

# **Building Trusted Partnerships for HIV Prevention: Danger and Opportunity for Public Health & the Church**

**The Effects of the AIDS Pandemic and Poverty on Church Life  
in Sub-Saharan Africa: Stewardship Implications**

**NetACT and the African Society for Reformed Communities**

**Justo Mwale Theological College**

**Lusaka, Zambia**

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# Organization of Presentation

1. Persistence Themes
2. Unfinished Business
3. Think Globally, Act Locally
4. What Public Health Can Do
5. Danger and Opportunity
6. Where Do We Go From Here?

# *Persistent Themes*

*1987*

*2007*

- Stigma
- Denial
- Poverty
- Reluctance to talk about sexuality
- Gender inequality

- Stigma
- Denial
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- Reluctance to talk about sexuality
- Gender inequality

# *Unfinished Business:* What remains to be done?

1. Focus on changing social norms
2. Make eliminating stigma the goal
3. Break the conspiracy of silence (denial)
4. Build capacity to focus on HIV prevention (primary, secondary and tertiary)
5. Move beyond “medical” model and focus on breaking the cycle of poverty

# Think Globally, Act Locally

## Selected Millennium Goals (2000)

1. Reduce child mortality
2. Improve maternal health
3. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

(monitored by WHO)

# *What Public Health Can Do:* A Strategic Partnership with Churches for Prevention of HIV Infection

*Public Health can help the faith community*

1. understand the language of epidemiology, the science of population health
2. understand the science of prevention
3. conduct community needs assessments
4. plan and evaluate programs
5. provide access to a wide network of other organizations committed to HIV prevention

# Understanding Public Health Surveillance

- Incidence: number of new cases in a population
- Prevalence: number of total cases in a population



# Targets of Prevention

1. Primary: individuals not infected and/or not engaged in known risk behaviors
2. Secondary: individuals not infected but engaged in known risk behaviors
3. Tertiary: individuals infected with HIV but who can be supported in behaviors to stop the spread to others and to slow progression to full blown AIDS

# Community Assessment

- Assess what current HIV prevention services are available in the community.
- Conduct formative research before beginning a program.
- Know how the knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of your congregation will shape their response to HIV prevention activities.
- Learn about the different segments of your congregation and communities.

# Developing a network of partners

- Ministry of health
- Non-governmental agencies
- Other denominations
- Other disciplines outside faith community
- Arts community
- Persons living with HIV/AIDS

# Goals of AIDS Prevention Programs Aimed at Church Congregations

1. Increase accurate understanding of HIV transmission and prevention;
2. Decrease discrimination and prejudicial attitudes toward those at risk or infected;
3. Enhance social acceptance and support for HIV prevention programs;
4. Support adoption of behaviors and attitudes that decrease risk of HIV infection.

# How confident are you that the church is ready?

- Eliminate stigma
- Preach abstinence
- Preach prevention
- Practice tolerance
- Be compassionate
- Promote HIV testing
- Promote and support treatment for HIV infected persons

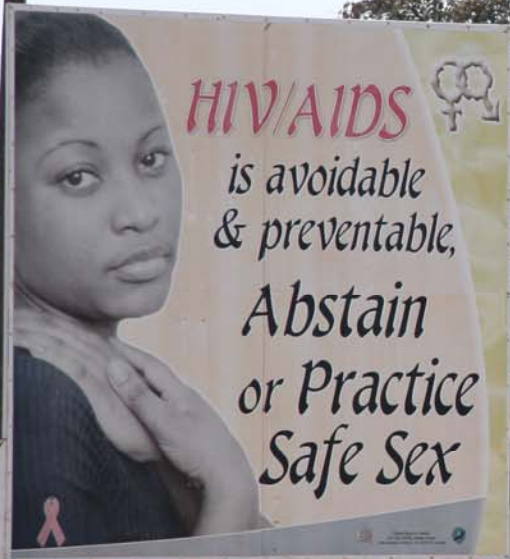
**YOU** *can only* **LIVE ONCE**  
*Take care of* **YOURSELF.**

**ABSTINENCE**  
*IS 100% SAFE...!!*

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# MAXIMUM

*get it use it love it*

**AVAILABLE**

**HERE**



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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**Responsibility starts with 'YOU'**



Use a Condom



**HIV/AIDS**

Funded by



**ACHAP**

**Ipoletse Helpline 0800 600 700**

↑  
Collect Free  
Brochures  
For more  
Information



↑  
Collect Free  
Brochures  
For more  
Information

**Free Condoms Free Condoms Free**

Made  
in  
Botswana

Manufactured  
&  
Serviced by  
S.K. Agencies  
Tel: 267-390 1977

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**SEX** with a **CHILD** doesn't **CURE**  
 **AIDS.**

Talk to your Child about **HIV/AIDS**  
and **SEXUAL ABUSE.**

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**SEX with me  
doesn't cure  
AIDS!**



**TOTAL**



**Partnership against  
Gender-based and Sexual Violence  
against Children and Women in Zambia**

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Real **MEN** do not **ABUSE**



Women and Children.

I deserve Respect, I am **NOT** a  
Punching Bag.

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# Gender Equity

1. Reframe marriage to make it equal and just partnership
2. Talk about the right to refuse sex, ask husband/partner to be tested and to demand condom use in pre-marital counseling
3. Ensure that women are in leadership positions in the church

# Leadership Matters: Evidence Based Recommendations

1. Talk about sexual health
2. Volunteer for counseling and public HIV testing
3. Engage your church leadership
4. Include persons living with AIDS
5. Work for gender equity
6. Educate for dignity and compassion
7. Integrate with other providers

8. Include HIV training for clergy
9. Provide advocacy
10. Examine liturgical language
11. Support child headed households
12. Provide support to persons with HIV
13. Educate for dignity and compassion

# **Danger and Opportunity**





“Are we going to be part of the process or is God going to have to do it without us?”

Rev. Ronald Peters

# Where Do We Go From Here?



# THANK YOU

