

# World AIDS Day Praying through December for the HIV/AIDS pandemic



## Introduction

The 1<sup>st</sup> December marks World Aids Day, a global reminder of a pandemic that is affecting every continent, every people group, whatever sexuality or religion.

This year's day comes at a time when the figure infected globally has topped 40 million.

These notes are an attempt to help us to pray. Please use them only as a guideline.

Enjoy

Andy

# Prayer notes

Each day provides a snapshot, a verse from the bible and some written prayers. Please only use them as a guide.

## 1<sup>st</sup> December

### SNAPSHOT

Today is World AIDS Day. Last week it was announced that the number infected globally with HIV had passed 40 million people. With the difficulty in compiling figures from countries like China, that number is likely to be far higher. Already it is estimated that 20 million have been killed by HIV/AIDS and 15 million orphaned.

### VERSE

'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff they comfort me' Psalm 23: 4

### PRAYERS

Father of comfort

Today we know that many live in the shadow of HIV

Today we know many walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

God of comfort, send your comfort

Place an arm round the grieving

Bring peace to the troubled heart

Be a father to the orphan

Be a husband to the widow

And because of your great love Lord,

Be a healer to the sick today.

Amen.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> December

### SNAPSHOT

The average Japanese woman can live to be 84. The average Botswanan will reach just 39. Over 37% of adults in Botswana and Swaziland are infected, yet the true size of the epidemic is only just beginning to become clear. HIV/AIDS has decimated the continent of Africa.

### VERSE

'Yet to all who received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God'

John 1:12

### PRAYERS

Jesus Christ, our Saviour

You are the God who brings dignity

Who declares 'special' over each new life

Who speaks 'loved' into each heart?

Who designed and loves his creation.

Jesus, your designed in Africa are suffering.

Your loved are in locked in chains.

Break the hold of this virus.  
Bring healing to your people.  
Amen.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

The infection rate for HIV in Eastern Europe has increased by 25% over the past 3 years. This is a higher increase than any area of the world. Experts suggest it is predominantly due to a high use of needle injected drugs.

#### VERSE

'Say no to wrong. Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenceless.' Isaiah 1:17, The Message

#### PRAYERS

Proclaim freedom for the prisoners O God.  
Break the chains.  
Smash the addictions.  
Change the cycles of life that afflict the poor.  
And as we pray, we offer ourselves.  
May we help the down-and-out?  
May we bat for the defenceless?  
As we pray for those with the HIV virus  
We see that we may be part of the answer,  
Just as we are part of the problem.  
Have mercy God.

### 4<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

Although a cure is not yet found, available antiretrovirals (AVR) can keep people alive and healthy for 20 years. In poor countries, six million people with HIV/AIDS need AVR treatment immediately. Today only about 400,000 people receive AVR treatment – less than 8% of those in need. Africa is home to more than 26 million people living with HIV/AIDS. Yet only about 1% of Africans living with HIV/AIDS are receiving anti-AIDS drugs. Most people living with HIV are too poor to afford them and up till now, the International community has still not come up with a major programme to distribute these drugs. The G8 agreed in July 05 to fund such a programme, but as yet it is not happening on the large scale needed. Stephen Lewis, UN Envoy on AIDS in Africa has called the pandemic 'mass murder by complacency'.

#### VERSE

'Pray... for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.'  
1 Timothy 2:2

#### PRAYERS

Almighty God  
Yours are the hands that place people in authority  
Yours the hands that take authority away  
We pray for political leaders

We pray for leaders in science and medicines  
We pray for the pharmaceutical companies  
Change hearts  
Breed compassion  
Bring wisdom and boldness  
Provide hope.  
Amen

### 5<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

In South Africa teachers are currently dying at a faster rate than new ones can be trained.

#### VERSE

'Lord I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.' Habakkuk 3:2

#### PRAYERS

Father we pray for the nation of South Africa.  
We pray for those widowed due to AIDS.  
We pray for those orphaned due to AIDS.  
We pray for parents who mourn their children due to AIDS.  
Renew your deeds in that nation.  
Make yourself known.  
Have mercy.

