

Seventh-day Adventist Church

AAIM

Adventist AIDS International Ministry

(GC-HIV/AIDS Africa Office)

A Ministry of Hope, Love, and Compassion

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2015

(Includes a summary of AAIM main activities from 2010 to 2015)

Presented at the GC-AAIM Board Meeting
GC-Headquarters – Silver Spring - MD
October 1, 2015

AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry (GC-HIV/AIDS Africa Office)

The Adventist AIDS International Ministry is an international organization endeavoring to educate and assist people touched by the HIV epidemic in the three African Divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. AAIM also provides support to other world divisions.

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is its senior organization. AAIM works for:

- *East-Central Africa Division of Seventh-day Adventists*
- *Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division of Seventh-day Adventists*
- *West-Central Africa Division of Seventh-day Adventists*

AAIM's IDENTITY STATEMENT

The Adventist AIDS International Ministry (AAIM) is an international ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which brings hope, love, compassionate care and support to the people touched by the HIV epidemic. It serves the territories of sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean.

AAIM's MISSION STATEMENT

To coordinate actions and resources, to bring comfort, healing and hope to people infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS, share a message of education and prevention to the general population, and present a united front in order to accomplish what our Lord Jesus Christ has commissioned each of us to do in Matthew 25:35-36 and 28:19-20.

AAIM's VISION STATEMENT

We are creating "Centers of Hope and Healing" through our network of churches, medical and educational institutions, and church members. We are mobilizing our congregations through church-based support groups. We are bringing practical solutions to those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. We are applying the practical Gospel of Jesus Christ, field by field, church by church, person by person, on a one-to-one basis. We are committed to the social responsibility of our church. We are helping create a new generation of parents and children, free of AIDS!

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Fast-Track - Ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030

"The world is embarking on a Fast-Track strategy to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. To reach this visionary goal after three decades of the most serious epidemic in living memory, countries will need to use the powerful tools available, hold one another accountable for results and make sure that no one is left behind."

UNAIDS - Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS¹

¹ http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2014/JC2686_WAD2014report

1 – INTRODUCTION

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Chairman Pastor Abner De Los Santos and to the new Board Members at the Adventist AIDS International Ministry (AAIM) Board.

At the same time, we would like to specially thank Pastor Geoffrey Mbwana, former AAIM Chairman, for his constant support to this ministry during the years of his leadership at AAIM. Thank you very much Pastor Mbwana!

We also extend our thankfulness and high appreciation to the former board members who have been with us during the past years. Abundant blessings for all of them!

The AAIM Team

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As we begin this new quinquennium 2015-2020, we look at a completely different face of HIV/AIDS.

The terrible devastation of the epidemic ten years ago and before, is not there anymore. However, critical things remain unsolved yet, being stigma and discrimination among the most important obstacles to healing and recovery for the infected and affected.

There is still a long way to go, and before a more comprehensive solution is found, people will still die from AIDS, especially those less privileged who don't yet have access to treatment.

Since the creation of AAIM, there has been a substantial increase of awareness and prevention of HIV in the Adventist churches and surrounding communities all over Africa.

The work of AAIM is the type of contribution that the WHO international community is expecting from the religious denominations.

We hope and pray that God will continue leading the actions of this ministry.

As you read the following pages, please, think of those suffering from HIV/AIDS, and join us in prayer for all of them.

God bless you!

Report layout

We have designed this report in a way that will help the new members get acquainted with the AAIM activities, as well as to remind the rest of us about recent developments.

Some of the information presented in the last Report of Activities of April 2015, remained part of this new report to better help the new members with the understanding of AAIM activities.

This presentation for the Board will include:

A Written & Audiovisual Report of Activities April-September 2015:

The written report has its own table of contents and the audiovisual report includes:

1. HIV/AIDS Current Situation
2. Recent Discoveries - HIV/AIDS Scientific Update (from IAS 2015)
3. HIV/AIDS - Milestones - AAIM Timeline
4. HIV/AIDS - Where Science and Interest Groups Intersect
5. AAIM Activities April-September 2015 - Projects
6. 2015-2020 Strategic Planning (Building on past achievements - Platform for Future Improvements)
7. Conclusion

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2 – NEWS ON HIV/AIDS

This section serves to update the board members on the current status of the epidemic in the world and in Africa.

- ***Global HIV/AIDS Situation:***

This table shows the **current statistics on HIV/AIDS in the world:**

	2015		2014
	People living with HIV		People living with HIV
	36.9m	INCREASE	35.3m
New HIV infections	2.0m	DECREASE	2.3m
HIV related deaths	1.2m	DECREASE	1.6m

Most of the information in this section comes from our personal experience at the International AIDS Society Conference held in Vancouver during the month of July 2015. A very rich scientific program brought the latest knowledge and discoveries to all the participants and emphasized the best practices in the field of HIV and AIDS.

When looking back at this event, we need to keep in mind that there are several different components of this multifaceted epidemic. Among others, the variety of socio-economical levels, regional developments and political willingness to broadly implement the recommendations. Governments do not always endorse and implement the new approaches.

We need to remember that the resources available in the Northern hemisphere are not available in most of the Southern hemisphere.

- ***New actions from IAS 2015***

The main recommendations that emerged from the last International AIDS Society Conference, were: **Test and Treat** (T&T) and **Treatment as Prevention** (TasP).

Both strategies make sense and have been tested over several years with very good results. The scientifically-based research was presented during the meetings.

The government of Vancouver in British Columbia, Canada, has been implementing **Treatment as Prevention** during the last decade with great success, demonstrated by the sharp 95% reduction in the incidence of HIV infections among the population of Vancouver.

Test and Treat is the newest approach in the field of HIV and AIDS. No matter what the CD4 is, a person who tests positive for HIV should start right away the anti-retro-viral treatment.

Today, this approaches become a reality and are being implemented in several countries of the world.

