

# Center for the Church and Global AIDS Action Newsletter

For more information:  
www.churchandglobalaids.org

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## TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS

As a government recognized 501(c)(3), gifts to the Center are tax-deductible. 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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# AFTER 30 YEARS, STRUGGLE AGAINST HIV CONTINUES

The global AIDS pandemic began 30 years ago in 1981. Globally, over 30 million people are infected with HIV and AIDS. About 30 million people have died from AIDS. Yet most churches and most people are unwilling to spend 30 minutes discussing the topic!

The Center with your help is trying to change that and make a difference. The battle against HIV and AIDS is not over yet.



## Goats For AIDS

### Widows & Orphans

Karen Lantz, Rapid City, SD, is expanding her project of giving goats to AIDS widows and children in Kenya. In Uganda she has helped about 100 poor rural widows in mud huts with grass roofs get nutrition & economic empowerment possibilities.



**pandemic**  
**30.30.30**  
years million minutes  
**30 years of the AIDS pandemic**  
**30 million infected**  
**Take 30 minutes to talk about HIV/AIDS in your church**  
www.churchandglobalaids.org  
30.30.30 © 2011 Samaritan Ministry, Knoxville, Tennessee

## Interfaith Prayers Printed



“Prayers for Encouragement,” an Upper Room booklet, has now been shared with 750,000 persons globally. Initiated by the Center, it has been printed in 17 languages, including Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic, Swahili, Portuguese, etc. The latest Tamil edition published in India is an inter-faith version, combining Hindu, Christian, Buddhist & Muslim prayers and meditations.



## Sing “Messiah” This Christmas

The Littleton United Methodist Church on Dec. 4, 2011, at 7 pm will host the 4th Annual Handel’s “Messiah” as a “Sing Along” benefit for AIDS orphans in Kenya and India. The Colorado Chamber Orchestra directed by maestro, David Kates, features an all-star cast of four of Colorado’s finest soloists—Karen Guggenmos, Marcia Ragonetti, Jason Baldwin & Steven Taylor. Scores available at the door.

# Getting to Zero: No New Infections, Discrimination, Deaths

Donald E. Messer, Executive Director

I welcome the new UNAIDS goal of “zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths.” I do not believe it is a utopian vision, but a practical possibility.

The HIV and AIDS pandemic has now been a global reality for thirty years. World leaders meeting at the United Nations recently declared it “an unprecedented human catastrophe. At least 33.4 million are infected. Worldwide, 2.6 million were newly infected in 2009; in the United States we have one new infection every 9 1/2 minutes. Nearly 30 million have died and the numbers increase daily.

Yet, I have hope for getting to zero. Though neither cure nor vaccine is yet available, we have encouraging scientific research results. Let me share a few. *First, increasingly studies indicate that treatment can be prevention. Appropriate anti-retroviral drugs can reduce the viral load of a patient to such a point that the probabilities of passing the virus to a sexual partner become minimal.* “Treatment as prevention” strategies offer hope. Treatment needs to be expanded to reach 15 million people by 2015. Yet the gap between the rich and the poor, and the global fiscal crisis makes this problematic.

*Second, early treatment of HIV partners in couples can reduce risk of transmitting to the other partner by 96%.* Since globally a high percentage of married men become infected first, if men got tested and treated, transmission to women could be reduced dramatically.

*Third, voluntary medical male circumcision reduces the risk of HIV infection in men by about 60%.* In Africa major efforts are underway to circumcise men of all ages.

*Fourth, medical means exist to nearly eliminate the transmission of HIV from pregnant mothers to newborns.* Globally, 370,000 children were born last year with HIV, but in reality almost none should be because of available medicine.

