



**For Release:** January 7, 2013

**Connie Alessi of Life Link to Speak at Life Community Church on January 13, 2013**

On Sunday, January 13, Connie Alessi, president of Life Link, a non-profit international organization dedicated to rescuing and improving the lives of children, will share her vision with members of Life Community Church in Ada during the 10:00 a.m. service and the public is invited to attend.

Now beginning its 11<sup>th</sup> year of operation, the Claremore, Oklahoma-based organization began with a cry for help in March 2002. Ms. Alessi and her husband, David, were in West Africa participating in a Bible School program organized by missionary friends. On their final day, Ms. Alessi was approached and handed an infant by an AIDS-infected mother who -- knowing she would die from the disease -- wanted someone to take care of her child, since there were no orphanages in the town. While it was not possible for Ms. Alessi to keep the child, the incident was the painful inspiration for what has become an organization that has reached hundreds of children in West Africa and more recently, the Philippines and Mexico.

“Our mission is first of all to literally save the lives of children,” Ms. Alessi said. “While it’s hard to believe, in West African nations where we operate, children are sometimes killed at birth due to handicaps and even superstition,” she said.

Life Link has small home-based orphanages and now medical facilities and vocational training in the countries of Guinea-Bissau and the Ivory Coast.

“We chose to operate in these countries in part because we discovered that a very high percentage of relief from international aid organizations goes to English speaking African countries, while much less goes to non-English speaking countries,” she said.

Certainly it’s needed. Guinea-Bissau is not only a politically unstable country, but its economy is one of the weakest in the world.

More recently, Ms. Alessi has responded to calls for assistance in the Philippines and in Mexico. Her Christian ministry-based approach to relief and service is practical and efficient.

“We develop local relationships only with individuals who have already demonstrated their commitment by having orphans living with them,” she said. “This person-to-person, heart-to-heart approach has worked effectively for the past 10 years.”

Since Life Link was formed, the organization has raised and contributed more than \$485,000 to its orphanages and relief facilities on three continents. Currently, approximately 450 children live in orphanages and related Life Link facilities, and Ms. Alessi estimates that as many as 1,000 children have benefited from Life Link services.

Life Community Church Senior Pastor Mickey Keith believes it is important for members of the LCC congregation (and others) to hear the message that Ms. Alessi has to share.

“As we end the Christmas Season and the tradition of giving, Connie Alessi offers a powerful message about the value and commitment to selfless service and Christian love,” he said. “She shows what one person can do when they are called upon as Connie was called upon by an African mother in need of help for her child. It’s an amazing story that everyone should hear.”

For more information about Life Link, the organization website is: <http://lifelinkrc.org>. The mailing address is Life Link, P.O. Box 1808, Claremore, Oklahoma 74018, and the telephone number is 918-379- 0055.

Life Community Church, located at 330 East 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Ada, Oklahoma, was founded by Senior Pastors Mickey and Glenda Keith in February 2006. In October 2012, Curtis and Jeanelle Reese joined the LCC as Associate Pastors. The Life Community Church vision is to bring people to Jesus and membership in his family, while helping them develop a Christ-like maturity in the ministry and service to others.

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