### 6<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

Grandma's is a Christian charity based in London, which aims to give practical support to children and families affected by HIV. Founded in 1989 the charity has worked with approximately 425 families and currently has 200 families it works with in the Greater London area. Grandma's also partners with two HIV projects in India. Email: [headoffice@grandma's.org.uk](mailto:headoffice@grandma's.org.uk)

#### VERSE

'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

#### PRAYERS

God of grace  
Bless and build the work of Grandma's.  
Give wisdom, strength, skill and love in abundance.  
May you bless the work of their hands?  
Amen

### 7<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

The numbers of women contracting the HIV/AIDS virus is increasing alarmingly, with two thirds of new infections in women. This is put down to a number of factors,

including pressure of women to have unprotected sex and traditional practices such as polygamy.

VERSE

'He that oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God'

Proverbs 14: 31

PRAYERS

God of justice.

Stand with the hurting and dying today.

God of righteousness.

Stand with those oppressed by wrongdoing.

Where oppression has ruled,

May kindness break out today.

Amen

8<sup>th</sup> December

SNAPSHOT

Every day in Africa 1,400 newborn babies are infected either during breast-feeding or during childbirth.

VERSE

'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

Matthew 19: 14

PRAYERS

We remember the children before you God.

May you bless them and keep them.

May you heal the sick,

Be a friend to the lonely,

A Father to the orphan.

Be Abba Father

Amen

9<sup>th</sup> December

SNAPSHOT

Pray for NGO's (non-governmental organizations), charities, churches and individuals looking to help people on the ground. FOCHTA is a small NGO based in the Thyolo region of Mozambique. To help the direct and indirect victims of HIV/Aids escape the poverty trap, it offers small business start-up loans to people with HIV and also practical help to the region's many Aids orphans - it is thought there are well over 30,000 in the region alone.

VERSE

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.'

PRAYERS

Today we bring you the selfless who serve you

Amongst the pain and suffering of HIV.

May you use their hands to bring healing.  
May you use their feet to journey with hope.  
May you use their eyes to see needs.  
May you use their ears to hear and respond.  
May you use their mouths to speak up for the oppressed.  
May you use us as we pray  
And challenge us out of our apathy.  
Amen

### 10<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

It is estimated that there are now 58,300 individuals currently living with HIV in the UK, over a third of whom (19,700) are unaware of their condition. HIV rates continue to climb. Newly diagnosed cases reported for 2004 stand at 7,275. There is a continuing epidemic among the homosexual community and men having sex with men, accounting for approximately 2,185, or 30%, of new diagnoses in 2004. The main increase, however, is among heterosexuals, the majority of whom probably acquired the virus in Africa, with 4,287 new diagnoses in 2004, accounting for 59% of all new diagnoses. Injecting drug use and mother-to-children transmission continue to remain low, accounting for about 100 cases each in 2004.

#### VERSE

'All the discards and rejects in Jerusalem will be reclassified holy'. Isaiah 4:3 The Message

#### PRAYERS

Father God you set created order in place,  
But you embraced a sinful world.  
We see that HIV has many roots, many of them bad,  
But we know you love those who suffer.  
Help us as church to bring your love to the 58,300.  
Save us from judging.  
Speak to us when we condemn.  
Let us be a body who speaks your love in words  
And shows your love in actions.  
Amen

### 11<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

"The national impact is devastating to all sectors of the economy" Global Business coalition on HIV/AIDS.

It is predicted that AIDS will have a massive impact on many countries economically as many who contract the virus will be young and part of the workforce. The World Bank predicts economic collapse in South Africa in four generations if AIDS is not tackled.

#### VERSE

'He who gives to the poor, lends to the Lord' Proverbs 19: 17

PRAYERS

Father we ask you would come to the aid of the poor

It is the poor who often suffer

And under the weight of HIV there is no exception

Have mercy on the marginalized, who you love

Amen

12<sup>th</sup> December

SNAPSHOT

2.2 million children under 15 are currently living with HIV/AIDS.