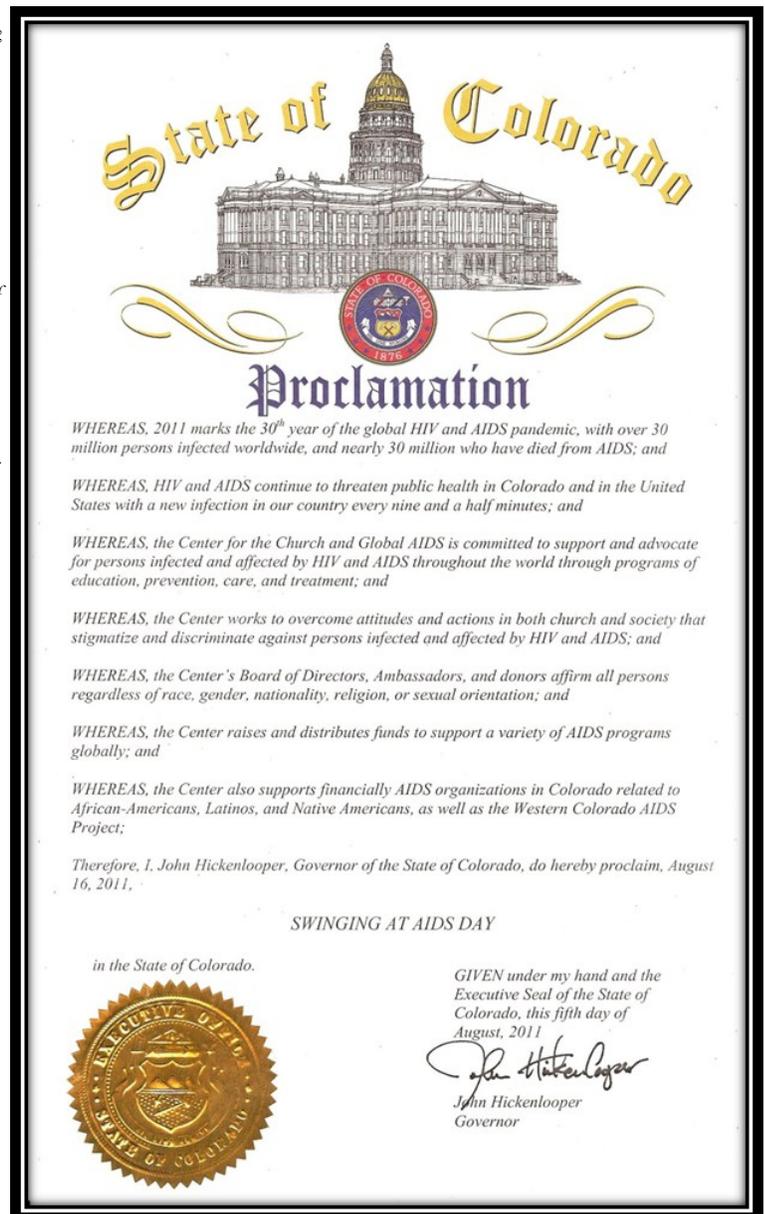
*Fifth, progress on a vaginal microbicide gel is reported that could reduce women’s risk of HIV infection by 39%.* If these were low-cost, the autonomy of women would be increased significantly. Female condoms need to be more widely distributed. Scientific advances must be combined with abstinence, partner loyalty, correct condom use, and gender equality.

Human progress is neither inevitable or easy. People resist science and behavioral change. Garnering political will and compassion without borders are ethical and spiritual challenges.

The biggest stumbling stone to reach the UNAIDS goal will be overcoming stigma and discrimination. At this point people of faith can play a major role. Too often we have promoted stigma through moralistic claims and fear. We need to champion the human rights of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgendered persons. We must reach out to the poor and uneducated and hungry. Doing so will help overcome stigma. Sometimes all it takes is a simple hug or a caring touch to break down barriers.

Getting to zero cannot be accomplished only by people of faith, but without us, the world will never get to zero infections, discrimination, and deaths.

