

Center for the Church and Global AIDS Action Newsletter

For more information:
www.churchandglobalaids.org

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TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS

As a government recognized 501(c)(3), gifts to the Center are tax-deductible. All Center contributors will receive receipts.

Send donations to:
Center for the Church and Global AIDS
7185 South Niagara Circle
Centennial, CO 80112

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FOUR "SWINGING AT AIDS" EVENTS FUND VARIOUS HIV PROJECTS IN INDIA, KENYA & USA

Four "best ball" golfing events in Colorado, Arizona, & Kansas in 2010 raised \$62,000 to fund these HIV and AIDS programs:

- A free clinic for poor women and children with HIV in India,
- A shipment of \$400,000 worth of medical supplies and equipment to a Kenya hospital,
- An Hispanic AIDS outreach to persons in Colorado,
- Housing for HIV African-American homeless & released prisoners, and
- Prevention efforts by Western Colorado AIDS Project.



"MESSIAH SING-ALONG" TO BENEFIT AIDS ORPHANS

Celebrate the Christmas season Dec. 5 by joining a "sing along" of Handel's classic "Messiah" at Littleton United Methodist Church. Offerings will benefit AIDS orphans in Kenya and India.

Maestro Dave Kates will conduct the Colorado Chamber Orchestra. Four of Colorado's finest soloists will perform. Singers may bring their own scores or borrow one at the door.

Give the Gift of HOPE (*Helping Orphans by Providing Essentials*) this Christmas. Just \$150 supports an AIDS orphan for a year.



"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God."

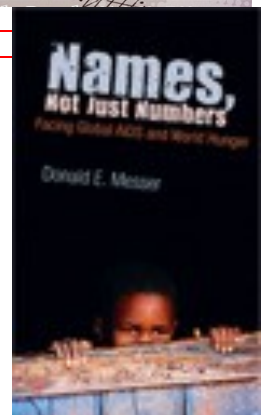
Change the world this holiday season
Lift your voice, give hope to a child
A benefit for children suffering with HIV/AIDS in Kenya and India

Handel's
Messiah
SING ALONG

"NAMES, NOT JUST NUMBERS: FACING GLOBAL AIDS AND WORLD HUNGER"

A new book by Donald E. Messer, Center Executive Director, notes that 33.2 million people are infected by HIV and AIDS and more than one billion suffer from daily hunger. Numbers are important, but the portraits of people struggling to conquer hunger and disease enable you to identify with these persons.

Messer reveals the stark personal, statistical and political realities of the AIDS pandemic and world hunger and what each of us can do about it. Order copies from Amazon, Fulcrum Publishing (303-277-1623) or send \$20 to the Center.



THANKSGIVING—A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION

Donald E. Messer, Executive Director

Family members pressured Grandma not to invite her gay grandson to the annual Thanksgiving reunion because he was HIV positive. They threatened not to attend, expecting her to reconsider in light of a prospective family boycott. Instead she declared: “The doors of my home are open to all of my family. My grandson will always be welcomed at my table. Because she spoke out against stigmatization in favor of inclusion, the grandson not only was present, but every member of the family also attended, learning a lesson in acceptance.

This Thanksgiving is a good time for us to reflect on all the blessings we have received and to determine what actions we will take to express our gratitude. I am particularly thankful for all the wonderful people who generously contribute their time, their dollars, and their creativity to the Center. Below are a few stories of caring Center volunteer Ambassadors and their activities to help create an AIDS-free world.



Golfing Indian Style in Kansas

Jay Patterson swings at AIDS at the golf tournament she sponsored in Kansas. Funds benefit the work of the Women and Children’s Center in Namakkal, India. Since visiting India, she has been untiring in her efforts for the “Friends of Namakkal,” seeking to alleviate AIDS among India’s most impoverished.

Empowering HIV Women

Julie White visited India in 2006. She started a non-profit, “One Mother,” to empower HIV positive women to create sustainable income via fair-trade wages. Recycled saris are transformed into beautiful quilts & scarves. See her website at: onemother.org



Above, women sewing in India. Left is Pam Merrill.



Running the Chicago Marathon

Dr. Don Simmons, Dakota Wesleyan University Dean, is marking the 10th anniversary of his open heart surgery by running the 26 mile Chicago Marathon. He visited Kenya in 2009. Now he is collecting pledges for every mile completed to help the Center’s outreach to persons living with HIV in the world.

Losing Weight/Feeding the Hungry

Rev. Pam Everhart has challenged her friends and congregation in Niwot, Co., to help her lose 20 pounds by World AIDS Day, Dec. 1. Pledges are being collected for every pound lost— with the money going to malnourished persons living with HIV in Asia and Africa.



