

# ***Seventh-day Adventist Church***

**AAIM**

**Adventist AIDS International Ministry**

(GC-HIV/AIDS Africa Office)

*A Ministry of Hope, Love, and Compassion*

## **REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OCTOBER 2015 - MARCH 2016**

Presented at the GC-AAIM Board Meeting  
GC-Headquarters – Silver Spring - MD  
April 10, 2016

## **AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry** (GC-HIV/AIDS Africa Office)

*The Adventist AIDS International Ministry is an international organization endeavoring to educate and assist people touched by the HIV epidemic in the three African Divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. AAIM also provides support to other world divisions.*

*The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is its senior organization. AAIM works for:*

- *East-Central Africa Division of Seventh-day Adventists*
- *Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division of Seventh-day Adventists*
- *West-Central Africa Division of Seventh-day Adventists*

### **AAIM's IDENTITY STATEMENT**

*The Adventist AIDS International Ministry (AAIM) is an international ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, that brings hope, love, compassionate care and support to the people touched by the HIV epidemic. It serves the territories of sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean.*

### **AAIM's MISSION STATEMENT**

*To coordinate actions and resources, to bring comfort, healing and hope to people infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS, share a message of education and prevention to the general population, and present a united front in order to accomplish what our Lord Jesus Christ has commissioned each of us to do in Matthew 25:35-36 and 28:19-20.*

### **AAIM's VISION STATEMENT**

*We are creating "Centers of Hope and Healing" through our network of churches, medical and educational institutions, and church members. We are mobilizing our congregations through church-based support groups. We are bringing practical solutions to those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. We are applying the practical Gospel of Jesus Christ, field by field, church by church, person by person, on a one-to-one basis. We are committed to the social responsibility of our church. We are helping create a new generation of parents and children, free of AIDS!*

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**2002 - 2016**

***From Silence and Denial to  
Loving and Compassionate Care***

## **1 – INTRODUCTION**

This Board Meeting, the 28th in a long series of meetings and deliberations, has a very special meaning for both of us as AAIM Directors, because we are approaching our retirement date, and this will be our last Board Meeting with all of you.

This is a great opportunity to extend our thankfulness and appreciation to all of those who have worked together and closely with us in order to make this ministry a reality, and to be able to touch many, many lives with the Hope, Love and Compassion of Jesus Christ.

After 14 years since the HIV/AIDS Africa Office was voted into existence in May 2002, we feel privileged to have had the opportunity God has given us to lead this Ministry.

As we look back at all those years, we can see how God has led all the way up to now. We were never alone. He was with us all the way through! And because this Ministry was done in partnership with Jesus Christ, our load was lighter and we were able to carry on, despite the many challenges found along the way.

We never cease to praise the name of the Lord for His goodness and care toward us!

He provided the direction and the means for this Ministry to operate and extend its influence over the sub-Saharan Africa.

As physicians, we had the opportunity to personally witness the development of the HIV epidemic from its beginning in the 80's. In the 90's we were treating many HIV positive patients at Mugonero Adventist Hospital in Rwanda, doing clinical and surgical work on hundreds of them.

At that time, we didn't have the medicines we have today, and people were dying in great numbers. It was a desperate situation.

This personal medical experience was instrumental in the preparation for our future appointment as directors of AAIM (Adventist AIDS International Ministry).

At the beginning, we came to AAIM with the mentality and the approach of a physician, but we soon realized that what people needed the most was the Hope, Love and Compassion that only Jesus Christ can provide.

In the following years, medical science improved the treatments, but still, people got trapped in the discrimination and stigma that only the true love of Jesus can help overcome. Many died because they didn't dare to make their situation known.

And that is why the original name of "Africa HIV/AIDS Office" was replaced by "Adventist AIDS International Ministry". It became a true Ministry!

We also noticed that as we were ministering to others, we personally grew spiritually stronger day by day. In all, it was a wonderful experience for Eugenia and me.

The road was not always easy, in fact, it was very bumpy. With a huge territory, the continent of Africa, populated by so many different cultures and languages, and a monumental epidemic such as HIV/AIDS, with very limited financial resources, and at the beginning very limited support, it was only through prayers and total confidence in God, that we were able to continue.

Today, AAIM is established and recognized. An extensive network of HIV/AIDS Coordinators at Division, Union, Conference and Church levels is still working, and thousands of people have benefited from its actions.

*HIV/AIDS "A Journey of Hope"*  
*AAIM Report of Activities - April 10, 2016*

For the majority of our Coordinators it has not been a paid job, but it was done on a volunteer basis. Their only reward was seeing the infected and affected by HIV recover their health and continuing a normal life. For other people touched by the epidemic it was not easy to recover, and they lost their lives, but many got to know Jesus through the untiring work of our Coordinators. One day we will know the real impact of this Ministry.

Even though AAIM works for the betterment of the Physical, Emotional and Spiritual health, the ultimate goal is the eternal salvation of each individual that we get in contact with.

Once again, we want to specially thank each and every one of you who was, and still is associated with this Ministry, and assure our prayers for a successful continuation of this work, which we believe, is one of the closest to the Ministry of Jesus on earth.

What a privilege! Praise the Lord!

Eugenia and I would like to offer our special prayers for the new administration of AAIM, Dr. Alexis Llaguno (Director Elect) and his wife Nellie Llaguno (future AAIM Administrative Assistant). May God bless them in a special way as they take the responsibility of continuing the work of this Ministry.

We hope you will enjoy this report.

Thank you, and especial blessings for you all!

**Nothing to fear**

*"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." -*

*Ellen G. White in Life Sketches, p. 196*

## **2 – STATE OF THE EPIDEMIC**

This section serves to update the board members on the current status of the epidemic in the world and in Africa.

- **Global HIV/AIDS Situation:**

1) HIV continues to be a major global public health issue. Since 2000, 38.1 million people have become infected with HIV and 25.3 million people have died of AIDS-related illnesses.<sup>1</sup> In 2014, an estimated 36.9 million people were living with HIV (including 2.6 million children) – a global HIV prevalence of 0.8%. 2) The vast majority of this number live in low- and middle-income countries. In the same year, 1.2 million people died of AIDS-related illnesses. 3) 25.8 million people living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for 70% of the global total. 4) Only 54% of all people living with HIV know that they have the virus.<sup>2</sup>

This table shows the **current statistics on HIV/AIDS in the world** (last statistics from 2014):

	<b>2016</b>		<b>2014</b>
	<b>People living with HIV in the world</b>		<b>People living with HIV in the world</b>
	<b>36.9m*</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>35.3m</b>
<b>New HIV infections</b>	<b>2.0m</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>2.3m</b>
<b>HIV related deaths</b>	<b>1.2m</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>1.6m</b>

Modern AntiRetroViral Therapies have extended the life-span of millions of HIV Positive people. As a result of this, the number of people Living with HIV continues to increase, while the number of People infected with HIV and the related deaths continues to decrease. This means that the epidemic is being contained.

<sup>1</sup> UNAIDS Fact Sheet 2015 - 2014 Statistics

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world/global-statistics#sthash.qPCKgmc7.dpuf>

## Life expectancy

"At the International AIDS Society in Vancouver 2015 it was announced that the life expectancy of a 20 year old non-IV drug user starting HIV therapy today, could add 55 more years to his or her life. These predictions assume excellent adherence and access to current standards of care, HIV meds and health care.<sup>3</sup>

All that depends on many individual factors including current age (hard to expect a 60 year old to live 40 more years), other factors (use of IV drugs or presence of hepatitis C/smoking

