Micah Network
Marginalized People – Our Christian Response

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‘A Holistic Approach to HIV and AIDS’

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- The ‘Call’ to HIV and AIDS ministry
- The Context of MAP International’s work – in Africa
- The Challenge: Drivers of the Pandemic
- The Curricula for HIV and AIDS – MAP Experience
- What is ‘CRITICAL’ in the ‘Holistic Approach’
- The Conclusion
Introduction
“Why AIDS is Exceptional”
[Source: Dr. Peter Piot, Address delivered at the LSE, 8 Feb. 2005]

- Three Reasons for exceptionality of AIDS
  - There is no plateau in sight…
  - The impact caused by AIDS is far reaching…
  - Special challenges to individual and public action…

- Three Elements essential to ending HIV & AIDS
  - Exceptional activism & responsible leadership
  - Adequate financing
  - Exceptional implementation
• I am a medical doctor, trained to – first - do no harm!

• Secondly, I’m standing before you as one – trained in the teachings of Jesus who said to love one another as God does.

• I could not have come here today but for the experience of holding the hand of a sick man – a man my family knew well – a friend who was dying from AIDS.

• I was his doctor.
The picture of him lying so frail and thin on the bed comes back to me almost each day.

I can still count his bones...

My friend could barely speak. But his softly spoken words have weighed heavy on my heart.

Before this man died, he challenged me: "What more can you do to save my life?"
… I told him I was doing all I could using all of my knowledge and training as a medical doctor. He told me that I needed to know more.

I prayed with my friend…!

I told him of my own faith journey – of the promises of God, and the promise of an abundant life through Jesus Christ.

Lacking a faith in a higher power – my friend could not see beyond his own existence.

He was afraid.

I was too. I felt like I was sent to rescue a drowning man not knowing how to swim.

And my friend died.
MAIN UNAIDS (GLOBAL) GOAL!

- ‘Universal Access’ to services by 2010:
  - Prevention of HIV
  - Care and support for ‘all’ infected & affected
  - Treatment (ART, including drugs for “OIs”)

- Lessons from the past: WHO ‘3 x 5’ Goal…!
A global view of HIV infection

38.6 million people [33.4–46.0 million] living with HIV, 2005
## Average Life Expectancy in Five Select African Countries (Age: Yrs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Before AIDS</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>74.4</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>67.2</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>69.4</td>
<td>36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>27.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Africa: A Tale of Three Epidemics!

Manzini

Kampala

Dakar
The Context (1)

- **National Level**
  - ‘PID’:
    - Poverty
    - Illiteracy
    - Disease
  - Tribalism

- **Congregation Level**
  - The ‘Blind’
  - The Broken-hearted
  - Those in Bondage
  - The Battered (Women & Children)
  - The Banished & Stigmatized
We need language that connects people to transcendent ideals & faith

Yet Governments and NGOs rarely speak such language!

Who do people listen to? (Elders, neighbors, pastors, friends...)

Medical expertise is impressive; But it isn’t ‘universal’ – yet!

What is depressing is the lack of moral, sociological, psychological and cultural expertise!

[Source: David Brooks, June 12, 2005]
The Challenge: Drivers of the Pandemic (1)

- Immature genital tract
- Co-existing STI’s
- Pregnancy
- Stage of HIV in sex partner
- Malnutrition
- MTCT
- HIV virus subtype
The Challenge: Drivers of the Pandemic (2)

BEHAVIOUR

- Unprotected sex
- Multiple partners
- Early onset of sexual debut
- Intravenous drug use
- Alcohol abuse
The Challenge: Drivers of the Pandemic (3)

CULTURAL PRACTICES

- Wife inheritance
- Inter-generational sex
- Cleansing ceremonies
- ‘Dry Sex’ & other risky practices
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- ‘Submissive sex’
2. **HIV & AIDS CURRICULUM FOR THEOLOGICAL AND BIBLE COLLEGES IN AFRICA (2004):**

- A ‘Three-Unit’ Curriculum

- Currently, the said curriculum is being implemented in 19 Theological Institutions - in Six Countries - in Africa.