Tutoring Girls in India

Pamela Merrill was honored with the 2010 “Light of Christ” award by the Presbytery of Denver. In her five trips to India, she knows persons by name and is greeted as a sister. She initiated a tutoring program, called “Imagine,” that serves 140 impoverished girls. A girl without an education is a woman without a future.

IN AFRICA AND ASIA THE CENTER MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Students from the University of Denver (3) & Case Western Reserve Medical School (2) volunteered weeks of service at the Women and Children's AIDS Center in rural India.

In July 2010 the Center sponsored two workshops in Kenya. In Nairobi the focus was on "Human Rights, Christian Faith and HIV/AIDS." Participating were gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered Kenyan Christians and seven Center volunteers from the USA. The other workshop in Maua, Kenya, educated pastors & spouses about HIV and AIDS prevention and care. In Meru, the volunteers met with church leaders and the 150 orphans funded by the Center.



Left, Phil Miller of Case Western. Above, three DU master's students in psychology with DU's Dr. Judy Fox



Above, John, Elaine, and Soren Blinn review Gift of HOPE program with Florence Murugu.

Plans were finalized at Maua Methodist Hospital to ship \$400,000 of medical supplies and equipment. The incubator (right) operates with a light bulb & both x-ray machines cannot be repaired.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF DR. STEVEN McCENEY



We mourn the death of Dr. Steven McCeney who died from AIDS on March 27. Steve, a founding Center board member, struggled with HIV for 25 years. With a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Denver, he was a Denver public school counselor and had a private practice focused on gay identity. In the *Denver Post*, Dr. Don Messer described Steve as a "warm, charismatic, generous, person who was quiet, caring, and compassionate . . . who lived openly and courageously."

PERSONNEL CHANGES AT CENTER

Megan Armstrong has "retired" as Administrative Assistant to join the Center's volunteer Ambassador's corps. Megan served since 2006 and was instrumental in increasing the Center's outreach and programs. Julie White, who has been serving as the Financial Administrator since Nov. 2009, has now assumed Megan's responsibilities.



L to r: Bonnie & Don Messer, Megan and Rob Armstrong, at dinner honoring Megan.



A NEW BLOG JOINS OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

The Center now has a new **blog**, along with a **Facebook** page plus a rejuvenated **website**. Over 600 fans have registered on Facebook and the number keeps growing. Check them out! Read the **blog** at: <http://churchandglobalaids.wordpress.com> See **website**: www.churchandglobalaids.org

Photo (left) spotlights a popular t-shirt at 18th International AIDS Conference in Vienna in July, 2010.

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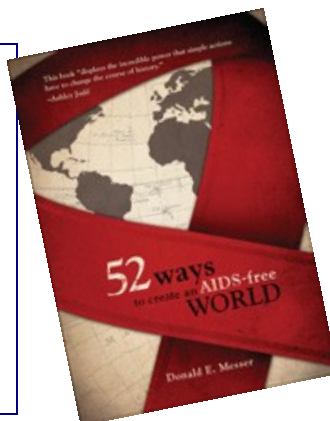
EXPLORE AIDS IN INDIA—JOIN TRIP IN FEBRUARY, 2011

Dr. Donald E. Messer, Center Executive Director, will be leading an immersion trip to India from February 21-March 2, 2011. The focus of the travel will be to listen and to learn how HIV and AIDS are impacting India—the country with the third largest number of persons infected in the world. Meet people living with HIV and professionals engaged in caring programs of education, prevention, care and treatment. Group participants will travel to the southern Indian city of Chennai and surrounding region. An optional journey to Delhi and the Taj Mahal in Agra would be possible. For more information, write Messer at globalaids@gmail.com or call 303 877 1955.



TACKLE THE TABOOS

“Polite” culture avoids tackling sexual taboos because of religious teachings or personal embarrassment. Honest sex talk has been restricted. Even today *viagra* is widely advertised on TV, but male and female condoms are banned. Promote education about sexual health & HIV prevention in schools and churches.



**52 WAYS TO CREATE AN
AIDS-FREE WORLD**

“52 Ways to Create an AIDS-Free World” was published in 2009 by Donald E. Messer. It is available by contacting Amazon or by sending \$15 to the Center. Actress Ashley Judd and Youth AIDS global ambassador says “*this fine book . . . displays the incredible power that simple actions and awareness have to change the course of history.*”

**CENTER FOR THE CHURCH AND GLOBAL AIDS
HONORED WITH
2009 OUTSTANDIG COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD
By Hispanic Sisters of Color United for Education**