Dr. Fauci M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health in the USA, described how proven medical interventions have been successfully applied to a range of prevention strategies, including antiretroviral therapy (ART), medical male circumcision, daily pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and treatments that prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission.

He also reviewed how treatment of HIV-infected people early in the course of their infection can dramatically reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to an uninfected sexual partner, while simultaneously protecting the health of the infected individual.

- **START trial provides definitive evidence of the benefits of early HIV treatment**

People who start antiretroviral therapy (ART) immediately after HIV diagnosis, while their CD4 cell count is still high, rather than waiting until it falls below 350 cells/mm³, have a significantly lower risk of illness and death, according to long-awaited findings from the START trial. The final study results were presented at the Eighth International AIDS Society Conference (IAS 2015) in Vancouver, Canada

The study enrolled 4685 adults living with HIV in 35 countries worldwide, including just over half from low- and middle-income countries. Nearly three-quarters were men and the average age was 36 years old. About 45% were white, 30% were black, 14% were Hispanic/Latino and 8% were Asian. Just over half were men who have sex with men.

"IAS 2015 will be remembered as the definitive moment when the world agreed that earlier initiation of treatment is the best way to preserve the health of people living with HIV, and one of the best tools we have to slow HIV transmission to others," said conference co-chair Julio Montaner of the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS.

"The new data presented today will change HIV treatment guidelines worldwide, and inspire governments, funders and health systems to act to save millions more lives."

The success of ARVs is also measured by the survival time. Today, a 20 yr-old person living with HIV in a high income country is expected to live 55 more years.

"We have to translate these findings into programs as quickly as possible," US Global AIDS Coordinator Deborah Birx concurred, speaking on a panel about START's implications after Dr Lundgren presented these findings. "All of us have a moral obligation now."²

- **IAS 2015: Treatment for All**

In the same week as the results of the START trial were presented, providing definitive evidence of the benefits of early HIV treatment, WHO announced plans to recommend HIV treatment for everyone living with HIV, regardless of CD4 count.

The new guidelines, based on systematic review of trials and observational cohort data presented since the publication of consolidated WHO antiretroviral treatment guidelines in 2013, are being amended:

The World Health Organization (WHO) is now preparing new guidelines for the treatment of HIV/AIDS based on:

2. Treatment for all adults and adolescents regardless of CD4 count, prioritizing those with CD4 counts below 350 cells/mm³ and those with AIDS-defining illnesses.
3. Treatment for all children.
4. Treatment for all pregnant women, leading to lifelong treatment (Option B+).
5. Pre-exposure prophylaxis should be offered as an additional prevention choice for people at substantial risk of HIV infection.

The new guidelines will lend further weight to the UNAIDS 90-90-90 target, which aims to diagnose 90% of people with HIV, treat 90% of people diagnosed with HIV and achieve undetectable viral load in 90% of people on treatment by 2020.

As a summary, the most important recommendations were:

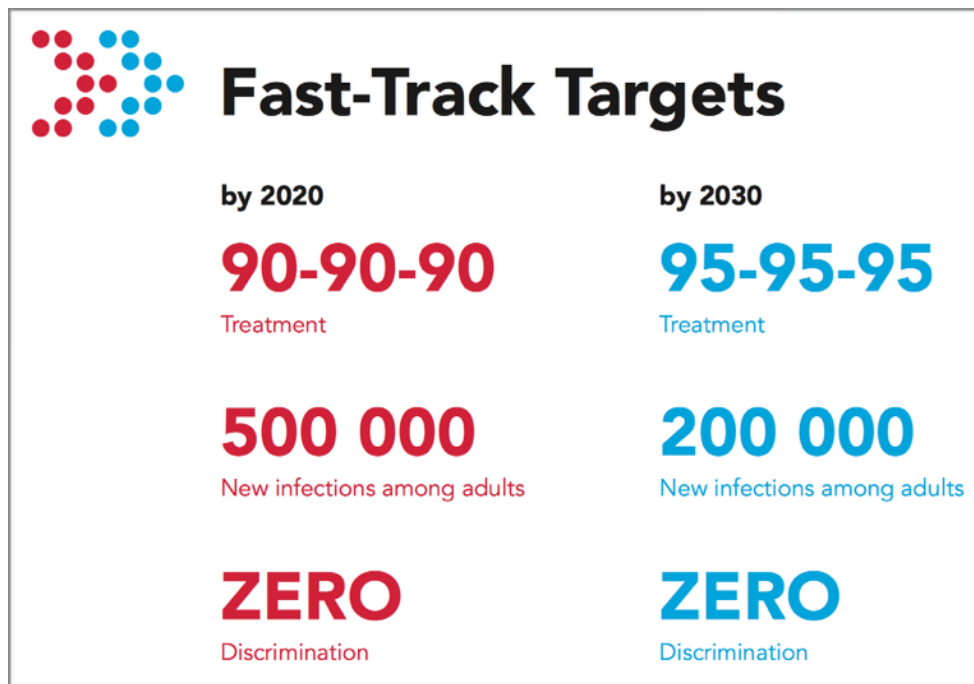
- 1) **Test and Treat** no matter the CD4 Count. Apply a full Anti-Retro-Viral Treatment to any person that tests positive for HIV. This will stop the replication of the virus in that person, it will reduce the viral load, and as a consequence, less new infections will occur.
- 2) **Treatment as Prevention (TasP)** for the key populations or populations at risk. It is important to remember that **no one should be left behind** and the care should be all inclusive if we want to end this epidemic.
- 3) We need to **apply simultaneously non-vaccine and vaccine prevention modalities**. When we say non-vaccine modalities, it means all the prevention methods used until now need to continue, plus vaccines.
- 4) Regarding **vaccines**, this is the latest news:
 - Several approaches towards the development of an HIV vaccine are currently being pursued and several trials are on-going. The Pox-Protein Public-Private Partnership (P5), is exploring strategies in South African trials to amplify the encouraging results from RV 144, an HIV vaccine clinical trial in Thailand that resulted in the first modest signal of efficacy.

