

The Origin Of Desire

Helping – It's What Children Do

The desire to help one another seems to be placed within each of us at birth. Small children have an instinctive desire to help. We've all seen toddlers, insistent on "helping" their parents do something, in spite of their lack of ability to do so.

When we help someone, we experience an increased level of self-worth.

This comes from knowing that we have reached out beyond ourselves and allowed the God kind of love to manifest itself through us. Could this be why the New Testament says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive"?



It's What God Does

One of the characteristics of our Father is that *He is love*. It is that love that compelled Him to help us find our way back to Him. It is that love that helped us before we committed our lives to Him and continues to sustain us afterward. And it is that love – God's love working in us and through us – *that motivates us to reach out and help others*.

As I grow older, the more I understand that life is about people, and about God using me to help others. I want to leave people in a better situation than what I found them in. This is what brings purpose, joy and fulfillment to life.

It's What Makes Good Things Happen

Sometimes people ask Connie and me how we got started helping orphans in Africa. While they're interested in how we came to be involved in Life Link, and the details of what we did on our first visit there in 2002, they seldom ask *why* we did it. And, for us, the motivating factor is the heart of the issue. So, *why did we take action to help the children of Africa?*

Of course, the need is enormous. And like all of you, the facts and figures of the millions of orphaned, sick and destitute children in Africa shock us. The pictures and stories may even bring pity and tears. But when you are there, on-site, it becomes personal. Your spirit is moved with compassion. *Pity and tears are no longer enough*. You know that you must take action.

It's the difference between seeing a post card of something like Niagara Falls – which is to experience nothing of its reality – and standing next to this magnificent force of nature. Enveloped by its magnitude,

the mist in your face, the roar of the water, you have an experience. Feeling, hearing and seeing it in all its beauty and grandeur reveals an unbelievable difference and creates an impact that will stay with you for a lifetime. Visiting the children of Africa has had that kind of impact on us.

As grandparents, we were moved by the children and babies we saw. *We wanted to help the African orphans, but where would we find the resources to do so?* Establishing an orphanage from the ground up requires considerable finances. It seemed like an impossible task. But, nevertheless, the Lord orchestrated a series of events that enabled us to begin to fulfill our desire to change the world one child at a time. As a result, we have come to realize that, *with a little help to get started, determined, caring people can do great things.* Together with the staff at our Life Link orphanages and your support, we have been able to do just that and so much more!

Thank you so much for helping.

But the work is far from over. Just as you step up and play a role in keeping our Life Link facilities up and running, the children need you to continue in your commitment. *They need you to keep the help coming.* They, and many more that still roam the streets, without food, shelter, care, or hope.

Thank you!

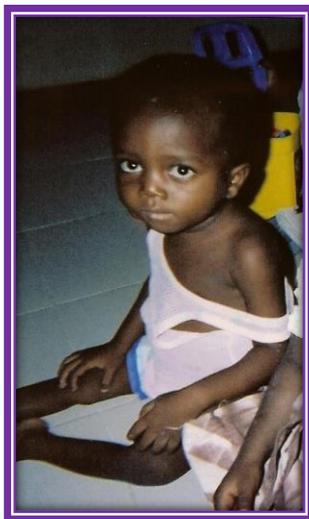
David Alessi

Before and After:

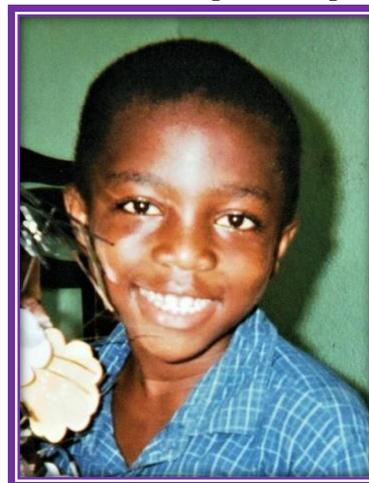
It is amazing the difference love and prayer can make in a child's life. The children come to our orphanages broken in body and spirit. They usually have open sores, bruising, malnutrition and malaria. The little ones can't sit up or walk by themselves; the older ones have haunted eyes and broken hearts.

Their bodies heal faster than their little hearts and minds. But they do heal! And it shows in their faces. Here are some before and after pictures. Compare and see for yourselves –the gifts you give to Life Link really do produce fruit that will remain. Saved lives. Changed lives. Children's lives!

Jonathan-Before- Two years old and never expected to walk



Jonathan – After-14 years old and a top soccer player in school! He also



has the second highest GPA in his school!

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.

Life Link
PO Box 1691
Owasso, OK

918-282-3132 Lifelink_rc@yahoo.com www.lifelinkrc.org