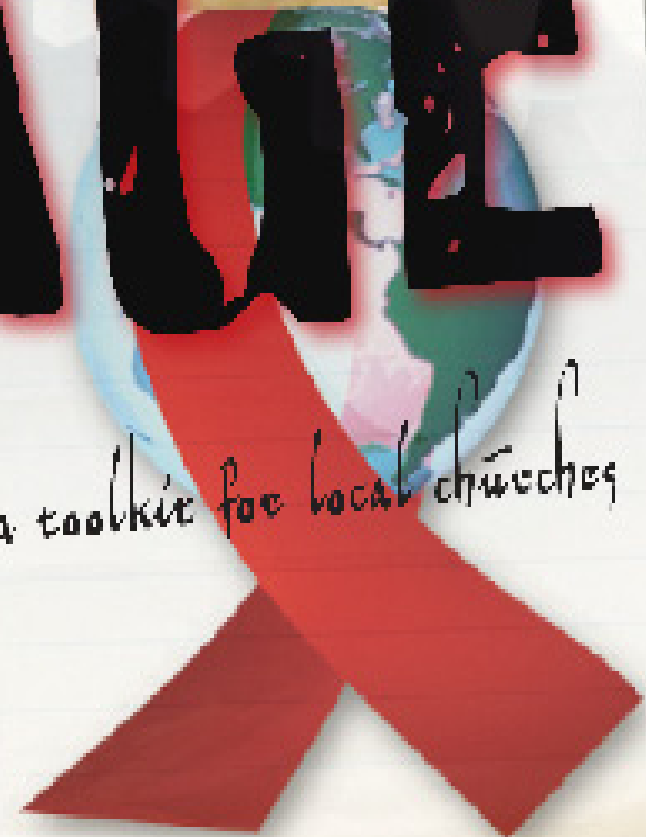


Global AIDS Partnership

ENGAGE

The Church

a toolkit for local churches



WHO WILL CRY FOR ME?

AIDS



PASTORAL CARE

PERSONS WITH AIDS

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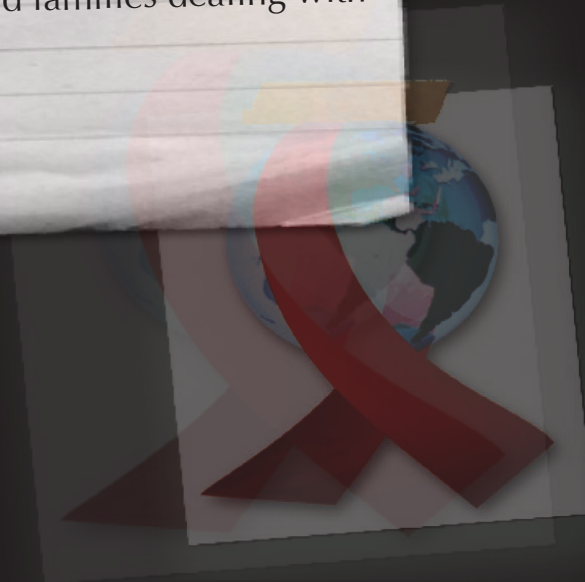
the Church

You have taken a major step in ordering this toolkit. This says that you are a group that really cares and wants to make a difference in the HIV/AIDS crisis.

You may be in an area of the country where HIV/AIDS does not seem to be a major issue. Yet, there may be those in your congregation or immediate community dealing with it secretly. It may in some areas be a larger issue, but the church has little or minimal involvement. Even though anti-AIDS drugs have made this less of a life-threatening disease in the US, there is still an aura of stigma and shame that often surrounds it, prompting people to hide their status or avoid confronting it.

When the church makes a decision to speak of it openly and honestly and to let people know that the arms of the church are wide-open to anyone, including those with HIV, it makes a very large and loud statement to the entire community about the love and acceptance of Christ and the body of Christ.

This toolkit presents some skeletal ideas of ways that all levels of the church can become sensitized to the issue of HIV/AIDS and ways that the church can reach out to individuals and families dealing with HIV/AIDS.