² Lundgren JD et al. Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy in Early Asymptomatic HIV Infection. New England Journal of Medicine. July 20, 2015.

- Scientists also are investigating the potential use of broadly neutralizing antibodies directed against HIV which are elicited in natural infection in some HIV-infected individuals. These antibodies already are being tested for use via passive transfer in treatment and prevention of transmission.
- Scientists in pursuit of an HIV vaccine are building on this work, designing techniques to elicit these antibodies through sequential stimulation of the immune system with specifically designed immunogens.

WHO New Goals for 2010 & 2030

End of the HIV pandemic



HIV, the virus, will probably exist for a long time, but its impact can be neutralized by aggressively implementing existing HIV prevention and treatment options and strong community action to reduce stigma and discrimination.

Even though much progress has been made in the field of AIDS, there are big gaps that need to be closed.

The last time that a significant treatment was made public - HAART, Highly Active Anti-Retro-Viral Therapy in 1996, it took several years to reach the populations of Africa. And it was only in 2003 that it started to become available in African markets, only to be widely distributed in 2007.”

According to WHO, In the African Region, 37% [35–39%] of people living with HIV were able to access life-saving medicines in 2013³ In other words, out of the 24,700,000 HIV positive people in sub-Saharan Africa, approximately 9,100,000 are receiving ARVs and the remaining 15,600,000 have not yet been treated.

We pray and hope, that the implementation of all these new discoveries will reach the less developed countries in a much shorter time.

The IAS 2015 in Vancouver was an excellent conference!

***A strong commitment to end HIV and AIDS within this generation
was shared by all the participants to IAS 2015.***

³ WHO - Antiretroviral therapy (ART) coverage among all age groups - http://www.who.int/gho/hiv/epidemic_response/ART_text/en/

3 – ADVENTIST CHURCH RESPONSE - ACTIVITIES APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2015

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- ***Ethiopia Union - Sewing Program***

More than 10 years ago AAIM started this program with sister Genet as Instructor and Coordinator of the sewing workshop located at Kotabe Church, Addis Ababa.

A very successful program which has given many fruits in terms of HIV positive people trained and baptized. Sister Genet herself is an HIV positive person, who almost died from the disease and by the grace of God and the support of other church members and AAIM was able to recover and work again.

From this project many people established their own sewing workshops and income generating activities. It has been a great pleasure to work with Genet all these years.

This project was funded once again by AAIM for the current year 2015. There is a plan to establish a new branch of this project in the rural area.

- ***AAIM in North-East Congo Union Mission/Goma - NECUM***

Recently we received the 2nd Quarter Report of Activities from sister Safi Bakano, the AAIM Coordinator at NECUM, North-East Congo Union in DRC - Democratic Republic of Congo.

On April 18, 2015 they have received the visit of the UNAIDS responsible for the Eastern part of DRC for partnerships. He was thankful to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North-East Congo union Mission for their commitment to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic through Adventist AIDS International Ministry in their territory.

Their work with Grandmothers and Orphans is really commendable. Many community projects are conducted by Safi's office, including several Income Generating Activities.

AAIM-NECUM's outreach helps people's basic needs as it is the example of Mrs. Wanitu, who lost everything when her house burn down. She came to the AAIM Coordinator's office, where she was given some clothes and also for her 9 years old son who is HIV positive. Both are under ARVs. They need our support.

HIV/AIDS Seminars and Workshops are frequently conducted by Safi in the Goma region.

Recently they had a program on the WHO-Fast Track which emphasizes the reality of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030.

On Sunday, 12 July, 2015, a seminar was held by PNLs, Programme National de Lutte contre le SIDA, and AFEMED, Association des Femmes Médecins, Partners of AAIM. Also some Pastors and Church Elders, Health and AAIM Directors, Family life Directors from Goma town SDA Churches participated. Among the 35 participants, 19 were voluntarily tested.

HIV Voluntary Counseling and Testing is another activity provided by AAIM-NECUM during Seminars and other activities of this ministry.

- ***Maasai Kitchen Program***

AAIM has a long partnership history with the Maasai community in Kisaju, Nairobi, Kenya.

Through the generous contribution of a congregation in the USA, the dream of a kitchen in the church area will become a reality very soon.

Godfrey Korio, a Maasai and AAIM Coordinator for his community is in charge of the supervision of this project and has informed that all the materials are already on the site and the construction is taking place.

We pray and hope to have more information on this for the next board meeting in April.

- ***HIV/AIDS Prevention through Maasai Literacy Project***

When we realized that the understanding of AAIM printed material was limited by the literacy level of the participants, it was decided to help them with a Literacy Project.

It is currently taking place in Kisaju, under the supervision of Godfrey Korio with the help of sister Margaret, a Maasai teacher from the same Maasai community, who is providing lessons to a significant group.

We have great hope in this project, and expect it will grow and reach many more people with a message of hope, love and compassion.

- ***Program for Grandmothers and AIDS Orphans in Cameroon***

Elder Mevack Landry, AAIM Coordinator in Cameroon, has reported the progress of HIV/AIDS activities in his territories.

"The distribution of school materials took place at Kpwokolota's church, August 25th from 7 am to 2 pm, in the presence of the subdivision officers, the chief of Kpwokolota area, the executive secretary of East Cameroon SDA Mission and several other authorities and sponsors.

Materials were bought and distributed to 60 AIDS Orphans by grandmothers from the AAIM Kpwokolota Grandmothers' Club.

*HIV/AIDS “A Journey of Hope”
AAIM Report of Activities - October 1, 2015*

The ceremony was coordinated and supervised by the AAIM Coordinator of the East Cameroon Mission, Elder Mevack Landry. AAIM provided the necessary funds for this event and materials.

