

ISSUE 2 | 2025



CHILDIMPACT

INTERNATIONAL



EMPOWERING EDUCATION. **ERADICATING EXPLOITATION.**



Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO (back left), with his wife, Mara (back right), and their two newly adopted daughters: Gabriella (front left) and Angelina (front right).

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

The most important words in the English language

When learning a new language, what words do you learn first? Most people choose to learn what is known as “polite vocabulary.” Examples include, “please,” “thank you,” “you’re welcome,” and “hello.” A year and a half ago, our family began the adoption process to welcome two girls from Bulgaria into our home. They had been living in a group home with about 15 girls after their mom passed away 6 years prior. We had only seen a few photos of the girls early in the adoption process. Gabriella was 16 years old and her sister, Angelina, was 10 years old. As it became clear legally that the adoption would take place, we were invited to have a monthly video call with the girls. We were so excited to finally meet Gabriella and Angelina as we communicated through the translator/social worker. It was abundantly clear that God had led us to these very special girls.

On the second video call, the host indicated that Angelina had learned a couple of English words that she wanted to share. We were on the edge of our seats as she formed the words: “mother,” “father,” “brother,” “sister.” Touched with emotion, we recognized that the most important words in the English language for our new daughters surrounded becoming a “family.” I was reminded of this powerful verse: “A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary (lonely) in families...” (Psalm 68:5-6).

God’s desire is for every orphan to have a family. Not an orphanage, group home, or foster care. In a broken world, the family represents an institution blessed by God where children can be protected and flourish. Not every family is in the position to adopt (although many more could), but all of us can make a difference in the life of a child who is “solitary” in this world. Through sponsorship, you can become that link of family to a child who lives half a world away. Knowing that someone has their back, believes in them, is praying for them, and has high hopes for them in life is truly a lifeline.

To our current sponsors, thank you for the world of difference you are making, one child at a time. If you are

not yet a sponsor or would like to add another child, please visit childimpact.org/sponsorship or call us at 423-910-0667.

Many blessings!

Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO

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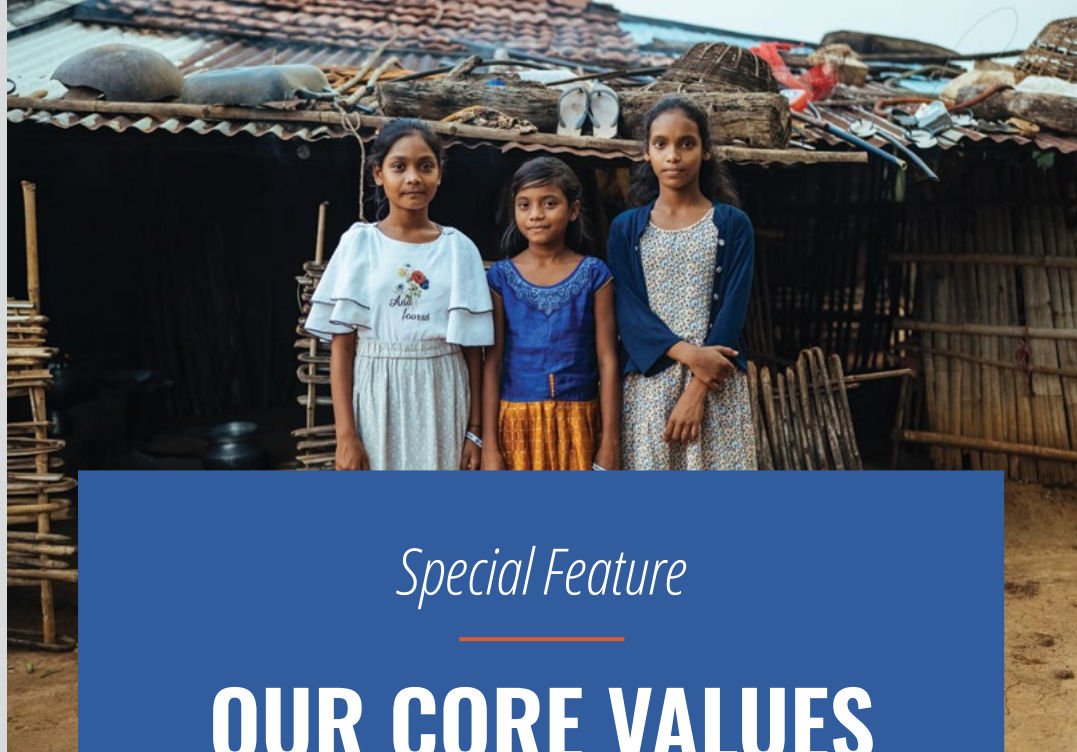
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EMPOWERING EDUCATION. ERADICATING EXPLOITATION.

Child Impact International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children. We believe that education empowers children to break the chains of generational poverty. First launched in 1966 under the name Asian Aid, our sponsorship program has grown to support more than 5,000 students. In 2014, Operation Child Rescue was launched to help eradicate exploitation. Over 10 years later, Child Impact is an emerging leader in the fight against human trafficking with 30 projects in 17 countries and counting. Our generous supporters have helped us bring hope and a brighter future to thousands of vulnerable children in over 20 countries.



Special Feature

OUR CORE VALUES

CHAMPION

We are called to be an advocate for the most vulnerable.

