. This project’s goal is to build a safe house on the island of Palawan for young girls who are at high risk of becoming child brides. Construction of the safe house and dormitory will begin on our 14-acre property in the spring. Eventually, this safe house will grow into a full school campus where both girls and boys may finish their education unabated.

In 2025, we are embarking on an ambitious goal to host 7 similar Heart for Children fundraising events. These are more than just opportunities to raise money; they are platforms for connecting with individuals who share our vision of eradicating exploitation and creating a better future for vulnerable children. Through lively discussions, presentations, and personal interactions, attendees gain a deeper appreciation of our work beyond what any publication or video can convey. They are moments of realization where the impact of their contributions becomes vividly clear.

We invite you to join us at any of these events! By showing up and supporting, you aren’t just giving; you’re investing in the future of children who can envision a brighter tomorrow for the very first time. Understanding how we can collectively uplift children facing immense challenges is crucial. In 2025, we are determined to grow our community that cares and acts. Join us as we aim to make a significant impact in the lives of these children who need it most. ■



To join us at any of these events, visit childimpact.org/dinner to learn more and to reserve your spot!



Attendees at the Heart for Children fundraiser in November in Collegedale, Tennessee.



Children in Bulgaria, where Child Impact runs an Operation Child Rescue project.

TOP FIVE GOALS FOR 2025: #1

Reach \$50,000 in monthly recurring donations to Operation Child Rescue

By Shana Fairchild

Once when Jason Churchwell, Vice President of Field Operations, was in Kenya visiting a home for rescued girls, he was gifted a bracelet made by a Masai girl. Before she was rescued, she was married at just 9 years old to a man in his 70s. “This is the largest age gap I’ve encountered,” Jason said, “and a situation no child should ever have to endure.”

For 2025, the top goal that the Child Impact International team set is an ambitious one, but one that can be accomplished: reach \$50,000 in recurring monthly donations to support Operation Child Rescue (OCR), which operates 24 rescue projects in 14 countries (as of January 2025) and growing.

Reaching this goal will not only allow Child Impact to support our current rescued children, but it will help immensely as we add new rescue projects in 2025 and beyond. Having recurring monthly support is crucial in that these are gifts we can count on every month. Once a child is rescued, Child Impact commits to providing care for them until they are an adult and

can support themselves or until their family situation improves so that it’s safe for them to reintegrate into their homes. To rescue them and then have them return to a life of exploitation because we ran out of support would be unthinkable. This is why these recurring gifts are so vital.

As you may have read on page 9, our fourth goal for 2025 is to open an OCR project in each of Child Impact’s country offices. Hitting our goal of \$50,000 in recurring monthly donations will help us to achieve this goal as well! Additionally, Child Impact plans

to open a new rescue project in Peru while also expanding the number of rescued children in our current projects in Zambia, Pakistan, and Colombia. We are also investigating new opportunities for OCR projects in Laos, India, and Bulgaria.

In Isaiah 58:6, God says, “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?” Through Operation

Child Rescue, Child Impact seeks to act out God’s purpose for setting the oppressed free. One of our OCR projects in Pakistan works to set families free from slavery, many of whom have been bound for generations for debts of less than \$500. As their debts are paid and they are given freedom, some of the families have expressed that we are like Moses coming in answer to their prayers to set them free.

As we hear these stories and others of children rescued from child marriage or exploitation, we know that every dollar poured out is worth it. Will you commit to rescuing more children and families from exploitation by becoming a member of the Rescue Party—committing to a monthly gift for Operation Child Rescue? Through God’s grace and your support, we can reach this \$50,000 goal in a way that will have an incredible ripple effect across our current and future projects, bringing even more children and families to freedom! ■



To become a member of the Rescue Party, set up your monthly recurring gift for Operation Child Rescue at childimpact.org/ocr.

DOING THE “EASY PART”

Sponsor Spotlight: Cynthia Cannon

By Chris Atib

In 2012, Cynthia Cannon discovered Child Impact International. Drawn to the organization’s mission of sponsoring children in impoverished regions, she chose a child to support after learning about their story and struggles. “I saw how many of these families often couldn’t afford food or clothing, let alone education for their children,” Cynthia recalled. “I wanted to be part of giving them a chance for hope and a brighter future.”

Her commitment deepened in 2023 when she sponsored a second child at a boarding school for just \$50 a month. This modest amount provided the child with a uniform, meals, education, and spiritual growth. Reflecting on Jeremiah 29:11 (“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”), Cynthia saw sponsorship as a way to bring this promise to life for children trapped in cycles of generational poverty.

Recently, Cynthia was particularly moved by Child Impact’s efforts through Operation Child Rescue (OCR)

to protect and rescue young girls from the horrors of child marriage and trafficking. “It broke my heart to learn how young girls, sometimes as young as 10, are married off because their families are so desperate,” she said. “Many don’t survive childbirth; it’s a child

having a child. These girls deserve the chance to become nurses, doctors, teachers, or anything they dream of. They have so much potential.” She made the decision to show financial support for OCR’s project in the Philippines to construct a safe house and school

campus where vulnerable girls at high risk of child marriage can continue their education unabated and in peace.