Helping Grandmothers to help orphans is a great strategy for the recovery of those children and youth who have suffered the traumatic experience of losing their parents, and are suffering the lack of financial means to continue their studies and succeed in life.

AAIM is trying to help this situation. May God abundantly bless those children and grandmothers.

The HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support work is making great progress under the leadership of brother Mevack Landry. We pray and hope that more good news will come soon from Cameroon.

- ***GC-World Session, AAIM Booth - San Antonio, Texas, USA***

AAIM was present at the General Conference World Session in San Antonio, Texas, the past month of July with a booth at the exhibition hall, in the GC-Health and Temperance section.

Previous consultation, it was our plan to bring four of our coordinators from Africa, but due to visa problems only one was able to travel. Godfrey Korio, a Maasai from Nairobi was with us in his traditional colorful attire.

We brought lots of printed material from AAIM, including a new brochure specially prepared for this GC-Session on HIV/AIDS and Stigma, “The Biggest Challenge Today.”

AAIM booth was visited by hundreds of people who received information and materials about the ministry. They were also able to take pictures with Godfrey, making the AAIM presence a success. We thank God for blessing so much this effort!

The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s work in favor of the HIV positive people was projected once again internationally through this new opportunity. AAIM was present in the previous two GC sessions in 2010 one 2005 as well as in several International AIDS Society Conferences.

- ***International AIDS Society Conference (IAS) - Vancouver, Canada***

The International AIDS Society is the most prominent international body in terms of HIV research, social action, and knowledge dissemination. This organization meets every two years, but every other year it has another international meeting focused only on the scientific approach to HIV.

The latest conference took place this year in Vancouver, Canada and was full of the most recent discoveries and ultra-modern technologies in the treatment of HIV and AIDS. Sixteen thousand scientists and professionals from all over the world attended this event.

In order to make the best use of its interventions and strategies the Seventh-day Adventist Church needs to be aware of what is going on in the field of AIDS. All the information that this ministry provides through meetings, social media, publications, etc., has to be reliable and highly accurate, especially with HIV/AIDS which is a field where many charlatans give their inaccurate opinions and offer their “magic cures”.

This particular meeting was rich in scientific information about the new treatments and research progress.

HIV/AIDS "A Journey of Hope"
AAIM Report of Activities - October 1, 2015

This meeting has also helped us as a gauge to measure the influence and interaction of different population groups, including highly-at-risk groups like the LGBT groups.

In our audiovisual presentation, we include a section about this. New strategies have shown us that it is possible to significantly reduce the incidence of AIDS as was shown in the city of Vancouver, Canada over the past 19 years.

IAS 2015 was an excellent Conference which brought lots of new information and hope for a solution to this pandemic in the near future.

- ***HIV/AIDS Seminar & Conference Bloemfontein***

AAIM was invited to present an update on HIV/AIDS for all the SAU institution leaders at the Union building in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

This was a very good opportunity to motivate and update more than 70 influential leaders about this epidemic and the role of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

With the help of a slide presentation and printed material, the participants went away well informed and able to share with others in their respective institutions.

It was a great opportunity!

6 - CONCLUSION

As we start a new quinquenium in the life of our church and our ministry, we also face the next chapter of the HIV pandemic with great optimism and faith, thinking that the end of this scourge is closer than we can imagine.

In fact, for many HIV positive people, the risk of imminent death has disappeared from their lives. Modern ARV treatments are keeping more than 9,000,000 people alive. We need to continue praying for the remaining 16,000,000 people that are not yet receiving ARVs.

It will take lots of courage and determination for the next phase because governments and people will have to exercise a strong will to finish with the last challenges of stigma, discrimination and fatigue which have emerged from this pandemic. But it is possible!

AAIM will continue its efforts all over Africa. It has been a great privilege for all of us to work for this ministry. We thank God for this special opportunity He has given us!

With God, the impossible became possible, and we have personally witnessed His miracles in the lives of countless people all over the continent. God's unconditional love has taught us great lessons. We have been changed through this ministry and probably many other people as well.

We don't have any doubt that with the help of God, this pandemic will be completely defeated, and a new HIV free generation will emerge. We strongly pray for those who are still being held prisoners by bad habits and very risky behaviors. May the Holy Spirit touch those lives and help straighten their ways. May Jesus' example lead our youth in order to spare them from the many risks and negative influences of these times.

Each of us has a part to play! Let's appreciate this fact and double our efforts and actions in favor of those less privileged, both the HIV infected and affected.

May our Lord abundantly bless you as we continue this journey of Hope, Love and Compassion!

And now, we would like to extend a very special thanks to all those who directly or indirectly work for and support the Adventist AIDS International Ministry.

As it is our custom, AAIM would like to thank all our partners in Ministry, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the GC-Health Ministries Department, the East-Central Africa Division, the Southern Africa Indian-Ocean Division and the West-Central Africa Division, together with ADRA International and Loma Linda University for their constant encouragement and support.

*AAIM thanks its generous donors for their financial support, which make the majority of the country programs possible. Our profound appreciation goes to the APHHS - Adventist Professional Health and Humanitarian Services for their continuous support.
Christ, our Supreme provider and sustainer!*

If the world scales up prevention and treatment by 2020, humanity may be able to end the epidemic by 2030

ANNEX

ADVENTIST CHURCH RESPONSE & ACTIVITIES DURING THE LAST QUINQUENNium 2010-2015.

(This part of the report also includes the AAIM main events and also the activities from October 2014 to March 2015.)

Celebrating God's Goodness in this "Five Years in Review Presentation"

This part of the report is a testimony of God's blessings during the last quinquennium. We hope you will enjoy it.

