Adventist AIDS International Ministry
A Ministry of Hope, Love and Compassion

HIV & AIDS Inside & Outside the Church: Mission Accomplished?

The HIV Epidemic and the Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Oscar Giordano, MD., MPH.
Eugenia Giordano, MD., MPH.
This presentation does not intend to give you the answer, it will just give you the facts.

YOU WILL HAVE TO DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS!!!
We will review four statements which have been instrumental for the development of this ministry.

This Ministry was created to help primarily our Churches and our Church Members.
In 2004 there was total silence about HIV/AIDS in the Adventist Churches

- The Pastors didn’t want to talk HIV/AIDS in their churches
- The members preferred to die in silence than to reveal their disease
- Stigma and discrimination were very high
AAIM 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.”
AAIM Vision Statement:

“AAIM is creating ‘Centres of Hope and Healing’ through our network of churches, medical and educational institutions, and church members. AAIM is mobilizing our congregations through church based support groups. AAIM is bringing practical solutions to the infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. AAIM is applying the practical Gospel of Jesus-Christ, field by field, church by church, person by person, on a one to one basis. AAIM is committed to the social responsibility of our church. AAIM is helping to make a new generation free of AIDS!”
Matthew 25:35-36

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”
Christ’s Method

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. 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’.” E.G. White, The Ministry of Healing, p. 143
Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26
A Ministry of Hope, Love and Compassion
HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support

AAIM’s #1 Priority
To Assist our Churches in Africa and their Communities
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.

Human Immune-deficiency Virus (HIV)
Period of Awakening

2003
2003 - Program Organized by ADRA in Harare

2003 “Adventists Answering the Call” Program Organized by ECD & ADRA in Nairobi

2004 - TOT Training Of Trainers Program by ADRA Counseling Program
The Seventh-day Adventist Church goes public on a program for the HIV-AIDS International Day - December 1, 2003

SDA Church representatives from the whole country were sensitized for the first time on HIV-AIDS related issues.
AAIM’s office officially opened on January 5, 2004
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1st Tri-Divisional Advisory - February 17-18, 2004
Dr. George Sanz (WAD), Dr. Oscar Giordano (AAIM), Dr. Alex Llaguno (SID), Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye (ECD)
Johannesburg, South Africa
First AAIM Strategic Planning
January 2004
March 2004
Valley View University - Ghana

Kumazi Adventist Church
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

AAIM reaching 8 countries through Adventist World Radio - AWR
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**Lesotho**

- **Babies HIV+**
- **Orphans**
- **Colleen, a 5 years old with HIV**

**Maluti Hospital in 2004**

60 to 70% of the patients had HIV
Support Groups

Less Words and More Action...!!!
God leading the Ministry through “Special HIV Positive People”

and “Special Opportunities”

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

Lesotho

Kenya

Lesotho

South Africa
Central Kenya Conference
Association of Adventists
Living with HIV

Pr. Macharia was instrumental for the organization of this Association...
A moving experience in Ethiopia with Genet...
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News from Kenya in 2005

In Kenya 3 persons die of AIDS every 5 minutes

Nairobi Central Church - September 2005
HIV/AIDS - Training of Trainers for "Church Based Support Groups Leaders" with 123 participants representing 22 churches in Nairobi and from far away rural areas
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2005 - Kibera Slam in Nairobi
Assessment to Establish Income Generating Activities
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2005 - Kibera Slam in Nairobi and Hack Center

AAIM Organized a Bakery at Kibera Adventist Church and Bicycles for the Hack Center Bakery
2005 - Lesotho Conference Sewing Workshop
30 Women Living with HIV learned Sewing
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...*
Graduates from the UGANDA Training of Trainers and Visit with Pastor Kizito to People Living with HIV in their Villages
LESOTHO
Participants to the Sewing Workshop for People Living with HIV

Singing of Joy
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2006
In 2006 an estimate of 478 church members died from AIDS every month in Africa which was equivalent to 2 churches lost every month (Churches of 200 members average)

The equivalent of 24 Churches lost each year...!
Swaziland Voluntary Counsel and Testing Clinic Project

Picture taken on March 19, 2006
Caring for the Orphans
2007 - Commitment from the Leaders Increased
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HIV/AIDS Program in Bujumbura, Burundi - May 2007
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Training Program at Nkoroi Church, Nairobi - Notice the presence of Maasai
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Gabon, August 2007
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

NIGERIA - August 2007
Babcock University and Ile-Ife Hospital
Programs on HIV/AIDS
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

Cameroon, August 2007
ZIMBABWE - Training of Trainers from all over Zimbabwe
October 2007
The Queen of Lesotho visits the AAIM Grandmothers’ Project in Lesotho
September 2007
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

2008
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

There is Hope for People with HIV and AIDS...!!!