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Equipping—By bringing awareness to all levels of the congregation, the church becomes equipped to reach out to those dealing with HIV/AIDS

Nurturing—The church, as it becomes aware of the stigma of HIV/AIDS, can become that of a nurturing environment for families and friends dealing with this crisis

Going—There are many opportunities both in one's own community and in other countries to GO and reach out a hand of love and care to those dealing with HIV/AIDS

AssessING and AssistING—Accept volunteers from the church who will find out what is being done for those with HIV/AIDS in the local community and search out ways that the church can assist

GaugING—It's important for Christians to gauge their attitudes about persons with HIV/AIDS. "Lord, help me to forgive those who have sinned differently than me"

EstablishING—A church filled with the compassion and love of Jesus that is committed to reaching out to those with HIV/AIDS and offering assistance on multiple levels



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Some Facts about HIV/AIDS

- Tens of millions in the world are living with HIV/AIDS.
- Many women and children affected by human trafficking are HIV-positive, and many lack access to anti-AIDS drugs.
- In some parts of the world, the number of people with HIV/AIDS continues to increase.
- Millions of injection drug users worldwide are HIV positive.
- Each year, millions die from the disease and millions more are newly infected.



Ways that HIV is Transmitted
from one person to another

By Sexual Contact

By Blood

(i.e., injected drugs, contaminated
medical/dental equipment, blood transfusions)

By Breast Milk—From an HIV/positive mother to newborn



Ways that HIV is
NOT transmitted

By hugging or kissing
By being in the same room
By being touched by sweat or tears
of an HIV/positive person

By swimming together
By using the same eating or drinking utensils
By mosquitos
By toilet seats

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Ideas for Engaging the Congregation

- Preach a sermon from the scriptures on page (12).
- See sermon on the CD—"Business as Usual" by Neil Ruda. A powerpoint accompanies this sermon
- Have youth present a drama to the congregation
- Use video presentation on the issues of HIV/AIDS found on CD
- Have congregation form a small prayer groups to pray for those dealing with HIV/AIDS
- Invite a missionary from the Global AIDS Partnership to speak about HIV/AIDS on the Sunday prior to World AIDS Day
- Explain the facts about HIV/AIDS in small groups (powerpoint available on CD)
- Print Compassion Handbook found on CD and work through each page as a discussion starter
- Organize a committee in the small group to investigate the statistics of HIV/AIDS in your own community and find out what is being done.
- Contact a missionary involved with Global AIDS Partnership or in HIV ministry and invite them to come and address the group or to send prayer needs.
- Organize smaller prayer groups in the larger group dedicated to meet regularly to pray for those dealing with HIV/AIDS
- Appoint someone to see if there is anything that the group can do to assist any person in the congregation known to be dealing with HIV,

(There are four group discussion ideas on the CD)

ideas for Engaging the Youth

- Find out what the level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS is in the group.
(This can be done by questions or printing the short quiz on HIV found on the CD)
- Have several of the youth do the following role play and then have the group discuss what they saw:

- Scenario for Discussion/Consideration:

Bill and Stephen speaking together:

Bill - I've sure been hearing a lot about this AIDS disease. They were even talking about it at the youth rally.

Stephen - Me too. My father thinks it's a curse. He's heard that from some of the other men. I think they are kind of scared. I'm not scared though. It won't happen to me—I am so healthy.

Bill - Yeah, me too. Might as well have a good time while we're young.

- Questions for Discussion/Reflection:

- What is happening in the above scene?
 - Do people believe in superstitions or curses in your area?
 - Have these been attributed to AIDS?
 - What is the attitude of young people toward this or any illness in your area? Why?
- Have the youth create a drama around the subject of HIV (such as a young person coming home and telling his parents he/she are HIV positive).
 - Have the youth design posters that can be hung in their classroom or in the church lobby with messages about abstinence or other issues surrounding HIV.

