

## ***Let's Make Spring a Season of Hope!***

*May! A month for celebrating mothers and graduations – spring and the start of school vacations.*

*Many of you have been out tending gardens, mowing lawns and opening swimming pools.*

*You've waited impatiently through the cold winter months and now it's time to enjoy the milder weather and prepare for the busy summer months ahead.*

But what if you have no mother to celebrate?

No chance of attending a school – much less graduating from one.

No garden, no grass to mow. And the water in the only pool you know isn't fit to drink – but you drink it anyway because it's all you have.

**What if your summer was only going to be exactly like the rest of the year? Lonely, hot, and hopeless. With each day a deadly struggle to make it to the next.**

And what if you are going through all of this – and you are only 6 years old?

That was Joseph's story and the story of many other *Life Link* children.

No mother, no school, no food, no one to love or care for him.

But, like the warming sunshine of Spring that coaxes buds from a frosty winter sleep, someone came into the lives of these precious children and warmed them with their love.

Someone with a kind heart who wants to help.

Maybe a man from Mississippi or a nurse from New York, or a couple from Indiana. People from different walks of life, from different places. But all **the same in their concern for hurting children and their willingness to make a difference in their lives.** People like you – who have partnered with *Life Link* to help rescue these innocent kids. Kids like Joseph.



Even though for some of you it's a genuine sacrifice, we are so grateful that you continue to give because you understand the importance of what *Life Link* is doing.

Some of you may have felt that your small monthly amount wasn't really able to do much.

Others, who can only send something once or twice a year may wonder – What difference could they make? Does it really matter if we're faithful in giving? After all, with such a great need, what can one person really do?

Well, of course, the answer is a resounding YES!

**Yes, your gift matters. It really, really matters!**

No matter what the amount, when added together, all of the gifts we receive each month do so very much for the children!

Twenty-five dollars buys a lot of rice!

And the annual or semi-annual gifts help “play catch-up” for the lean months or the special needs like Christmas or getting everyone into school.

**The thing to remember is that with all of us, working together, the needs of *Life Link* children can be met.**

For example, your contributions enable *Oasis Orphanage* to stay open and take in more children.

Joseph is now living at *Oasis Orphanage* and, thanks to you, he's doing very well. He is going to school and eating three meals a day. And he loves to have Esther, the director of the orphanage, give him those hugs and kisses all children need. You've even provided him with a mother to celebrate. Thank you ... doesn't even begin to express it.



**Together, we can do so much more.**

- Please – tell your friends, family, and church about *Life Link*.
- Tell your employer and co-workers! Get involved with gift matching through your workplace!
- Have a fund raising garage sale.

There are children all around the world waiting to be rescued!

*Life Link* would like to move into Mexico and Central America this year. But expansion takes more funds and more faithful people to partner with us.

Please – pray. And help us to broaden our support base so *Life Link* can help as many children as possible.

The opportunities are there and we're willing to roll up our sleeves and go to work – but we need your help.

God bless you!

*Connie*

We have 6 graduates from the Vocational Center in Benin. Life Link is providing a sewing machine or loom plus supplies for the graduates to be able to start their own business. If you would like to be part of this the cost is \$200 each child.

The girls are:

1. Helena – Born in a family of 8 children only Helena and her brother are still alive. The others were sold or sacrificed as infants because the parents were told they could gain supernatural powers. AT 14, Helena was to be sold as third wife to an old man. On her wedding night, before her new husband came in from the festival, she managed to escape and run to a neighboring village that had a police station. Telling of her plight, the police brought her to Exodus House. Because her father had not yet received payment, he allowed Helena to remain for training. Helena will remain at the Vocational center after graduation to work as a teaching aid, to protect her from being forced to return to marry the old man.
2. Estelle – Living with an aunt since she was 3 years old, Estelle -13-was to be married to a man in her village. An illness caused the man to not be able to go thru with the marriage. She ran away to Cotonou where she heard of the Center and came begging for refuge and training.
3. Suzan – We are not sure of her age. Somewhere between 12 and 15 we believe. The woman she was living with continually beat her. One day her chance came to run away. The Juvenile Police caught her and after hearing her story brought her to Exodus her and she was accepted at the vocational center.
4. Juliene – our only boy. He lives in the local village and comes each day to learn to sew. His father has died of AIDS and his mother is HIV positive and getting



A 2007 Graduate.

weaker every day. He will support his mother and brothers with his sewing machine. Keeping the family together as long as he can.

5. Celestine – between the ages of 15 to 18 - a local village girl who comes each day to learn a trade to support her family. She has a mother, brothers and sisters she will be supporting.
6. Genevieve – 18- She has become a skilled weaver at the training center. She has been helping to train other girls as a teaching aid for the last year. Now she would like to become independent and have her own business. She will be supporting herself and her grandmother.

These young people's lives will never be the same. They have a future where once there was no hope! Thank you! THANK YOU!

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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