Year 2010

In looking back and contemplating the accomplishments in the last five years, we were tempted to focus on the things we have done all these years. Instead, today, we want all our thoughts and praise to go to our Lord Jesus Christ, without whom nothing of this would have been possible. We want to focus on Him, and only Him, and to recognize that He is the One who has given us the light and the encouragement to start what seemed to be an impossible mission.

Yes, at the beginning of this ministry everybody thought it was an impossible mission to fight AIDS in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a conservative church, where very few people would have had the courage to talk about AIDS and its related subjects.

Even our officers, did not believe that this Ministry was going to go too far. At that time, people were dying in great numbers, and the treatments we have today were not available. Our Pastors were scared to preach or even talk about AIDS, and we used to discriminate and even fire HIV positive people in our schools and church institutions...

In 2010, HIV continued to kill people at an estimated number of 7,000 lives per day.

- In April 2010, took place the groundbreaking ceremony for the Grandmothers' Support Group Training Center in Lesotho. The first fruits of their labor were welcomed during the ceremony.

The HIV Statistics at that time uncovered the reality that 33.4 million people were infected with the virus in the whole world. Later, we learned that this number was going to increase still more...

- AAIM helped the Sahel Union to organize a seminar for all the pastors. The union president, Pastor Guy Roger was himself very concerned about this problem, and encouraged the organization of the program.

Other events in the same year were:

- The organization of an Association of Adventists living with HIV or AIDS that took place in Nairobi.
- The First Comprehensive Workshop on HIV/AIDS for the Maasai tribe in the Kajiado Region, Nairobi, that took place between the 7th and the 12th of December with more than 100 participants.
- AAIM visited the King'eero project. We are very proud for the progress that has been made there, with several support groups and many income generating activities for the infected and affected. We found a strong promotion of VCTs , orphans' education programs and community work.

The beginning of this year was a very successful time for the Adventist AIDS International Ministry (AAIM). A large number of programs and interventions resulted in an increase of this ministry's outreach and assistance in many more territories of the three African divisions.

From Silence and Denial to Loving and Compassionate Assistance

Silence and stigma are being defeated in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and surrounding communities in Africa!

At the beginning of this ministry, God strongly impressed our hearts with the verse found in Matthew 19:26: "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible," and that was the starting point!

We understood that this was His program and not ours, and having Jesus as our partner in Ministry brought new energy and ideas.

From the beginning, we felt welcomed in the churches, and we received a strong support.

This allowed for an energetic start that covered the Sub-Saharan African territory with numerous training programs on AIDS Prevention, Care and Support.

AIDS awareness was raised high in all the churches, and an open conversation about the epidemic was encouraged.

Today, and by the grace of God, AAIM has implemented programs and projects in 26 African countries.

- In July 2010 AAIM attended the International AIDS Society (IAS) where the most current information and latest discoveries were shared with all the participants.

*HIV/AIDS “A Journey of Hope”
AAIM Report of Activities - October 1, 2015*

All these years, it has been our custom to bring to the Board the latest news about HIV/AIDS, directly from the IAS, and later distributed them among our Board Members and Coordinators in the three divisions.

- AAIM was part of the multi-faith section of the IAS Conference, where we shared AAIM printed materials and information with the visitors.
- In the following months, AAIM implemented HIV/AIDS programs in Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya and Botswana.

The time for the General Conference World session in Atlanta arrived, and AAIM organized an exposition in the form of a booth, with audiovisuals, posters and illustrations, which was visited by a great number of people

Many visitors and many testimonies helped us to better understand the magnitude and the impact of HIV/AIDS on our churches around the world.

- In 2010, AAIM recorded a series of 14 special programs (mini-dramas) on HIV/AIDS to be used in TV broadcast, churches, and educational institutions.

The recording took place at the SID Media Center studios in Cape Town, with local students from Heidelberg College who volunteered for the event.

- Before the year 2010 was over, AAIM was able to prepare a set of printed materials in the form of laminated sheets, brochures, posters, and bookmarks to be used during the programs that AAIM implements all over Africa.

Those materials were prepared in English, French, Portuguese and several native languages used in the three sub-Saharan Adventist Divisions.

***We thank and praise the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the many blessings He bestowed upon this Ministry
during the year 2010!***

Year 2011

The year 2011 started with a very positive statement from the World Health Organization and UNAIDS:

“ The world has begun to reverse the AIDS Epidemic”⁴

Combating HIV/AIDS and Malaria is one of the Millennium Development Goals*, and it seems that this particular goal will be reached after 25 years of hard work (1990-2015), declared Michael Sidibe, director of UNAIDS.

*The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that were established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. All member states at the time committed to help achieve them by 2015.

During 2011, AAIM continued to assist underserved communities at risk of HIV/AIDS, this time among the Maasai community in Oloongurman, in Kenya. AAIM distributed seeds and helped to create food gardens, including the water irrigation. This is one of AAIM's most successful projects still ongoing.

AAIM SAU held a Strategic Planning Session with all the Conference's HIV/AIDS Coordinators.

Then, there was a TOC Conference and Training Seminar in Limpopo for more than 100 participants and the appointment of 48 Coordinators for TOC.

In 2011, the international community commemorated 30 years since the epidemic was first identified in 1981. The United Nations recognized that today the nations find themselves at the crossroads, where important decisions need to be taken to curb the epidemic.

That same year, much more effective treatments became available and there was much more commitment from the countries and organizations.

**At the same time, the Adventist Church also reached
a critical point in its response to the epidemic!**

AAIM's projects were established in 54 major cities in 25 African countries.

That year, AAIM participated in the Mid-Year meetings in the three divisions and interacted with the new three divisions' officers.

Along with Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye, AAIM participated in several Departmental Advisories in ECD.

⁴ Michel Sidibé - UNAIDS Executive Director - 2010

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Several country programs took place in 2011, including North-East Congo Attached Territory (NECAT), Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Swaziland and Lesotho. Hundreds of people received the messages of HIV Prevention, Care and Support.