HOPE

Every child has the right to grow up in an environment free from exploitation and violence.

IMPACT

Through continuous growth, we increase our ability to positively impact more children.

LIBERATE

Education empowers a child to break the chains of generational poverty.

DREAM

Every child deserves an opportunity to write their own story.



Suleiman Bayu, founder of New Hope Orphanage and School (far left), stands with two of the students from New Hope.

BRINGING HOPE TO ETHIOPIA'S ORPHANS

The Story of Suleiman Bayu

By Clarissa Alberto

In Ethiopia, more than 5.5 million orphans are struggling for survival. They live in extreme conditions, often without access to food, shelter, or education. The reasons behind this crisis are distressing. Famine, war, and diseases like HIV and AIDS have left countless children parentless. As a result, many become victims of hunger, illiteracy, sickness, abuse, and neglect.

Suleiman Bayu envisioned addressing this crisis through the founding of New Hope Orphanage and School, a place where these children could find a safe haven, food, clothing, health services, and education. Children and orphans with disabilities who have nowhere to go could receive mental, emotional, and social support.

Suleiman's journey of helping orphans is not just one of kindness; it is deeply personal. He knows what it means to be abandoned, to be hungry, and to feel unseen. He grew up as an orphan himself, experiencing the very struggles he now

works tirelessly to prevent for others.

His life took a tragic turn on the morning of January 27, 1981. In his village, boys were recruited to help cut down a massive eucalyptus tree. However, the task proved dangerous—the tree fell in an uncontrolled direction, crushing Suleiman under its weight. His right leg was broken, and his right hand was so severely injured that it would never be of use.

Sadly, this was only the beginning of his suffering. A year later, his father passed away, leaving the family in great distress. Not long after, Ethiopia was struck by a catastrophic famine that caused thousands to perish. Suleiman's family fell among the victims. His mother, despite her tireless efforts, could no longer provide for Suleiman and his siblings. With no other choice, she sent the boy to a faraway town in search of food and aid that might help them.

For two days, Suleiman stood among desperate crowds, hoping to be chosen

Having a disability in Ethiopia doesn't just bring hardship—it increases the likelihood of being trafficked by five times.

CHAMPION

We are called to be an advocate for the most vulnerable.



Suleiman Bayu (above) experienced being an orphan himself.

relations and political science. In 1991, after four years of relentless work, he graduated. He was offered the opportunity to work with the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This was a dream job for many, but he declined. His mission was to start an orphanage to help children who have suffered loss, disability, and extreme hardship, just like him. Suleiman knew from experience that children with disabilities were suffering and undergoing painful experiences in absence of their basic needs being met.

With this vision in mind, Suleiman founded New Hope, a local orphanage in West Shewa, Ethiopia. Here, children who have lost everything—children whom society often forgets—find a home.

At New Hope, orphans receive nutritious meals to nourish their growing bodies, clothing and medical care to ensure they stay healthy, education to give them a future, emotional and psychological support to heal their trauma, and a caring environment where they are truly seen and valued.

One of the many children whose life was changed because of New Hope is Haptamu. Haptamu was born with Ulnar Dimelia, a congenital deformity that left him unable to walk. His parents were devastated, but not because of his condition—rather, because their community rejected them. In their village, people believed that children born with deformities were cursed by God. The family became outcasts, treated as if they had committed some unspeakable sin.

For five years, Haptamu's parents hid him. But they knew he deserved better, and he could not thrive in his community. Desperate for help, they brought him to New Hope. For the first time, Haptamu was seen.

At the orphanage, he received the care he needed—his basic necessities were met, he was given an education, care, and support. He finally had the chance to grow, learn, and thrive.

Suleiman's

hope and prayer for the children who are growing up in the orphanage is for them to finish their education and to have a family of their own—just like he has been blessed with now. “I always tell the kids here in our orphanage, ‘If I can do it, you can do it, too,’” said Suleiman. “Do not allow your disability, your circumstance, your situation, to hinder you from achieving what you want.”

Sadly, there are thousands of children like Haptamu—children who are cast aside simply because they are different. Unless they receive support, their futures are grim. Many will end up begging on the streets, and others will fall victim to human trafficking. Having a disability in Ethiopia doesn't just bring hardship—it increases the likelihood of being trafficked by five times. Ethiopia is a major corridor for human trafficking, with victims being smuggled across borders into South Africa and beyond. Traffickers target disabled children because they are easy prey and traffickers have no fear of being caught. Society already ignores disabled children; they are seen as less credible.

At Child Impact International, we believe we are called to be an advocate for the most vulnerable. Giving orphans and children with disabilities a chance to break free from the cycle of poverty, abuse, and neglect is one of the many ways we live out this core value. Suleiman Bayu's story is proof that hope can arise from even the darkest of circumstances.

Through sponsorship, you can help children like Haptamu find safety, care, education, and a future filled with possibility! Give hope to Ethiopia's most vulnerable children by becoming a sponsor: childimpact.org/sponsor. ■



Scan the QR code to watch the full video of Suleiman's story or visit our YouTube channel: [@childimpactinternational](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCchildimpactinternational).

for food distribution but to no avail. Weak from starvation, he collapsed. When he woke, he was in the care of a nurse who provided him with medicine and nourishment. After 6 days of recovery, he begged the nurse to take him home. “I want to go back home... to check if my mother and my sisters are alive,” insisted Suleiman.

