

The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund: Hope for the Next Generation



Margaret prepares a meal for her younger brothers. Credit: Andra Stevens

Fourteen-year-old Margaret Masawi of Zimbabwe carries a huge responsibility on her young shoulders. When her parents died of AIDS four years ago she became the primary caretaker for her two younger brothers. Margaret and her brothers are three of the nearly 1 million children in Zimbabwe who have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

In Zimbabwe more than one-fourth of the population ages 15-49 are living with HIV/AIDS. These are people in their prime years: ready for marriage, rearing children, and working to support a family.

\$8 Million of Hope

One way United Methodists are answering this crisis is through the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund. Heeding the biblical commands to “care for the widow and the orphan” and “visit the sick,” the 2004 General Conference delegates established The United Methodist Church Global AIDS Fund, with a goal of raising at least \$8 million by 2008.

Funding supports education, prevention, care and treatment programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. The Global AIDS Fund does not overlook the crisis in the United States. About one million people are infected in the United States and more are added to that number each day. The plan specifies that 25 percent of what each annual conference raises should be used in that conference for AIDS work, either locally or in global projects.

Preventing AIDS in the Next Generation

This critical work is starting with the next generation: infants infected by HIV at birth. Pregnant women have a one in three chance of transmitting HIV on to their infants. United Methodists are working to provide a life-preserving drug, Nevirapine, which prevents the transmission of HIV from mother to child in Zimbabwe and seven other countries.

How to Give

You can help fight AIDS in Africa, the US and around the world by giving to UMCOR Advance # 982345, United Methodist Global AIDS Fund. Write the Advance # and name on your offering envelope and in the memo line of your check.

By Offering

For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday.

By Check

Make your check to UMCOR and mail to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087

By Credit Card

Call toll-free (800) 554-8583

UMCOR. Multiplying Hope.

The United Methodist
Committee on Relief delivers
hope and enhances human
dignity through food, shelter,
health and peace projects.

UMCOR
475 Riverside Drive
Room 330
New York, NY 10115
<http://www.umcor.org>

Dated: June 2005