VERSE

'The little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them' Matthew 19: 13

PRAYERS

Jesus the kind Christ

Your disciples thought children would be a pain

And so they told them to go away

But you welcomed them Jesus.

We ask that you would once again welcome

The children of AIDS to your breast

Lord Jesus would you bless them, keep them,

Make your face to shine upon them and give them peace.

Amen

13<sup>th</sup> December

SNAPSHOT

Today the latest World Trade Organisation talks begin in Hong Kong. Issues of debt, aid and trade are on the agenda, pray for just agreements, especially on fairer trade. The global website [www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk](http://www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk) believes these three issues are directly linked to the HIV/AIDS crisis. Debt repayments hamper the building up of health services. Insufficient and ineffective aid means a lack of money for drugs and treatment. Unfair trade rules mean that often drug prices are too high and unaffordable.

#### VERSE

'The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.' Proverbs 11:1

#### PRAYERS

God of the nations

We ask your presence would invade the WTO

We ask your wisdom would infiltrate discussion

We ask your justice would prevail

Amen.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

At the Doha round of Trade talks, the Kenyan Trade minister declared. "While you people are having this complicated debate, my people are dying." The Doha Agreement stated that 'governments must put public health before patent rights'. This was heralded by many as 'a major step forward, but the reality was somewhat different and agreement on what that meant was only reached on August 30th 2003. AIDS campaigners and many developing countries were disappointed with the outcome. Pray for ongoing discussions about the issue of AIDS drugs and trade rules amongst world leaders.

#### VERSE

'But let justice roll on like a river and righteousness like a never failing stream.' Amos 5:24

#### PRAYERS

Justice today God.

For the sake of the poor

Let your justice roll down today

In the corridors of power

In the lives of the millions

Let justice roll down like a river.

Amen

### 15<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

Jacobs Well in Vancouver. East side of Vancouver has 10,000 drug addicts, 38% have AIDS, 67% are HIV positive. Pray for Joyce Heron and her communities, trying to bring some help and be Christ in this situation.

[www.jacobswell.ca](http://www.jacobswell.ca)

#### VERSE

'My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray and caused them to roam the mountains.' Jeremiah 50: 6

#### PRAYERS

Christ the Good Shepherd

We pray you would once again shepherd the lost

Call you lost sheep to you

Go after those who wander or who have gone astray.

We pray your blessing on Jacobs Well.

Give them kindness, compassion, wisdom and love.

God of grace, bless the work of their hands.

### 16<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

HIV is a global pandemic and its effect is felt all over the world. In Sub-Saharan Africa Adults the numbers with HIV/AIDS is 25.8 million. In Asia it is 8.3 million. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia the number of adults and children living with HIV is 1.6 million.

#### VERSE

'Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales' Isaiah 40: 15

#### PRAYERS

God of the nations

We pray you'd have mercy on the nations

Release the chains of HIV

Bring healing and hope

Champion of the nations

Be our saviour again.

Amen

## 17<sup>th</sup> December

### SNAPSHOT

Caribbean: 300,000.

Latin America: 1.8 million

North America, Western and Central Europe: 1.9 million

Middle East and North Africa: 510,000

Oceania: 74,000

### VERSE

'The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired and weary, and his understanding no-one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.' Isaiah 40:28,29

### PRAYERS

God of the nations

God of justice and mercy

We ask you to bring help to the helpless today.

Strength to the weak

Hope to the hopeless

Health to the sick and in need.

Send your love and grace

Use us to bring your love and peace to your world

Amen.

## 18<sup>th</sup> December

### SNAPSHOT

It is estimated that by 2010, AIDS will have left behind 40 million orphans world wide, an amount which equals the number of children in the entire U.S. Public School system. There are currently 11 million AIDS orphans in Africa alone

### VERSE

'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.' James 1:27

### PRAYERS

God our Father

You ask us to look after orphans

To care for widows in distress

You ask for righteousness

Have mercy Lord.