AAIM attended the ECD Health Ministries Advisory, and visit the "Everlasting Hope" Support Group in a suburb of Nairobi.

AAIM helped the Eastern Cape Conference in South Africa organize an HIV/AIDS Convention and Training Workshop for more than 50 participants.

The last big activity of the year was a Health Ministries and HIV/AIDS advisory that took place in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Many Adventists living with HIV came to the open and an Association was formed.

2011 ended with a complete AAIM Strategic Planning as a result of a consultation with the Officers and Coordinators of the three Divisions.

2011 was a very successful year.

From its beginnings in 2004, AAIM has always used Christ Method, which says:

"The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then he bade them, 'Follow Me.'"

Ministry of Healing, p.143

**From Silence and Denial to Loving and
Compassionate Care**

Year 2012

Turning the Tide Together

This year UNAIDS published its annual report "Global HIV/AIDS Progress Report", announcing that, according to the latest available statistics of 2011, there were 34,000,000 people living with the virus. It represented an 18% increase since 2001 (from 28.6 million to 34 million).

Higher level of awareness and more effective and available treatments have helped people to live longer, which increases the number of people alive with the virus.

- SID-HIV/AIDS Advisory Feb. 26- March 1 2012

This was a very important event that gathered all the SID HIV/AIDS Coordinators for a Division wide Advisory on the epidemic. The first one of this kind in in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Africa.

- Zimbabwe Union HIV/AIDS Advisory -

This event was the first of its kind, at a Union wide level, in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Africa. It took place on May 10-14, in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

These events marked an important milestone in the history of AAIM, because, for the first time all major activities and outreach of this Ministry were combined into comprehensive programs at division and union levels.

- Lesotho Grandmothers' Training Center - Opening of the 1st Phase

On Sunday the 12th of August 2012, the dream of a community center for the grandmothers, finally became a reality with the ribbon cutting ceremony conducted by the Honorable Prime Minister of Lesotho, Mr. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, accompanied by four ministers of his cabinet, as well as the Speaker of the Parliament.

- Ethiopia AAIM Sewing Program Graduating Ceremony and Baptisms:

In November 2004, AAIM started a sewing workshop in Ethiopia, to help People Living with HIV/AIDS (Income Generating Activities - IGAs)

Under the direction of Sister Genet, who is HIV positive, this sewing project has continued without interruption helping dozens of people, men and women, acquire skills for an income generating activity. Many of the students were baptized.

- AAIM Activities in Kinshasa

With the appointment of Dr. Jean Marie Badinanyi as HIV/AIDS Coordinator for the West and South Congo Conferences, AAIM activities in that region have taken a new direction.

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Hundreds of people have attended his seminars. There was a strong encouragement for HIV testing and counseling.

- South African Association of Adventists Living with HIV/AIDS

A new Association of Adventists Living with HIV/AIDS was established during the International AIDS Day in 2012. The program was held at the Southern Africa Union (SAU) and the Trans-Orange Conference (TOC) who took the initiative under the auspices of AAIM and the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division (SAU).

Other activities were:

WAD Mid-Year Meetings, May 1-2, 2012

ECD Mid-Year Meetings, May 15, 2012

HIV/AIDS Presentation at the South African Home Affairs Department in Pretoria, SA, May 24, 2012

**Silence and stigma are being defeated in the
Seventh-day Adventist Church
and surrounding communities in Africa!**

Year 2013

AAIM

"Bringing Hope..., Saving Lives..."

LATEST NEWS ON HIV/AIDS from the UNAIDS Global Report 2013

Dramatic drop of 52% in global HIV infections **New HIV infections continue to decline**

- 2013 Began with HIV/AIDS Seminars in Kinshasa, Congo and the Adventist Youth World Congress, where Adventist Youth were exposed to HIV Prevention. The World Youth Congress took place in Pretoria, South Africa in July 2013. 3,000 youth participated in the meetings.
- The biggest event in 2013 was the planning and implementation of the AAIM 6th HIV/AIDS Tri-Divisional All-Africa Convention in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9-14 September. There were 70 Delegates from the three divisions. There were 5 days of deliberations, conferences, presentations, workshops, country reports, prayer sessions and more. There were AAIM Coordinators from 29 countries and fields present. We see how the light of AAIM shines all over Africa. All of the delegates visited the King'eero HIV/AIDS Training Center where we saw the different projects.

The level of HIV Prevention and Awareness
has been raised
in the Seventh-day Adventist Church!

- A very good news is that at the beginning of 2013 the results of the last survey for AAIM's Strategic Planning showed an **increased overall percentage of achievement of 52% in all 9 objectives in the three divisions, a big difference from 41% in 2011**. SID was the highest at 55%, followed by ECD at 40%, and WAD at 27%.
- In 2013 AAIM launched its new website, and in the following weeks it was visited by people from 38 different countries.

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- The same year, AAIM collaborated with the North-American Division, the Inter-American Division and the South Pacific Division.
- Other projects included: SDA Rite of Passage in Kenya, HIV Prevention among the Maasai in Olongurman, programs in Cameroon, as well as participating in the Youth Alive program in Madagascar.
- AAIM produced several new DVDs in English and French.
- Several programs were held in Ghana, together with Dr. Andre Ndaa: visits to HIV clinics, addressing hundreds of students with HIV prevention programs, visiting government officials, as well as visiting church officers.
- Caprivi Strip

AAIM visited the Caprivi Region in the Republic of Namibia and held HIV/AIDS Seminars. It is one of the regions with the highest HIV prevalence in the world. AAIM also helped to organize the first Association of Adventists Living with HIV in that region.

AAIM organized an HIV/AIDS seminar in Ethiopia and participated in the 3 divisions' Year-end Meetings.

Year 2014

The year 2014, AAIM celebrated its 10th anniversary, since its central office in Johannesburg opened its doors in January 2004.