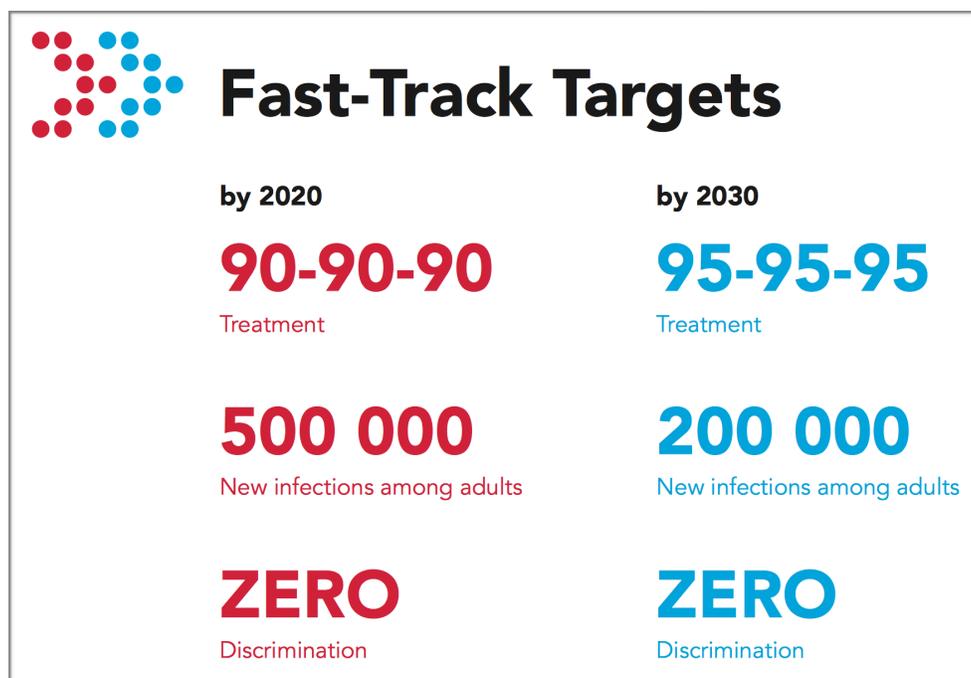
### Success of ARVs

*The success of ARVs is also measured by the survival time. Today, a 20-yr old person living with HIV in a high income country is expected to live 55 more years.*

etcetera), and success of HIV treatment (suppressed virus and a CD4 count > 500).<sup>4</sup>

## WHO "Fast Track" Program

The World Health Organization (WHO) is strongly emphasizing the new program and objectives under the name of "Fast Track" which points to three main goals to end the HIV epidemic by



<sup>3</sup> International AIDS Society presentation, Vancouver 2015 - Personal experience

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from <http://www.thebody.com/Forums/AIDS/SideEffects/Q205191.html>

## Gene editing could provide a cure for HIV

A cure for HIV and AIDS reportedly could be just a few years away after scientists have been able to successfully snip away the virus from infected cells and prevent the disease from returning.

A team of researchers from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University is making real progress in that regard, successfully testing a gene editing system, demonstrating its ability to eliminate the virus from DNA in human cells grown in culture.<sup>5</sup>

Scientists have shown it is possible to use *state-of-the-art genetic editing technology* to literally cut away the virus (HIV) from the DNA of cells.

The new technique - called Crispr/Cas9 - involves targeting the genetic code of HIV which inserts itself into cells. Scientists take a protein called Cas9 and modify it so it can recognize the viral code.

The scientists employed an RNA-guided CRISPR/Cas9 DNA editing system to precisely remove the entire HIV-1 genome from dormant infected human CD4+ T-cells.

Blood is then extracted from the patient and the Cas9 protein added where it seeks out the HIV DNA in immune cells. Once it finds it, it releases an enzyme which removes the sequence, *effectively snipping out the virus*. The healthy modified cells would then be transfused back into the patient.

Scientists believe that replacing just 20 per cent of immune cells with the genetically altered cells would be enough to cure the disease.<sup>6</sup>

### **The Changing Perception of HIV/AIDS Today**

*“Today, there is much better treatment for HIV that can prevent it from progressing to AIDS. There is, however, a strong stigma attached to the disease and those with HIV still face discrimination, but perceptions are slowly evolving.”*

Mark Heyne, March 23, 2016

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nature.com/articles/srep22555>

<sup>6</sup> Kaminski, R. *et al.* Elimination of HIV-1 Genomes from Human T-lymphoid Cells by CRISPR/Cas9 Gene Editing. *Sci. Rep.* 6, 22555; doi: 10.1038/srep22555 (2016)

### **3 – ADVENTIST CHURCH RESPONSE**

#### ***A Journey of Hope***

The Adventist AIDS International Ministry's Journey of Hope started in May 2002, when the HIV/AIDS Office was voted by the General Conference of SDA's Executive Committee into existence.

The special characteristics of this epidemic required an approach that exceeded the medical assistance and directed our efforts to a more spiritual type of care.

We started to call it a Ministry of Hope, Love and Compassion.

We were called to deliver a Christian response which means the unconditional love of Jesus Christ to the infected and affected regardless of how they came to be so.

The Ministry has grown since then, and today it has a well established office and network of associates and coordinators all over the continent of Africa.

AAIM continues to serve the three Adventist African Divisions, its Unions and Conferences all the way down to the grassroots, its churches and members.

The following is a summary of some of the main events:

For us it all started with...

**It is Impossible!!!**

All our relatives and friends discouraged us to work with HIV and AIDS in Africa. They all said: It is Impossible!!!, but the Word of God was saying to us:

***"With man this is impossible,  
but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26***

## ***A Journey of Hope***

From the very beginning of this ministry the priority was to help our churches in Africa to cope with the HIV epidemic through **HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support**.

### **Milestones Inside the Church**

(This is not an exhaustive list of AAIM Activities, but just a collection of the ones which had an outstanding impact in the communities inside and outside the Church)

#### **May 2002**

At the GC Spring Meeting Dr. Allan Handysides, GC-Health Ministries Director, spoke forcibly on the impact that AIDS is having around the world. His vigorous and strong appeal is still remembered.

Then, a GC committee vote, **authorized the establishment of an office for the HIV/AIDS Ministry in Africa**, and the formation of an International HIV/AIDS Study Commission.

At that point, everything we knew about HIV/AIDS was just "the tip of the iceberg"

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of the period of awakening for our  
church, regarding HIV/AIDS.*

#### **2003**

The year 2003, we call it the beginning of the period of awakening for our church, regarding HIV/AIDS.

Immediately after the creation of the AAIM office, ADRA organized two HIV/AIDS programs in 2003, one in Harare and another in Nairobi under the name of "Adventists Answering the Call". In 2004 ADRA organized an HIV/AIDS Counseling Program known as ADRA-TOT.

On December 1, 2003, The Seventh-day Adventist Church went public, for the first time, on a program for the HIV-AIDS International Day in Swaziland.

Under the name "Behavior and Lifestyle Change Summit", the SDA Church representatives from the whole country were trained and sensitized for the first time on HIV-AIDS related issues.

You have probably noticed that the name HIV/AIDS was not yet used by the Conference. Nobody wanted to talk about HIV/AIDS at that time. There was a lot of fear among the leaders.

## 2004

AAIM's office officially opened its doors on Monday, January 5, 2004.

Soon after, the 1st Tri-Divisional Advisory from February 17 to 18, took place, with the presence of Dr. George Sanz (WAD), Dr. Oscar Giordano (AAIM), Dr. Alex Llaguno (SID), Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye (ECD) and Ms. Angeles Giordano, who gathered at the hotel Leopard Lodge in the Magaliesberg and the Haartbeesport Dam areas, not far from Pretoria, South Africa.

An Strategic Planing exercise was done in preparation of an Action Plan, and to establish short and long term goals.

**At that time the situation with the HIV epidemic was very bad, there was not time to lose, and the dissemination of the information had to be fast. Many people were dying every day.**

AAIM started a radio program to reach 8 neighboring countries through Adventist World Radio (AWR). Ms Angeles Giordano was the Speaker.

*In 2004 Lesotho was among the two countries with the highest HIV prevalence in the world!!!*

During our visit to the Maluti Adventist Hospital, we found that **60 to 70% of the patients were HIV positive!!!** including people of all ages, babies, adolescents, men and women!!!

Our pastors were officiating at several funerals per week...

Facing such a tragedy, we understood that it was time to create support groups all over Africa and that it was time for **less words and more action!!!**

The question now was, HOW do we go about this? God presented to us key people and special circumstances that helped us to understand where to go and what to do!

We remember Mamosa, Maseeng, Maite and Mpolokeng among many others infected and affected which helped us to understand the needs and the direction to take. Thanks be to God!

For the First Time SID gave 30' for an AAIM Presentation on HIV/AIDS during the 2004 Year End Meetings.