Christ have mercy.

Amen

## 19<sup>th</sup> December

### SNAPSHOT

50% of new HIV infections occur among young people aged 15-25

### VERSE

'Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.' Isaiah 40: 30

#### PRAYERS

For the young who are tired and weary  
For the young who stumble and fall  
For a young generation, in the grip of AIDS  
Bring hope Lord  
Renew strength  
Break the chains Lord  
Amen

#### 20<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

The epidemic is still on the increase, with a staggering 100 million in Africa alone expected to have died of AIDS by 2025. 25 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are HIV positive. 30% of the world's infections are in this region, which has only 2% of the world's population. Each year, AIDS kills ten times as many people in Africa as all of the wars there combined. In sub-Saharan Africa, a 15-year old boy currently has a 33% chance of contracting HIV and dying of AIDS; in some African countries this probability is as high as 66%.

#### VERSE

'God reigns over the nations' Psalm 47: 8

#### PRAYERS

Circle Africa with your presence O God  
Keep protection near and danger afar  
May the peace of all peace be Africa's this day.  
Amen

#### 21<sup>st</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

In Africa, where approximately 27 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, it is estimated that only 100,000 infected people are currently receiving ARV therapy. In Rwanda, of more than 400,000 people living with HIV/AIDS there are only about 1,000 people with access to affordable drugs. The world as a whole spends \$4.7bn on AIDS each year - the US spends almost twice this (\$8bn) annually on cosmetics. Europe spends more than twice this (\$11bn) on ice cream.

#### VERSE

'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke.' Isaiah 58: 6

#### PRAYERS

Today we want to be silent before you Lord  
To mourn those who suffer under the yoke of Aids  
To mourn our unwillingness to help

To ask for mercy and for change.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

Tearfund are a Christian charity based in the UK who are involved in projects globally trying to combat HIV. They partner with groups like the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia. In December 2003, the EFZ found 110 projects working with orphans and that as a whole, 70,000 orphans were being given help in Zambia  
[www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)

#### VERSE

'Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.' Micah 6:8

#### PRAYERS

God we thank you for the work of Tearfund  
Give them strength, wisdom and compassion for the task.  
Bless the work of their hands.  
We thank you for what you are doing in Zambia.  
Bless the orphans God  
Bring them help and hope. Amen

### 23<sup>rd</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

In the past three years, the US has contributed more financially to the HIV/AIDS crisis than any other country. President George Bush's Emergency Plan for Aids relief is about providing Anti Viral drugs to those who need them. The US scheme is just one of many governmental responses to HIV AIDS. Whilst projects have their critics and the need is still far greater than any responses, it is clear that some governments are choosing to respond.

#### VERSE

'In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'

#### PRAYERS

Father God today we bring you President Bush.  
We thank you for what he is doing, but we ask you to double his resolve.  
Move in his heart for the needs of the poor.  
We pray that the influential G8 nations would embrace the needs of those facing the HIV pandemic.  
Amen

### 24<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

Andrew Stimpson, 25, was diagnosed HIV-positive in 2002 but was found to be negative in October 2003 by Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust. It was reported recently that doctors were trying to find out how this had happened. Each year, millions of dollars and masses of expertise go into searching for a cure to HIV/AIDS. Dr Patrick Dixon, reflecting on Mr Stimpson's case said the case was

important because "inside his immune system is perhaps a key that could allow us to develop some kind of vaccine".

VERSE

'But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.' Malachi 4:2

PRAYERS

Creator God  
We thank you for medicine  
For solutions to disease  
For wisdom hidden in your created world  
We pray today for HIV/AIDS  
We pray for a cure  
Give wisdom to those who search  
Amen.

