

SIM HIV & AIDS Ministries Around the World

AFRICA

Angola, Southern Africa

The primary effort in Angola is reaching young people with the facts about HIV before they become sexually active. Peer educators are trained to present a five-part seminar in churches and local schools, covering self-esteem, sexuality, HIV & AIDS, decision-making, and communication skills. The program utilizes drama, music, and games.

Benin, West Africa

Boniface, a Beninese Christian, is the National AIDS Coordinator for the church that relates to SIM. ARV treatments have made a huge difference in the health status of those being treated. Several have come to faith in Christ and are attending church. Significant efforts are underway to reduce the stigmatization that interferes with effective testing and treatment.

Botswana, Southern Africa

The AIDS epidemic is beginning to destroy the most productive portion of the population, leaving hosts of orphans. As the Lord provides the funds, the church that relates to SIM is pursuing involvement in an integrated program combining evangelism, discipleship, lifestyle education, literacy, orphan care, home-based care of people living with AIDS, and medical and pastoral ministries.

Burkina Faso, West Africa

Training church members for effective ministry in preventing the spread of HIV and in ministering to people living with AIDS has been an important achievement in the past year. An itinerant worker in the Piela region, with a natural gift for encouragement, regularly visits people living with HIV to help them remain faithful in taking their ARVs and to meet together for mutual encouragement.

Ethiopia, East Africa

Training church leaders for HIV & AIDS ministries is raising the level of activity in Ethiopia to new levels. Both in schools sponsored by the 6,000 churches that relates to SIM and also in the Orthodox seminaries, open doors exist to train future church leaders. Compassionate staff serving at the Addis Medan HOPE for AIDS program are giving of their own limited resources to help AIDS sufferers. The government has entrusted the Medan program with prevention of mother-to-child transmission for the entire city of Addis Ababa.

Kenya, East Africa

Last year nearly 9,000 church leaders across Kenya received teaching about possible church-based HIV & AIDS ministries. As a result, the teacher Bev Howell is now receiving many invitations to do more in-depth training at the local level, with the potential for local partnerships. Short-term workers from around the world are serving in AIDS-related women's groups, a clinic, and an orphanage.

Liberia, West Africa

ELWA Hospital, a partner of SIM, is administering ARVs to people living with HIV, including a support group and training programs for them. Once they're feeling better, they need to understand that they need to continue to be faithful to lifestyle and treatment issues. This program has perfect freedom to speak from a Christian perspective and to seek to win HIV patients to faith in Christ.

continued

Note to Editors: SIM is an international, interdenominational mission agency, sending workers from 10 offices to more than 40 countries around the world. SIM workers are involved in a full range of mission activities including church planting (evangelism and discipleship), ministries to human need, and development of Christian leaders.

Malawi, Southern Africa

HOPE for AIDS has been active in Malawi for five years, and they have seen exciting growth during the past year in all four aspects of the program: Home-based care (200 patients), Orphans and Vulnerable Children care (over 200 children), Prevention (AIDS awareness and discipleship training), and Enabling the Church (Pastors & Wives seminar, AIDS session at church convention, AIDS course at Bible College). The Partners In Hope Hospital is a major center for HIV & AIDS outreach. Strategy for the coming 3-5 years is currently being developed with SIM's partner church, the Africa Evangelical Church (AEC).

Nigeria, West Africa

Voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) is being expanded to rural areas, where demand for testing is great. There are growing numbers of people becoming seriously sick with AIDS and dying, leaving growing numbers of orphans. The Spring of Life Centers in Jos and Egbe offer effective testing, training, and counseling programs.

South Africa, Southern Africa

Since 2000, SIM with its partner agencies, has provided home-based care for AIDS sufferers, care for orphans and vulnerable children, and training in education and prevention awareness. In Kwa-Zulu Natal province alone, SIM currently helps support around 2,500 children. The AIDS crisis has been a catalyst for beautiful cooperation between Asian-Indian and black-African churches.

Zambia, Southern Africa

Twenty-six "peer educators" (trained volunteers who recently finished school) present Life Skills lessons in schools in Zambia, in partnership with Scripture Union. More than 100 school pupils have come to faith in Christ, and school administrators and community leaders see the importance of this behavioral change program. In 2008, three new teams of peer educators will be recruited and trained.

Zimbabwe, Southern Africa

Despite the political and economic situation, the HIV & AIDS ministries function effectively, especially in home-based care (128 households) and work with orphans and vulnerable children. They paid fees to keep nearly 3,000 of them in school, and hosted 645 such children at Life Skills camps. The prevention ministry reached 18,000 children last year. Plans are in place to expand to six more districts.

ASIA

China

HIV is increasing rapidly here among the heterosexual population, in addition to the usual at-risk groups. At-risk individuals number 30-50 million people. One SIM doctor urges, "We must not wait until 50 million Chinese are living with HIV." Efforts are underway to help mobilize Chinese to become leaders in HIV and AIDS ministries in China. An administrator and other key staff are needed.

India

The SHALOM project in Delhi is having a great impact with its holistic care ethos. They have supported awareness-raising activities among churches in North India, and are helping those that express interest in developing programs. The key partner is the Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA). More workers and local partners are needed. Due to political and cultural fragmentation, it is difficult to imagine a strong multi-sectoral commitment to lifestyle change like happened in Uganda.

SOUTH AMERICA

Ecuador

In Guayaquil, where more than 60% of the people are extremely poor and many live in slums built on a polluted marsh, we partner with an Ecuadorian Christian organization ministering to people living with HIV & AIDS. Ministries include visitation in hospitals, counseling pregnant women, a support group for HIV infected individuals, and AIDS prevention in schools and churches in partnership with the Norwegian Alliance Mission.

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