

Center for the Church and Global AIDS Action Newsletter

For more information:
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TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS

As a 501(c)(3), gifts to the Center are tax-deductible. Contributors will receive receipts.

Send donations to:
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7185 South Niagara Circle
Centennial, CO 80112

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WOMAN WALKS FIFTEEN MILES: DISCOVERS “NO MEDICINE FOR MY BABY”



Gladys, a rural woman outside Meru, Kenya, described walking 15 miles only to learn that medical care was unavailable for her baby. “Can anybody help us?”

In Meru, a church has just built a clinic to serve their nearby slum neighbors, but needs money to purchase medicine. “Can you assist us?”

Faced with these challenges, the Center is seeking funds so the church medical staff can serve both urban and rural residents. Gifts to “Reaching the Unreached,” will bring health and hope to those facing childhood diseases as well as HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis.



(Dakota Wesleyan nursing faculty, Kim Mohr, visits Kenya medical asst.)

AIDS THREATENS RWANDA & THE PHILIPPINES



(Cross as Rwanda AIDS symbol)

First, a genocide; now an AIDS pandemic threatens Rwanda. Like a volcano, HIV is beginning to explode in the Philippines. In response, the Center has partnered with church leaders in both countries to hold seminars to educate laity and clergy about HIV prevention, care & treatment.

About a million people were massacred in Rwanda’s genocide & now over 11% of the population are living with HIV and AIDS. The Philippines is cited by UNAIDS as one of seven countries where HIV is escalating rapidly. The numbers have doubled in recent years. “Church leaders can make a difference in overcoming stigma and teaching effective prevention,” says the Center’s Donald E. Messer. The seminars focused on practical medical & spiritual issues. Included were male and female condom demonstrations.



(Pastor & spouse display female condom)

CONTRIBUTE ON “COLORADO GIVES DAY”



For the first time, Colorado Gives Day on Tuesday, Dec. 4th, will include the Center for the Church and Global AIDS. Last year over \$12 million was raised for Colorado charities within 24 hours. Donations can be made through the website GivingFirst.org Please help the Center “reach out to the unreached” in Kenya, care for AIDS orphans in Africa & Asia, support the AIDS clinic in India, & promote HIV prevention in places like Rwanda and the Philippines. **Invite a friend to give too!**



(Bishop William Muriuki takes an HIV test in Kenya)

CHURCHES CRUCIAL TO TURNING THE TIDE OF AIDS

Donald E. Messer, Executive Director



(Kenya's Dr. Pauline Muchina of UNAIDS with Donald E. Messer)

No speaker claimed the church has the power of Moses to turn back the Red Sea of HIV and AIDS in the world. But scientists, activists, and political leaders at the recent 19th International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C. repeatedly stressed the crucial role faith communities must play to reach the vision of an "AIDS-free generation."

New scientific breakthroughs that reduce the possibilities of HIV being transmitted & lowering the death rate of AIDS has prompted unprecedented hope that the world can achieve the UN-AIDS goal of "zero new HIV infections, zero new AIDS deaths, and zero discrimination." The partnership of faith communities with public health officials & political leaders is essential for HIV education, prevention, care, treatment and stigma reduction.

The U.S. surgeon general, Dr. Regina M. Benjamin, shared the story of losing her brother to an AIDS-related illness and called on the faith community to help the government in "turning the tide against AIDS." President Obama invited leaders of various faiths, including the Center for the Church and Global AIDS, to a special forum at the White House.



TWO REMARKABLE WOMEN LEAVE A LEGACY OF LIFE AND LOVE

Friends of the Center mourn the untimely death of two remarkable women who worked in partnership to stem the AIDS pandemic and stop the evil of stigmatization: **Dr. Paula J. Murphy of Aurora, CO, and Florence Murugu of Meru, Kenya.** Both died within days of each other in April, after living lives remarkably similar in vision and purpose. Both worked since the beginning of the pandemic to create loving acceptance, prevention & care.



Murphy was a founding member of the Center Board, having traveled to Kenya and India. A psychotherapist specializing in human sexuality, she championed the inclusion and rights of LGBT persons. A memorial fund established by her family and friends has raised over \$20,000 in gifts and pledges and will be used for a variety of AIDS related projects.

Murugu headed the HIV and AIDS ministries in the Kaaga Synod of the Methodist Church of Kenya. On the day she died the Vice President of Kenya pinned a medal on her for distinguished service to her country. Two thousand mourners came to her funeral to express thanks for her life. She actively directed the Center's Kenya AIDS program for 400 AIDS orphans started with money given by the memorial fund of Paula's late husband, Rev. Paul Murphy.