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Ideas for Engaging the Children

- Talk to the children about HIV and find out what they know (age dependent)

- Tell the following:

Jenny's mom was very sick with AIDS. Then she got some medicine that made her seem almost like herself. She still got pretty tired and had to take a lot of pills. She and Jenny wanted to tell others how to keep from getting HIV so they decided to make some little ribbons to wear. If people asked them what the ribbons were for, they would tell them how to avoid getting HIV and that is mainly by saying "no" to sex outside of marriage and, once married, only having sex with your husband or wife. (The last part can be left out depending on the age of the children.)

- Have the children make the AIDS symbol from red ribbon. Help them staple it and have pins so they can wear the ribbon that day.

- Have the kids sing the following song to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me":

There are people everywhere

Who have no one who can care

Let us be the ones to show

The Love of Jesus that we know

Yes, Jesus loves them

Yes, Jesus loves them

Yes, Jesus loves them

The Bible tells us so

Ideas for Engaging Women's Groups

- Discuss the issue of HIV/AIDS and assess the attitudes of the women toward this issue.
- See if anyone wishes to share about their own family or friends who are dealing with HIV and what challenges there are.
- Find out from the group if there are support groups in the area, and determine if starting a support group for families or individuals dealing with HIV in the church would be warranted. Seek volunteers to participate.
- Contact a Global AIDS Partnership (GAP) missionary (see list on last page) or a missionary working with HIV/AIDS and invite them to come and speak to the group or to suggest projects for the women. Some missionaries can use AIDS Care Kits that the ladies could assemble, with things like bandages, buckets, towels, soap, antiseptic cream, etc. Be sure to know who might need this before making them.
- Take up a special offering directed to develop AIDS awareness and intervention materials.
- Form small prayer cell groups to pray for those dealing with HIV/AIDS.

(There are four group discussion ideas on the CD)

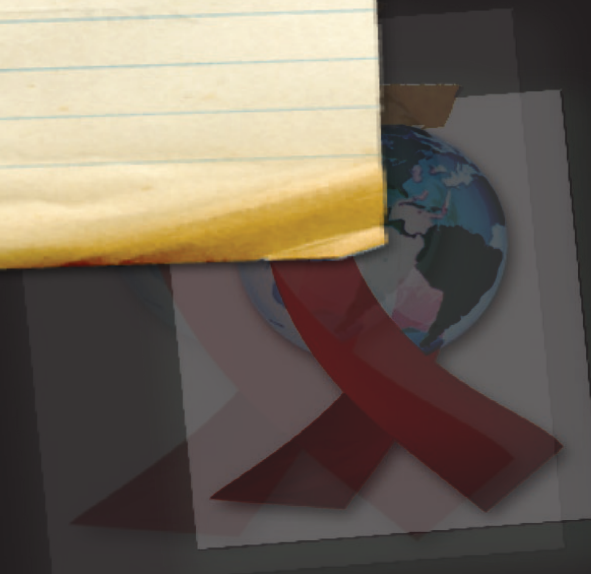
Ideas for engaging adults in
small groups

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Ideas for Engaging Men's Groups

- Discuss HIV/AIDS in the group and determine what the attitude is toward those with HIV. (Often there are negative attitudes about those with HIV, as some think it is a homosexual issue and often think HIV is only about homosexuality. A good discussion will be helpful to sort out attitudes and correct misconceptions.)
- Organize a prayer walk with the men in a slum area of your community.
- Contact the local Teen Challenge and inquire about the issue of HIV among those they minister to. See if someone may be willing to come in and address the men about this issue and its correlation to IV drug use. (See CD for a pamphlet about HIV and Substance abuse.)
- Organize volunteers to work with a local rescue or rehab center with the agenda of learning more about those who are HIV positive or dealing with other health or addiction issues.

(There are four group discussion ideas on the CD)



AIDS is still a leading
cause of death worldwide and
is the number one cause of
death in sub-Saharan



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What Does the Bible Say about the Church's Response?