With a bag of cooked wheat and biscuits, the nurse took him home. During the dark night approaching the silent house, Suleiman insistently called his mom and sisters, but no one answered.

Being the only survivor of his family, Suleiman stood at their graves to witness their burial. “It was horrible. I grieved for many months after they had passed away,” recalled Suleiman.

Now completely alone in the world, Suleiman faced an uphill battle for survival. Every day was a struggle. Being both an orphan and a child with a disability made life even harder. People often overlooked him, and opportunities seemed unreachable.

His determination eventually took him to Addis Ababa University, where he studied international



Above left: Some of the girls living at the safe house smile for a photo. Above right: A birthday party is held at the safe house.

HOPE

Every child has the right to grow up in an environment free from exploitation and violence.

DREAMS BEYOND THE BROTHEL

A new path for girls in Bangladesh

By Clarissa Alberto

The city of Daulatdia, located in central Bangladesh and situated beside the Padma River, is one of the world's largest brothel towns, with nearly 2,000 women and girls employed in the prostitution industry. Sex trafficking, the most lucrative form of modern-day slavery, is a harsh reality for many individuals around the world, and Daulatdia is no exception.

Women who find themselves in impoverished situations often have no other way of supporting themselves and their children and are left with no option but to go to live and work inside the brothel. Unfortunately, the children and younger siblings of the women and girls also move to the brothel since they have no other place to live. These unsafe environments put them at risk for diseases, drugs, and being sold into the sex trade themselves. There is a dire need to provide these girls with a way to secure a different and better future.

Child Impact International has intervened by providing a safe house for girls at risk of being sold into the sex trade, where they can live securely and pursue their education. The following are stories of girls who found support at our safe house.

At only 10 years old, Esha's* father passed away, leaving the family with no means of income. In order to support the family, her mother felt she had no choice but to move with Esha to the Daulatdia brothel. It was a difficult environment to raise Esha in, and her future was uncertain. Since Esha's mother wanted her daughter to be safe, receive education, and have a better life, she brought Esha to the safe house. Now, Esha is studying in the eighth grade and hopes to become a nurse someday.

Salma* and her older sister Naima* both live in Bangladesh and come from

a broken family after their father left their mother ten years ago. Their mother was having a hard time supporting Salma, Naima, and their other two siblings. Eventually, she was left with no alternative but to work at the brothel and to bring her children with her to live in the brothel village. It was a very unsafe place for children to live, especially for young girls. As Naima got older, she was getting offers of marriage that made her mother worried. She wanted her daughter to have a safe and happy life and knew she wouldn't have a chance if she stayed in Daulatdia. So, she brought both Naima and Salma to the safe house so that they could get an education and hopefully have a better future. Now, Salma is in fourth grade and Naima is in seventh.

Every child has the right to grow up in an environment free from exploitation and violence. Yet, for children like Esha, Salma, and Naima, this fundamental right is often stripped away by circumstances beyond their control. Child Impact International is committed to breaking this cycle by providing safe havens, education, and opportunities for these vulnerable children to dream of a future filled with hope rather than fear. Through the safe house in Bangladesh, we are working to provide alternatives to a life of exploitation and the opportunity to flourish in an environment that nurtures their potential and dignity. ■

Children and younger siblings of the women and girls also move to the brothel since they have no other place to live.



To support projects like this fighting human trafficking and exploitation, become a member of The Rescue Party by making a monthly gift to Operation Child Rescue: childimpact.org/ocr.

GROWING IMPACT

Child Impact International expands projects to Sudan and Peru

By Jason Churchwell

At Child Impact International, we want to help the most vulnerable children in the world. As one of our core values states: “Through continuous growth, we increase our ability to impact more children.” This driving force has led us to respond to urgent needs and open our newest projects in the countries of Sudan and Peru.

Sudan

Since April 2023, Sudan has been engulfed in a civil war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), leading to one of the world’s most severe humanitarian crises. The conflict has resulted in over 28,000 deaths and displaced approximately 12 million people, both internally and as refugees in neighboring countries. The United Nations reports that more than 25 million people, over half of Sudan’s population, are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The situation is exacerbated by widespread famine, disease outbreaks, and targeted violence against ethnic groups, particularly in regions like Darfur.

Child Impact is partnering with Faster Humanitarian Response Ambassadors, a nonprofit organization run by Seventh-day Adventists in Sudan, to create safe community spaces and offer protection, rehabilitation, and essential services to children affected by war.

Key Activities in Year One

Establish safe community spaces

- Identify and secure locations within communities to serve as safe spaces for children
- Equip these spaces with necessary resources for recreational and educational activities

Psychosocial support and counseling

- Provide trauma-recovery programs, including individual and group counseling sessions, for children who were abused or exploited during the war
- Train community volunteers to offer ongoing emotional support

Education and vocational training

- Facilitate access to educational programs for children
- Introduce skill-based vocational training for older children to promote self-reliance

Community-based child protection

- Conduct workshops to raise awareness about child rights and protection
- Establish child protection committees within communities to monitor and report abuse

Healthcare referrals

- Offer medical referrals for children who have experienced violence through rape or sexual assault

as well as mental health conditions such as severe trauma and PTSD

This project is only made possible by generous gifts made to Child Impact’s Where Needed Most fund, which allows us to respond quickly wherever urgent needs arise. To support our ongoing work in projects like this, make a gift to **Where Needed Most!**

Peru

In the Ucayali region of Peru, families face daunting challenges. Nearly a quarter of households experience psychological and sexual abuse, with girls and young women as the primary targets. More than 26% of adolescent girls experience early pregnancies, often trapping them in cycles of poverty. The region also ranks high for femicide and gang-related violence, with many young boys turning to crime due to a lack of opportunities.