## 2005

In 2005, an Association of Adventists Living with HIV was organized in the Central Kenya Conference, with the help of Pr. John Machiaria. Developments like this, started helping to break the silence and the stigma.

One of the key HIV positive people we met in Ethiopia, was sister Genet. Her experience was a terribly painful one for a mother. Genet arrived at an advanced stage of AIDS and she sensed she was going to die soon. It was then that she gave her two little sons up for adoption through an adoption agency to a family in France.

Soon after, she learned about AAIM and her life changed for the better. It was then when she said "I wish I would have known AAIM sooner, and I would not have lost my sons..." AAIM helped her to establish a sewing project in Addis Ababa, which still operates in Ethiopia today! It is the oldest AAIM project in Africa. Many people were baptized through Genet's Project!

Her experience, was terribly painful, and the sense of urgency continued growing in our hearts!!!

The year 2005 was the time when 3 people were dying of AIDS every 5 minutes in Kenya.

AAIM organized an HIV/AIDS - Training of Trainers for "Church Based Support Groups Leaders" in Nairobi Central Church, in September 2005 with an attendance of 123 participants representing 22 churches in Nairobi and from far away rural areas.

We learned that many of our HIV positive members were living in townships and we decided to visit them. We went to Kibera, the biggest slum in Africa... The HIV positive people were poor and hungry, and they needed income generating activities to survive. AAIM helped to organize a bakery as an income generating activity. Another income generating activity was sewing workshops.

In 2005, in Uganda, out of 25,600,000 people, 1,587,000 were living with HIV, with more than 2,000,000 Orphans..., and 78,000 Deaths per year...

During 2005, AAIM organized a Training of Trainers for church members with an attendance of 75 people from all over Uganda.

That was also a good opportunity to pay a visit to People Living with HIV in their Villages together with Pastor Kizito. All these experiences helped to shape the work of the Ministry.

We established a rule for ourselves, that with each trip we had to visit people living with HIV in their homes, and bring practical solutions for their needs, comfort and prayers. And until today we have continued to do so.

That same year, AAIM organized a Sewing Workshop for People Living with HIV. We invited Ms Tsoa from Madagascar to teach the participants, and it was a very successful program. The participants learned to sew and became able to help themselves with an income generating activity. At the end of the program they were singing for joy! Praise the Lord!

***In 2006 an estimate of 478 Adventist church members died from AIDS every month in Africa which was equivalent to 2 churches lost every month (Churches of 200 members average). This accounted for the equivalent of 24 Churches or 4,800 members lost each year...!***

## **2006**

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Swaziland was the country with the highest HIV prevalence in the world!!! Given the circumstance people needed to be tested for HIV as soon as possible. AAIM built a Voluntary Counsel and Testing Clinic in Manzini, Swaziland.

AAIM implemented programs to take care of orphans in the region, which included the distribution of school items, toys and clothing.

## **2007**

During the year 2007 the commitment from the leaders toward HIV/AIDS issues increased both at the church and the international levels.

Many Training Programs took place in several countries in Africa during the year 2007. Among those were the following:

- HIV/AIDS Program in Bujumbura, Burundi - May 2007
- HIV/AIDS Training Program at Nkoroi Church, Nairobi. For the first time, a group from the Maasai tribe from Kisaju were exposed to a program of this kind - July 2007
- HIV/AIDS Training in Gabon, August 2007.
- Programs on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria at Babcock University and Ile-Ife Hospital - August 2007
- HIV/AIDS Training programs in Cameroon - August 2007
- HIV/AIDS Training of Trainers Program for church members coming from all over Zimbabwe - October 2007.

In September 2007, the Queen of Lesotho visited the AAIM Grandmothers' Project. It was a wonderful experience. The Queen danced for joy with the grandmothers who highly appreciated the great support given by the Queen.

## 2008

The Anti-Retro Viral drugs started to become available in Africa. Now we were convinced "There is Hope for People with HIV and AIDS...!!!

**AAIM**  
*Is Bringing Hope...,  
and Saving Lives...  
(For now and for eternity...!!!)*

By 2008 AAIM had developed a large set of printed materials on HIV/AIDS, including a Training Manual. Some of the materials were translated in native African languages.

By the end of 2008 AAIM trainings on HIV/AIDS reached the 40th country in Africa. There was no more silence and taboo on HIV/AIDS in the Adventist Churches. **The barrier of silence was breaking apart!**

## 2009

The AAIM 5th Tri-Divisional Advisory was held in February 2009 with 21 Participants from the three Divisions.

AAIM produced a Video-Series of "30 Messages of Hope & Healing", viewed by potentially 30 million people in Africa, and was also broadcast to Asia and Australia on Hope Channel International.

## 2010

An important and special program on HIV/AIDS was held for SID (Southern Africa Indian-Ocean Division). Many Church leaders from the GC, Division and Departments visited the exhibits.

By 2010 the church leaders were becoming fully engaged.

An all division gathering of SID-HIV/AIDS Coordinators was organized by Mrs. Rhoda Nthani, SID-HIV/AIDS Coordinator.

The 1st HIV/AIDS program exclusively for the Maasai Tribe in Kisaju and three other districts in Kenya took place this year in Kisaju, Maasailand, Nairobi - Kenya. The participants received their certification.

In 2010, AAIM produced a TV series of 14 programs called "The Doctor Speaks..." These Mini-Dramas involved young actors representing real life situations related with the HIV/AIDS infected and affected.

## 2011

An important program on HIV/AIDS for the Trans-Orange Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa took place this year.

Training Seminar on HIV/AIDS at Musoma Adventist Church, Tanzania

Organizing a Support Group at Kenya National Hospital in Nairobi.

HIV/AIDS Training Seminar in NECAT - Goma Congo (DRC)

## **2012**

***AAIM is sharing  
Hope, Love and Compassion***

AAIM has a broad impact through Radio, Trainings, TV and Support Groups.

<i>Angola</i>	<i>Malawi</i>
<i>Botswana</i>	<i>Mauritius</i>
<i>Burundi</i>	<i>Mozambique</i>
<i>Cameroon</i>	<i>Namibia</i>
<i>D.R.C. - Goma</i>	<i>Nigeria</i>
<i>D.R.C. - Lubumbashi</i>	<i>Rwanda</i>
<i>D.R.C. - Kinshasa</i>	<i>South Africa</i>
<i>Ethiopia</i>	<i>Swaziland</i>
<i>Gabon</i>	<i>Tanzania</i>
<i>Ghana</i>	<i>Togo</i>
<i>Ivory Coast</i>	<i>Uganda</i>
<i>Kenya</i>	<i>Zimbabwe</i>
<i>Lesotho</i>	<i>Zambia</i>
<i>Madagascar</i>	o

By 2012, AAIM had already reached 25 countries where it had implemented programs.

### **AAIM Network**

*AAIM established a network of National and Regional  
HIV/AIDS Coordinators, plus hundreds  
of church coordinators all across Africa*

### **Silence and Stigma**

*Silence and stigma are being defeated in the Seventh-day  
Adventist Church and surrounding communities in Africa!!!*

*The Level of HIV Awareness has been raised!!!*

At this point we could certainly say that **each Adventist church was becoming a Center of Hope and Healing**. Praise the Lord!

## **2013**

In 2013 AAIM implemented programs on Youth and HIV/AIDS at the Adventist World Youth Congress in Pretoria - South Africa.

In September, 2013, AAIM held its 6th Tri-Divisional Advisory on HIV/AIDS, in Nairobi, Kenya. 70 coordinators and associates were present.

In 2013, a significant group of Boys and Girls attended the "Rite of Passage Program" in Ongata Rongai, Nairobi, Kenya - December 2013

## **2014**

In 2014, AAIM's new Website and Facebook page had already received visitors from 38 countries, worldwide.

In Katima Mulilo, in the Caprivi Strip in Namibia, 10 Adventist Church Members Disclosed their HIV Positive Status and the Pastors and Elders laid hands on them while the Church Members Prayed

HIV/AIDS Training at Katima Mulilo Central Church, Caprivi Strip, Namibia from the 19 to 22 February, 2014, with attendance of 72 Participants.