**10 Years of Commitment in the
Fight against HIV and AIDS!**

We want to remember and give thanks to all those who given support to this ministry, and especially the HIV/AIDS Coordinators that worked tirelessly to spread the message of prevention, care and support for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

- 2014 registered an approximate number of 35,500,000 people living with HIV in the world. A significant increase since 5 years ago when there was 33,4 million people HIV+

And this number will continue to increase as the treatments become better and much more available in the developing nations.

**From 8 million people in 1990 to 35.5
million in 2014**

**It means a 400% INCREASE of HIV
positive people!**

The countries with more HIV prevalence in 2014 in the three main regions of Africa were:

For Southern Africa **Swaziland with 26.5 %**

For West Africa **Cameroon with 4.5%**

For Eastern Africa **Uganda with 7.2%**

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- That year, AAIM participated in ECD and SID Mid-year Meetings as well as the 2nd Global Health and Lifestyle Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. AAIM conducted the breakout sessions for 3 days of the conference.
- AAIM attended the 2014 International AIDS Society Conference, where all the latest discoveries in the field of HIV/AIDS were announced. The United Nations emphasized the plan, “Treatment for “All” and “No One Left Behind”. As a result of this, many more people will get treatment and there is now hope that the epidemic is starting to be controlled.
- Gabriel Maina was appointed as the HIV/AIDS Coordinator for the East Kenya Union Conference. This is a great achievement for AAIM in Eastern Africa.
- Mevack Landry, the AAIM Coordinator in Cameroun reported several HIV/AIDS programs, including a combined effort in fighting HIV and Ebola, which encouraged other coordinators to use this same initiative.
- In 2014, AAIM held HIV Prevention Programs in Maasailand, Kenya; at The Free State University in Bloemfontein, South Africa; for the SDA Educational System in Congo; as well as programs in Malawi and Tanzania.
- 2014 was an exceptional year for the scientific progress on the HIV/AIDS field.
- According to the UNAIDS: “The world has witnessed extraordinary changes in the AIDS landscape. **There have been more achievements in the past five years than in the preceding 23 years.** There is evidence about what works and where the obstacles remain. More than ever before, there is hope that ending AIDS is possible.

HIV will probably exist for a long time, but its impact will be neutralized more and more by aggressively implementing the existing HIV prevention and new treatment options. A strong community action is needed to reduce stigma and discrimination.

Year 2015

Two important events took place at the beginning of 2015. ECD organized a Mission Extravaganza to celebrate 5 years of God's blessings in Mission. AAIM had the opportunity to participate in this event. We thank ECD for inviting us!

In March, Mrs. Rhoda Nthani, the HIV/AIDS Coordinator for SID, organized the biggest all-division HIV/AIDS Convention, with the participation of all the Coordinators from the SID Unions and Conferences. Also, many Adventists living with HIV gave their testimonies. It was a wonderful program.

***We are very pleased that our church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church
has taken an active role in the fight against HIV/AIDS,
Providing HIV Prevention, Care and Support!***

Through the dedicated work of its Coordinators, AAIM has established Associations of Adventists Living with HIV in the following countries:

- Botswana
- Cameroun
- Ethiopia
- Goma, DRC
- Kenya
- Kinshasa, DRC
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Sao Tome
- South Africa
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

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Defining "ending the AIDS epidemic"

Ending the AIDS epidemic means that the spread of HIV has been controlled or contained and that the impact of the virus on societies and on people's lives has been marginalized and lessened, owing to significant declines in ill health, stigma, deaths and the number of orphans. It also means increased life expectancy, unconditional acceptance of people's diversity and rights, increased productivity and reduced costs as the impact of AIDS diminishes.⁵

1) AAIM On-going Programs in Africa:

1. Centers of Hope & Healing - Each Church a Health Center for the Community - Church Based Support Groups

2. Giving Hope to the Hopeless - Home Based Care, Income Generating Activities, Sewing Workshops & other Skills Development Activities, Food Gardens.

3. Caring for the Vulnerable Children - Orphans Care, Feeding Programs, Clothing and Shoes Distribution.

4. Caring for the Youth - Special Programs for the Youth, Resilience Development & Prevention of Risky Behaviors

5. Caring for the Care-Givers - HIV/AIDS Education and Support for the Grandmothers & Grandfathers' Clubs

2) AAIM COUNTRY HIV/AIDS COORDINATORS (Update)

Extensive networks of HIV/AIDS Coordinators have been organized in the three divisions. The AAIM Coordinators and lay members who participate in the Church Based Support Groups are working on the front-lines of the epidemic. We highly appreciate and value their dedication and commitment to help those infected and affected by the epidemic.

The following is the list of the 24 HIV/AIDS Coordinators organized by Division and Union/Countries. Please, keep them in your prayers.

Eastern-Central African Division (ECD)

Division HIV/AIDS Coordinator: Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye

1.DRC	Kinshasa -	Dr. Badinanyi (HIV/AIDS only)
2.DRC	NECAT -	Mrs. Safi Bakano (HIV/AIDS only)
3.DRC	Lubumbashi -	Dr. Denise Kikuka Kaluhala (w/HM)
4.Ethiopia Union	Addis-Ababa	Ms. Gelane Kumera (w/HM)
5.Kenya	East Africa Union -	Mr. Daniel Tirop (w/HM)
6.Kenya	King'eero -	Mr. Gabriel Maina (HIV/AIDS only)
7.Kenya	Maasailand -	Mr Godfrey Korio & Mr. Solomon Lenana (HIV/AIDS only)
8.Rwanda	Kigali	Dr. Marc Habeniza (w/HM)
9.Tanzania	Arusha	Dr. Shango Kingu (w/HM)
10.Uganda Union	Kampala	Pr. Samuel Kizito (w/HM)

11. South Sudan Juba

Southern Africa Indian-Ocean Division (SID)

