



Rescuing Lives Today – Making a Difference Tomorrow

COMPASSION WORKS!

I have seen 4 and 5-year-old children begging in the streets. Their huge, beautiful brown eyes dulled by sadness and filled with distress. They know there is no mom or dad waiting for them. No home to go to. And, possibly no food today either.

I have seen a mother dying of AIDS, tears streaming down her sunken face, force her baby girl into a stranger's hands, then turn and run away, hoping that somehow she had just saved its life – only to be caught and have the child thrust back into her boney arms. Sudden fear filling her face. What will happen to my baby? Who will love her after I'm dead?

I have seen the hopelessness that forces children to reach out for anyone or do anything that will offer just one more meal. A meal that will give them the strength to spend one more weary day digging in the garbage dump, working the streets and wandering aimlessly. No schools. No playgrounds. No clean clothes or water. Just day after day spent surviving, not living. Kept alive almost against their will by their God-given instinct to cling to life, regardless of how wretched that life has become.

I have seen schools operated by radical Muslim fanatics who will give a child a meal, and eventually a gun or a suicide bomb jacket. They're glad to take children

off the streets and turn them into instruments of their hatred. They don't teach them to read or write. They indoctrinate them into a philosophy of revenge. It would break your heart to hear their sweet childhood voices shouting out in bitterness the chants they've been taught – calling for revenge against those they are told are their enemies.

DOES ANYONE CARE ABOUT THESE CHILDREN?

I do. And I am doing something about it!

As *Life Link* celebrated its 15th anniversary in October, we are happy to report that we have/partner with; 10 children's homes/orphanages, helped build 2 schools, dug wells, and sponsored medical outreaches to the furthest bush villages. We are currently working on funding to build a Widow's Home in the Philippines.

As you can see, we at Life Link are doing something. We've put muscle into our compassion!

We are doing the important work of rescuing forgotten and discarded children. Babies trapped in areas of the world plagued by AIDS, torn by civil war, devastated by floods and famine. These young ones are the future of their countries. If they are left to be

swallowed up by the frustration and anger that surrounds them, what kind of future can we hope for?

Yes, I have seen the physical hardship and spiritual despair of the children. But I know that, with your help, we will see strong, healthy children. Children who have learned the value of human life and have developed a strong work ethic, who embrace Jesus Christ as their Savior and Friend.

Children who, as the leaders of tomorrow, have learned to solve the problems that afflict their countries not out of hatred and fear, but out of the concern and compassion they themselves have experienced.

Our future and the future of these kids are at stake. I have seen that compassion works! But Life Link needs your help to

Janet Ruckman, (a Life Link board member and spectacular traveling companion) and I will be flying to Abidjan, Ivory Coast on February 23rd. Please pray for our safety while flying and also while traveling around the country. We will be visiting some of the orphanages in the outlying bush areas and have to hire a bodyguard to travel with us.

Pray for our health and pray that God uses us to share His love and truth with the people we meet.

Pray that we bring encouragement and reassurance to the orphanage directors. Encouragement because living with 25-30 kids in your house, even with a couple of helpers, is an exhausting task! No matter how much you love them! Reassurance because every parent needs someone to tell them they are doing a great job. That someone appreciates what they have accomplished. We will be your arms around these precious workers letting them know, "We have your back!"

continue making a difference. You are a vital part of what we do. We are ordinary people, just like you, committed to doing the extraordinary things these turbulent times demand.

Please know that I appreciate each and every one of you that have joined with us in this important work. Please remember the children in your prayers.

Please share the Life Link vision with your friends, churches and relatives. The larger our support base, the larger the outreach!

Thanks and God bless you,

Connie Alessi

Life Link, President



Life Link is a non-profit international human service corporation committed to improving the quality of life for children everywhere. All donations are tax deductible.

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