Because of the great impact AAIM had in the region, the Sabbath Service at the Katima Mulilo Central Church was packed with church members and visitors from the community. AAIM staff shared activities during the main program, including the children's story by Dr. Eugenia.

In 2014, with great sadness, we lost Mrs. Evelyn Nkhethoa, from Lesotho, who was the driving force behind the grandmother's projects, in all of Africa. Thank you Evelyn for your great contribution!

### **An Accepting and Compassionate Church**

*At this moment in time, when it comes to HIV/AIDS in Africa, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is counted as one of the most accepting and compassionate denominations!*

## 2015

Seminars and Support Groups in Action in Ethiopia

Income generating activities for HIV positive people and support groups training in KENYA

HIV/AIDS Seminar & Conference - Bloemfontein, 9-13 Sept 2015

Program for Grandmothers and AIDS Orphans in Cameroon

HIV/AIDS Prevention through Maasai Literacy Project in Nairobi, Kenya.

AAIM in North-East Congo Union Mission/Goma - Mrs. Safi Bakano - NECUM-Coordinator

Sister Genet is the Instructor for the sewing workshops in Ethiopia

**From Silence and Denial to Loving and  
Compassionate Care**

## 2016

Between 2004 and 2016, AAIM implemented programs in 62 major cities of 28 countries in Africa. People were trained from 40 different countries in Africa. 28 Board Meetings were held since October 2002. There are currently 8 ongoing HIV/AIDS projects in 2016. They are all funded.

By 2016, AAIM has reached 28 countries where it has implemented programs

Two Research papers were published. One on HIV/AIDS Church Based Support Groups presented at the American Public Health Association, and the other on Grandmothers as Centers of Support, presented at the International AIDS Society.

Today, AAIM has 25 HIV/AIDS Coordinators at Union level:

- 10 in ECD (*East-Central Africa Division*)
- 10 in SID (*Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division*)
- 5 in WAD (*West-Central Africa Division*)

There are also Coordinators at Conference and Church levels in many countries.

The following are just a few of the AAIM Coordinators and Associates who have played key roles in AAIM's development:

- Pr. John Macharia
- Mrs. Sheila Owino
- Pastor Samuel Kizito

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- Mrs. Rhoda Nthani
- Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye
- Dr. Andre Ndaa
- Mrs. Safi Bakano
- Mrs. Euginia Kebine
- Mr. Gabriel Maina
- Pr. Innocent Gwizo
- Mrs. Alice Alolo
- Dr. Jun Negre
- Mr. Mevack Landry
- Mrs. Gelane Kumera
- Dr. Razaka
- Mrs. Jackeline Ondogo
- Dr. Badinani Jean-Marie
- Mr. Godfrey Korio
- Mr. Henry Ombasa
- Pr. Solomon Lenana
- Pr. Dennis Matekenya
- Mr. Alfred Thotolo
- Mrs. Susan Williams
- Mrs. Shunila Rana
- Mrs. Angelina Njambi

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to each and everyone of them as well as to many others who are not listed here, but who have given their support directly or indirectly to this Ministry.

As a follow up of the Strategic Planning initiated in February 2004, at the very beginning of this Ministry, we can say today that much progress has been achieved. The Southern Africa Indian-Ocean Division, at the epicenter of the epidemic is a clear example of that. It has reported a 64% of achievement of the 8 main objectives of AAIM's Strategic Planning:

1. To have an Active Coordinator
2. To have a Union or Conference Budget for HIV/AIDS
3. HIV/AIDS mainstreamed in all Departments
4. College/University Course on HIV/AIDS
5. Churches sensitized on HIV/AIDS - Members involvement in HIV/AIDS Activities
6. Churches a Place of Refuge (Acceptance)
7. HIV/AIDS Certificate Training Course
8. Collaborative Relationships (with other NGOs, Government, etc.)

AAIM has also extended its ministry to the North and Inter-American Divisions as well as to Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific Division.

***A Journey of Hope...***

*Bringing Hope...!*

*Saving Lives...!*

## Milestones Outside the Church

In this section we will summarize the main advances on HIV/AIDS treatment presented at the International AIDS Society in 2015 at the Vancouver Conference Center, Canada.

We need to keep in mind that as we approach the end of the epidemic\*, projected for 2030<sup>7</sup>, we should be careful and not lower our guard, because HIV/AIDS is still having a big impact in certain areas of the world, especially in the less developed countries.

According to the World Health Organization, the HIV epidemic is still killing approximately 4,110 people every day (1,500,000/year)<sup>8</sup>

### \* Defining “ending the AIDS epidemic”

“Ending the AIDS epidemic means that the spread of HIV has been controlled or contained and that the impact of the virus on societies and on people’s lives has been marginalized and lessened, owing to significant declines in ill health, stigma, deaths and the number of orphans. It also means increased life expectancy, unconditional acceptance of people’s diversity and rights, increased productivity and reduced costs as the impact of AIDS diminishes.”

Thanks to the following 10 scientific achievements, we will see great progress in the near future.

1. Today, the expected survival of a 20-year-old person living with HIV in a high income country is 55 years (20+55=75 years).<sup>9</sup>
2. Now we know where HIV hides, which helps for better treatments. In addition to cells in the circulating blood, it is now well established that HIV persists in several organs in people who have been receiving ART for several years. The genetic material of the virus, as well as viral particles have been detected in many tissues including the brain, lymph nodes, genital tract and gut.
3. Today, Anti-Retro Viral Treatments are higher in potency and lower in toxicity.
4. Before, people used to take many pills per day. Today, just one pill is needed.
5. Another new approach to HIV/AIDS treatment is Test and Treat. This means that we don’t have to wait until the CD4 count is very low to start the Anti-Retro-Viral Therapy (ART).
6. Another new method against HIV/AIDS is Treatment as Prevention, which uses ARVs as treatment. AIDS Incidence and Related Deaths are drastically decreasing with access to treatment as prevention. Using this method, AIDS Incidence and Related Deaths drastically decreased in Vancouver, Canada.
7. UNAIDS has set the 90-90-90 Target program to end AIDS by 2030
8. The discovery of Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies has given a great boost to the HIV vaccine research. Neutralizing antibodies (Nabs) are immune proteins that recognize, bind to, and trigger the elimination of the virus before it can establish a chronic infection.
9. The prestigious journal Science announced in July 2015 that the vaccine research is very advanced.
10. The number of new infections and the number of deaths is decreasing significantly, which is a clear sign that **the epidemic is being contained and we are approaching the end of it.**

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2014/JC2686\\_WAD2014report](http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2014/JC2686_WAD2014report)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.who.int/gho/hiv/epidemic\\_status/deaths\\_text/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/hiv/epidemic_status/deaths_text/en/)

<sup>9</sup> Source: UNAIDS, gap report. Adapted from Lohse et al, 2007; Hoog et al. 2008; May et al, 2011; Hogg et al. 2013

## **2016 - Current Ongoing AAIM-HIV/AIDS Projects**

- ***Ethiopia Union - Sewing Program***

Sewing classes for HIV/AIDS positive people

More than 10 years ago AAIM started this program with sister Genet as Instructor and Coordinator of the sewing workshop located at Kotabe Church, Addis Ababa.

A very successful program which has given many fruits in terms of HIV positive people trained and baptized. Sister Genet herself is an HIV positive person, who almost died from the disease and by the grace of God and the support of other church members and AAIM was able to recover and work again.

From this project many people established their own sewing workshops and income generating activities. It has been a great pleasure to work with Genet all these years.

This project was funded once again by AAIM for the current year 2015. There is a plan to establish a new branch of this project in the rural area.

- ***AAIM in North-East Congo Union Mission/Goma - NECUM***

Recently we received the 2nd Quarter Report of Activities from sister Safi Bakano, the AAIM Coordinator at NECUM, North-East Congo Union in DRC - Democratic Republic of Congo.

On April 18, 2015 they received the visit of the UNAIDS responsible for the Eastern part of DRC for partnerships. He was thankful to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North-East Congo union Mission for their commitment to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic through Adventist AIDS International Ministry in their territory.

Their work with Grandmothers and Orphans is really commendable. Many community projects are conducted by Safi's office, including several Income Generating Activities.

