



## Just Save One Newsletter!

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[www.umglobalaidsfund.com](http://www.umglobalaidsfund.com)

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Greetings AIDS Ambassadors!

The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF) is excited to bring you an update on recent events and opportunities related to your ministry on AIDS in your local churches and Annual Conferences. Please feel free to share this newsletter with folks in your local church and family and friends!

### West Ohio raises \$3,700 for UMGAF at September gala!

The issue of HIV and AIDS was front and center during an educational benefit for UMGAF which brought together 65 persons at Livingston UMC in Columbus on September 9th. Bishop Gregory Palmer, along with Rev. Dr. Wendy Deichmann (President of United Theological Seminary) and Rev. Jay Rundell (President of the Methodist Theological School in Ohio) welcomed those gathered and both underscored the importance of working to create an AIDS-free world. Local AIDS activists and resource persons provided critical information about how Ohio is responding to the AIDS issue and the need to eradicate stigma and discrimination against people who live with the virus. West Ohio sponsors an AIDS Healing Weekend each August which provides education and support for those living with the disease. Ninety persons attended the 2015 weekend. "These weekends can change a person's life, and sometimes the weekends are the only place where people like me receive love and affirmation," said Sharon Thomas, a weekend participant. (For information about the West Ohio AIDS Healing Weekend, check out their Facebook page.) Twenty five percent of the funds raised will help support the Healing Weekend. The remaining 75% will be sent to the Advance at the General Board of Global Ministries to support projects aimed at reducing the transmission of HIV from mother to child.



Photo: l-r – Sharon Thomas, Bishop Gregory Palmer, Steve Harris and Brian Montgomery, Chair of the West Ohio AIDS Task Force.

**Make a donation to UMGAF in memory of those who have died from AIDS!** Your donation will make it possible for people living with AIDS to receive testing and care along with prevention education. To donate, go to: [www.umglobalaidsfund.com](http://www.umglobalaidsfund.com). UMGAF is an Advance Special in the UMC and your donation is tax deductible (United States only).

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### **Featured UMGAF Project ~ New Delhi, India**

The Christian AIDS/HIV National Alliance (CANA), through support from UMGAF, sponsored a seminar to make church leaders in New Delhi aware of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of AIDS and how congregations can become involved in the lives of local citizens.

At 2014 seminar, CANA met with 40 pastors to discuss PMTCT, its significance, and what could be done. As a result of the seminar, seventy-five volunteers from 16 churches became active community volunteers. They began talking about PMTCT with their family, friends, congregations, and with pregnant women they encountered in the community in the course of their daily lives. They asked if the women had secured pre-natal services and delivery in the hospital and if they'd received HIV testing. Some accompanied women to the hospital to encourage them.

#### **Numbers of people reached:**

- 40 pastors attended the 1-day seminar of HIV and PMTCT
- 16 congregations recruited 75 volunteers for training to inform community members and to advocate and motivate pregnant women to attend a prenatal clinic to receive HIV testing
- Volunteers reached out to 60 congregation members and 33 pregnant women between October, 2014 and April, 2015 to help them access services.

*"Since the seminar, I've shared about Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) with my husband, my housemaid, my close friends, our congregation, and, finally, I've met four pregnant women who are now all registered at the hospital for Prenatal Care which means they'll receive HIV screening and treatment."*

- Mrs. Merlyn, The Christian AIDS/HIV National Alliance (CANA), New Delhi, India



**CANA AIDS Seminar, 2014**

## Upcoming Dates!

**World AIDS Day – December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Please go to our website ([www.umglobalaidsfund.com](http://www.umglobalaidsfund.com)) for resources you can use in your local church and community for World AIDS Day. Advent is a perfect time to lift up the issue of AIDS given the increases in infections in women around the globe. Stigma continues to impact people living with AIDS, and Jesus' love and healing words call us to work to eliminate all discrimination against people infected with HIV or AIDS.

**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. Information about registration is forthcoming. 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** – UMGAF is sponsoring a Memorial Service during General Conference to celebrate 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](mailto:joylab47@yahoo.com). Check future newsletters for additional information.

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## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- UMGAF HAS SUPPORTED 287 PROJECTS IN 44 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES? ([CLICK HERE](#) TO DOWNLOAD MAP AND REPORT!)
  - THERE IS A PREVENTION MODEL IN THE UNITED STATES CALLED PREP THAT HIV NEGATIVE PEOPLE CAN USE TO PREVENT CONTRACT HIV? ([CHECK IT OUT!](#))
  - CUBA HAS ELIMINATED THE SPREAD OF HIV FROM MOTHER-TO-CHILD AS WELL AS SYPHILIS? ([CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#))
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"Do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day." - 2 Corinthians 4:16

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## Questions?

Please let us know if you have any questions about any of the items in this newsletter. Please contact Linda Bales Todd, I<GAF Co-Chair, [joylab47@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:dbrandyberry@umc-gbcs.org).