

## **Local Churches Rally Together at LoVEFest to Support AIDS Orphans in South Africa**

By Susan Cuadrado

June 6, 2008—Thousand Oaks, California—The local Christian community has joined forces to help support this year's **LoVEFest**, a fundraising concert and silent auction benefiting AIDS-affected orphans at the Lily of the Valley orphanages in South Africa. Among the churches committed to promoting and supporting LoVEFest, which takes place June 29<sup>th</sup> from 3-7pm at Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks, are Conejo Valley Community Church, Calvary Community Church, Cornerstone Community Church (Simi Valley), The Joshua Tree, Living Oaks, St. Paul's Lutheran, Westminster Presbyterian, Westlake Lutheran, Gateway, Agoura Bible Fellowship, Northbound, St. Maximillian Kolbe, Epiphany and Vineyard Community Church (Newbury Park).

Headlining this year's LoVEFest is international Christian recording artist **Michelle Tumes**, whose musical style has been compared to Enya and Bono, among others. Local contemporary Christian bands, food from area restaurants, a silent auction, and an opportunity to sponsor an orphaned child in South Africa will round out this not-to-miss event.

LoVEFest is sponsored by Agoura-based **Lily of the Valley Endeavor (LoVE) AIDS Foundation**, a California nonprofit 501c3 organization that supports the Lily of the Valley Children's Villages (and their surrounding communities), a growing group of orphanages centered in the heart of the AIDS pandemic—Kwazulu, South Africa. The orphanages are unique in that in addition to providing children with housing, food, clothing, medication and education, they provide motherly care in group homes. Each cottage houses one full-time housemother and six children. This family environment ensures that each child receives maternal love and nurturing—something many of these children have never before experienced. This unique orphanage is fast becoming a model for other African countries in dealing with the devastating HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Proceeds from this year's LoVEFest will help build a third orphanage in a nearby village, as well as support educational, community and food parcel programs.

Tickets can be purchased on-line for \$35 by visiting [www.lilyvalleyusa.org](http://www.lilyvalleyusa.org) or at the Parchment store in Westlake Village. Advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended, as attendance is limited.

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