AAIM-NECUM's outreach helps people's basic needs as in the example of Mrs. Wanitu, who lost everything when her house burned down. She came to the AAIM Coordinator's office, where she and her 9 years old son who is HIV positive, were given some clothes. Both are on ARVs. They need our support.

HIV/AIDS Seminars and Workshops are frequently conducted by Safi in the Goma region.

On Sunday, 12 July, 2015, a seminar was held by PNLS, Programme National de Lutte contre le SIDA, and AFEMED, Association des Femmes Médecins, Partners of AAIM. Also some Pastors and Church Elders, Health and AAIM Directors, Family life Directors from Goma town SDA Churches participated, among 35 participants, and 19 were voluntarily tested.

HIV Voluntary Counseling and Testing is another activity provided by AAIM-NECUM during Seminars and other activities of this ministry.

This project recently received funding from a private donation, which AAIM transferred to the North East Congo Attached Territory-HIV/AIDS Office, through ECD.

- ***HIV/AIDS Prevention through Maasai Literacy Project***

When we realized that the understanding of AAIM printed material was limited by the literacy level of the participants, it was decided to help them with a Literacy Project.

It is currently taking place in Kisaju, under the supervision of Godfrey Korio with the help of sister Margaret, a Maasai teacher from the same Maasai community, who is providing lessons to a significant group from that tribe.

We have great hope for this project, and expect it will grow and reach many more people with a message of hope, love and compassion.

- ***Maasai Kitchen Program***

AAIM has a long partnership history with the Maasai community in Kisaju, Nairobi, Kenya.

Through the generous contribution of a congregation in the USA, the dream of a kitchen in the church area will become a reality very soon.

Godfrey Korio, a Maasai and AAIM Coordinator for his community is in charge of the supervision of this project and has informed that all the materials are already on the site and the construction is taking place.

- ***Program for Grandmothers and AIDS Orphans in Cameroon***

Elder Mevack Landry, AAIM Coordinator in Cameroon, has reported the progress of HIV/AIDS activities in his territories.

"The distribution of school materials took place at Kpwokolota's church, August 25th from 7 am to 2 pm, in the presence of the subdivision officers, the chief of Kpwokolota area, the executive secretary of East Cameroon SDA Mission and several other authorities and sponsors.

Materials were bought and distributed to 60 AIDS Orphans by grandmothers from the AAIM Kpwokolota Grandmothers' Club.

The ceremony was coordinated and supervised by the AAIM Coordinator of the East Cameroon Mission, Elder Mevack Landry. AAIM provided the necessary funds for this event and materials.

Helping Grandmothers to help orphans is a great strategy for the recovery of those children and youth that have suffered the traumatic experience of losing their parents, and are suffering the lack of financial means to continue their studies and succeed in life.

AAIM is trying to help this situation. May God abundantly bless those children and grandmothers.

The HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support work is making great progress under the leadership of brother Mevack Landry. We pray and hope that more good news will come soon from Cameroon.

- ***Income generating activities for the People Living With HIV/AIDS in South Sudan***

South Sudan Attached Territory has a new office in Juba. They are planing to start income generating activities for the People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). We hope and pray for a successful program. AAIM has already fully funded this project through ECD.

- ***Adult literacy program focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention in Eritrea***

Eritrea Mission Field: Pr. Solomon has been holding this mission for a long time. He would like to start an adult literacy program focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention. AAIM has already fully funded this project through ECD.

- ***HIV/AIDS Prevention through adult literacy program.***

Somalia (Hargessa): They would like to start an HIV/AIDS Adult Literacy Program. AAIM has already fully funded this project through ECD.

- ***Alcohol, Drugs, and HIV/AIDS Prevention Program***

Kenya: Alcohol, Drugs, and HIV/AIDS Prevention Program through income generating activities for "Men" at King'eero Church in Nairobi, Kenya. This project started recently and has great potential. They plan to buy a Concrete Making Machine and tools, as well as other IGAs. They are also doing fundraising (Walkathon). AAIM has already fully funded this project through ECD.

- ***Rite of Passage - Circumcision for Boys in Kenya***

In many African tribal cultures, male circumcision is still one of the most important rites in the transition from boyhood to manhood. This practice, which is usually done without adequate sepsis and technique, produces many health problems and even casualties each year among the youth.

AAIM is sponsoring a new program lead by Pr. John Macharia in Nairobi, Kenya, which also includes girls. After boys are circumcised by Physicians in appropriate clinics, they go through a period of recovery, and then, girls join the classes on bbible studies, citizenship, nutrition, prevention of diseases, etc. which prepare them as better citizens and Christians.

This time, AAIM will sponsor the participation of ten boys in the program of circumcision.

- ***Gardening and Poultry Income Generating Activities for HIV Positive People***

The Association of Adventists Living with HIV/AIDS in Namibia will start a Gardening and Poultry Project. The location is in the Caprivi Strip, a region with a very high HIV prevalence. Poverty is closely related to HIV and AIDS, and that is why helping the infected and affected develop their own sources of income will improve their health through better nutrition and lifestyle, as well as an improved sense of self-sustainability.

## **CONCLUSION**

*Today, as we get closer to our retirement, we can say without any doubt that it was a wonderful Journey!*

*God has given us the privilege of working in Africa during the past 25 years, and to use our medical and public health skills to help many people. God has exceeded all our expectations when we first landed in Kigali, Rwanda in 1991.*

*As we review some of our experiences, we can see that God was always close and leading the way. He provided the means and the direction in many circumstances when our own possibilities were so limited.*

*Facing difficult medical cases or surgical procedures without all the necessary equipment and medicines or technical support in the middle of the mountains of Kibuye or in the Northern part of Madagascar, far away from any source of help, or facing wars and civil unrest, or working in extremely challenging places like the refugee camps in Congo during the Rwanda genocide - through it all - God was always there! Praise the Lord!*

*God also gave us moments of great joy during the evangelistic campaigns -three each year- in Rwanda, together with our hospital team, with a result of 948 baptisms until the war stopped it. We had a similar experience in Madagascar, at the Andapa Adventist Hospital, where God allowed us to combine again medicine with evangelism, and even music - a small orchestra and choir was organized -. Many people completed their bible studies and got baptized! It was a wonderful experience!*

*During the last twelve and a half years we were assigned the mission of establishing an HIV/AIDS Office in Africa and helping our churches cope with the epidemic. It was not easy, but again, God proved to be more than able to guide our steps and help us overcome all the obstacles.*

*We don't have any regrets, and, if given the opportunity, we will do it all over again. Thank you God!*

*Now, it is the time to express our recognition to those who worked closely with us during our last assignment with AAIM.*

*At our office in Johannesburg, we would like to express our special thanks to Mrs. Belle Cappellar, who helped us keep our financial records, proof-read our reports and presentations, and assisted us with a variety of administrative tasks! We also want to express our thankfulness to Mrs. Angeles Giordano Sparrow, our daughter, "the voice" behind the audiovisuals, and for bringing to the AAIM Team her expertise in computers and other tasks such as the AAIM website, which has required countless hours of hard work!*

*We would like to give thanks to all of the AAIM Board Chairmans: Pr. Leo Ranzolin, Pr. Lowel Cooper, Pr. Pardon Mwansa, Pr. Geoffrey Mbwana and Pr. Abner de los Santos. Thank you for your support and your wisdom!*

*We would like to give special thanks to Dr. Juan Prestol and Mrs Daisy Orion for the important roles they have played to keep AAIM in good financial shape!*

*We would like to give very special thanks to Dr. Allan Handysides and Dr. Peter Landless for their pioneering and mentoring work. Their sustained support to this Ministry helped navigate the most challenging times in its history.*

*HIV/AIDS "A Journey of Hope"  
AAIM Report of Activities - April 10, 2016*

*To our past and present Board members goes all our appreciation and thankfulness for the great support we have received in their respective fields, as well as during our meetings at the General Conference!*

*AAIM would like to thank all our partners in Ministry, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the GC-Health Ministries Department, the East-Central Africa Division, the Southern Africa Indian-Ocean Division and the West-Central Africa Division, together with ADRA International and Loma Linda University for their constant encouragement and support.*

*AAIM thanks its generous donors for their financial support, which made the majority of the country programs possible. Our profound thanks and recognition goes to the APHHS - Adventist Professional Health and Humanitarian Services for their continuous support.*

*May our Lord abundantly bless you all as we continue this journey of Hope, Love and Compassion!*

*And most important, we recognize, thank and praise the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Supreme Provider and Sustainer!*

## **ANNEX**

### **ADVENTIST CHURCH RESPONSE & ACTIVITIES DURING THE LAST QUINQUENNium 2010-2015.**

*(This follows and complements the Audio-Visual "5 Years in Review" shared through Memory Sticks at the April AAIM Board Meeting.)*

#### **Celebrating God's Goodness in this "Five Years in Review Presentation"**

This part of the report is a testimony of God's blessings during the last quinquennium. We hope you will enjoy it.

