



MODERN DAY LAZARUS

“Jesus wept” John 11:35 NKJV

The shortest verse in the Bible is found in John 11:35, “Jesus wept” and the context is that Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, after having fallen sick, had passed away. Upon hearing the bad news, Jesus breaks down crying. Seeing his tears, the bystanders exclaim “See how much he loved him”. (11:36b, NLT) While this is not His first show of emotion, it may be one of the most powerful depictions of the compassion of Jesus (Mt 9:36, 14:14 & Mk 1:41). Fortunately, the story doesn’t end there... We know how Jesus, moved by His love, brings Lazarus back from the dead in a powerful display of the love and power of God, for the glory of God.

All around us, there are modern day Lazarus’s. The term “the Lazarus Effect” is one that everyone including doctors, nurses, teachers, pastors, politicians, businessman and even football players use to describe what happens when people dying from AIDS get access to life-saving treatments for as little as \$0.40 cents a day. What happens? Life happens again. People who were once dying from AIDS bounce back from death’s door and are able to go back to work and school within 40 days.

And the ripple effect is enormous: families and communities are transformed. A sort of resurrection happens.

The story of Jesus raising Lazarus of Bethany from the dead, a miracle, is where we find the words to begin to describe what is happening in cities and villages across Africa. In our day, the Lazarus Effect is not simply a miracle; it’s a matter of smart decisions, leadership, treatment, and policy. In 2002 only 50,000 people on the continent of Africa were on life-saving anti-retroviral treatments, what we call ARVs.

Today nearly 4 million Africans are on ARVs. Through investments in programs like the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, the US has led the way, directly supporting treatment for more than 3.2 million of these men, women, and children – our global neighbors.

To many of us, the analogy of the dead is so far away. More so, the concept of being called from the dead is even beyond our imagination. In a country like America where life expectancy is close to 80 years, death can sometimes become an abstract.

Yet in developing countries, parts of Africa like Zambia, life expectancy has dropped to 37 years and children below the age of five still die of preventable disease such as malaria, diarrhea and cholera. To these people, the picture of death is one that is devastatingly fresh and real.

These figures are reflected in the countries where extreme poverty is most prevalent. In places like Zambia, as many as 85% of the people live on less than \$2 a day. Compounding the effects of extreme poverty is its deadly ally, HIV and AIDS. Every day, around the world, some 4,900 people die from HIV/AIDS and another 7,100 people are infected with the AIDS virus.

Today we believe nearly 34 million people are infected by HIV/AIDS, yet the large majority, 22.4 million of those infected, remain in the world’s poorest places -Sub-Saharan Africa.

The question I think Jesus is asking us today is “what makes us weep?” And What will we do about it?

HBO produced a 30min video called “The Lazarus Effect” showing the impact these lifesaving drugs have upon not only people, but whole communities! Please take some time and watch the powerful impact that can be made, if we are willing!

<http://bit.ly/dhbMQQ>

For the Kingdom,
Sam

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 9 (Wed.) – 58: the movie. - 7pm, FHC

Nov 16 (Wed) – Isaac S. shares about Uganda - 7pm, FHC

Nov 23 (Wed) – Thanksgiving Outreach - 6pm, FHC

Nov 27 (Sun) – Portland R3ACH

Dec 1 (Thu) – World AIDS Day

R3ACH is the missions/outreach ministry of Fathers House Church, Longview, WA
To find out how you can be part of what is going on, visit us on the web at
www.fathershousechurch.com , www.R3ACH.org or www.facebook.com/r3.ach.usa

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REACH
LONGVIEW-KELSO & THE WORLD FOR CHRIST





HIV/AIDS FAQ

WHAT IS HIV & AIDS?

HIV is the virus that can lead to AIDS. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that gradually attacks a person's immune system's cells. As HIV progressively damages these cells, the body becomes more vulnerable to infections. It is at the point of very advanced HIV infection that a person is said to have AIDS.

A person is diagnosed with AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) when they develop an AIDS related condition or symptom, called an opportunistic infection (e.g. typhoid, tuberculosis, and bacterial pneumonia, etc.), an AIDS related cancer, or their immune system's CD4 T Cells fall below a specific number.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR A PERSON WITH HIV TO DEVELOP TO AIDS?

If HIV is left untreated, AIDS will usually develop in ten years. However this varies from person to person. Many people around the world do not have access to antiretroviral treatment and therefore people continue to die from AIDS.

WHAT IS AN ARV?

Antiretroviral drugs or (ARVs) can be used to help people with HIV. People living with HIV can be treated for a very long time with ARVs that prevent or delay the onset of AIDS.