Cynthia’s passion for the most vulnerable children continues to fuel her support. “When I hear the success stories—children breaking free from unfair treatment and achieving their dreams—it inspires me to stay involved,” she shared. “It takes resources to buy land, build schools, and provide essentials, but it’s worth it! The teachers and caregivers do the hard part.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

-Jeremiah 29:11



Chris Atib, Development Director, with Cynthia Cannon.

We, as sponsors, have the easy part.”

Cynthia hopes to encourage others. “As Matthew 25:40 says, ‘...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Together, we can give these children the opportunities they deserve and transform lives.” ■

A LIFE-CHANGING SUMMER

Intern and Volunteer Reflects on Time at Child Impact

By Seth Parker

I started working with Child Impact International two and a half years ago, and it has been such an amazing journey. I remember beginning by volunteering with them for a couple hours each week, helping with stuffing envelopes, organizing, or packaging. It was a great way to get my head out of my own problems and stressful situations in my own life and simply focus on helping. One of my best memories with Child Impact was at their fundraising dinner in November 2022 where I was able to connect even more with the team and saw a better perspective of how the organization impacts the world.

In 2024, Child Impact asked me to work as an intern over the summer. I began to work for Child Impact full time, working normal hours in the office throughout the week, but what I remember most were the sermons I preached on Sabbaths. For 10 weekends that summer, I preached sermons for Child Impact. Going to a church I had never visited before and preaching a sermon in front of a crowd I had never met was something way outside of my comfort zone. However, I learned so much from those Sabbaths and made memories that will last forever.

I will always remember the last thing I did that summer for Child Impact: I was chosen to be the representative for Child Impact during the Sabbath offering at Pathfinder Camporee. I remember going up on stage in front of a crowd of about 60,000 people. My heart was pounding, and adrenaline was running throughout my entire body. I remember speaking up there and

coming back down from the stage with a huge smile on my face. I was so glad I did it. I was so glad for the opportunity Child Impact had given me.

Although working for Child Impact wasn’t always easy, it is something that I hold dear to my heart. Since working for Child Impact, I have been able to have 88 children committed to being sponsored from the Child Impact sermons I preached, and from that one Sabbath fundraiser at Gillette, \$130,000 was raised. If I were to summarize working with Child Impact, I would say that I have not changed Child Impact; Child Impact changed me. ■



Seth preaching at one of the 10 churches.



The congregation at Advent Hope Sabbath School at Loma Linda University Church.

PLAYING A CRUCIAL PART

Church Spotlight: Advent Hope

By Tony Dennis

Churches are meant to serve as pillars of their communities, bringing together people who are motivated by faith, compassion, and a desire to make a meaningful difference. Congregations like these provide a unique platform for us to share the urgent needs of vulnerable children and to inspire collective action. The collaborative spirit and shared values found in church settings amplify our message and mobilize resources in ways that reach far beyond what we could achieve alone.

Last year, Child Impact gave a three-part presentation at Advent Hope in Loma Linda, California, and the dedication of the congregation and supporters deeply touched us. The audience was exceedingly receptive to our message about sponsoring children and rescuing them from human trafficking. Due

to the enthusiasm and generosity of those who participated, we achieved one of our highest numbers of new sponsorships for the entire year at this event! This success highlighted the incredible impact that supportive communities can have in driving our mission forward. Support from congregations like Advent Hope is crucial to our mission of empowering children stuck in generational poverty through education and eradicating the exploitation of vulnerable children.

Looking ahead, we have an ambitious goal for 2025: to speak at 100 different churches and audiences. By reaching out to more congregations and groups, we aim to expand our network of support, foster deeper connections, and drive greater impact. Each church presentation helps us raise awareness,

garner new sponsorships, and rescue more children. This goal is not just about numbers; it’s about creating a widespread and robust community dedicated to uplifting the most vulnerable children.

We encourage you to become part of our mission! Your involvement isn’t merely a contribution; it’s an investment in the future, allowing children to dream of better days ahead. By joining forces, we can create a caring and proactive community, aiming to make a profound difference for those in greatest need. To arrange a presentation for your church or any other influential audience you are connected with, please contact our Events Administrative Coordinator, Tony Dennis, at tdennis@childimpact.org or **423-910-0667**. Together, let’s turn hope into reality for these children. ■

FROM BULLY TO FRIEND AND CHANGEMAKER

Reconnecting with an old classmate brings about huge blessings

By Dr. Tom L. Evans

I was not without my share of troublemaking during my grade school years. However, I clearly remember the tables turning in 7th and 8th grade. A new student by the name of Craig Fisher identified me as someone to bully. Walking down the hall, I would try to avoid him so I wouldn’t be body slammed.

Fast forward to 2024, and I unexpectedly crossed paths with Craig again. He learned about Child Impact International through a mutual friend and immediately became passionate about supporting financially and through his sphere of influence. When we reconnected in person, he brought a stack of checks from business partners made out to Child Impact. But Craig and his wife, Amanda, had more in mind. They felt impressed by God to donate 200 acres of their wheat and hay crop profit to Child Impact. In November, they traveled to Chattanooga and stayed in our home for a couple of days. At our Heart for Children fundraising

dinner, Craig presented a check for \$20,000!