## ***Year 2010***

In looking back and contemplating the accomplishments in the last five years, we were tempted to focus on the things we have done all these years. Instead, today, we want all our thoughts and praise to go to our Lord Jesus Christ, without whom none of this would have been possible. We want to focus on Him, and only Him, and to recognize that He is the One who has given us the light and the encouragement to start what seemed to be an impossible mission.

Yes, at the beginning of this ministry everybody thought it was an impossible mission to fight AIDS in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a conservative church, where very few people would have had the courage to talk about AIDS and its related subjects.

Even our officers, did not believe that this Ministry was going to go too far. At that time, people were dying in great numbers, and the treatments we have today were not available. Our Pastors were scared to preach or even talk about AIDS, and we used to discriminate and even fire HIV positive people from our schools and church institutions...

In 2010, HIV continued to kill people at an estimated number of 7,000 lives per day.

- In April 2010, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Grandmothers' Support Group Training Center in Lesotho, took place. The first fruits of their labor were welcomed during the ceremony.

The HIV Statistics at that time uncovered the reality that 33.4 million people were infected with the virus in the whole world. Later, we learned that this number was going to increase still more...

- AAIM helped the Sahel Union to organize a seminar for all the pastors. The union president , Pastor Guy Roger was himself very concerned about this problem, and encouraged the organization of the program.

Other events in the same year were:

- The organization of an Association of Adventists living with HIV or AIDS that took place in Nairobi.
- The First Comprehensive Workshop on HIV/AIDS for the Maasai tribe in the Kajiado Region, Nairobi, that took place between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> of December with more than 100 participants.
- AAIM visited the King’eero project. We are very proud for the progress that has been made there, with several support groups and many income generating activities for the infected and affected. We found a strong promotion of VCTs , orphans’ education programs and community work.

The beginning of this year was a very successful time for the Adventist AIDS International Ministry (AAIM). A large number of programs and interventions resulted in an increase of this ministry’s outreach and assistance in many more territories of the three African divisions.

**From Silence and Denial to  
Loving and Compassionate Assistance**

**Silence and stigma are being defeated in the Seventh-day Adventist Church  
and surrounding communities in Africa!**

At the beginning of this ministry, God strongly impressed our hearts with the verse found in Matthew 19:26: “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible,” and that was the starting point!

We understood that this was His program and not ours, and having Jesus as our partner in Ministry brought new energy and ideas.

From the beginning, we felt welcomed in the churches, and we received strong support.

This allowed for an energetic start that covered the Sub-Saharan African territory with numerous training programs on AIDS Prevention, Care and Support.

AIDS awareness was raised high in all the churches, and an open conversation about the epidemic was encouraged.

Today, and by the grace of God, AAIM has implemented programs and projects in 26 African countries.

*HIV/AIDS "A Journey of Hope"*  
*AAIM Report of Activities - April 10, 2016*

- In July 2010 AAIM attended the International AIDS Society (IAS) where the most current information and latest discoveries were shared with all the participants.

All these years, it has been our custom to bring to the Board the latest news about HIV/AIDS, directly from the IAS, and later distributed them among our Board Members and Coordinators in the three divisions.

- AAIM was part of the multi-faith section of the IAS Conference, where we shared AAIM printed materials and information with the visitors.
- In the following months, AAIM implemented HIV/AIDS programs in Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya and Botswana.

The time for the General Conference World session in Atlanta arrived, and AAIM organized an exposition in the form of a booth, with audiovisuals, posters and illustrations, which was visited by a great number of people

Many visitors and many testimonies helped us to better understand the magnitude and the impact of HIV/AIDS on our churches around the world.

- In 2010, AAIM recorded a series of 14 special programs (mini-dramas) on HIV/AIDS to be used in TV broadcast, churches, and educational institutions.

The recording took place at the SID Media Center studios in Cape Town, with local students from Heidelberg College who volunteered for the event.

- Before the year 2010 was over, AAIM was able to prepare a set of printed materials in the form of laminated sheets, brochures, posters, and bookmarks to be used during the programs that AAIM implements all over Africa.

Those materials were prepared in English, French, Portuguese and several native languages used in the three sub-Saharan Adventist Divisions.

***We thank and praise the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the many blessings He bestowed upon this Ministry  
during the year 2010!***

## **Year 2011**

The year 2011 started with a very positive statement from the World Health Organization and UNAIDS:

**“ The world has begun to reverse the AIDS Epidemic”<sup>10</sup>**

Combating HIV/AIDS and Malaria is one of the Millennium Development Goals\*, and it seems that this particular goal will be reached after 25 years of hard work (1990-2015), declared Michael Sidibe, director of UNAIDS.

\*The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that were established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. All member states at the time committed to help achieve them by 2015.

During 2011, AAIM continued to assist underserved communities at risk of HIV/AIDS, this time among the Maasai community in Oloongurman, in Kenya. AAIM distributed seeds and helped to create food gardens, including the water irrigation. This is one of AAIM's most successful ongoing projects.

AAIM SAU held a Strategic Planning Session with all the Conference's HIV/AIDS Coordinators.

Then, there was a TOC Conference and Training Seminar in Limpopo for more than 100 participants and the appointment of 48 Coordinators for TOC.

In 2011, the international community commemorated 30 years since the epidemic was first identified in 1981. The United Nations recognized that today the nations find themselves at the crossroads, where important decisions need to be taken to curb the epidemic.

That same year, much more effective treatments became available and there was much more commitment from the countries and organizations.

**At the same time, the Adventist Church also reached a critical point in its response to the epidemic!**

AAIM's projects were established in 54 major cities in 25 African countries.

That year, AAIM participated in the Mid-Year meetings in the three divisions and interacted with the three divisions' new officers.

Along with Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye, AAIM participated in several Departmental Advisories in ECD.

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<sup>10</sup> Michel Sidibé - UNAIDS Executive Director - 2010

Several country programs took place in 2011, including North-East Congo Attached Territory (NECAT), Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Swaziland and Lesotho. Hundreds of people received the messages of HIV Prevention, Care and Support.

AAIM attended the ECD Health Ministries Advisory, and visit the “Everlasting Hope” Support Group in a suburb of Nairobi.

AAIM helped the Eastern Cape Conference in South Africa organize an HIV/AIDS Convention and Training Workshop for more than 50 participants.

The last big activity of the year was a Health Ministries and HIV/AIDS advisory that took place in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Many Adventists living with HIV came to the open and an Association was formed.

2011 ended with a complete AAIM Strategic Planning as a result of a consultation with the Officers and Coordinators of the three Divisions.

### **2011 was a very successful year.**

From its beginnings in 2004, AAIM has always used Christ’s Method, which says:

**“The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then he bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”**

Ministry of Healing, p.143

## ***Year 2012***

### **Turning the Tide Together**

This year UNAIDS published its annual report “Global HIV/AIDS Progress Report”, announcing that, according to the latest available statistics of 2011, there were 34,000,000 people living with the virus. It represented an 18% increase since 2001 (from 28.6 million to 34 million).

Higher levels of awareness and more effective and available treatments have helped people to live longer, which increases the number of people alive with the virus.

- SID-HIV/AIDS Advisory Feb. 26- March 1 2012

This was a very important event that gathered all the SID HIV/AIDS Coordinators for a Division-wide Advisory on the epidemic. The first one of this kind in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Africa.