Division HIV/AIDS Coordinator: Mrs. Rhoda Nthani

11. Angola	North Union	Mr. Helder Correia Dos Santos (HIV/AIDS only)
12. Angola	South West Union	Mr. Dr. Menezese Kondi (HIV/AIDS only)
13. Botswana		Mrs. Milo Ramolele (HIV/AIDS only)
14. Indian Ocean Union		Dr. Bodohanta Ramamonjisoa (HIV/AIDS only)
15. Malawi		Pr. Aulex Msulira
16. Mozambique		Mrs. Shunila Rana
17. Sao Tome e Principe		Mr. Francisco de Sousa Bonfim
18. Southern Africa Union		Dr. Jun Negre
19. Zambia		Dr. Mutinda Mudenda Chilufya
20. Zimbabwe		Pr. Innocent Gwizo

West-Central African Division (WAD)

Division HIV/AIDS Coordinator: Dr. Andre Ndaa

21. Central Africa Union Mission	Dr Assam Assam Jean Paul
22. Sahel Union Mission	Dr Awute Gilles (w/HM)
23. North-western Nigeria Union Mission	Dr John Sotunsa (w/HM)
24. West Africa Union Mission	Mrs Jemimah Wennie (w/HM) and Pastor Amos B. Horace

(Ghana Union Conference - Not appointed yet)

(Eastern Nigeria Union Mission - Not appointed yet)

3) LIST OF 25 COUNTRIES AND 59 MAJOR CITIES REACHED BY AAIM
By alphabetical order (Updated March 2015)

1. Angola
 1. Luanda
 2. Huambo
2. Burundi - Bujumbura
3. Botswana - Gabarone
4. Cameroon
 1. Yaounde
 2. Douala
 3. Nanga Eboko (Cosendai)
5. Democratic Republic of Congo
 1. Kinshasa
 2. Lubumbashi
 3. Goma
6. Ethiopia
 1. Addis-Ababa
 2. Gimbie
 3. Mekele
7. Gabon - Libreville
8. Ghana
 1. Accra (Valley View)
 2. Kumasi
9. Ivory Coast - Abidjan
10. Kenya
 1. Nairobi
 2. Eldoret (AUEA-Baraton)
 3. Kajiado

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4. Olongurman
11. Lesotho
 1. Maseru
 2. Leribe
 3. Maluti
 4. Mohalishoek
12. Madagascar
 1. Antananarivo
 2. Antsirabe (Zurcher)
13. Mauritius - Vacoas-Phoenix
14. Malawi
 1. Blantyre
 2. Lilongwe
 3. Salima (Malawi-Central)
15. Mozambique
 1. Maputo
 2. Quelimane
16. Namibia
 1. Windhoek
 2. Katima Mulilo
17. Nigeria
 1. Lagos
 2. Ile-Ife
 3. Babcock (Babcock)
18. Rwanda
 1. Kigali (AUCA)
 2. Kibuye
19. South Africa
 1. Johannesburg
 2. Bloemfontein
 3. Durban
 4. Cape Town (Helderberg)
 5. East London (Bethel College)
 6. George
 7. Limpopo
 8. Pretoria
20. Swaziland
 1. Manzini
 2. Mbabane
21. Tanzania
 1. Arusha
 2. Dar es Salaam
 3. Musoma
22. Togo - Lome
23. Uganda
 1. Kampala (Bugema)
 2. Entebbe
24. Zambia - Lusaka
25. Zimbabwe
 1. Harare
 2. Bulawayo (Solusi)

TESTIMONIES

From Nairobi, Kenya

- *"The program was insightful and timely. We have been equipped enough to improve our ministry on HIV/AIDS" Pastor Emmanuel Acheampong, South Ghana Conference*
- *"The entire seminar was excellent, the food services were superb and accommodation was extraordinary. The environment was conducive for learning." Pr. Ambrose Waahu, Ghana*
- *"Reaching the sick, the needy, while focusing on Jesus our role model, also empowering communities through IGA & best practices. The program was excellent, moving and satisfying." John Kibe, Nairobi, Kenya*

From Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (HIV/AIDS Seminar - February 2014)

- *"I have been blessed during these 3 days, really, I have gotten more than I expected. God is blessing you, and I thank God that He blessed you and also blessed me through your ministry. Thank You for your ministry!"*
- *"Both of your teaching, was very good. I am blessed and got more new information about HIV. I thank you very much. I think your service is just like Jesus' service. You continue your teaching and healing up to Jesus' Second coming. God bless you!"*
- *"First of all we have had a very good time. I want to pass my thanks to almighty God. Next to God I want to thank those trainers we had all through the training. They were awesome. They have explained and trained us so effectively. Their explanation on each section was clear and simple to understand. They were very friendly to all members in the group. They gave us a real love!"*

From Katima Mulilo, Namibia (HIV/AIDS Seminar - February 2014)

- *"Presentations - very inspiring. Support group presentation and HIV, very educational, reviving and transforming. Awakes church members and strengthens compassionate love for one another, and lifts up the name of Jesus in SDA Church movement."*
- *"It was good and understandable. Everything was leading me to the cross of Jesus. I've learned a lot about all the teaching. The lessons have taught me to be compassionate to everyone as Jesus had done to the blind man. You did a great job, it was so wonderful to have you here. Both of you Doctors were excellent."*

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- *"The facilitators were very good, knowing the subject by heart. • Very good at encouraging members to participate • encouraged all participants to ask questions and get answers"*
- *"On my own evaluation about the facilitators - they have done a great job - well done, they have talked to us about Support Groups, and how we can help ourselves to fight the war on poverty and against the stigma of HIV/AIDS. Job well done."*
- *"The program was organized systematically, chronologically in such a way that, every presentation was connected to the other. The teaching aids all supported the presentations. The program was well documented and people were informed."*

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