If you see your brother (sister) in need and have no pity on him, how can the love of God be in you? Dear children, let us love in word and deed. 1 John 3:17-18

Jesus did not reserve His ministry to those who were like Him or believed as He did. He reached out to social outcasts such as lepers and prostitutes—to the rich, the poor and to sinners. It was often the most unacceptable and unworthy who received His gracious and compassionate touch.

In Matthew 9:36 (NIV) the account is given of Jesus as He looked over a crowd of people. He saw "all manner of sickness and disease." Jesus lived in a day when medical care would have been minimal, and where there were overwhelming physical conditions that confronted Him. He also observed people who had no spiritual foundation and He was "moved with compassion." He described them as "helpless and harassed, like sheep without a shepherd."

The account of His contact with the woman of Samaria in John 4 is very apropos to the way in which Jesus dealt with those who were stigmatized. Jesus' very association with the Samaritan woman was scandalous in those days. Jews and Samaritans did not even speak to each other. This woman was not only of an "untouchable ethnic background," but was also living in sin with a man to whom she was not married. Jesus took time to talk to her about her life and the "living water" that He had to offer her. Luke 4:39 says that many Samaritans believed in Him because of the testimony of this Samaritan woman.

With the above acts of compassion and the touching of both body and spirit, Jesus gives a beautiful model for the believer and the church:

There is no one who is untouchable to Christ and therefore to the believer

Compassion is the expected response of a believer who sees need

Compassion is not passive but results in action

Touching a person in need can take many forms but is personal and involved

Touching a person in need can bring healing in different forms and in different ways, physically, emotionally and spiritually

Illustration for Congregation

Pass out slips of paper with a minus sign or a plus sign. Have one third of the slips contain a positive sign. At some point in the sermon have all the positives stand. This represents the number of people who are positive in the nation of Swaziland, Africa.



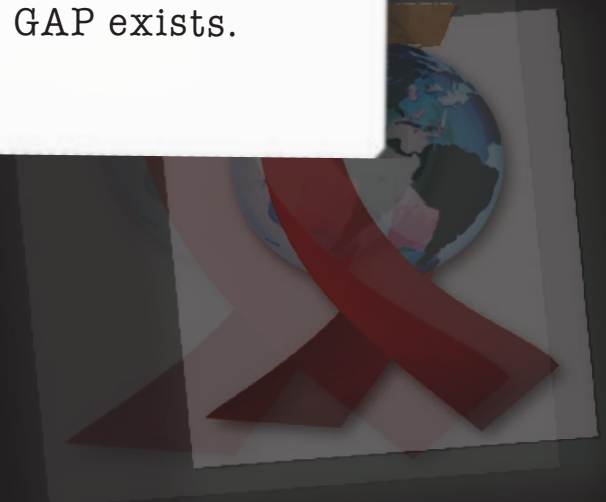
UNTUCHABLE
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Gabriela's story

I couldn't believe what was happening. Did I try to stop it? Could I? The men came and surrounded her... there must have been seven or more. They encircled this young woman that I only recently met and had their way with her. I heard her muffled screams...

suppressed I think by someone's hand. Then they were gone... "Gabriela... Gabriela," I whispered the name she had told me only a week before when she had arrived at the brothel in Villa Carton, Buenos Aires. Lured from a desperate life, like so many of us, by promises of a lucrative future, Gabriela had found herself at age 11 forced into the destructive sex trade industry. In my arms at that moment, Gabriela felt lifeless. And I knew that she felt that she was lifeless. For life is what you are raped of when you are a sex slave.

Tragically, Gabriela's story is the story of multi-thousands. For these women and children human existence is reduced to its most base and tragic form. It is for these often helpless and forgotten souls that groups like Project Rescue and GAP exists.



from Burkina Faso

Pastor Solomon and his family live in a village in Burkina Faso. I met him when I taught an HIV/AIDS training seminar for the pastors in his area. He sat in the front row, taking notes on every subject that was presented.

When the training was over, he wanted to talk to me privately. Sitting in the dusty church yard, he explained how his life and ministry had been impacted by HIV. Many people in his community were infected with HIV, and several had already died from AIDS. I sensed the sadness he felt about what was happening around him.

