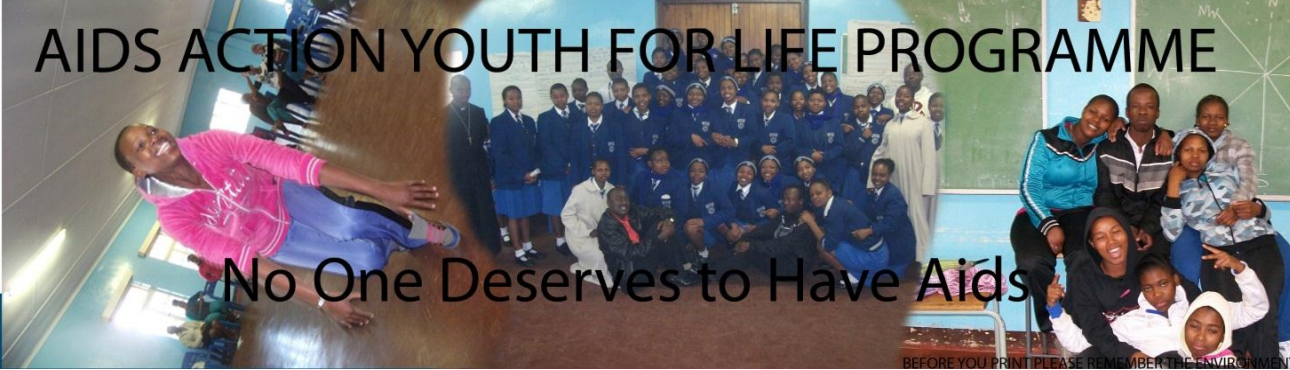




AIDS ACTION YOUTH FOR LIFE PROGRAMME

2011 UPDATE



No One Deserves to Have Aids

BEFORE YOU PRINT PLEASE REMEMBER THE ENVIRONMENT

I came that they may have life and have it to the full.

Dearest members of the Aids Action Youth for life programme, formators, stakeholders, well-wishers, funders, and most importantly schools and parishes we continue to workshop we present to you the 2011 UPDATE.

We thank you for giving of your time, talents and, resources through and in this programme such that many other people may have life and have it to the fullness. In these few pages we respond to the questions: who we are and what our ministry is all about, is it worthy it! at all, and how do we and can we surely bring fullness of life to our youths.

On page 3 we have included a photo gallery, just to share with you a taste of this ministry and on page 4 Sr Neliswa invites us for a serious evaluation of our group, identity, ministry and overall vision

Thank you once again AND May you remain blessed

Edited by Adrian Maqhawe Ndlovu CMM

Our Ministry and Identity

To many people our group is said to be the 'AIDS group'. This is what people call us. I find this not to be a good reflection of what we are all about as group. As a group we were established in response to the AIDS pandemic which has plagued our society; and this we approach through the Youth for Life program. We are not just the "AIDS group".

We are the AIDS Action Youth for Life program. We are a group which exists to help young people to overcome the culture of death which they constantly face....

(continues on page 2)

Is it Worth it?

It has been eleven years since the foundation of the SJTI Aids Action Youth for Life programme. We have preached the gospel of wholeness, we have encouraged the youths to choose life giving relationships and yet the question remains: is it worth it?

Is it worth it when some of the youths we have encountered continue to be infected and many more people affected, is it worth to continue when some of the youths discard our gospel of wholeness, and choose life depriving activities.

Is it worth it, when people 'even those we have encountered in our workshops continue to die from Aids related Sicknesses. As I reflected upon this question I remembered this now famous story:

A certain man was walking down the beach at sunset. As he walked along, he began to see a woman in the distance. As he grew nearer, he noticed that the woman was picking up starfish that had been washed up on the beach and, one at a time, was throwing them back in the water. So he said to her look there are thousands of starfish on this beach. You can't possibly get all of them. They are simply too many. Can't you realise that you can't possibly make a difference. She bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and as she threw it back into the sea she replied "I have just made a difference to this very one"

In our monitoring and evaluations we have met particular individuals who inspired by our life giving programmes have made a life for themselves and developed new value systems. Yet the call for evaluation and refocusing our energies is necessary so as to make a difference to many star fish.

To the question: is it worth it? I respond YES it is, even if it seems just one star fish

Adrian Maqhawe CMM

(continues from page 1)

...With the help of donors who support our efforts, we have been going out to schools and youth groups to facilitate workshops through which we extend our helping hand in bringing to the youth's awareness the impact their choices have on their lives.