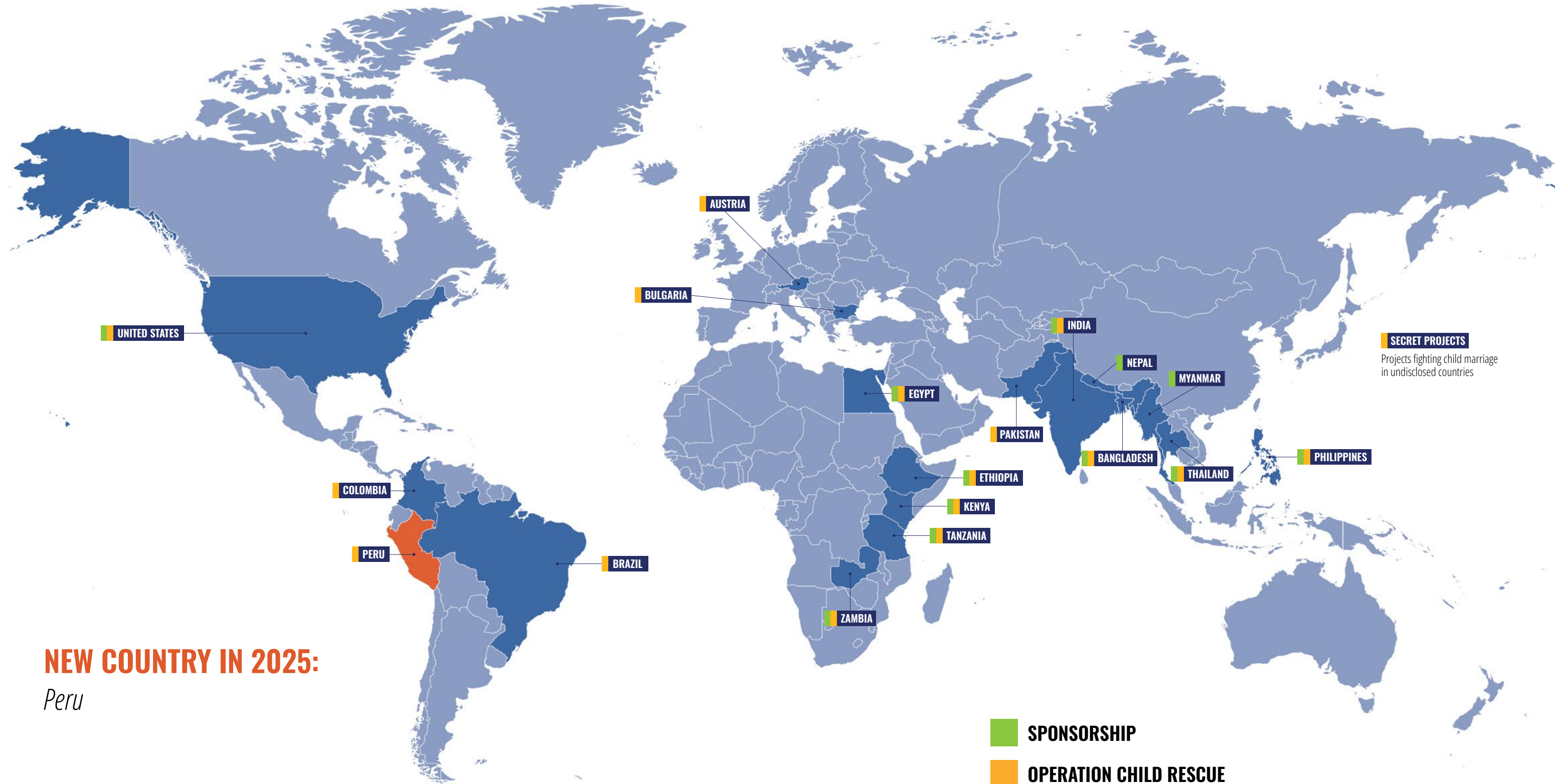
Craig then invited me to present about Child Impact at his annual appreciation dinner for his clients. In December, I traveled to North Dakota and met this group of farmers. In turn, many also became supporters of Child Impact.

Reconnecting with Craig was unexpected but has been filled with blessings! As we reminisced about our time in grade school, we recognized how God has blessed and how far we have come. I consider Craig a friend and look forward to many more interactions in the future.

Who in your sphere of influence might be impressed to become a part of Child Impact’s movement for impacting the lives of vulnerable children? Thank you to our supporters for continuing to spread the word about our mission! ■

OUR **IMPACT** AROUND THE WORLD

Sponsorship Schools and Operation Child Rescue Projects



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You can create lasting change for vulnerable children by including Child Impact International in your planned giving. A legacy gift will extend your commitment to empower lives for generations to come and ensure that children in need continue to receive education, care, and hope for a brighter future.

Visit CHILDIMPACT.ORG/LEGACY or contact our Director of Development, Chris Atib, at catib@childimpact.org to learn more.