One of the many children affected by these harsh realities is Alicia*, a 13-year-old girl living with her mother and two sisters in a small, borrowed home. Their fragile house offers no security, and her mother struggles to provide for them by selling “upe”, a traditional corn-based drink. Despite her mother’s determination, Alicia faces immense hardships. She was born with a developmental condition that delayed her ability to walk until she was five. Today, she struggles with memory loss, frequent falls, and learning difficulties.

Two years ago, Alicia’s hardships deepened when she revealed she had been a victim of abuse. Her mother asked her to go to the store one day and Alicia refused, saying that the boy at the store would hurt her again. Like so many other girls in Ucayali, she had suffered in silence. The trauma only added to Alicia’s struggles, making her need for support even more urgent.

Recognizing the dire need to intervene in the lives of children like Alicia, Child Impact is expanding Operation Child Rescue (OCR) to Peru. Through this initiative, Alicia is now receiving psychological support, school supplies, and spiritual guidance. In March, Child Impact surprised her with a birthday celebration—a small but powerful moment of joy amid her

struggles and healing.

Comprehensive Plan for Change

To address these urgent issues, Child Impact’s new initiative, Transformed Lives, in partnership with Amor Proyecto y Misión, will provide:

- Empowerment for families, training about children’s rights and violence prevention
- Support for at-risk adolescents, offering leadership training, sexual education, and family-planning guidance
- Psychological counseling, creating a safe space for children and families in crisis
- Long-term opportunities, helping adolescents develop life skills and discover their talents

In its first year alone, this program aims to engage 80 vulnerable households, empower 16 mothers to start businesses, and provide counseling for families in crisis—creating a foundation for lasting change.

Please pray for these new projects as they launch in 2025! If you would like to support Transformed Lives in Peru, **make a gift to Operation Child Rescue (OCR)** at childimpact.org/ocr. If you choose to become a monthly supporter of OCR, you’ll become a member of **The Rescue Party** and will receive monthly updates on OCR projects around the world that are supported by your committed giving. ■

**Name changed to protect identity*

IMPACT

Through continuous growth, we increase our ability to positively impact more children.

PLANTING HOPE, GROWING FUTURES

Education changes everything for students at Riverside Farm

By Melissa Moore

At Child Impact International, we believe that education can radically change the trajectory of a child's future, releasing them from generational poverty and the vulnerabilities of exploitation. Our partner school in Zambia, Riverside Farm, has a unique strategy to equip graduates to learn employable skills and independence. They are able to provide a stepping stone in students' journeys for post-secondary education and careers. Select graduates are offered the opportunity to intern with Riverside's various operations. Some graduates are learning about agriculture at the banana farm, other graduates are enrolled in Riverside's six-month lifestyle education and evangelism courses, and others are serving in the administration office assisting with Child Impact's sponsorship program.

Mercy is a teen mother who now has a world of opportunity, thanks to the education and mentorship she has received at Riverside because of Child Impact sponsorship.

"Sponsorship has really blessed me and my son. I am so thankful for the opportunity to work here at Riverside in the banana farm now that I have completed secondary school. I am hoping to get experience here and eventually take classes at university. My goal is to help provide a better future for my son and change the world around me in the work I am doing."

—Mercy, Riverside Farm 2024 graduate

Mary was orphaned as a young child and would have dropped out of school if she had not been sponsored by Child Impact.

"Sponsorship has changed my life. I lost both of my parents when I was four. Although my uncle has tried to provide for me, it has been difficult. In 2022, we were so discouraged that there was no money for me to continue going to school. Then news came from Riverside that I was accepted into the sponsorship program! I am so lucky to have been chosen. Riverside has changed my life! I graduated last year and now I am working with Ms. Manda at Riverside who inspires me daily. I want to work hard and be like her. To my sponsor, thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn at one of the best schools in Zambia. I don't even know how to thank you. I am working hard to achieve my goals and one day help those in need."

—Mary, Riverside Farm 2024 graduate

If you are exploring becoming a sponsor, please prayerfully consider sponsoring an older student, like Mercy and Mary, who joined the program in their last few years of secondary school. These students would especially benefit from a mentor who can encourage them in their education and relationship with Jesus. Thank you for the difference you are making. ■

LIBERATE

*Education empowers
a child to break the
chains of generational
poverty.*



Mary (above left) now works at Riverside Farm; Mercy (above right) works at the banana farm until she'll go to university.



Make a difference in the life of an older student today:
childimpact.org/sponsor.

DREAM

Every child deserves an opportunity to write their own story.



A boy, living in one of the 28 island communities of Zambia's Kafue River, sorts through fishing nets; fishing is the main livelihood on the river flats.

