

Action on HIV



A photographic exhibition looking at how USPG is working with Anglican Churches to tackle the global AIDS epidemic.

HELP THE WORLD CHURCH TACKLE THE AIDS CRISIS

AIDS is a global epidemic, with an estimated 33 million people currently living with HIV. The statistics are alarming, but there is hope. USPG and the world church are working together to tackle the problem.

The world church is at the forefront of global efforts to combat the AIDS epidemic. Indeed, in many countries, the Anglican Church is the only source of healthcare for rural grassroots communities.

At Teule Hospital, in Tanzania, USPG Mission Companion Dr Sally Amos has helped to change perspectives so that many now see AIDS as an illness rather than a death sentence. As a result, more people are now willing to undergo HIV testing.

Bahati was 32 weeks pregnant when she tested positive for HIV. She was immediately put on anti-retroviral drugs and her baby, Julietta, eventually tested negative. If it was not for Teule's Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission programme (PMTCT), neither Bahati nor Julietta might have survived.

And in Lesotho, former USPG Mission Companion Colin Sillett helped to establish the Schools HIV/AIDS Peer

Education programme (SHAPE), which works on the premise that teenagers would rather talk to their friends than adults about HIV/AIDS. Colin said: 'The scheme has proved the church's most successful venture yet in helping to combat the AIDS pandemic.'

These are signs that – together – we can help to stop the impact of HIV/AIDS. Though the statistics are alarming, there is hope.

USPG is playing its part by helping Anglican Churches in over 60 countries to raise AIDS awareness and reach out to communities in need.

Please join with USPG in supporting this global mission, and use this resource pack to inspire your congregation – through worship, bible study, prayer and action. ■

For further information and resources, phone 0845 273 1701, email projects@uspg.org.uk or visit www.uspg.org.uk



Maria Thomas has HIV and was extremely poorly when she met workers from the Home-Based Care Programme (HBCP), which is run by the Anglican Church, in Odibo, Namibia. One of the first things the workers did was to help Maria with paperwork so that she could obtain antiretroviral drugs. The encounter changed her life.



Hundreds of people are being helped by the USPG-supported Home-Based Cared Programme, including these children, orphaned by AIDS and living with their grandmother.



The graveyard in Odibo has almost doubled in size over the last five years as a result of deaths due to AIDS. Many of the victims are in their 20s or 30s.



A stricken man awaits treatment at St Mary's Hospital, in Odibo, Namibia, where one in five adults is HIV-positive. USPG's Africa Desk Officer Chad Gandiya said: 'It is only right that the church should be at the forefront of caring for people affected by HIV and AIDS.'



Ruth Nakashole (left), a volunteer with the Home-Based Care Programme, prays with Rosaria, who she visits regularly. The programme trains local volunteers to visit people with HIV to provide food, practical help and pastoral care.



Patients queue for antiretroviral drugs at St Luke's Hospital, in Malosa, Malawi. The drugs first became available at the hospital in August 2004. Since then, more people have been coming forward for HIV-testing because they know the drugs can prevent an early death from AIDS.



Patient Dorothy Chiwaya (left) is examined by a nurse at St Luke's Hospital, in Malawi. The USPG-supported hospital, which also runs a school of nursing and a number of rural health centres, is providing vital healthcare in the impoverished Diocese of Upper Shire.



With AIDS decimating the population of Swaziland, Orma Mavimbela felt called by God to help. She gave up a well-paid job in the civil service and set up three feeding centres for AIDS orphans. Ten-year-old Lindokuhle said: 'I am grateful for the feeding centre as sometimes my grandmother can't find food.'



A volunteer at one of Orma's feeding stations wears a T-shirt that reads 'In Christ there is no difference between positive and negative'. Orma said: 'It's is a satisfying job to feed the orphans. HIV/AIDS took their parents, so they have no-one to look after them except their grandmothers, who are unemployed.'



Boys are served food at a feeding station for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children, in Mpaka, Swaziland. There is a time of worship, then the children queue for dinner – perhaps consisting of beans, rice and cabbage. Afterward, the children play games.



Dr Livan Echazabal (left) counsels a resident at the USPG-supported San Esteban AIDS hostel in Montevideo, Uruguay. For the residents, being HIV positive is one further tragic complication in already difficult circumstances. Hostel manager Livan said: 'We focus on the residents' reintegration with society, family and friends.'

'The AIDS epidemic is one of the most serious issues that we need to tackle, hand in hand within communities, regardless of people's religious, social or political differences.'

The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo, Archbishop of Myanmar



USPG: Anglicans in World Mission is enabling churches to share God's love in practical and life-changing ways.

We work in direct partnership with Anglican Churches in over 50 countries, helping to strengthen the church and build communities.

USPG needs your donations to support vital church work, including healthcare, education, leadership training and action for social justice.

USPG: Anglicans in World Mission

200 Great Dover Street

London SE1 4YB

Tel: 0845 273 1701 or 020 7378 5678

Email: enquiries@uspg.org.uk

www.uspg.org.uk

Registered charity number 234518



**Anglicans in
World Mission**