CBS SPECIAL FEATURED CENTER FOR THE CHURCH & GLOBAL AIDS

CBS-TV interviewed Donald E. Messer for their interfaith special, "HIV & AIDS: Awareness & Compassion," broadcast nationally on June 17. The documentary profiled how faith communities assist those living with HIV/AIDS to live productive and healthy lives. Messer noted that "religious people like to have sex, but they like to pretend they don't. It's a tragedy that church people would seemingly rather let their children — their baptized members — get infected than to be open and candid about how the disease is spread." View <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7411922n>

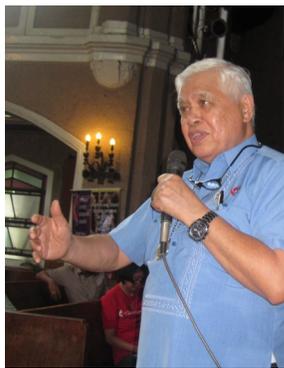


PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Individuals make a difference in combatting HIV and AIDS. In Mother Teresa's famous words, "one by one" we change the world of persons facing stigma/discrimination. Below are some of the individuals related to the Center who are making their mark.



Rev. Teri Todd, Parker, CO, walked the 500 mile Camino in Spain raising funds to help the "untouchables" of India.



Bishop Daniel Arichea urged Filipino Christians at Manila conference on AIDS to support human rights of LGBT persons.



Dr. Sue Hamm, a psychologist working with adolescents, children, & families, has joined the Center's Board of Directors.



Dr. Kent Millard spoke at St. Andrew UMC AIDS Prayer Breakfast & raised \$2,300 to "Reach the Unreached" in Kenya.



Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean, Boston University School of Theology, has joined Center's International Advisory Board.



Ivan Abrahams, South African Bishop & leader of World Methodism, will keynote the Center's *Spring Is A Time for Hope* brunch April 13, 2013.



Linda Bales Todd, Dayton, OH, was elected Co-Chair with Donald Messer of the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund.



Rev. Marc Baliyanga, planned clergy/spouses AIDS workshop in Kilgali, Rwanda, to stop spread of disease and reduce stigma.



Bishop-elect Catherine Mutua, the first African woman episcopal leader of Kenya Methodism, will supervise the orphan program of the Center.



Rhonda Dern, R.N., nursing supervisor & past president of P-Flag in Evergreen, CO, has joined the Center's Board of Directors.

BUNNIES BLESS KENYA: STUDENT GIFTS

Excited persons living with HIV & Kenya church leaders received special rabbits this summer provided by students of Dakota Wesleyan University. Rapidly reproducing, the bunnies provide both great food & excellent economic empowerment opportunities.



(Alice Washington & Imani Latif register golfers for 2012 Denver "Swinging@AIDS" that raised \$37,000 to help Colorado and India AIDS projects. The 6th Annual event was dedicated to Paula J. Murphy.)

"MESSIAH SING ALONG" ON WORLD AIDS DAY

Littleton United Methodist Church is hosting the annual "Messiah Sing Along" on World AIDS Day, Saturday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. Benefitting are the Center's AIDS programs for vulnerable children in Kenya & India. Start the Christmas season by singing with maestro David Kates, soloists, and the Colorado Chamber Orchestra. Scores are available at the door.



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(This woman displays Merrill's picture, knowing that because of her they now have a private toilet. No longer must they use a nearby field infested with snakes & men watching.)

As a result of these experiences she had led the Center to 1) create a care and support program for 28 HIV positive women, 2) provide backpacks for 350 elementary Dalit school children, 3) initiate alternative income generating projects for HIV positive women and men who have sex with men, 4) support tutors for 400 Dalit girls, 5) help five girls go on to college, and 6) repair mud and thatched huts damaged by monsoons. "Wherever I go," reports Messer, "people stream out of their mud huts with pictures of Pam, expressing their gratitude for the help, health, and hope she has initiated." Merrill believes that "education is truly the path out of poverty," and her relentless advocacy and generous support has transformed life for the poorest of the poor. It costs about \$15,000 a year for these programs—**do you want to help our hero?**

**PAM MERRILL NAMED 2012
HERO OF THE YEAR**

Pam Merrill, Westminster, CO, has been named the 2012 "Hero of the Year" by the Board of Directors of the Center for the Church and Global AIDS. She will be honored for her extraordinary humanitarian service on Saturday, April 13, 2013, at the "Spring is a Time for HOPE" brunch at the University of Denver.

"Pam has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless of the most impoverished women and children of India," says Executive Director, Donald E. Messer. "In her nine self-financed trips to India, she has developed close personal relationships with persons who are the most marginalized in the world due to a combination of caste, gender, and HIV."

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