- Some of the said Colleges offer Diploma Certificates in Theology

- Others, offer B.D. and B.Th. Degrees in Theology

- Implementation of this course is taking place at St. Paul’s United Theological College (SPUTC) – a Christian University, based in Limuru, Kenya.

- In association with MAP International (East Africa)

- The MA degree is accredited and warded by the University of Wales (UOW), Lampeter, in the UK.
“More youth voices equals fewer youth infections”!

- Support UNICEF’s 4Ps on Global Campaign on ‘Children AIDS’:
  “Unite for Children, Unite Against AIDS”:

- **The “Four Ps”:**
  - **P 1** - Prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV
  - **P 2** - Provide paediatric treatment
  - **P 3** - Prevent infection among adolescents & young people
  - **P 4** - Protect & support children (OVC) affected by HIV/AIDS
CRITICAL AFRICA!

- Community – how it influences our society
- Religion – how it imbues our actions
- Involvement – what it means for us
- Technical Capacity – it’s meaning in a global health crisis
- Infrastructure – what challenges us in rural/urban Africa
- Capital – why it is more than money
- Access – how globalization can pull Africa forward
- Leadership – what is necessary for success.
What is CRITICAL – Community

• “I am because, we are.”

• Extended families

• “Sacred in Africa”

• Breakdown in Relationship
What is CRITICAL – Religion

- Africans - “Very religious”
- ‘Holistic’ vs. ‘Dichotomized’
- Sin: ‘Individual’ vs. ‘Communal’
- ‘Self’ ↔ ‘Community’
- KIRAC: An example of ‘Interfaith collaboration’ to fight AIDS in Kenya!
What is CRITICAL – Involvement

• Hospitality

• Volunteerism

• “Not TO or FOR us…!”

• But “WITH and BY us.”

• *Harambee* = “Pull together”

• ‘Hand Shake’ not ‘Handout’
What is CRITICAL – Technicians (1)

• “23,000 medical professionals emigrate annually”

• “Brain Drain” – A Challenge!
  ➢ OR: *Brain Flight*…!!!

• Building up health and church capacity in rural and urban areas
BRAIN DRAIN:

- **Ghana:** 604 out of 871 medical officers trained in the country between 1993 and 2002 practice overseas!

- **Zimbabwe:** Trained 1,200 doctors during the 1900s, but only 360 remain in the country today!

- **Zambia:** Only about 50 of the 600 doctors trained over the last 40 years remain in the country today!
Technicians (3)

- **Mozambique**: By 2010, the country will have lost **6,000** lab technicians to HIV and AIDS.

- **Kenya**: Over the last ten years, the country has lost **1,670** physicians and **3,900** nurses to emigration.

- And, thousands more have retired from their profession!

**Source**: Laurie Garrett, *The Challenge of Global Health*, Article that appears in the January/February 2007 Issue of *Foreign Affairs*
What is CRITICAL – Infrastructure

- “Debt Forgiveness”
- Climate that nurtures investment: “corruption kills!”
- Basic health rights: hygiene, water and sanitation
- Education and transportation
What is CRITICAL – Capital

- Social
- Human
- Monetary

- Environmental:
  - Ecology
  - Climate
  - Changing Demographics
What is CRITICAL – Access

• Essential Resources and Economic Opportunities

• Health, Nutrition and Safety

• Water, Energy, Transportation

• Education, Training, Markets, Information, Employment

[Jean Nelson, CSR Initiatives, Harvard University]
What is CRITICAL – Leadership

“Africa is beyond bemoaning the past for its problems. The task of undoing that past is on the shoulders of African leaders themselves, with the support of those willing to join in a continental renewal…

We have a new generation of leaders who know that Africa must take responsibility for its own destiny, that Africa will uplift itself only by its own efforts in partnership with those who wish her well”.

(Nelson Mandela)
What is Most - CRITICAL

- Our Patience with each other
- Our Partnerships
- Our Prayers…

………………..

Your Questions???
Conclusion

“AIDS is not over…
Until it is over for everyone…!”
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