

TRANSCRIPT:

Home Is Where You Find It

a BYkids film
THEIR WORLD THEIR FILMS



[Captions]: In Mozambique, there are nine million children under the age of fifteen. 500,000 are orphans whose parents have died of AIDS.

[Music]

Alcides Soares: My name is Alcides Soares. I made this film. I am 16, and I am an orphan. My father and my mother died of AIDS. I have a younger sister who lives nearby and I have a little brother. I don't know where he is. My dream is to find my brother. I haven't seen him in 10 years. This is where I live now, with Voh Voh. I call her my grandmother, but she is really not. Voh Voh and I are like a family now.

Voh Voh: I felt that I needed to help you. Because my children are in South Africa and I don't know who is helping them. So when I saw you and how you came to me with a delegation from the church they told me your situation and they knew I was by myself. That's when they brought you over here and I love living with you. Because I don't know who is helping my children in South Africa so I had the feeling that I had to help.

Alcides: My day to day life when I wake up in the morning, maybe 3 or 4 o'clock I go to her room and help her pray. I sweep the outside the way she taught me. I do the dishes. She comes out of her room, and then she goes outside to sell things. The neighbors give her candy to sell and I pick lemons from her tree. She makes twenty cents a day.

I am lucky to have Voh Voh. She took me in after everything happened. I cook and I clean and I push her to church every day, and she gives me a place to live. It's a mile and a half to church.

Voh Voh: When he gets married, how are we going to live? I don't know, only God knows. Today's girls, most of them don't want to live with the old people. Me and you, we understand each other. But when you get a wife one day I think she's going to change your mind in the way you think of me.

Alcides: These are my friends. We met at Reencontro. It's an organization that helps AIDS orphans. It's run by a human named Horlind.

Some photographers from America came to Reencontro. They gave us cameras and they taught us how to take photographs of our lives. My friends took all of these pictures.

They also gave me a video camera and taught me how to shoot. The camera opened my eyes

to our world. Before I got a camera, I had never seen the skyline of Maputo. I never paid much attention to all of the people in the marketplace, to all of the sights and the sounds of my city. I don't like to tell anyone that I am just an AIDS orphan. People think that all AIDS orphans are HIV positive; people, you know, they discriminate against you. Not all orphans have someone to live with, to take care of them, but that's what we all want. Some live in shacks, some live on garbage dumps. This is my friend Irenio. His backyard is the dump.

Irenio: My mother was sick and died this year in March. March 25th, I believe. Six years after my dad. What can I find for my siblings to eat? That's what I think about at night, and when I wake up. So sometimes when I don't have anything to do, I just don't want to even stay here at home. Because I am the oldest one, they all look to me. When I wake up in the morning, everybody looks at me waiting for me to do something. I feel so bad that I am responsible for five people. It's very difficult.

Alcides: Irenio tries not to show the stress and difficulties that his family is facing to his little brother, so that way he doesn't realize that they are having so many challenges. And I really like that.

[Singing and Clapping]

Irenio: My greatest fear is to discover that I am HIV positive. I'm always thinking about that. So even now that's going to be... that's giving me a huge headache. If I find out I am HIV positive, it will be very difficult for my sisters. When I was sitting out there my heart was pumping so fast waiting for the test results. So when we went into the room I almost fainted. When they told me I was negative, what a relief.

Jeremias Cossa: My name is Jeremias Cossa. I am thirteen years old and I am in the sixth grade. And I am a small photographer.

Alcides: Jeremias is a friend I met at Reencontro. Holinda takes him to the cemetery to visit his parents' graves. He dreams of having a family again.

What do you remember about your mother?

Jeremias: My mother, she would take me to meet her family. My parents would take me places.

Boy 1: My mother died when I was very very young. I was two years and a few months old. And my brother, my younger brother was one week and a few days old.

Boy 2: The last thing I remember about my mother—she was so affectionate. She would give me advice on how to live my life. Because she knew she was going to die.

Boy 3: I loved my mother. I used to like to take her picture. My mother loved me.

Boy 4: My mother, she would wake me up in the morning. We would go into the fields and plant things.

Alcides: My parents divorced when I was six. My sister and I went to live with my father. My mother took my baby brother alex. He was only 3. That was 10 years ago. After the divorce, I

never saw my mother again. She moved to a village very far away. I heard she died of AIDS several years ago, but I'm not sure where she's buried. I don't know what happened to my little brother.

This is my sister Victoria. She doesn't live with me, she lives with another family, but she often comes to visit.

Victoria: When our parents were alive, we were very spoiled. We wanted to have everything. But after we lost them, we realized we had to provide for ourselves.

Alcides: If you could have anything in the world, what would you like our life to be?

Victoria: I would like the three of us to live together, to go to school... And just be a family.

Alcides: Don't cry, don't cry.

The way my sister reacted when I told her that my father died of AIDS—she cried a lot. She didn't know. I was sad. I could not cry with her because I had to be strong for her. Because I have to care for her. And I have to care for my stepmother. She's too poor for me to live with her.

Stepmother:: One day, your father came home and he had something to tell me. He decided to tell me he was HIV positive.

Alcides: So, are you HIV positive?

Stepmother: [Crying] Yes I am.

Alcides: Don't cry, don't cry.

This is the home where my father died. Here's where I lived for a little while. I would carry water and fill this container. I would come here to watch movies and sitcoms. The porch is where my father used to sleep when he was sick. That's where my father slept.

After my father died, I got tested. I'm HIV negative.

If my father was here, I would tell him that I am so proud of him despite the circumstances that we lived in and all the struggles. I would say even though he went to school and worked as a security guard I was so proud because he fought for our future.

[Crying]

Voh Voh: You told me you have a brother who lives far away, and you haven't seen him for a long time. You don't know how he is, so that touched me, but there was nothing I could do. I could say go and bring him to come live with us, but I don't know how. He's far away. You don't know if he's in Zambezi or if he's in Beira. So I left things alone because I didn't know what to do.

Alcides: It's like this. Reencontro is going to help me. I am going to call my Uncle Nando to get the information to know where he is. If he's in Beira or Zambezi. And my sponsor is going to give me the money to go and bring him here.

Voh Voh: If it's like that I would love it, and I would be so thankful that you could be near him. To

be together with him.

Alcides: After many weeks of searching, Reencontro found my brother. He lives with my grandparents in a village very far away.

Driver: Don't be discouraged, be calm. We're just about to get there.

Alcides: I'm trying.

Grandfather.

[Crying]

My best moment is where I saw my grandparents and my brother again, so that's my best moment is to meet again with my family and he said, "Woah, is this my Grandson, I don't believe it!." And it was wonderful, it was wonderful for me.

Alex: Is this a photo of Mama?

Alcides: I wanted to see my mother's grave.

My brother is leaving the only life he's ever known. He's coming to live with Voh Voh and me.

[Captions]: Six months later...

[Music]

Irenio is in jail for stealing cell phones. Irenio's sister Aguinalia has moved away with her boyfriend. Jeremias is still looking for a family.

[Credits roll]