



Just Save One Newsletter!

February, 2016

www.umglobalaidsfund.com

Vol. 2, Issue2

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11



"Beware of HIV and AIDS" - A poem...

*"Youth, strength of tomorrow, abstain before being caught in the fire lit by HIV/AIDS...
Have an HIV/AIDS test at first, and here you will receive a great deal of advice that will help you to develop.
If you are HIV positive, you will receive antiretroviral drugs and continue working
for the development of the country...
If you live with an infected person never leave him/her alone but take care of him/her and
bring hope into his/her heart so, he/she feels like you are family..."*

(This poem was written by Jean Baptiste in Rwanda who is a member of a working group for the [ZOE](#) program and its anti-AIDS club. ZOE was founded in 2004 as a mission of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church)



United Methodist Global AIDS Fund at General Conference!

The 2016 General Conference of the UMC will be held May 10-20 in Portland, Oregon, and the UMC Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF) will be present! The day prior to the General Conference, the UMGAF will sponsor a one-day seminar. If you are planning on being at General Conference, please plan to join us for this exciting event. (see announcement in Upcoming Dates section).

Secondly, UMGAF will sponsor a vigil honoring those who have died of AIDS. (See upcoming events) On May 18th, a formal report will be presented to the entire General Conference sharing how the UMC has addressed HIV & AIDS the past four years through the work of UMGAF and an UMGAF offering will be

collected sometime during this quadrennial event. Please pray for these efforts hoping more UM's will be motivated to work for an AIDS-free world!



A Snapshot from a Journey to India by Linda Bales Todd

India is a diverse country comprised of 1.27 billion human beings – 2.7 million living with AIDS – the third highest number worldwide next to South Africa and Nigeria. I traveled to this land in January 2016 to visit AIDS projects one of which received start-up funding from the UMC Global AIDS Fund. The C.A.R.E. Foundation in Namakkal has operated a health clinic for the past 7 years serving 1400 HIV positive women and children each year. Services are free. Dr. N.M. Samuel, Foundation Director, is a leading force in India addressing the AIDS virus performing his work with great humility, passion and commitment.

One of the families I met was comprised of three orphans having been on their own for several years following the deaths of their parents. The older brother is Siva, 22, who works in a nearby egg hatchery. His sister, Gomathi, 17, is now a college student and HIV positive. The younger brother, Murugan is 13 years old. These three young people live in a small, rural village in a two room home with a water spigot outside – their only source of water. These three resilient young people are alive and thriving through their own inner strength and through the ongoing support of the Clinic.

The staff of the Clinic is extremely dedicated to the mission of working with those who live with intense stigma and discrimination. The Clinic is an oasis of hope for the people in this part of the country who are infected with and affected by AIDS and has been cited by local Indian authorities as a model for reaching HIV and AIDS patients. The C.A.R.E. Foundation also receives funding from private contributions and the Center for Health and Hope based in Denver, CO.

Please keep this effort in your prayers. For more information, click [here](#).



Dr. N.M. Samuel



Gomathi, Murugan & Siva



C.A.R. E. Foundation Clinic Staff

Upcoming Events!

May 9, 2016 – One-day conference sponsored by the UMGAF - “AIDS Is Not Over! ... Global Issues and the Church”. Location: Rose City Park UMC, Portland, OR. Time: 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost: Free will offering. For more information and registration, [click here](#). Participants will need to secure their own housing and transportation for this event. Free transportation will be available from the Portland Convention Center to Rose City Park UMC. ***Please Save the Date!***

AIDS Memorial Service at General Conference – UMCAF is sponsoring a Memorial Service during General Conference to remember the lives of those who have died from AIDS. We invite you to send us the names of people you would like to lift up during this service. Please send names and their country to: Linda Bales Todd, joylab47@yahoo.com. Check future newsletters for additional information.



RESOURCES

On the Fast Track to End AIDS by 2030 – This 2015 UNAIDS publication provides information country by country on what's happening to eradicate AIDS by 2030. Check out the projection data and how countries are progressing toward eradicating AIDS. This is an excellent resource filled with information local churches can use to inform members of what's happening around the globe.

New York State Reports Zero AIDS Cases for Newborns! – This is good news for New York State according to Dan O'Connell, director of the state's AIDS Institute. Advances in screenings and the availability of medications has made a significant difference. O'Connell credited the state's more compassionate approach toward women. An estimated 213 babies were born HIV-positive in 2012 in the United States, the latest number available, the Center for Disease Control reports.



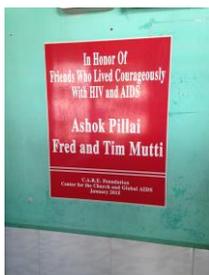
Did you know...

.... that UMCAF has supported 86 projects since 2011 aimed at preventing the transmission of HIV from mother to child? The most recent projects are based in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

.... more than 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV infection, and almost 1 in 8 (12.8%) are unaware of their infection? (Source: CDC)

.... gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM), particularly young African American MSM, are most seriously affected by HIV? (Source: CDC)

....by race, African Americans face the most severe burden of HIV? (Source: CDC)



Plaque in AIDS ward in a government hospital in Namakkal, India, in honor of Tim & Fred Mutti, sons of Bishop Fritz and Etta Mae Mutti.

Questions? Please let us know if you have any questions about any of the items in this newsletter. Please contact Linda Bales Todd, UMCAF Co-Chair, joylab47@yahoo.com. Please share this with your church and annual conference! If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact Donna Brandyberry, dbrandyberry@umc-gbcs.org.