

Center for the Church and Global AIDS Action Newsletter

For more information:
Center for the Church and Global AIDS
Action Newsletter

www.churchandglobalaids.org

Spring, 2010

TAX-EXEMPT GIFTS

As a government recognized 501(c)(3), gifts to the Center are tax-exempt. All Center contributors will receive receipts.

Send donations to:
Center for the Church and Global AIDS
7185 South Niagara Circle
Centennial, CO 80112

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“SPRING IS A TIME FOR HOPE” BRUNCH FEATURES CBS ANCHORMAN AND KENYA LEADER

Jim Benemann, CBS Emmy-winning journalist, and Florence Murugu, Kenya humanitarian leader, will keynote the April 17 brunch, “Spring is a Time for HOPE” (*Helping Orphans by Providing Essentials*), at the Loew’s Hotel, Denver, from 11 am to 1 p.m.

Hear how 170 vulnerable AIDS orphans in Meru, Kenya, are being helped thanks to the \$150 per year gifts from Center donors.



Thanks to a special donor, two free brunch tickets are available to every donor of \$150. Additional tickets are \$40 each. **Send your gift now to the Center and request your tickets.**



Radio interviews with Dr. Donald E. Messer focused on “AIDS & African-Americans.”



“SWINGING AGAINST AIDS” IN DENVER AND GRAND JUNCTION

The 4th Annual Denver “Swinging Against AIDS” golf benefit is scheduled for City Park Golf Course **Tuesday, August 24**. This popular “best ball” event raised \$40,000 last year.

Golfers are also invited to join in the first “Swinging Against AIDS” event in Grand Junction at the best-of-Colorado Redlands Mesa golf club on **Friday, May 14**.

Register now for either or both events—\$135 per golfer or \$500 when a four-some signs in together. **Send check to the Center.** Also needed are sponsors for the lunch, golf carts, hole-in-one, and the Silent Auction.



Besides being fun, these events raise urgently needed funds to aid Center programs. These include the:

- Women and Children’s Center in rural Namakkal, India,
- Maua Kenya Hospital—\$20,000 for costs to ship \$400,000 of medical supplies and equipment via Project C.U.R.E.,
- Sisters of Color—a Colorado Hispanic outreach,
- It Takes A Village— serving Colorado African-Americans, &
- Western Colorado AIDS Project.

In February a successful **2nd Annual Arizona “Swinging Against AIDS”** event was held in Sun City West. Plan on joining us next year!

2009 ANNUAL REPORT—THE BEST YEAR EVER!

Donald E. Messer, Executive Director

2009 was marked by a vicious recession that caused many charities to cut back services and programs, even forcing some to cease operations due to lack of contributions and high expenditures.

The Center for the Church and Global AIDS, however, had the best year ever, thanks to both an increase of donors and donations. Some 400 donors contributed—many giving repeatedly throughout the year to help various programs. On the enclosed page, the Center salutes those who have given generously. If any errors appear, please accept our apologies and let us correct them in a future newsletter.

Since the Center has a low operating cost, funds were able to be sent directly to various programs around the world and in the United States. Below see the variety of programs supported by your gifts during 2009.



The Gift of HOPE

("Helping Orphans by Providing Essentials") in Kenya raised \$26,000 to support 173 AIDS orphans for one year with education, nutrition, care, and support.



Women and Children's Center

Led by Professor N. M. Samuel, M.D., this remarkable center in rural Namakkal, India, reaches out to hun-

dreds of women and children infected and affected by AIDS each month with free medical care. In 2009 the Center provided \$24,300 for medical operations, nutrition, and special eye-camps. \$23,000 was raised to send medical supplies and equipment via Project C.U.R.E.

Hands Join Hands

The Center partners with persons of many races, countries, religions, and sexual orientations. We work with all persons of compassion & care



AIDS Seminars

Conferences educating laity and clergy about HIV and AIDS were sponsored in Sri Lanka, Kenya & India.

Tutoring Girls—Empowering Women in India

The Tambaram Community Development Society is an extraordinary outreach to India's most marginalized and impoverished. Center grants invested \$16,500 into programs tutoring 139 poor school girls, nutritional programs, women's economic empowerment, etc.



Facing HIV and AIDS in the United States

Lest we overlook needs close to home, the Center supports various programs aimed at prevention and care in the United States. Dr. Messer speaks extensively across the USA. Locally, we help the Hispanic Sisters of Color and an African-American program, It Takes A Village.

Other Programs

Grants were made to the Alliance to End Hunger, Joshua Feeding Tree in Phoenix, Children of Africa Hope Center in Nairobi, and the George McGovern Intern at Dakota Wesleyan University.

