



AIDS Is Not Over

PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTE AN AIDS-FREE WORLD

A newly forged partnership between the UMC Global AIDS Fund Committee and the General Board of Church & Society will be launched in August 2016 with the

hope of strengthening the overall capacity of UMGAF to mobilize support for HIV & AIDS in the denomination. “From the beginning, the leaders of the GBCS have been at the forefront of the church’s efforts to conquer AIDS. By stopping stigma, promoting prevention, and enabling compassionate caring, United Methodists can impact churches and cultures around the world”, says Dr. Don Messer, UMGAF Co-Chair. GBCS will serve as UMGAF’s fiscal agent as well as programmatic partner.

During this quadrennium, the UMGAF Committee will work to further educate United Methodists about the intersections between AIDS and other key issues facing women, children and men in today’s society such as nutrition, poverty, access (or lack thereof) to health care, education and other global health diseases. The UMGAF Advance Fund will support programs focusing on maternal and child health and will be administered by the General Board of Global Ministries.

We are grateful for these exciting partnerships – each working to create an AIDS-free world!

[read more...](#)

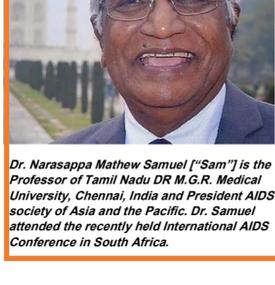


In this video, Sharon Thomas, who has lived with HIV for almost 30 years, reflects on the value of the Healing Weekend sponsored by UMGAF.

UMGAF VIDEO FEATURED AT 2016 UMC GENERAL

East Ohio’s Sharon Thomas shares her personal story and the value of the Ohio AIDS Healing Weekend! This video was part of UMGAF’s report to the 2016 General Conference held in Portland, OR in May.

[View the video](#)



Dr. Narasappa Mathew Samuel (“Sam”) is the Professor of Tamil Nadu DR M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai, India and President AIDS society of Asia and the Pacific. Dr. Samuel attended the recently held International AIDS Conference in South Africa.

2016 INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE DURBAN, JULY 2016

REFLECTIONS BY DR. NM SAMUEL

“When the flight touched down at King Shaka International Airport in Durban, I could not contain my happiness as I was returning after 16 years and wanted to know how the region was coping with the challenges of HIV and AIDS.”

“The policy makers are advocating that HIV/ AIDS is a thing of the past, and we have overcome this disease. No, it is not true. We may be observing a drop in mortality but not in new infections. We must fight, that our national governments continue to allocate adequate funds for the care of the people who are living longer due to ART and stop children from infection.”

[read more...](#)



Marchers demand better funding for HIV and AIDS treatment around the world at a demonstration held in Durban, South

FAITH ORGANIZATIONS CHALLENGED DURING 2016 INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

Attendees at the 2016 International AIDS Conference held in Durban, South Africa, July 18-22nd heard many voices emphasizing the important role of the faith community in the battle to eradicate AIDS.

“After 35 years of responding to an emergency, it’s hard to go that last mile,” said Sally Smith, the senior advisor for faith-based organizations at UNAIDS. “People in the north and the west have witnessed how the treatment of HIV means the disease no longer rapidly kills people in their teens and 20s and 30s. It has gone off the radar. At the same time there are massive migration issues in Europe and other things grabbing the media’s attention. Responding to AIDS seems like an old issue to many people. Yet it is just at this critical point where we have the medicine and science to end the epidemic as a public health threat, that the interest and the funding are disappearing.”

[read more...](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



POZ Magazine, July 2016

- 50,000 HIV transmissions in the United States annually
- 1.2 million* AIDS-related deaths worldwide annually
- 1 million* infants born without HIV since 2003 thanks to mother-to-child prevention

[read more from POZ...](#)



World Health Organization

- At the end of 2015, 17.0 million people were receiving ART worldwide; this represents 46% (43–50%) of the 36.7 million (34.0–39.8 million) people living with HIV.

[read more from WHO...](#)



HIV and AIDS Ministry
The ELCA is working to change the sobering realities of HIV and AIDS, and create hope.

RESOURCES

What’s Happening in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America regarding AIDS?

UMGAF forged a partnership with the ELCA in early 2016 to work more cooperatively on AIDS. We invite you to check out the ELCA AIDS webpage.

[see webpage...](#)

“End of AIDS” – a 2016, recently broadcast PBS Special – check it out!

[read more...](#)

A statement from the World Council of Churches on AIDS invites action.

[read more...](#)

Don Messer

Linda Bales Todd

Co-Chairs, UMGAF

For AIDS Resources and to donate to the UMC Global

AIDS Fund, go to our website:

www.umglobalaidsfund.com

“You hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me with honor. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Psalm 73:23-26



Dr. Douglas Smith,
Editor of UMGAF Newsletter.

MEET OUR NEWSLETTER DESIGNER

Dr. Douglas Smith has been a member of the UMGAF Committee for two years and has most recently been serving as the designer of our UMGAF newsletter.

Living in Richmond, CA, Doug is a member of the Israel/Palestine Task Force of the Cal-Nevada Conference and a Board member of World Hope Corps, a non-profit supporting work of *Communities of Shalom*.

In addition to mission work in Palestine, he has done AIDS education in several villages in Uganda.

We are very grateful to Doug for his dedication and commitment to the work of UMGAF!

Thank you, Doug! !