FORGOTTEN ISLANDS, REMEMBERED BY GOD

Child Impact's mission to bring education, health care, and hope to the children of the Kafue River Flats

By Dr. Tom L. Evans

The islands of the Kafue River in Zambia are likely the most remote place on earth I have ever been to. It takes many hours traveling over bumpy, dirt roads by 4-wheel vehicle, followed by hours in a motorized canoe to reach these islands. Here, there is no power, sanitation, health care, or access to education. The main livelihood is fishing by canoe on the crocodile-infested river that flows past their small villages. Children are told not to swim in the river due to the danger. One village leader shared about a time when a crocodile flipped his canoe. Fortunately, his jacket fell off and covered the crocodile's head so that friends nearby could quickly come to his rescue. Crocodiles are not the only wildlife to be feared. Another villager was recently chased by a hippo and climbed up a tree just in time to avoid being trampled.

Christina is a young lady who grew up on one of the islands. One night, when she was just 12 years old, her 19-year-old fisherman boyfriend took her from her parents' home. They had been seeing each other, and that night, he got her pregnant. The boyfriend determined that taking her by surprise was the best way to get permission to marry her. After a couple of weeks, he approached the parents, and they gave their consent for the marriage.

Most marriages on the island are filled with trauma. Husbands beating their

wives is commonplace. Christina is now 13 years old and several months pregnant. She lives in a grass hut with her husband. Will her marriage be the same? Christina has dreams for her life and would like to be a nurse. Yet, this is practically impossible. With a baby on the way and no education opportunities on the island, she is trapped in the cycle of generational poverty. Will her dreams die? Christina's

Christina is now 13 years old and several months pregnant ... Christina has dreams for her life and would like to be a nurse ... With a baby on the way and no education opportunities on the island, she is trapped in the cycle of generational poverty.

story is just one of many among the 28 islands located along the Kafue River.

Child Impact International has identified the core value of "dream." We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to write their own story. This includes the forgotten children of the Kafue River Flats. They are not forgotten to God. He is calling us to bring hope to these children

so that, for the first time, they can dream of a future beyond their isolated island. Would you help us intervene through education, health care, and the gospel to bring hope to these precious children? The cost to sponsor one island is \$30,000. This will provide a multipurpose building for literacy classes, education, and church. The funds will also provide teacher housing and sanitation. Perhaps this is a project for your church or organization to consider partnering with Child Impact to sponsor? Please continue to pray for this work and for the children of the Kafue River Flats. ■

KAFUE RIVER FLATS:

Forgotten Islands, Remembered by God



BRING EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, AND HOPE TO THE CHILDREN OF THE KAFUE RIVER FLATS

Consider sponsoring an entire island as a church or organization!

Will you join Child Impact International on a mission to bring education, healthcare, hope, and the gospel to the 28 island communities of Zambia's Kafue River Flats? The cost to sponsor one island is \$30,000 and will provide a multipurpose building used for literacy classes, education, and a church. The funds will also provide teacher housing and sanitation. Think of the many lives that will be impacted by the sponsorship of one island! Will you join us in bringing hope to the children and communities of these islands? Contact us at help@childimpact.org or 423-910-0667 or visit childimpact.org/catalog to learn more.





Above left: Abri (left) and Chris (right) conduct wellness assessments with the help of volunteers. Above right: Abri teaches an infant CPR class to caregivers at Falco's Children's Village.

WHERE LOVE BEGINS AGAIN

Healing and caring for the most vulnerable at Falco's Children's Village in Tanzania

By Abri Atib

Recently, I had the incredible privilege of traveling with Child Impact International to Tanzania, where I had the opportunity to visit some of the projects they support. Among these was Falco's Children's Village, an orphanage that recently welcomed 33 new babies into its care. This experience was profoundly moving and reinforced the importance of Child Impact's mission in caring for vulnerable children.

As a nurse practitioner working in pediatrics, I was asked to spend time with the babies, assess their health, and provide insights that could help ensure their continued well-being. Without hesitation, I was eager to assist in any way possible. Each of these babies has a story—many arrived at Falco's under heartbreaking circumstances. Some were abandoned, others were orphaned, and many came from situations of extreme hardship. As I examined each baby and toddler, I learned each child's story. One was given to a witch doctor for a sacrifice, another was found in a long drop toilet, a third was abandoned by the roadside. Despite their difficult beginnings, my heart was truly warmed to see how well they are now thriving in a loving and supportive environment.

After finishing assessments for the 33 babies, the caregivers brought in the toddlers, followed by the older children. Although we could not examine all the children, we assessed as many as we could in the short time we had there—probably around 70 children in total.

We conducted comprehensive health assessments

for each child, including a head-to-toe examination, vital sign checks (including head circumference, weight, and height), and a developmental screening. These assessments focused on key milestones such as gross motor skills, fine motor skills, and social and communication abilities. I was fortunate to have lots of helping hands from the staff at Falco's, volunteers, and Child Impact staff who traveled with us. Among those was a registered nurse as well as a nurse practitioner.

