

The Hope Factor: Engaging the Church in the HIV/AIDS Crisis, Ed: Yamamori, Tetsunao, David Dageforde, and Tina Bruner. Authentic Media/World Vision (A division of OM) Federal Way, WA, 2003. (15 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

1. The New Epidemic

“In the fourteenth century, the Black Death struck Europe, wiping out a third of the population. Early in the twentieth century, influenza killed 30 million people in Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas. Today, a new and terrible epidemic is ravaging Africa. If nothing is done, an estimated 55 million Africans will die an early death from AIDS by 2020” (p.xi).

2. Worst Health Problem

“HIV/AIDS is arguably the worst health problem facing the world UNAIDS/WHO estimated in December 2003 that 34-46 million people were living with the virus. Of these, 4.2-5.8 million had been infected in the previous year. Approximately 10 men, women and children were infected with HIV every minute in 2003. More than 23 million people have lost their lives to the virus, an estimated 2.5-3.5 million in the last year alone” (p.12).

3. Through Intercourse, Drug Use, and Blood Transfusions

“HIV/AIDS spreads in different ways in different parts of the world. In rich countries, it spreads largely through homosexual intercourse, injecting drug use, and blood transfusions. In poor countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, it spreads primarily through heterosexual intercourse and from mother to baby. However, in Asia homosexual intercourse and injecting drug use have also been significant routes of transmission.

Globally, most infections have occurred through heterosexual intercourse, although in Europe and North America, the epidemic has mainly affected men. Worldwide, approximately 50 percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS are women” (p.13).

4. Leave Poverty Through Better Health

“Poor people will only be able to emerge from poverty if they enjoy better health. Health should be at the heart of our struggle for sustainable development”

-Gro-Harlem Brundtland, M.D., M.P.H. Director-General World Health Organization (1998-2003)

5. Six Million Deaths in 2001 Due to Seven Diseases

“In 2001, nearly two-thirds of all deaths among children and young adults (0-44 years) in Africa and Southeast Asia were due to seven diseases: AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrheal diseases, measles, acute respiratory infections, and maternal/prenatal conditions. The combined death toll from AIDS, TB, and malaria alone was roughly 6

million for the year, including infants, young children, mothers, and fathers in their productive years of life” (p.17).

6. Loss of a Life Precious to God

“Each death also represents a loss of life, each one precious in the sight of God. To family members, losing a loved one means emotional and psychological suffering. For many children losing their parents, it means a life of being an orphan-including the economic, social, and psychological dislocation that being an orphan represents. For AIDS, and to a lesser extent TB, they also face the stigma of being associated with a close loved one dying of the disease” (p.18).

7. AIDS Causing More Deaths than Any Other Disease

“HIV/AIDS: AIDS is caused by the human immune-deficiency virus, which is transmitted through sexual contact, blood transfusions, skin-piercing instruments, and from mother to child. From the early 1980s, when the first cases were detected, to the end of 2002, the total number of deaths due to HIV/AIDS has reached 25 million. In addition a total of 42 million are living with the virus, 3.2 million of them children under 15 years. Of the 39 million adults infected, roughly half are women. More than 90 percent of all AIDS deaths and new infections have occurred in developing countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. In only a few countries has the number of HIV/AIDS cases been stabilized or reduced. Statistical models indicate that unless drastic measures stabilize current rates of infection, by 2020, AIDS will have caused more deaths than any other epidemic disease in history” (p.19).

8. Projected 40 Million Orphans by 2010

“Current estimates indicate that there could be as many as 40 million orphans due to HIV/AIDS by the year 2010. This number does not include those who are caring for parents who are chronically ill due to HIV/AIDS” (p.19).

9. Malaria: a Child Killer

“Malaria: The malaria parasite causes malaria, which is transmitted through mosquito bites. The most virulent strain, falciparum malaria, may infect the brain, a common immediate cause of death. Malaria kills more than a million people a year, mostly young children under five in sub-Saharan Africa. This translates to nearly 3 thousand child deaths per day. In addition, hundreds of millions of people in malaria-endemic zones survive one or more bouts of fever due to malaria annually.

In malaria-endemic countries, women-especially pregnant women-face increased risk of contracting malaria, and suffering from its most important consequences, including miscarriages, stillborn babies, and maternal anemia. Babies born to mothers with malaria often have low birth weight, potentially leading to impaired development in infancy and early childhood” (p.20).

10. Table 3: **Available Tools for Prevention and Treatment: AIDS, TB, and Malaria**

Disease	Prevention	Treatment/Care
HIV/AIDS	ABC (Abstinence, Being Faithful, Condoms) strategy Safe blood transfusions Voluntary counseling and testing Clean needles for injections Treatment of sexually transmitted infections Prevention of mother-to-child transmission	Anti-retrovirals Essential drugs for opportunistic infections (including TB) and palliative care Good nutrition
TB	BCG vaccine for children	Sputum smears for detection Anti-TB drugs
Malaria	Insecticide-treated nets Insecticides for vector control Intermittent prophylaxis	Blood smear examinations and dipstick diagnosis Combined malaria therapy

11. AIDS Cumulative Death Toll – 1.4 Million

“About 3.47 million adults between ages 15-49 are believed to be HIV-infected in the country, making Nigeria the fourth most critical case-country in the world, contributing 8 percent of global infections and 11.6 percent of the African HIV burden. The cumulative death toll from AIDS-related illnesses is estimated at 1.4 million, resulting in over 1 million AIDS orphans in a country that lacks resources, infrastructure, and programs for orphans, many of whom are themselves HIV-infected” (p.37-38).

12. The Farming Economy Effected

“Eighty percent of Africans depend on small-scale agriculture for food and income. Up to 60 to 70% of some large-scale farms have lost workers due to HIV/AIDS. This drives up food prices and increases the economic burden of households.

A study in Zimbabwe in 1999 showed that AIDS deaths in households caused maize production to fall by 61%, in addition to other losses, such as cattle owned. In Zambia,

homes where a chronically ill person lived planted up to 53% less food than other homes” (p.52-53).

13. AIDS Spread by Armed Men in Some African Countries

“Conflict is also part of our world. In Africa, most of the countries with the highest rate of AIDS also experience internal conflict. In Rwanda, 24% of women in the capital city going to prenatal clinics were HIV-positive in 1995. Armed men-whether police, military, or militia-are known to spread AIDS. In many countries, the highest rate of AIDS is clustered around military, police, and immigration posts” (p.53).

14. Church-based Orphan Support

“World Relief and others support a movement for church-based orphan support known as ‘Every Church, Every Orphan’” (p.55).

15. AIDS – a Killer, Orphan and Widow Maker

“...the AIDS epidemic, a scourge that already has killed 25 million people, robbed 14 million children of parents, and turned 10 million wives into widows-many of them sick and desperate to find someone to care for their children when they die, too” (p.247).