Sexuality and Faith Conference

A ground-breaking seminar bringing Christian leaders and persons from the India gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered community together for dialogue was sponsored by donors and the Center's David Woodyard Trust. Participants endorsed a statement urging India to decriminalize same-sex relationships as a matter of justice, human rights, and the realization that current law makes AIDS prevention more difficult.

CENTER DRAWS NATIONAL ATTENTION: INTERVIEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

The publication of *52 Ways to Create an AIDS-Free World* has brought national attention to the work of the Center for the Church and Global AIDS and its Executive Director, Donald E. Messer. Copies of the book can be purchased via Amazon and other web sites. An usually wide variety of magazines showcased the Center's work.

A guest op-ed, called "Thanking God for Condoms . . ." was featured in the *Washington Post* on World AIDS Day, December 1.

POZ magazine reaches out to persons infected and affected by HIV and AIDS around the world. It interviewed Messer recently and published an article called "Faith in Numbers." **Boston University School of Theology's Focus** also published an article entitled "Anti-AIDS Campaigner Donald Messer Shares a Sometimes Harrowing, Often Joyful Mission, But Has Some Tough Candid Words for People of Faith."

Denver's GLBT newspaper, **OutFront Colorado**, had a half-page article in its health edition written by Matt Kailey called "An AIDS-Free World" in January. **New World Outlook** published two articles, "Beyond Facts to Faces: Beyond Numbers to Names," by Messer, and a joint article by N. M. Samuel, M.D., and Messer called "Reaching Rural Women and Children with HIV/AIDS in India." The **Texas United Methodist Reporter** printed large photos and an essay called "A Child's Plea" highlighting plight of Kenya's AIDS orphans. "AIDS Epidemic Growing in Asia," by Messer was published by **United Methodist News**.



YOUTUBE VIDEO

52 Ways is featured in a new video produced by Fresh Air Books. View it on YouTube or on Center's website!



WHAT WOULD MARTIN LUTHER KING SAY ABOUT GLOBAL AIDS?

Civil rights activist and church leader Dr. Gilbert Caldwell joined Dr. Donald E. Messer, Center Director, in exploring the topic of "What Would Martin Luther King Say About Global AIDS?" at Park Hill United Methodist Church in January, 2010. About 50% of all U.S. infections are African-Americans. Every 9 1/2 minutes in the United States a new person is infected.

Join Us in Kenya or India
Upcoming immersion trips are planned for Kenya in July 2010 and India in 2011

CENTER FOR THE CHURCH AND GLOBAL AIDS

HONORED WITH 2009 OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

By Hispanic Sisters of Color United for Education



TAKE A LOOK . . . NEW WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK!!!

The Center now has a **Facebook** page plus a rejuvenated **website**. Over 500 fans have registered on Facebook and the number keeps growing. Check them out!

See: www.churchandglobalaids.org

Photo (left) shows the medicine cupboard in Namakkal, India is bare—funds are needed now!

**Center for the Church
and Global AIDS**

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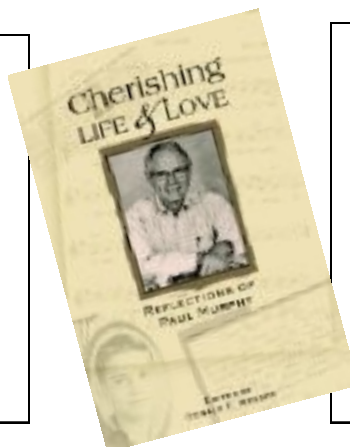
**Meet Kenya's Florence Murugu
On Her First Visit to the United States**

A tireless campaigner against stigma and discrimination, Ms. Florence Murugu will visit the United States for the first time in April as a guest of the Center. She directs an extensive AIDS ministry in rural Kenya, supervising a home health program of volunteers that reach out to persons with HIV and AIDS in need of care. Along with Bishop William Muruki, they have developed a model program of community care for AIDS orphans. Meet her at the brunch & hear her preach at Evergreen and Park Hill United Methodist Churches. She also will speak at Dakota Wesleyan University & Asbury UMC in Sioux Falls, SD.



EMPHASIZE PREVENTION

No cure or vaccine exists to combat HIV and AIDS. Prevention therefore is imperative. As Melinda Gates reminds us, *"In the fight against AIDS, condoms save lives. If you oppose the distribution of condoms, something is more important to you than saving lives."*



***CHERISHING LIFE AND
LOVE: REFLECTIONS
OF PAUL MURPHY***

"Cherishing Life and Love: Reflections of Paul Murphy" edited by Donald E. Messer is available for \$20 by contacting the Center or via Amazon.com. Funds from sales support AIDS orphans in Kenya. Paul was a Center founder and Board vice chairperson.

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