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE HIV/AIDS?

According to latest annual UNAIDS report, there are over 33 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. Sub-Saharan Africa is by far the region most-affected by the AIDS epidemic. The region has just over 10% of the world's population, but is home to 68% of all people living with HIV (22.5M). In the USA it is estimated that 1.2M are living with HIV.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE INFECTED WITH HIV EACH YEAR?

The number of new HIV infections has steadily declined, and due to the significant increase in people receiving antiretroviral therapy, the number of AIDS-related deaths has also declined. During 2009, some 2.6 million people became infected with HIV, including an estimated 370,000 children. Most of these children are babies born to women with HIV, who acquire the virus during pregnancy, labor, delivery, or through breast milk.

HOW DOES SOMEONE BECOME INFECTED WITH AIDS?

HIV is found in blood and other body fluids such as semen and vaginal fluids. It cannot live for long outside the body, so to be infected with HIV, body fluid from an infected person must get inside your body. The virus can enter the body via contact with the bloodstream or by passing through delicate mucous membranes.

The most common ways that people become:

- having sexual intercourse with an infected partner.
- injecting drugs using a needle or syringe that has been used by someone who is infected.
- as a baby of an infected mother, during pregnancy, labor or delivery, or through breastfeeding.

You cannot get HIV from:

- touching/kissing/shaking hands
- coughing/sneezing
- using a cup/glass/toilet seat

Only in very few cases have people become infected by HIV-infected blood getting into the bloodstream through an open cut, or splashing onto a mucous membrane (e.g. the eyes or the inside of the nose), but anything that potentially allows another person's blood to get into your bloodstream carries a risk.

WHEN IS SOMEONE MOST LIKELY TO BECOME INFECTED?

Around half of people who acquire HIV become infected before they turn 25. AIDS is the 2nd most common cause of death among 20-24 year olds worldwide.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY AIDS IN AFRICA?

Everyone is affected by the AIDS crisis in Africa. Women, children and older generations are the most vulnerable to the effects of AIDS on the community. At the end of 2009, there were 2.5 million children living with HIV around the world. 9 out of 10 of were living in sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally there are 14.8 million children that have been orphaned because of the death of one or both parents due to HIV/AIDS.

WHY IS THERE SUCH A HIGH PREVALENCE OF HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA vs. OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD?

There are many factors that influence the rate at which HIV is transmitted: poverty and economic disparity, societal customs and traditions, social instability, gender inequality, and many other complex concurrent issues have all influenced the epidemic's spread.

FOR MORE INFO & RESOURCES

Cowlitz County Resources - <http://bit.ly/rOeir4>

Blood:Water Mission www.bloodwatermission.com

BWM HIV/AIDS FAQ: <http://bit.ly/saZ2gu>

The ONE Campaign - <http://www.one.org/c/us/issue/187/>

The Lazarus Effect: <http://bit.ly/dhbM QQ>

HOT TOPIC:

BEGINNING OF THE END OF AIDS BY 2015



2011 marks a critical point in our fight against AIDS. The world has made incredible progress in its efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, and 6.6 million people on treatment today are living proof that programs like PEPFAR and the Global Fund work. Still, we are a long way from declaring victory on AIDS: there are 9 million people still in need of treatment, more than 370,000 children are infected with HIV each year, and new infections still outpace those placed on treatment by nearly 2:1.

A number of recent game-changing studies have offered exciting new tools in the fight to prevent HIV. Now more than ever, we must recommit ourselves to the fight against HIV and to achieving specific, measurable goals that will help us bend the curve of this pandemic by 2015: end mother-to-child transmission of HIV, provide treatment to the 15 million people who need it, and drastically reduce new infections.

USA is a world leader in making this happen, so please join the effort to maintain that role! With the 2012 budget debate underway, please urge your Congressmen to NOT cut funding to the Foreign Aid Operations! Please join the ONE Campaign at www.one.org as well in taking a stand for life!

LIVING PROOF
Real Lives. Real Progress.

- **AIDS RELATED DEATHS HAVE FALLEN** by nearly **20%** in the last five years, and new **HIV infections have fallen by nearly 20%** in the last 10 years.
- **American investments have placed nearly 4 million Africans on life-saving treatment – CUTS TO THESE PROGRAMS WOULD COST LIVES.**

MORE THAN 1,000 BABIES ARE BORN EACH DAY WITH HIV.

We have the treatment to prevent up to 99% of cases of mother-to-child transmission.



NO CHILD BORN WITH HIV BY 2015

HIV/AIDS