For most of the babies, toddlers, and children, their growth and development were right on track, which was wonderful to see. However, a few babies exhibited signs of developmental delays, something that is not uncommon in children who have experienced early adversity. Thankfully, the caregivers at Falco's are proactive and committed to the well-being of each child. To ensure continuity of care, we carefully documented all findings and created a plan for ongoing monitoring. This way, the dedicated leadership at Falco's can track each baby's progress and adjust their care as needed. I was inspired to witness the level of commitment and attention to detail that the staff pour into their work every single day. The team at Falco's is incredibly dedicated to ensuring that each child receives the care they need to grow and develop.



Another meaningful aspect of my visit was the opportunity to train the staff and caregivers in infant CPR. Given that they care for so many vulnerable infants, it was essential to ensure they felt equipped and confident in handling emergency situations. They had received some training in CPR for older children, but since Falco's recently added 33 babies, I was

asked to specifically teach infant CPR and infant choking training. The training was well-received, and it was inspiring to see the staff so engaged and eager to learn skills that could potentially save a child's life. Mannequins were donated for hands-on practice, which I believe was invaluable for their learning.

Beyond the medical assessments, I also had the privilege of spending time with the children—holding them and playing with them. It was evident that they are not just surviving; they are loved, nurtured, and given every chance to thrive.

This experience deeply impacted me. Falco's Children's Village is more than just an orphanage—it is a sanctuary of hope and healing. I left Falco's with a full heart, knowing that these babies—who once faced such uncertainty—are now in a place where they are truly loved and cared for. I am immensely grateful for this opportunity to support the work of Child Impact International. ■

ANSWERING THE CALL

How one church is standing with vulnerable children

By Nate Dubs

Out of sight, out of mind.” The poignancy of these words hung in the sanctuary of Collegedale Community Church as Child Impact’s CEO, Tom Evans, shared the heartfelt invitation for God’s people to respond to the very real, but often very overlooked, needs of children around the world during the annual international awareness day against human trafficking (World Day against Trafficking in Persons) hosted at our church. How could our church help keep the vision of the need before our eyes and hearts?

When our church leadership, led by Pastor Jerry Arnold, began searching for a way to keep a larger global mission project before our congregation, we naturally turned to Child Impact. After meeting with Tom Evans and Vice President Jason Churchwell, we learned about the rescue campus project in Palawan, Philippines. The vision? To build a high school campus that would provide education and security for vulnerable children at high risk of forced child marriage. Inspired by the opportunity to help change lives, our church committed to raising \$200,000 to support this powerful mission over the next two years.

Earlier this year, I flew to Palawan to meet with a local film crew in order to visit and capture over a dozen mini-stories we could show to our congregation throughout the next several months to keep the vision before us. As I had dozens of conversations with current students and staff at the jungle primary/middle schools, I grew in my conviction of how impactful a rescue campus will be for this group of people. Everything seems to indicate that this is the right project developing at just the right time.

While the fundraising efforts in our congregation are still in their early stages, the impact is already being felt. One story stands out: A young father recently shared that his eight-year-old daughter was so moved by the Rescue Campus project that she spent an entire week gathering spare change from around the house. She even added some of her own money to the cause. A few weeks later, she arrived at church with an envelope of cash and a huge smile on her face as she donated towards the project. Her excitement was contagious, and her small act of generosity has become a powerful reminder that anyone—regardless of age—can make a difference.

Stories like this inspire us to keep pressing forward. We believe this project will do more than build a school; it will change lives both in the Philippines and in our own congregation. We are inviting every family to be part of this journey, whether by giving directly, joining our fundraising efforts, or simply sharing the vision with others.

Our partnership with Child Impact International has shown us that when God’s people come together with a heart to serve, incredible things can happen. We believe the Rescue Campus project is just the beginning, and we look forward to seeing how God will use our church to bring hope and opportunity to vulnerable children around the world. ■



Top: The crew on Palawan. Above: Meeting children from Palawan.



Tom's Uncle Jim shows bags of cans he collected.

CANS AND COMPASSION

Child Impact supporter finds creative ways to make a difference

By Dr. Tom L. Evans

My uncle, Jim, is a mountain man. Growing up, I remember driving up into the Blue Mountains near Walla Walla, Washington, to hunt for huckleberries and morel mushrooms. He always knew all the best spots!

Today, Jim continues with his passion for nature and the woods through foraging. But Jim has another passion as well: Child Impact International. He has a heart to serve God and understands that by helping children who are vulnerable, he is making a world of difference, one child at a time.

Jim has discovered searching for discarded cans as a creative way to help fund the ministry of Child Impact. He finds cans at ball fields, an RV dump station, parks, highway intersections, and gas stations. At ten cents a can, the dollars add up. For more than a year, Jim has been able to collect over \$100 for Child Impact *every month*.

