

Center for Health and Hope Action Newsletter

Fall, 2018

FOR MORE
INFORMATION:
[www.centerfor
hopeandhealth.org](http://www.centerfor
hopeandhealth.org)

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Inside this issue:

AIDS Over or 2
Flourishing?

World AIDS Day
Honor Dr Samuel
Brunch Speakers

HIV & TB Deadly 3
Record \$47,000 -
@ Denver Golf 3

Christmas Gifts 3

Stories of Hope 4
Stocking Gift?

Save the Dates 4

SHEEP & GOATS TRANSFORM LIVES *Overcoming Hunger & Poverty of HIV Positive Persons*

Widows and orphans in Rwanda and Kenya suffer from a devastating combination of hunger, poverty, and disease. By distributing sheep and goats to persons living with HIV, the Center for Health and Hope enables people to become more self-supporting, as they gain a resource for nutrition & income. Recently 30 sheep & 31 goats in rural Rwanda, and some 80 goats & sheep in Kenya, were distributed.



Recipients agree to give the first born to other vulnerable persons. Donors last year gave a life-giving animal for Christmas. "Looking into the eyes of thankful women, my heart was beating with joy," said Dr. Don Messer, as he reflected on his recent visit to Rwanda. "How I wish every donor could experience the thrill of being a life saver."



PRINCE HARRY & ELTON JOHN DECRY STIGMA

Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, declared at the International AIDS Conference this summer that "AIDS is a topic that has drifted from the headlines. And with that drift of attention, we



risk a real drift of funding and action to beat the virus. We cannot lose a sense of urgency ..." Choosing to follow in the footsteps of his late mother, Princess Diana, he joined popular singer, Elton John, to express frustration about persistent homophobia & stigma "It is sinful we don't end AIDS," said John, "but bigotry and hatred toward LGBTQ persons holds the world back." Failure to educate, test and treat key population groups like men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, sex workers, prisoners, and refugees means "20 years from now we will be wondering why HIV still has not been conquered," he said. Together they started MenStar aimed at reaching young men, who globally are most resistant to getting tested & treated.



CELEBRATING A FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Five years ago the Center rebuilt Hope Mission School in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, after the dilapidated facility was ordered destroyed. Speakers at the "Gathering to HEAL" breakfast Oct. 20 will celebrate the past five years of educating 188 children & feeding them twice daily. School Director, Anne Baraza, will share stories of sorrow & triumph as she labors with underpaid teachers & a violent neighborhood. Rev. Dr. Harvey Martz, retired senior pastor of St. Andrew UMC, Highlands Ranch, will receive the Paul & Paula Murphy Human Sexuality Award for helping remove the marginalization that LGBTQ persons experience in most churches. Soloist Chin Keong Tan & Daryl Walker will provide special music. Theresa Marchetta will return as MC. To help meet the urgent needs of the school, anonymous donors are offering a \$5,000 Matching Challenge for this Five Year Anniversary! Send your gift!

GLOBAL AIDS PANDEMIC: NEARLY OVER OR STILL FLOURISHING?

Measuring whether the HIV & AIDS pandemic is nearly over or still flourishing depends on where you live and whether you see the proverbial glass half-full or half-empty. If you are among the 60 percent of the 37 million people infected in the world who have access to life-saving treatment, your perspective will be different than the 40 percent who face suffering without medicine.

Speakers at the July 22rd International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands, celebrated glowing progress made in recent years in reducing infections & deaths in certain parts of the world. But dramatic disparities exist globally in how HIV and AIDS are experienced. In the USA virtually no babies are born HIV positive; yet 400 children daily enter this world with the virus. Western Europe has reduced infections, but Russia & Eastern Europe have a 30% increase. The Philippines faces a rising infection rate.

“There can be no Brexit against AIDS,” declared former U.S. President Bill Clinton as “it would be calamitous to withdraw efforts before victory is achieved. The temptation,” he said, “is to think AIDS is over. If we walk backwards, the chance is that AIDS will return in epidemic proportions with breathtaking consequences. The goal remains to save as many lives as possible.”



(Messer, Chin Tan, & William Bradford)

Donald E. Messer, Executive Director



WORLD AIDS DAY SPEAKER

“Lest, we forget the urgent challenge of dealing today with HIV,” says Dr. Don Messer, “as well as the loved ones lost to the pandemic,” the Center will again sponsor a World AIDS Day’s observance. The speaker will be Rev. Nathan Adams, lead pastor at Park Hill UMC, where the event will be held on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 7 pm. Rev. Dr. Valerie Jackson is chair. Music will be by Daryl Walker’s World AIDS Legacy Ensemble with special dancers from Scott UMC.