*HIV/AIDS "A Journey of Hope"*  
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- Zimbabwe Union HIV/AIDS Advisory -

This event was the first of its kind, at a Union-wide level, in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Africa. It took place on May 10-14, in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

These events marked an important milestone in the history of AAIM, because, for the first time all major activities and outreach of this Ministry were combined into comprehensive programs at division and union levels.

- Lesotho Grandmothers' Training Center - Opening of the 1st Phase

On Sunday the 12th of August 2012, the dream of a community center for the grandmothers, finally became a reality with the ribbon-cutting ceremony conducted by the Honorable Prime Minister of Lesotho, Mr. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, accompanied by four ministers of his cabinet, as well as the Speaker of the Parliament.

- Ethiopia AAIM Sewing Program Graduating Ceremony and Baptisms:

In November 2004, AAIM started a sewing workshop in Ethiopia, to help People Living with HIV/AIDS (Income Generating Activities - IGAs)

Under the direction of Sister Genet, who is HIV positive, this sewing project has continued without interruption helping dozens of people, men and women, acquire skills for an income generating activity. Many of the students were baptized.

- AAIM Activities in Kinshasa

With the appointment of Dr. Jean Marie Badinanyi as HIV/AIDS Coordinator for the West and South Congo Conferences, AAIM activities in that region have taken a new direction. Hundreds of people have attended his seminars. There was strong encouragement for HIV testing and counseling.

- South African Association of Adventists Living with HIV/AIDS

A new Association of Adventists Living with HIV/AIDS was established during the International AIDS Day in 2012. The program was held at the Southern Africa Union (SAU) and the Trans-Orange Conference (TOC) who took the initiative under the auspices of AAIM and the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division (SAU).

Other activities were:

WAD Mid-Year Meetings, May 1-2, 2012

ECD Mid-Year Meetings, May 15, 2012

HIV/AIDS Presentation at the South African Home Affairs Department in Pretoria, SA, May 24, 2012

**Silence and stigma are being defeated in the  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
and surrounding communities in Africa!**

## ***Year 2013***

**AAIM**

**"Bringing Hope..., Saving Lives..."**

### **LATEST NEWS ON HIV/AIDS from the UNAIDS Global Report 2013**

#### **Dramatic drop of 52% in global HIV infections New HIV infections continue to decline**

- 2013 Began with HIV/AIDS Seminars in Kinshasa, Congo and the Adventist Youth World Congress, where Adventist Youth were exposed to HIV Prevention. The World Youth Congress took place in Pretoria, South Africa in July 2013. 3,000 youth participated in the meetings.
- The biggest event in 2013 was the planning and implementation of the AAIM 6th HIV/AIDS Tri-Divisional All-Africa Convention in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9-14 September. There were 70 Delegates from the three divisions. There were 5 days of deliberations, conferences, presentations, workshops, country reports, prayer sessions and more. There were AAIM Coordinators from 29 countries and fields present. We see how the light of AAIM shines all over Africa. All of the delegates visited the King'eero HIV/AIDS Training Center where we saw the different projects.

**The level of HIV Prevention and Awareness  
has been raised  
in the Seventh-day Adventist Church!**

- Very good news is that at the beginning of 2013 the results of the last survey for AAIM's Strategic Planning showed an **increased overall percentage of achievement of 52% in all 9 objectives in the three divisions, a big difference from 41% in 2011.** SID was the highest at 55%, followed by ECD at 40%, and WAD at 27%.
- In 2013 AAIM launched its new website, and in the following weeks it was visited by people from 38 different countries.
- The same year, AAIM collaborated with the North-American Division, the Inter-American Division and the South Pacific Division.
- Other projects included: SDA Rite of Passage in Kenya, HIV Prevention among the Maasai in Oloongurman, programs in Cameroon, as well as participating in the Youth Alive program in Madagascar.
- AAIM produced several new DVDs in English and French.
- Several programs were held in Ghana, together with Dr. Andre Ndaa: visits to HIV clinics, addressing hundreds of students with HIV prevention programs, visiting government officials, as well as visiting church officers.
- Caprivi Strip

AAIM visited the Caprivi Region in the Republic of Namibia and held HIV/AIDS Seminars. It is one of the regions with the highest HIV prevalence in the world. AAIM also helped to organize the first Association of Adventists Living with HIV in that region.

AAIM organized an HIV/AIDS seminar in Ethiopia and participated in the 3 divisions' Year-end Meetings.

## ***Year 2014***

The year 2014, AAIM celebrated its 10th anniversary, since its central office in Johannesburg opened its doors in January 2004.

**10 Years of Commitment in the  
Fight against HIV and AIDS!**

We want to remember and give thanks to all those who have given support to this ministry, and especially the HIV/AIDS Coordinators that worked tirelessly to spread the message of prevention, care and support for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

- 2014 registered an approximate number of 35,500,000 people living with HIV in the world. A significant increase since 5 years ago when there was 33,4 million people HIV+

And this number will continue to increase as the treatments become better and much more available in the developing nations.

**From 8 million people in 1990 to 35.5 million in 2014**  
**It means a 400% INCREASE of HIV positive people!**

The countries with high HIV prevalence in 2014 in the three main regions of Africa were:

For Southern Africa **Swaziland with 26.5 %**

For West Africa **Cameroon with 4.5%**

For Eastern Africa **Uganda with 7.2%**

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- That year, AAIM participated in ECD and SID Mid-year Meetings as well as the 2nd Global Health and Lifestyle Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. AAIM conducted the breakout sessions for 3 days of the conference.
- AAIM attended the 2014 International AIDS Society Conference, where all the latest discoveries in the field of HIV/AIDS were announced. The United Nations emphasized the plan, "Treatment for "All" and "No One Left Behind". As a result of this, many more people will get treatment and there is now hope that the epidemic is starting to be controlled.
- Gabriel Maina was appointed as the HIV/AIDS Coordinator for the East Kenya Union Conference. This is a great achievement for AAIM in Eastern Africa.
- Mevack Landry, the AAIM Coordinator in Cameroon reported several HIV/AIDS programs, including a combined effort in fighting HIV and Ebola, which encouraged other coordinators to use this same initiative.

- In 2014, AAIM held HIV Prevention Programs in Maasailand, Kenya; at The Free State University in Bloemfontein, South Africa; for the SDA Educational System in Congo; as well as programs in Malawi and Tanzania.
- 2014 was an exceptional year for the scientific progress on the HIV/AIDS field.
- According to the UNAIDS: "The world has witnessed extraordinary changes in the AIDS landscape. **There have been more achievements in the past five years than in the preceding 23 years.** There is evidence about what works and where the obstacles remain. More than ever before, there is hope that ending AIDS is possible.

***HIV will probably exist for a long time, but its impact will be neutralized more and more by aggressively implementing the existing HIV prevention and new treatment options. A strong community action is needed to reduce stigma and discrimination.***

## ***Year 2015***

Two important events took place at the beginning of 2015. ECD organized a Mission Extravaganza to celebrate 5 years of God's blessings in Mission. AAIM had the opportunity to participate in this event. We thank ECD for inviting us!

In March, Mrs. Rhoda Nthani, the HIV/AIDS Coordinator for SID, organized the biggest all-division HIV/AIDS Convention, with the participation of all the Coordinators from the SID Unions and Conferences. Also, many Adventists living with HIV gave their testimonies. It was a wonderful program.

***"We are very pleased that our church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has taken an active role in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Providing HIV Prevention, Care and Support!"***

### **Associations of Adventists Living with HIV**

Through the dedicated work of its Coordinators, AAIM has established Associations of Adventists Living with HIV in the following countries:

- Botswana
- Cameroon
- Ethiopia
- Goma, DRC
- Kenya
- Kinshasa, DRC
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Sao Tome
- South Africa
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

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#### **1) AAIM's General Themes of On-going Programs in Africa:**

**1. Centers of Hope & Healing** - Each Church a Health Center for the Community - Church Based Support Groups

**2. Giving Hope to the Hopeless** - Home Based Care, Income Generating Activities, Sewing Workshops & other Skills Development Activities, Food Gardens.