Jim’s passion for finding things has been transformed into helping children find a future that is filled with hope. A big thank you from Child Impact and the children we serve to my Uncle Jim! ■

HOPE THROUGH THE SHADOWS

New partnership with Alive vocal group brings a song for the silenced

By Tony Dennis

In a world where millions suffer under the weight of human trafficking, music has the power to shine a light into the darkest corners. Child Impact International is proud to announce an inspiring new partnership with the music group Alive. This passionate group of musicians with a heart for ministry felt called to create a song that speaks directly to victims of trafficking who suffer in silence. Their song, “Hope Through the Shadows,” is more than just lyrics and melody—it is a declaration that freedom is possible and that no one is forgotten. Our hope at Child Impact is that this song will serve as a powerful anthem of resilience and faith. The lyrics of “Hope Through the Shadows” paint a vivid picture of pain and suffering but also of unwavering hope. The opening verse captures the despair of captivity:

*Through the darkness, chains unseen,
A broken world, a shattered dream.*

Yet, in the chorus, the message shifts toward divine intervention and redemption:

*God is here, He holds the pain,
Through the storm, He breaks the chains.*

Alive's song reminds listeners that, even in the darkest circumstances, God's presence and love bring hope and healing. The bridge echoes this sentiment:

*When hope feels lost and hearts run dry,
He hears the prayers, the desperate cry.*

Child Impact's CEO, Tom Evans, saw Alive perform special music at his local church one Sabbath earlier this year. He immediately felt compelled to get to know them better. When the leader of the group, Moises Hechavarria, told him about writing “Hope Through the Shadows,” Tom knew a partnership had to be pursued.

Just a few weeks later it was official.

Alive recently had the honor of accompanying Tom to the Avon Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, where they performed “Hope Through the Shadows” live for the first time during a Child Impact presentation. This moving performance added an emotional and powerful dimension to the event, allowing attendees to experience the message of hope and resilience in a deeply personal way.

We are proud to have Alive add their music to our presentations about our projects aimed at combating the horrors of human trafficking. Their music serves as a vital tool in raising awareness, inspiring action, and reminding all who hear it that no one is beyond rescue. The collaboration between Child Impact International and Alive is a testament to the power of music in driving meaningful change and offering hope to the hopeless.

Child Impact plans to promote Alive at every church we present in, and in turn Alive will promote Child Impact's cause at each of their concerts and events. This collaboration will not only raise awareness but also provide tangible support to those affected by trafficking. If you would like to invite Alive to perform at your church and be part of this mission, please contact tdennis@childimpact.org for more information. ■

*“God is here, He holds the pain,
Through the storm, He breaks the chains.”*



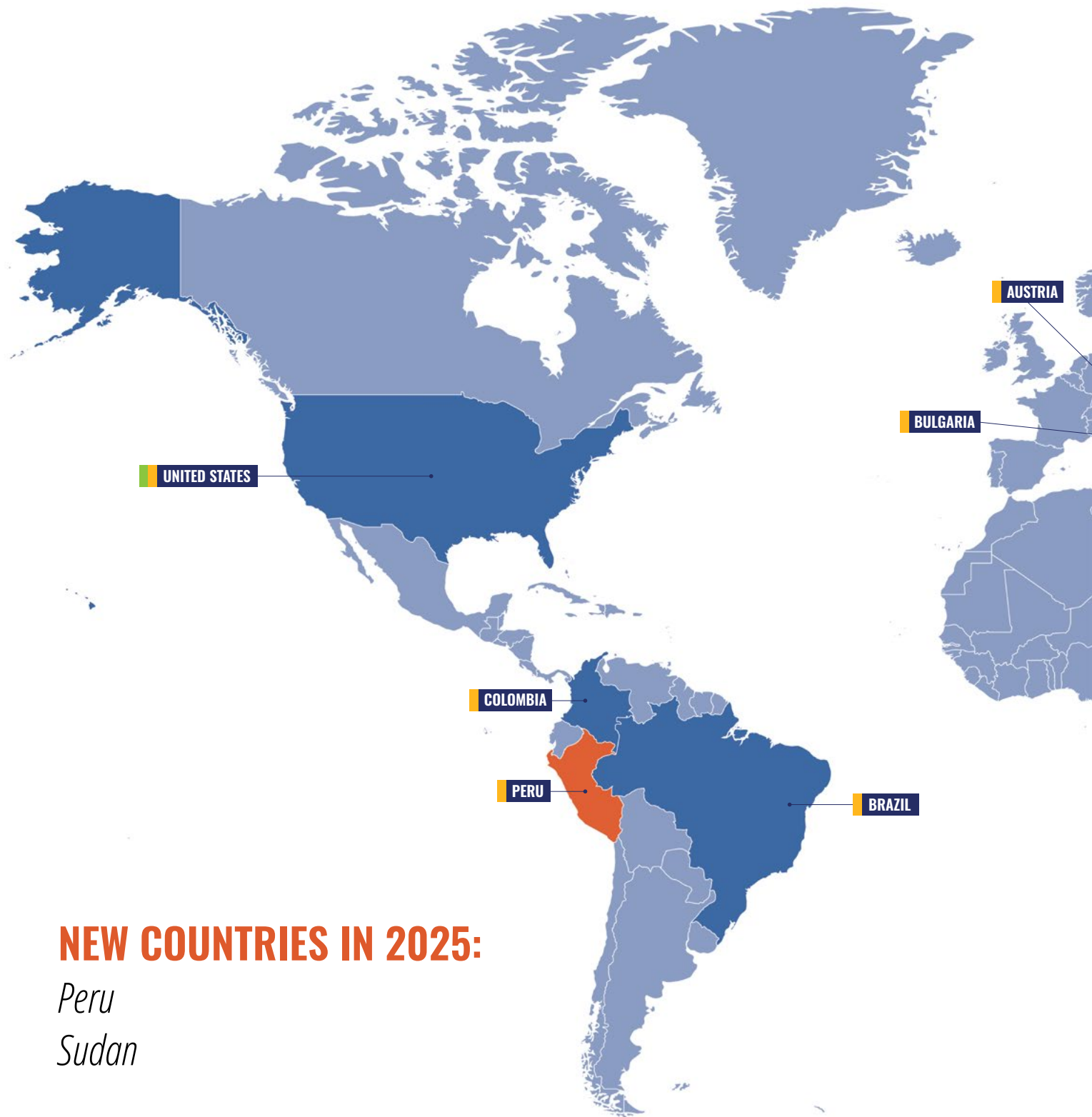
Scan the QR code to watch the music video for “Hope Through the Shadows.”



