



The face of AIDS is the face of a child

Twenty years after AIDS was first reported, it has become the most devastating disease humankind has ever faced. More than 60 million people have been infected with the virus. Ten people are infected each minute ... 95% of these in developing countries.

Of the nearly 40 million people living with HIV, nearly 3 million of these are under the age of 15. More than 13 million children have lost their mother or both parents to AIDS, and that number is rising fast – especially in Africa.

The face of AIDS in Africa is the face of a child: scared and yet full of hope for a better future.

THE CRISIS IN AFRICA

Of all the children and adults infected with HIV/AIDS, 70% live in sub-Saharan Africa. An estimated 8.8% of adults in Africa are infected. In Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Zambia, South Africa, and Namibia, at least 1 adult in 5 is living with HIV.

THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

While adults account for nearly 90% of all AIDS infections, the greatest victims are children. HIV/AIDS attacks breadwinners in the family – leaving children and the elderly to provide financially. Affected families cope by cutting costs on things such as food, health care, and education. As the disease wipes out an entire generation of providers and nurturers, children as young as 10 years old are left to run households by themselves.

By 2010, AIDS is estimated to leave 40 million orphans in Africa alone. Nearly 6,000 kids are orphaned each day. That's 2.3 million a year. At that rate, all of Chicago would be orphaned in 15 months. (Orphaned is defined as losing a mother or both parents.) 90% of AIDS orphans live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

WHAT WORLD VISION IS DOING

In areas where the rate of HIV/AIDS infection is the highest, many children must meet their physical needs alone, while also coping with the emotional burden of caring for a parent who is chronically ill. World Vision comes alongside these children, offering, where possible, the essential assistance needed by children and their families. This includes spiritual and psychological counseling; nutritional support; protection against abuse and neglect; community-managed day care for young children; assistance preparing for the loss of a parent; training in household management and vocational skills; and care for chronically ill adults in the household. World Vision also focuses on teaching prevention to children and young adults through community counselors, youth clubs, sports and recreation activities, drama, and music.

HOW CHICAGO CAN HELP

Educate friends, and opinion makers about the issue and the need for more support for children and their communities.

Pray for the children who are orphaned and vulnerable, and for the relatives, community members, and aid workers who help them. You can use the prayer calendar on the opposite side of this information sheet.

Organize your friends, family, or church to offer prayer or financial support to organizations that are working with AIDS orphans and vulnerable children.

Sponsor a child in an AIDS infected area of Africa. For just \$26 a month, you can meet a child's basic needs while improving the health of the entire community.

Support programs in Chicago and around the world that provide care, counselling, education and income generation in communities suffering the effects of HIV/AIDS.

Call World Vision Chicago at 773.921.3900 x321 to learn about more local activities to fight HIV/AIDS; or visit www.worldvision.org/chicago.

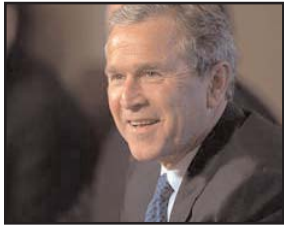
JAN.

January: As we start a new year, let's join together in prayer that our Lord would make 2003 a time of compassion for those who are able to give, and a time of healing for those who need the Lord's physical and spiritual renewal. Let us proclaim this the year of our Lord.

January, Week 1

For President Bush's trip to Africa

President Bush will travel to Africa in January where he will see the devastation caused by HIV/AIDS and families struggling as a result of this epidemic.



HIV/AIDS in Africa is a moral, spiritual, economic, and security crisis for the world. Every day 6,500 peo-

ple die of AIDS in Africa and 9,500 are newly infected. Soon there will be 25 million orphans. African pastors are spending too much of their time conducting funerals, and hospitals must turn people away for lack of beds. Yet, we know how to beat AIDS—with dollars and compassion.

Pray this week for President Bush's upcoming trip. If you would like, you can also call the White House and leave a message for the President, offering your prayer support and reminding him that citizens of this country are concerned about the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. You can reach the White House comment line at (202)456-1111.