**3. Caring for the Vulnerable Children** - Orphans Care, Feeding Programs, Clothing and Shoes Distribution.

**4. Caring for the Youth** - Special Programs for the Youth, Resilience Development & Prevention of Risky Behaviors

**5. Caring for the Care-Givers** - HIV/AIDS Education and Support for the Grandmothers & Grandfathers' Clubs

**AAIM COUNTRY HIV/AIDS COORDINATORS (Update April 2016)**

Extensive networks of HIV/AIDS Coordinators have been organized in the three divisions. The AAIM Coordinators and lay members who participate in the Church Based Support Groups are working on the front-lines of the epidemic. We highly appreciate and value their dedication and commitment to help those infected and affected by the epidemic.

The following is the list of the 25 HIV/AIDS Coordinators organized by Division and Union/Countries. Please, keep them in your prayers.

**Eastern-Central African Division (ECD)**

Division HIV/AIDS Coordinator: Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye

1.DRC	Kinshasa -	Dr. Badinanyi (HIV/AIDS only)
2.DRC	NECAT -	Mrs. Safi Bakano (HIV/AIDS only)
3.DRC	Lubumbashi -	--
4.Ethiopia Union	Addis-Ababa	Ms. Gelane Kumera (w/HM)
5.Kenya Kenya	Kisumu: West Kenya Union conference: Nairobi: East Kenya Union Conference:	East Africa Union - Mr. Daniel Tirop (w/HM) Mr. John Okello (w/HM)
6.Kenya	King'eero -	Mr. Gabriel Maina (HIV/AIDS only)
7.Kenya	Maasailand -	Mr Godfrey Korio & Mr. Solomon Lenana (HIV/AIDS only)
8.Rwanda	Kigali	Mrs. Consolata Uwantege (w/HM)
9.Tanzania	Dar Es Salaam	South Tanzania Union Mission: Dr. Ruth Eyembe (w/HM)
10.Uganda Union	Kampala	Pr. Samuel Kizito (w/HM)
11.South Sudan	Juba	Dr. Ellen P. Valenciano (w/HM)

**Southern Africa Indian-Ocean Division (SID)**

Division HIV/AIDS Coordinator: Mrs. Rhoda Nthani

12. Angola	South West Union	Mr. Dr. Menezese Kondi (HIV/AIDS only)
13. Botswana		Mrs. Milo Ramolele (HIV/AIDS only)
14. Indian Ocean Union		Dr. Dr. Razaka (HIV/AIDS only)
15. Malawi		Pr. Aulex Msulira
16. Mozambique		Mrs. Shunila Rana
17. Sao Tome e Principe		Mr. Francisco Bon Fim
18. Southern Africa Union		Dr. Jun Negre
19. S. Zambia		Dr. Mutinda Mudenda Chilufya
20. Zimbabwe		Dr Douglas Mutanga

**West-Central African Division (WAD)**

Division HIV/AIDS Coordinator: Dr. Andre Ndaa

21. Central Africa Union Mission	Dr Assam Assam Jean Paul
22. Sahel Union Mission	Dr Awute Gilles (w/HM)
23. North-western Nigeria Union Mission	Dr John Sotunsa (w/HM)
24. West Africa Union Mission	Mrs Jemimah Wennie (w/HM) and Pastor Amos B. Horace
25. Cameroon Union Mission	Elder Mevack Landry
(Ghana Union Conference - Not appointed yet)	
(Eastern Nigeria Union Mission - Not appointed yet)	

**LIST OF 28 COUNTRIES AND 63 MAJOR CITIES REACHED BY AAIM**

By alphabetical order (Updated April 2016)

1. Angola
  1. Luanda
  2. Huambo
2. Burundi - Bujumbura
3. Botswana - Gabarone
4. Cameroon
  1. Yaounde
  2. Douala
  3. Nanga Eboko (Cosendai)
5. Democratic Republic of Congo
  1. Kinshasa
  2. Lubumbashi
  3. Goma
6. Ethiopia
  1. Addis-Ababa
  2. Gimbie
  3. Mekele
7. Eritrea
  1. Asmara
8. Gabon - Libreville
9. Ghana
  1. Accra (Valley View)
  2. Kumasi
10. Ivory Coast - Abidjan
11. Kenya
  1. Nairobi
  2. Eldoret (AUEA-Baraton)
  3. Kajiado
  4. Olongurman
12. Lesotho
  1. Maseru
  2. Leribe
  3. Maluti
  4. Mohalishoek
13. Madagascar
  1. Antananarivo
  2. Antsirabe (Zurcher)
14. Mauritius - Vacoas-Phoenix
15. Malawi
  1. Blantyre
  2. Lilongwe
  3. Salima (Malawi-Central)
16. Mozambique
  1. Maputo
  2. Quelimane
17. Namibia
  3. Windhoek
  4. Katima Mulilo
18. Nigeria
  1. Lagos
  2. Ile-Ife
  3. Babcock (Babcock)
19. Rwanda
  1. Kigali (AUCA)
  2. Kibuye
20. Somalia
  1. Hargessa
21. South Sudan
  1. Juba
22. South Africa
  1. Johannesburg
  2. Bloemfontein
  3. Durban

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4. Cape Town (Helderberg)
5. East London (Bethel College)
6. George
7. Limpopo
8. Pretoria
23. Swaziland
  1. Manzini
  2. Mbabane
24. Tanzania
  1. Arusha
  2. Dar es Salaam
  3. Musoma
25. Togo - Lome
26. Uganda
  1. Kampala (Bugema)
  2. Entebbe
27. Zambia - Lusaka
28. Zimbabwe
  1. Harare
  2. Bulawayo (Solusi)

## TESTIMONIES

### ***From Nairobi, Kenya***

- *“The program was insightful and timely. We have been equipped enough to improve our ministry on HIV/AIDS” Pastor Emmanuel Acheampong, South Ghana Conference*
- *“The entire seminar was excellent, the food services were superb and accommodation was extraordinary. The environment was conducive for learning.” Pr. Ambrose Waahu, Ghana*
- *“Reaching the sick, the needy, while focusing on Jesus our role model, also empowering communities through IGA & best practices. The program was excellent, moving and satisfying.” John Kibe, Nairobi, Kenya*

### ***From Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (HIV/AIDS Seminar - February 2014)***

- *“I have been blessed during these 3 days, really, I have gotten more than I expected. God is blessing you, and I thank God that He blessed you and also blessed me through your ministry. Thank You for your ministry!”*
- *“Both of your teaching, was very good. I am blessed and got more new information about HIV. I thank you very much. I think your service is just like Jesus’ service. You continue your teaching and healing up to Jesus’ Second coming. God bless you!”*
- *“First of all we have had a very good time. I want to pass my thanks to almighty God. Next to God I want to thank those trainers we had all through the training. They were awesome. They have explained and trained us so effectively. Their explanation on each section was clear and simple to understand. They were very friendly to all members in the group. They gave us a real love!”*

**From Katima Mulilo, Namibia (HIV/AIDS Seminar - February 2014)**

- *"Presentations - very inspiring. Support group presentation and HIV, very educational, reviving and transforming. Awakes church members and strengthens compassionate love for one another, and lifts up the name of Jesus in SDA Church movement."*
- *"It was good and understandable. Everything was leading me to the cross of Jesus. I've learned a lot about all the teaching. The lessons have taught me to be compassionate to everyone as Jesus had done to the blind man. You did a great job, it was so wonderful to have you here. Both of you Doctors were excellent."*
- *"The facilitators were very good, knowing the subject by heart. • Very good at encouraging members to participate • encouraged all participants to ask questions and get answers"*
- *"On my own evaluation about the facilitators - they have done a great job - well done, they have talked to us about Support Groups, and how we can help ourselves to fight the war on poverty and against the stigma of HIV/AIDS. Job well done."*
- *"The program was organized systematically, chronologically in such a way that, every presentation was connected to the other. The teaching aids all supported the presentations. The program was well documented and people were informed."*

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**More Testimonies:**

- *"It brought a new light of truth in our church that I didn't know about. It was a message from God Himself. Amen"*
- *"It was an eye-opener and has opened a door for me to the past, which was neglected for so long in our church."*
- *"It has marked a change in my life, and perception about AIDS."*
- *"The seminar was a long-needed one for both the church and community."*
- *"Silence was broken and a platform to talk about the epidemic was opened."*
- *"The program was the first time ever in our church. It is so encouraging to people already living with the epidemic and should also help those who do not know their status, to know."*

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