What we have been doing is going out to youths from different parishes and some schools. We have also opened to ourselves the possibility of extending our outreach to tertiary students around the campuses in the Pietermaritzburg area. We had a workshop with a number of these tertiary students and they found our programme relevant and eye opening. We look forward to a continued working relationship with the Acts (Association of Catholic Tertiary Students). Our work has never stopped; it is through the availability of our members that we are able to be what we are as a group. Because of our limited resources not all members could get a chance to facilitate a workshop, nonetheless thanks for all the efforts and support that you have rendered in and through the group.

Br Leballo Tjemolane, OMI (Chairperson)

That they May Have Life...

'... that they may have life, and have it in abundance' (Jhn 10:10b). According to me, this verse summarises the very reasons for the existence of Aids Action at St. Joseph's Theological Institute: to promote a healthy lifestyle. In as much as each and every member hold on to this with both sincerity and commitment so long does the Group tick continually revitalising our youths who find themselves in social situations that threaten their cherished prospects of a fulfilling life.

Thank you a billion times to all those who support us as we strive year by year to make our mark in the society around us. To all the members of the Group, your contribution is greatly valued.

Nkululeko Ndlovu CMM



... and Have it to the Full

As HIV/Aids facilitators we sometimes used Scriptural approach when choosing themes; e.g. Jn 10:10: I have come that they may have life to the full; and Joshua 38:19: I place before you life and death, choose life. Our presentations ranged from Sexuality, relationships, love, life chooses and all this addressed current issues that the young people are faced with. Our main focus was the schools, day schools and boarding schools.

We also extended to the tertiaries; namely DUT and UKZN. Our workshops were positively received and the feedback was enriching. Sufficient research was conducted prior to our presentations.

Young people appreciated our presentations which employed the use of visual and audio aids: power points presentation, music and especially the movies we showed. Our wish is that youths may have Life and have it to the full. Hence the need for follow up workshops

Patrick Dladla OMI



2011 saw the Aids Action Youth for Life conducting 12 workshops and reaching to about 610 youths , these workshops were quite enriching as we addressed various challenges facing the youths. Some of the topics included decision-making and character formation. These demonstrated how the types of friends one has can have an influence in forming one's character. The participants came to realize that decision making is a process and one should not rush to make unwise decisions which may result in guilty and blame in the near future. Making right decision can lead to a fulfilled life which one desires to live. Life is a precious gift given to each one of us by God and so we are expected to treasure it....

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The talks and discussions also raised issues such as peer pressure teenager pregnancies, drug abuse and many other challenging issues which can bring an end to this precious gift, a gift we are supposed to treasure. Generally, we had fruitful workshops as we empowered the young people about what lies ahead of them.

A CALL FOR A SUBSTANTIAL EVALUATION

Is the Aids Action Youth for Life Programme all about workshops, workshops, and workshops? Since I have been in Aids Action for two years I have observed that its all about workshops. I do think it has to be more than that.

Firstly Our group comprises of about 80 registered members and yet we do not know each other very well. Its often embarrassing to go as a facilitation team and yet you know less of each other; you basically have no idea of your colleague. Such a situation makes the situation unbearable, and work difficult, often than not, people always pick it up and this is duly unfair to the workshop participants.

Secondly there seems to be a lack of communication between the the executive and the members and between the members themselves. Since we are about 80 members, you will be fortunate to facilitate at least one workshop and thus without communication the rest of the group has no idea about what is happening except for those few who have gone for the workshop. The group has become unknown in the Institute itself and has thus become less attractive. If we were attractive, and had organised many workshops, we would surely draw many other people to learn while facilitating workshops and this could be good of our ministries.

If you have any other points of evaluation or concern please email them to: amncmm@gmail.com As this would be good for the next executive and good for the entire group.

On the other hand thumbs up for the good work that we have been doing...

Sr Neliswa Mgoboli

A WORD OF THANKS

We are overwhelmed with gratitude **to all the members** for the good work that continues to be done through the Aids Action Youth for Life programme. We had many challenges and setbacks but we managed to make a contribution in ways that we find proper.

Dearest Formators and Superiors of various houses, in sincere appreciation of your valuable help, please accept our respect and gratitude for allowing your members to facilitate workshops and often using cars and other resources of your communities.

Thank You.

We do not know how to show our gratitude and cannot say enough thank-you to the **outgoing executive committee**: Leballo Tjemolane (Chairperson) Adrian M Ndlovu (Vice Chairperson) Nkululeko Ndlovu (Treasurer) Khulekani Dlamini (Secretary) Ignatious Chipiko (Publicity Secretary) Neliswa Mgoboli (Executive member).

To the **outgoing members** of the Aids Action Youth for Life Programme.... Please, accept our vehement protestation of gratitude. May the good work you began at St Joseph's Theological Institute continue to find a realisation in your future ministries.

Over and above all we thank our **Lord Jesus Christ** who came that we may have life and have it to the full and thus inspires us to carry out this life giving programme for
surely

NO ONE DESERVES TO HAVE AIDS