



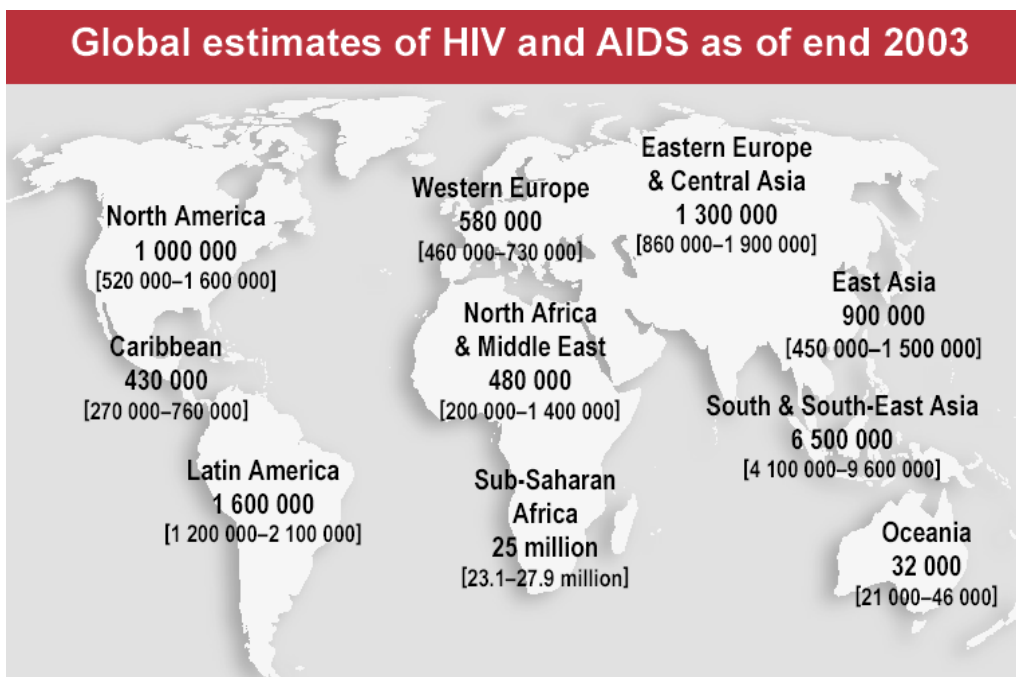
EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY
For International Justice
and Human Rights
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Offering of Prayers

Prayers for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS

*Listen to my cry for help, for I am brought very low. Rescue me from my pursuers, for they are too strong for me.
Psalm 142:7*

According to UNAIDS estimates, approximately 37.8 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS¹. Globally, HIV/AIDS pursues the most vulnerable people. More than three quarters of all people living with HIV/AIDS are in the developing world. They are the poor, the hungry, the exploited and the marginalized and have limited access to basic health services.



UNAIDS, 2004 Report on Global AIDS

Because HIV/AIDS exacerbates the conditions that nurture its spread, it is exacting a devastating toll not only on families and communities, but also on the political and economic growth and stability of nations.

An obstacle to compassion and care for those who suffer from or support people with HIV/AIDS, fear, rejection and blame of victims infected by HIV/AIDS also fuel its transmission.

As people of faith we are called to create an environment of hope, compassion and care for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

On this global day of prayer and reflection for people with HIV/AIDS, please join Church World Service and pray for hope, for healing and a cure, an end to stigma and discrimination, and justice to alleviate the conditions of hunger and poverty that promote the transmission of this deadly disease.

¹UNAIDS, 2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, July 2004

Prayers and Reflection for People Living With and Affected by HIV/AIDS²

Prayer and Reflection of Hope for People Living With and Affected by HIV/AIDS

In the power of the creative Spirit of God, we come together to light a candle of hope in the hearts of all the people who are faced with hopeless situations. We are God's instruments to bring hope. We pray, Amen

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and His understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary,
and increases the power of the weak.

Even youth grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
They will run and not grow weary,
They will walk and not be faint.
Amen

expose partners and spouses to HIV/AIDS infection and leaves women powerless to protect themselves.

All: Heal us Lord. Have mercy on us

Heal us from poverty that exposes millions to HIV/AIDS. Heal us from exploitative social structures that condemn many to poverty and expose them to infection.

All: Heal us Lord. Have mercy on us

Heal us from violence that spreads HIV/AIDS. Heal us from ethnic and civil wars. Heal us from domestic violence and the rape of children.

All: Heal us Lord. Have mercy on us, Amen

Reflection

Isaiah 53:4-5, Luke 7:20-22

Prayer and Reflection of Healing for People Living With and Affected by HIV/AIDS

Reflection

Ezra 1:1-11, Mark 5:21-43,
Ezekiel 37:1-13

A Prayer for Holistic Healing

Heal us from bodily pains of HIV/AIDS that depletes our immunity, and leaves us open to opportunistic infections.

All: Heal us Lord. Have mercy on us

Heal us from our broken hearts and grief that continues to pain our spirits and minds and leave us empty about the meaning of life.

All: Heal us Lord. Have mercy on us

Heal us from the psychological pains of HIV/AIDS that engulf us in fear and hopelessness and leads us to die before the virus kills.

All: Heal us Lord. Have mercy on us

Heal us from HIV/AIDS social stigma and discrimination that leads us to uncompassionate acts of isolation, and failure to provide quality care and prevention.

All: Heal us Lord. Have mercy on us

Heal us from unhealthy gender relations that

²Dube, M. *AfricaPraying: A Handbook on HIV/AIDS Sensitive Sermon Guidelines and Liturgy*, World Council of Churches, Geneva, 2004.

Prayer and Reflection to Combat Stigma and Discrimination

Fear not, for I am with you. *Isaiah 43:5*

At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. *Matthew 10:36*

Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. *Matthew 5:16*

Reflection

John 9:1- 4

Prayer and Reflection for Social and Economic Justice in the HIV/AIDS Era

God of liberation and justice, Defender of the poor and marginalized, we seek Your guidance.

Give us the vision and the confidence to become prophets when resources are looted. Let us hear the cry of the widows. Let us feed the orphans. Let us denounce injustice by the powerful.

May we demand drugs for the sick. May we demand care for the abandoned. May we denounce wastefulness by the affluent. Forgive our silence. Forgive our complicity. In Your mercy forgive our condemnation of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Forgive us when we deal lightly with the wounds of Your people. Forgive the times when we have offered artificial solutions. Empower us to tackle corrupt systems. Make us instruments of Your peace. Make us agents of Your transformation. We pray, Amen

Reflection

Luke 16:19-31, Leviticus 25:8-46

Prayer and Reflection to Support People Caring for Those With and Affected by HIV/AIDS

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest - Luke 10:2

Loving and caring God, thank you, for You call us to love and serve Your people. You call those who care for victims of HIV/AIDS to be healing hands in Your hurting world. You send them to compassion, to suffer with those who suffer. Day and night they labor to comfort Your people.

Yet, many times they are depressed by the amount of suffering seen. And many times they are totally exhausted by the amount of work that must be done. They often neglect their own health and families in the HIV/AIDS struggle. O Lord, renew their strength. Amen

Matthew 9:35-38, John 21:15-18

Advocacy matters. Speak Out to build a better world!

Go to www.churchworldservice.org and click on "Global Issues."

Join us in calling on the U.S. government and key international institutions to formulate policies responsive to the needs of people around the world living with HIV/AIDS.

The education and advocacy activities of Church World Service are made possible through the generous support of individuals and churches around the country. Please join us in building a better world for people with HIV/AIDS by sending your contributions to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515.



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