A young man living close to the church was very sick, and Pastor Solomon suspected AIDS. The man's relatives didn't have money to provide him with food or medical care. Pastor Solomon had been helping, but he was on his own; other people were too afraid to go near.

Pastor Solomon was ready to get involved! First, he explained that he was going to teach an HIV awareness seminar in his church, so people would understand the facts about HIV/AIDS. Next he'd organize the congregation to visit the man in his home. He believed that when people understood that HIV can't be passed through casual contact, they would be willing to get involved.

Finally he would teach young people about HIV: first in his church, then at the local school. He wanted to tell them what God's word said about sex, and encourage people at risk to have the HIV test.

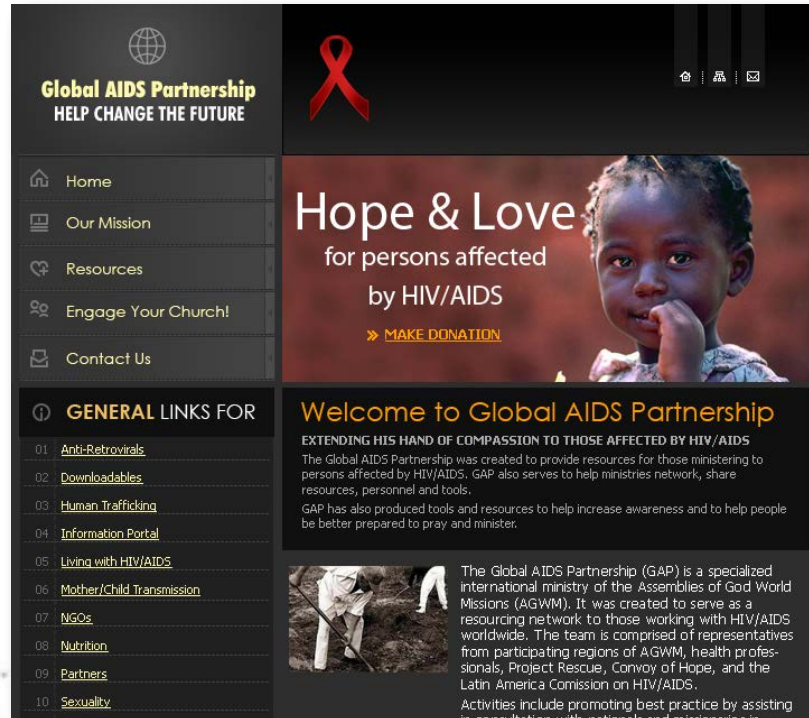
Attending that seminar helped Pastor Solomon realize that he could become involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS. He didn't ask for money; he saw that the real answer lies in mobilizing the resources that already existed in his church and community.

Training is an extremely cost-effective way to make an impact on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. A person who has been trained passes information on to others. It's like multiplying the efforts of the trainer over and over again through the actions of those who received training.



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www.globalaidspartnership.org



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Global AIDS Partnership website. The header includes the logo with a globe icon and the text "Global AIDS Partnership HELP CHANGE THE FUTURE", a red ribbon icon, and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. A navigation menu on the left lists: Home, Our Mission, Resources, Engage Your Church!, and Contact Us. The main content area features a large image of a young child with the text "Hope & Love for persons affected by HIV/AIDS" and a "MAKE DONATION" button. Below this is a "Welcome to Global AIDS Partnership" section with the sub-header "EXTENDING HIS HAND OF COMPASSION TO THOSE AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS". It contains two paragraphs of text and a small image of a person in a white protective suit. A "GENERAL LINKS FOR" sidebar on the left lists 10 categories: 01. Anti-Retrovirals, 02. Downloadables, 03. Human Trafficking, 04. Information Portal, 05. Living with HIV/AIDS, 06. Mother/Child Transmission, 07. NGOs, 08. Nutrition, 09. Partners, and 10. Sexuality.