AAIM

Bringing Hope...,

Saving Lives...
(For now and for eternity...!!!)
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AAIM MATERIALS & Translations
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

2009
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

5th Tri-Divisional Advisory - February 25-March 1, 2009

21 Participants from the three Divisions
ECD - Nairobi, Kenya
"30 Messages of Hope & Healing

The AAIM-Hope Channel TV series on HIV/AIDS “30 Messages of Hope & Healing continues to be broadcast by Hope Channel throughout the continent of Africa.

These programs are viewed by potentially 30 million people (Free-to-Air Satellite TV and Analog TV).

It is also broadcast to Asia and Australia on Hope Channel International.
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SID - HIV/AIDS Coordinators
2009
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- **TV Series**: “The Doctor Speaks...” - AUGUST 2010
- AAIM & Hope Channel Production
- Recording of 14 programs at SID-Media
- Mini-Dramas with young actors
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TANZANIA - Musoma Adventist Church
May 2010
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

NECAT - Goma CONGO (DRC)
June 2011
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

2012
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

BROAD IMPACT
SHARING HOPE, LOVE & COMPASSION

TRAININGS ON HIV/AIDS

RADIO

SUPPORT GROUPS

TV
AAIM established a network of National and Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinators, plus hundreds of church coordinators all across Africa.
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The 25 countries where AAIM has implemented programs:

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

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!!!

71
"Each Adventist Church a Center of Hope and Healing"
Youth and HIV/AIDS...
Adventist World Youth Congress
Pretoria - South Africa
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2014
The AAIM Website has already received visitors from 38 countries
Rite of Passage

Group of Boys and Girls Attending the Rite of Passage Program
Ongata Rongai, Nairobi, Kenya - December 2013
10 Adventist Church Members Disclosed their HIV Positive Status
Pastors and Elders lay hands on them...! - The Church Members Pray
Participants Training at Katima Mulilo, Caprivi Strip, Namibia
19-22 February, 2014
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Sabbath Service at Katima Mulilo, Caprivi Strip, Namibia
19-22 February, 2014

Sabbath Program
Children Story
When it matters about HIV/AIDS in Africa, the Seventh-day Adventist Church could be counted today as one of the most accepting and compassionate denominations!
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ETHIOPIA

Seminars and Support Groups in Action!!!
KENYA - Income generating activities for HIV positive people

SUPPORT GROUPS

TRAINING
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HIV/AIDS Seminar & Conference
Bloemfontein, 9-13 Sept 2015
Program for Grandmothers and AIDS Orphans in Cameroon

Local Authorities

Materials

Elder Mevack Landry
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

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

Magda teaching her class

Student with baby

Chairs and a blackboard
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AAIM in NORTH-EAST CONGO UNION MISSION/GOMA
SAFI BAKANO - NECUM-Coordinator

Group Photo after HIV/AIDS Seminar by Safi Bakano, AAIM Coordinator in NECUM.

HIV Testing in Goma, Congo by Mrs Prosperine from the AAIM Team
AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

AAIM in ETHIOPIA
Sister Genet, Instructor - Gelane Kumera, Coordinator
2004 - 2016

People trained from 40 countries in Africa

28 Board Meetings

AAIM implemented programs in 59 major cities of 25 countries in Africa

8 ongoing HIV/AIDS projects in 2016

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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.
## AAIM Strategic Planning Progress Report - September 2013

*As Reported by the SID Leadership (Division & Unions)*

Baseline 2004 = 0 (8 objectives non-existent or non-implemented)

<table>
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<th>8 Objectives</th>
<th>NE Angola</th>
<th>Angola</th>
<th>Botswana</th>
<th>IOUM</th>
<th>Malawi</th>
<th>Mozambique</th>
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Source: ECD Division & Unions’ Leadership
A Journey of Hope...

