



“AIDS has become the most devastating disease humankind has ever faced.”
United Nations

It destroys communities by wiping out the middle generation, leaving children and the elderly to fend for themselves. In response, SIM missionaries, serving alongside related churches in many of the world’s worst-affected countries, have designed a coordinated response called HOPE for AIDS.

HOPE for AIDS is a grassroots movement working for and with local churches and organisations. It addresses the unique challenges of HIV and AIDS in Africa and Asia. It offers mercy and grace as the antidotes to the stigma which is so disabling and destructive for people living with AIDS. In this context we join hands with Jesus and the community to provide compassionate, holistic service, which brings hope. We work against imposing outside systems and structures that are neither culturally sensitive nor sustainable for local communities in developing countries.

HOPE for AIDS comprises:

Home-based care

Institutional care for millions of dying people in underdeveloped areas is impossible. Home-based care workers come alongside home-based caregivers with practical help, ministering Christ’s truth and comfort.

Orphans and vulnerable children

With millions of people dying in Africa and Asia, millions of children have become orphans. HOPE for AIDS empowers churches and extended families to care for orphans and provide for nutritional, educational and spiritual need.

Prevention

While the crusade for drugs and condoms marches on, HOPE for AIDS calls for behaviour change and education. Voluntary testing, counselling, education and equipping is all this component.



Enabling the church and ministry partners

Even when missionaries feel the urgency of response to immediate need, those affiliated with HOPE for AIDS practice thoughtful patience. AIDS is a physical disease as well as one of broken relationships. Christ brings the hope to transform those relationships, both with God and people. Our ethos fosters genuine partnerships with national churches in the face of the crisis, welcoming an effort based on honour and respect, not the imposition of Western mission.

What can I do?

If you have a heart for people with HIV and AIDS and would like to get involved in AIDS ministry, SIM has a role for counsellors, AIDS coordinators, consultants, social workers, administrators, project managers, university teachers, youth educators and more.

Speak with your SIM state representative - <http://www.sim.org.au/ reps.shtml>

Each day there are 16,000 new HIV infections in the world. We are grateful for 15,000 churches around the world related to SIM. Many of them are catching a vision for ministry in the context of AIDS.

SIM
Serving In Mission



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