

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

With this ring, she does save

Local woman's charity brings clean water to Africa.

By **ERIN WELCH**

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Not many women would give away their wedding rings. But for Ali Eastburn it was a no-brainer to surrender her \$5,000 ring for cash to bring clean, drinking water to a village in West Africa.

Inspired by a presentation at a retreat, Eastburn learned two-thirds of the world doesn't have clean drinking water. From that point on, she wanted to make a difference by making changes in her own life.

Her donated wedding ring started her charity, With This Ring – a charity that collects wedding rings, precious jewelry and metals and donations to pay for wells in Africa.

Eastburn's charity will also feature a new way to donate in June. The new donation process allows engaged couples to register with With This Ring before the wedding to donate to the charity. To learn more about the charity or to donate visit www.withthisring.org.

Question.How do husbands usually react when their wives want to give their rings to charity?

Answer.My husband was shocked and he was happy. I was more of a materialistic person then. But the interesting thing is, I have yet to hear of one husband having a problem with it. It's usually the women who have a harder time parting with it. Some women pull the diamond and put a cubic in it so they still have something to wear and no one can tell the difference.

Q.What do you wear instead of your ring?

A. After they took out the diamond, my husband and I went to Target and to a silver band that cost about \$12. I still wear it everyday and I'm very happy with it. It means so much more to me, because the band is like a reminder of what my other ring did for people in Africa. It saved lives.

Q.How has this charity changed you?

A.It makes me think about every dollar I spend. My priorities have changed. I ask myself, do I want the luxury cars or do I want someone to live?

It's also changed the family. We were headed up the materialistic ladder – but it's radically changed the way we buy things and what we buy.

My eyes were shut to things around me – somehow whatever was going on other there had no relevance to my family. But now, I want to help everyone.

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