Bringing Hope... Saving Lives...!
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OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

MILESTONES
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.*

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The International AIDS Society 2015 (IAS)
THE SUCCESS OF ARTs

Expected survival of a 20-year-old person living with HIV in a high income country:

Era before ART (HAART)  Era of ART

- Era before ART (HAART): +8 years
  - HIV+ 1995-1996
- Era of ART:
  - HIV+ 2000-2002: +36 years
  - HIV+ 2003-2006: +45 years
  - HIV+ 2006-2007: +51 years
  - HIV+ 2010: +55 years

- HIV-negative: +60 years

Where does HIV hide?

The sites include the nose, lungs, gut, genitals, brain and lymph nodes in the armpits and groin.

Smarter and better HIV treatment options are available.

Era before ART

- AZT (1987)
  - 2 tablets 3 x day

Era after ART

- AZT/3TC + LPV/r (2001)
  - 3 tablets 2 x day

- EFV/TDF/FTC (2006)
  - 1 tablet once day

HAART
Before & After 1996

Many pills a day…

One pill a day
HAART
Triple Therapy
Test and Treat

Huge expansion of Test and Treat projects

• MAXART (Swaziland)
• SEARCH (Kenya, Uganda)
• Africa Centre/ANRS (South Africa)
• POPART (Zambia, South Africa)
• HPTN 065 (USA)
• BCPP (Botswana)
TREATMENT as PREVENTION

AIDS Incidence and Related Deaths are Drastically Decreasing with Access to Treatment as Prevention
AIDS Nov 27th 2008, The Economist

Deploying the drugs used to treat AIDS may be the way to limit its spread

Illustration by Peter Schra
Treatment as Prevention

Study Finds AIDS Incidence and Related Deaths Drastically Decreasing in British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, with Access to Treatment as Prevention®

Published on February 13, 2015 - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Can transform AIDS from an epidemic to an endemic disease. The research indicates AIDS and related deaths could not only be controlled, but virtually eliminated, through expanded access to (HAART).

Source: British Columbia Centre of Excellence in HIV/AIDS, Vancouver, Canada - 2015
90-90-90 Target
UNAIDS sets this program for 2020 to end AIDS by 2030
90-90-90

90% of all living with HIV will know their HIV status

90% of all living with HIV will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy

90% of all receiving antiretroviral therapy will have durable viral suppression
VACCINES +
Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies
By 2006 researchers had identified a few so called **Broadly Neutralizing HIV-1 Antibodies (bNAb)**s which are **antibodies** that **neutralize** multiple HIV-1 viral strains. In contrast, non-bNAb s are specific for individual viral strains. *The discovery of Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies (bNAb)*s has given a great boost to the HIV vaccine research.

- **V1V2-Glycan** – binds to trimer cap
- **V3-glycan, N332 supersite**
- **gp41 MPER** – near membrane
- **gp120/41 interface** – binds to parts of both gp120 and gp41
- **CD4 binding site of gp120** – where the virus attaches to CD4

Only antibodies that have advanced to the clinic (VRC01, 3BNC117)

Neutralizing antibodies (Nabs) are immune proteins that recognize, bind to, and trigger the elimination of the virus before it can establish a chronic infection.
HIV Vaccine
The prestigious journal Science announced in July 2015 that the vaccine research is very advanced.

### AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry

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<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<td><strong>People living with HIV</strong></td>
<td>36.9m</td>
<td>35.3m</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New HIV infections</strong></td>
<td>2.0m</td>
<td>2.3m</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HIV related deaths</strong></td>
<td>1.2m</td>
<td>1.6m</td>
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</table>

Source: [WHO HIV and AIDS Fact Sheet](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs360/en/) - Updated July 2015
One Thing is Certain!!!

We are at the Beginning of the End of AIDS!!!

- The HIV Epidemic is being contained
- There is a Decrease in New HIV Infections
- There is a Decrease in HIV related deaths
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?
NOT YET!

Not until Jesus comes again

For now, there is still a lot of work to be done
The End