*(This excerpt is from an article by Donald E. Messer being published by the World Council of Churches in the Ecumenical Review in Dec., 2011.)*



## HOW THE CENTER IS AT WORK IN THE WORLD



### *In Sri Lanka,*

a Muslim volunteer doctor helps a Buddhist woman with AIDS thanks to a Christian sponsored HIV ministry. Funding from the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund makes this outreach of health and hope possible.



### *In the USA,*

Jay Patterson is named “Hero of the Year” by the Center’s Board of Directors. After neck surgery she rode 2,000 miles and hosted a “Swinging at AIDS” golf event in Kanas to raise \$10,000 to benefit the Center’s free clinic for Women and Children with AIDS in rural India. She was greeted with fire trucks and balloons when she rode into her hometown of LaVeta, Colorado.



### *In South Africa,*

Donald Messer, Center Executive Director, co-authored a resolution adopted by the World Methodist Conference endorsing AIDS ministries, visited grandmothers caring for AIDS orphans in a township, toured an AIDS orphanage, and lectured on latest HIV and AIDS trends at a university theological school.

### *In South Korea,*



Dr. Messer chaired an inter-faith panel at the 10th AIDS Congress for Asia and the Pacific that examined the “Role of Religion in Encouraging and Discouraging AIDS Stigma and Discrimination.” Panelists from Pakistan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and the USA spoke from Buddhist, Christian, and Muslim perspectives. Above, Rev. Youngsook Kang, Denver, shared the painful stories of women with HIV she interviewed in South Korea.

### *In Kenya and India,*

AIDS orphans benefitted from two special offerings collected by the Rocky Mountain United Methodist Conference: on Valentine’s Day and at a special conference collection called the “Bridge of Love.” Dakota Wesleyan University students are sponsoring an economic empowerment project in Kenya of raising rabbits for food and sale.



### *In India,*



the empty medical cabinet in rural Namakkal was filled with supplies thanks to a gift in honor of Dr. Kent and Minnietta Millard by St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, Indianapolis. Free medicine is provided HIV positive women and children. Kent retired after 18 years as senior pastor of the 6,500 member church. With deep sadness, we note Minnietta died from pancreatic cancer in September. In August she created and gave the Center a special stained glass art work featuring the red AIDS ribbon. Using broken glass, she reminded us that though “health and life can be broken, it is still beautiful and precious.”

**Center for the Church  
and Global AIDS**

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***Center Donations To AIDS Projects (Jan-June, 2011)***

In 2011, thanks to the generosity of many persons, the Center has made over \$100,000 in grants in the first six months. This includes net receipts from brunch (\$20,000) and “Swinging At AIDS” golf event in Arizona (\$6,000), Grand Junction (\$20,000), & Denver (\$38,000) as well as gifts and grants to the Center (for South Korea & 20/20).

Below is a brief synopsis. Thank you friends!

- \$17,000 CARE Foundation, India, for operations and eye machine
- \$11,325 Tambaram, India, for care, support, nutrition, tutoring
- \$19,800 Maua Kenya Hospital to send \$400,000 equipment/supplies
- \$29,150 Meru Kenya Methodist AIDS ministry: orphans, home care, and economic empowerment
- \$ 2,500 It Takes A Village: housing HIV African-American homeless and recent prisoners



Native American AIDS Center, Robert Foley, Executive Director



- \$ 3,000 Western Colorado AIDS Project: AIDS prevention
- \$ 2,500 Native American AIDS Prevention Center: women’s retreat
- \$ 500 Nairobi, Kenya, school in slums
- \$ 500 Stopping Female Mutilation, Kenya
- \$ 500 Miscellaneous Ministries, India
- \$ 17,500 Inter-Faith Pre-Conference & ICAAP 10, South Korea
- \$ 5,000 “20/20 Visioning An AIDS-Free World” program

*(Photo on left, shows the \$400,000 worth of medical supplies and equipment sent to Kenya through Project Cure. Money raised in Grand Junction, CO, at “Swinging At AIDS” golf event.)*