25<sup>th</sup> December

SNAPSHOT

At the end of 2004, the UN Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria needed \$7-10 billion to address these three diseases. At the end of 2004, the US was \$1billion in arrears in its payments to the UN. Many other nations were also behind in their payments.

VERSE

'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessings that you will not have room enough for it.' Malachi 3:10

PRAYERS

On this day when we remember the gift of your son  
We pray you would make us generous O God  
As individuals, as nations  
Help us to answer your call to live generous lives  
Amen

26<sup>th</sup> December

SNAPSHOT

Conflict plays a big part in the HIV crisis. A UN worker in Sierra Leone reported that during conflict there, tens of thousands of women were abducted and raped, with many ending up as prostitutes in major cities. The majority will end up with HIV.

VERSE

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.' Matthew 5:9

PRAYERS

Bring peace in areas of conflict Lord  
(name places before God)  
Prince of peace, bring peace to your world  
Protect the poor and the needy

Amen

### 27<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

Many choose to deal with the pandemic by ignoring it. It is expected that the infection rate is far higher because many countries have chosen to ignore or not properly deal with the problem. 'Denial has been a characteristic of this epidemic at all levels' (Peter Piot, UNAids). In September 2003, South African president Mbeki declared that he did not know anyone who had died of AIDS – although one of his staff and many senior ANC figures had died.

#### VERSE

'If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.' Proverbs 21:13

#### PRAYERS

Father forgive us for the sin of denial  
For closing our ears to the cries of the poor.  
Change us Lord. Amen

### 28<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

Engage HIV/AIDS is a UK based campaign looking to raise awareness and involvement in the issues around HIV. It is about responding in hope and love. Engagehivaids.com is a web-based community that seeks to inspire, resource and connect people who, at any level they can, want to live their lives in a way that makes a difference.

[www.engagehivaids.com](http://www.engagehivaids.com)

#### VERSE

'To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.'  
Proverbs 21:3

#### PRAYERS

God bless and keep EngageHIV and all who work with them  
God of grace, bless the work of their hands

### 29<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

Some 120,000 women and girls are trafficked into Western Europe every year. Most will end up in prostitution. Most will face the risk of HIV infection.

#### VERSE

'I'm tired of this – so tired. My bed has been floating forty days and nights on the flood of my tears.' Psalm 6, The Message

#### PRAYERS

God how long to pray these prayers?  
How long will this pandemic afflict the poor?  
How long will men contribute to this blight on the world?

Forgive us, change us.  
Break the chains.  
Amen

### 30<sup>th</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

Today it is estimated that 9,500 new infections will take place. In the next 60 seconds 4 people will die of AIDS.

#### VERSE

'Close the book on evil God, but publish your mandate for us.' Psalm 7, the Message

#### PRAYERS

Have mercy on this generation God.  
Turn the tide of death and infection that AIDS have brought.  
We pray again for healing.  
We pray again for a cure.  
We pray again for justice and mercy. Amen

### 31<sup>st</sup> December

#### SNAPSHOT

This year has marked two global campaigns against poverty, the One campaign and the Make Poverty History campaign. Its impact is hard to judge. As we enter New Year the three strands of debt, aid and trade still have a profound effect on the world's ability to tackle the pandemic of HIV/AIDS. At the turn of the year, infection levels are growing globally and 40 million are now believed to carry the virus. By the middle of 2005, only 10% have access to Anti Viral drugs.

#### VERSE

'But by working justice, God-of-the-Angel-Armies will be a mountain. By working righteousness Holy God will show what holy is.' Isaiah 5, The Message

#### PRAYERS

God of the nations  
Heal the nations  
Guide the nations  
Bring hope to the nations  
Amen



SOURCES

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

[www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk](http://www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk)

Source VSO Report 'Gendering AIDS: Women, Men, Mobilisation and Empowerment.'

United Nations

Source: National AIDS Trust

The World Bank

People and Planet

[www.worldaidsday.org](http://www.worldaidsday.org)

Tearfund

Grandma's

50 facts that should change the world, Jessica Williams (Icon Books 2004)