N.M. SAMUEL, MD, HONORED

A lifetime of combatting first leprosy and then HIV will be recognized Oct. 26 when Professor N. M. Samuel of Chennai, India, will be presented the United Methodist AIDS Leadership Award in Indianapolis, Indiana. Dr. Samuel, a retired medical professor, still leads efforts in rural India with a free clinic to serve women & children infected & affected by AIDS. He has been President of the AIDS Society of Asia & the Pacific & member of the Center’s International Advisory Board.

SPRING BRUNCH SPEAKERS

Sharing their experiences in Kenya, Robin Ridenour & her wife, Bishop Karen Oliveto, will keynote the



2019 “Spring Is A Time For Hope” brunch April 27. Well-known Denver vocalist, Mary Louise Lee, will sing. Funds raised support 260 AIDS orphans in Kenya for one year, at \$200 each. Save the date!

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DEADLY COMBINATION: TUBERCULOSIS KILLS 370 THOUSAND PERSONS INFECTED BY HIV

Tuberculosis remains the world's most infectious disease, infecting 10 million and killing 1.7 million persons a year, including 370,000 persons struggling with HIV & AIDS. Some 4,500 people (including 600 children) die daily from TB, because of misdiagnosis and/or lack of a simple medication. At a special session of UNAIDS & the World Council of Churches, Eric Goodsby, Special UN TB Ambassador, asked churches "to educate, motivate, and activate" communities regarding HIV & TB. "People are dying from a disease that is fully curable." Drug-resistant strains of the disease are increasing, however. Few US cases meant the special UN session highlighting TB went unnoticed in the US media.



Center Board member Bruce Berger was surrounded by children at the Hope Mission School in Nairobi. A trip to Kenya & maybe Uganda is planned for July of 2019. Contact Don Messer by email or 303 877 1955 for data.



Kathy Griffith of the UM General Board of Global Ministries, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson & Dr. Don Messer were guests at UNAIDS /WCC meeting on TB & HIV



Rev. Isaac Broune & Dr. Don Messer are co-chairs of a West Africa AIDS Summit scheduled for May, 2019, in Côte d'Ivoire. Focus will be on care, education, prevention, & treatment

RECORD \$47,000 RAISED AT "SWINGING@AIDS" IN DENVER

With 120 golfers, generous sponsors & super volunteers, Denver's 12th Annual "Swinging@AIDS" raised a record \$47,000 to support Center's operations & outreach in India & USA. Megan Armstrong served as chair. The day was dedicated to the memory of Richard Moore.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT CHANGE LIVES

Looking for the special gift for a special person that will make a difference? Join others this Christmas by giving a designated gift to the Center for Health and Hope. You can go to our website: centerforhealthandhope.org to make a selection, pay on the internet, & download a certificate to give. Here are a few possibilities:



- \$200 Sponsor an Orphan
- \$150 Educate a Child for a Year
- \$150 Teacher's Salary Increase
- \$150 Clean Water & Sanitation
- \$100 Feed Hungry Children
- \$ 75 Support AIDS worker
- \$ 60 Sheep or \$50 for a Goat
- \$ 50 For 5 Mosquito Nets
- \$ 25 Stop HIV Transmission





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This Christmas buy life-changing gifts for family & friends. Put a goat or a sheep in their stocking! Help a child or improve teacher's salaries! Check out p. 3 for options & order from:

www.centerforhealthandhope.org

STORIES OF HOPE AROUND THE WORLD

RWANDA



An HIV positive United Methodist pastor & his wife learned they were infected seven years ago. "I share our story with our congregation," he reports, "and many people come to us for help & counseling because we are open and they trust us." Seven men in his congregation were recently diagnosed with the disease.

INDIA



Last January a 14 year old orphan in Calcutta, India, appealed to Center visitors: "we really need a computer." As a result, a generous couple donated a computer lab at the orphanage for young boys & girls who lost their parents to AIDS. Dedication will be when a Center team returns in January, 2019.

KENYA

Ann Fort just celebrated her 94th birthday. She didn't return to Kenya this year, but her impact is being felt by five projects: 2 new homes for families living in shacks, 2 post-high scholarships for orphans, 3 medical camps for about 1,000 people each time, 80 goats & sheep, & care of a small child. Honor Ann with a gift that gives health & hope to others! **Or start a Fund in your name beginning at \$5,000!**



Old



New



Ann Fort Kenya Fund

DATES TO REMEMBER

World AIDS Day Sunday

December 2, 2018

Tucson "Swinging@AIDS" & Concert

March 23 & 24, 2019

"Spring Is A Time For HOPE" Brunch

April 27, 2019

Denver "Swinging@AIDS" Golf

August 14, 2019