Monday: Pray that Bush and his staff will be deeply affected by the individuals they meet in Africa

Tuesday: Pray for safe travel

Wednesday: Pray for positive media coverage

Thursday: Pray for creative ideas on how to increase funding for international aid

Friday: Pray for Bush to challenge leaders of other nations to increase their support

Saturday: Pray for Bush to meet people who put faces on the HIV/AIDS statistics

Sunday: Pray for spiritual guidance

January, Week 2

For improvements in Uganda

In many African countries, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is fueled by myths -- such as the belief that sleeping with a virgin can cure a man of



AIDS -- and silence regarding the source and impact of the disease. Myths and silence are hard to break, and make it even harder to put a stop to this devastating disease. Some countries, however, are making

real progress. In Uganda, HIV prevalence among pregnant women declined from 21.1% in 1991 to 6.1% in 2000. Outside experts credit this significant improvement to two things: 1) The involvement of faith-based non profit organizations that boldly promote abstinence and prevention, and 2) the involvement of Uganda's leader, President Museveni. God's work in Uganda is helping to save a generation of Africans.

Monday: Thank God for his work in Uganda and elsewhere, especially for providing leaders who speak boldly about HIV/AIDS

Tuesday: Thank God for the young men and women who practice abstinence and fidelity

Wednesday: Pray for more leaders to speak out against HIV/AIDS

Thursday: Pray for youth to embrace purity and serve as role models for others

Friday: Thank God for non profits, like World Vision, who are investing in Uganda

Saturday: Pray for open ears as people hear messages about prevention

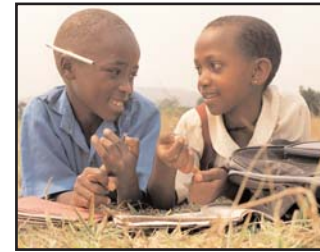
Sunday: Pray for God to protect babies from the disease through pregnancy and infancy

January, Week 3

For work going well

Orphans Kennedy (8) and Joan (7) lost their parents in Uganda's battle with HIV/AIDS, but thanks to a caring support network of relatives and World Vision, they are not alone. World Vision is actively working in their community to see that as many children as possible are able to learn to read and write in the newly built school.

Currently, 200 children are receiving school supplies, a quality education, and the benefits



of relationships with caring teachers through the school.

Elsewhere in Uganda and Africa,

World Vision programs provide food to the hungry, shelter to the homeless, guidance to the spiritually weary, and training to the jobless. Prayer, and faithful support by donors, make these things possible.

Monday: Thank God for the 200 children who are learning at this school

Tuesday: Pray for dedicated teachers who can comfort orphans

Wednesday: Thank God for the donors who provide support for the people of Africa

Thursday: Pray for the resources to help more children and their families

Friday: Thank God for new wells providing clean water in villages

Saturday: Pray that God would provide people with professional skills to assist with projects

Sunday: Pray for that orphans and vulnerable children will be given resources that can help secure a better future

January, Week 4

To break the cycle of poverty

Angelique, 18, was working as a housekeeper when she became pregnant by a friend of her employers. He promptly left the city on business and she became unemployed and homeless. "I



worked as a prostitute for many months while I was pregnant, and then returned to work three weeks after my baby was born," she says.

Unfortunately, many young women like Angelique have

nowhere to turn for financial support. "Instead of dying of hunger, we will die of AIDS," says one of her co-workers in the small makeshift brothel.

Escalating rates of HIV/ AIDS across Rwanda are producing thousands of new families of orphans every year, with an estimated four of every five deaths in the country caused by AIDS. Join us in prayer to break this cycle of violence that leads to HIV/AIDS infection and new orphans.

Monday: Pray for single mothers to find safe means of supporting their families

Tuesday: Thank God for your family, and the stability you enjoy

Wednesday: Pray for African governments to do more for women struggling on their own

Thursday: Pray that orphans and vulnerable children will be able to stay in school

Friday: Pray for access to health care and nutritional meals

Saturday: Pray that mothers wouldn't have to choose between dying of AIDS or dying of hunger

Sunday: Pray for generous donors to provide financial support for these women and children