Still from Alive's recent music video for “Hope Through the Shadows.”

OUR **IMPACT** AROUND THE WORLD

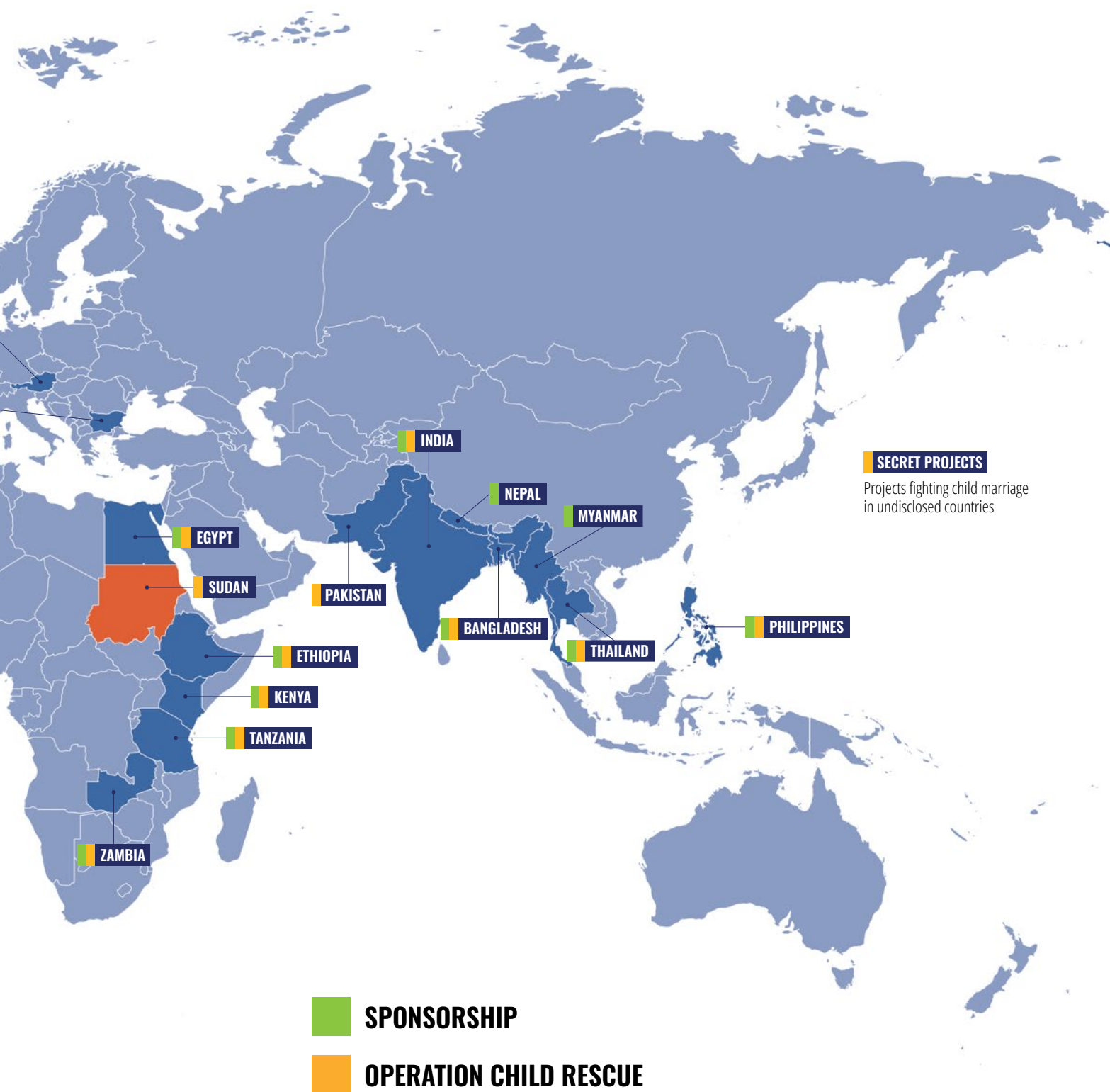
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"My mother got married at 10 years old and gave birth to me at 12 years old."

-Railen

Join the fight against forced child marriage at our Heart for Children dinners.

Help girls like Railen break the cycle of forced child marriage and have the option of saying "no." Enjoy a meal on us at our Heart for Children dinners in support of our new rescue campus for girls at high risk of forced child marriage in Palawan, Philippines.

2025 Upcoming Dates

September 28 | Loma Linda, CA

October 12 | Washington, D.C.

November 16 | Collegedale, TN



Space is limited. RSVP today at
childimpact.org/dinner.

