



AIDS & Health Care

God has a very special heart for the plight of the poor and oppressed. He loves to heal and restore. We have the privilege as believers in Christ, to make a tangible difference in their lives by making health care for the poor a priority. In a world blessed with so many resources, millions of people still have to endure unsafe living conditions, preventable diseases, contaminated water, hunger and malnutrition. These everyday realities result in sickness and suffering, and ultimately a much shorter life, particularly for those living in poverty.



The true meaning of health is far more than just the absence of disease. Disease is the biomedical condition that adversely affects the functioning of an organism. AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and the rarely known Chagas are just some examples of diseases which weaken the body and when left untreated, lead to death. Beyond the physical are the deep social and psychological impacts of a disease. People living with illness may be ostracized by their families and feel marginalized in the community due to the stigma or fear associated with their disease. The illness will also affect their economic capacity to care for themselves and their families.

CBM's commitment to integral mission motivates actions that deal with both the medical condition and the social nature of an illness or health crisis. CBM believes that health does not just mean the physical well-being of the individual but refers to the social, emotional, spiritual and cultural well-being of the whole community.

HIV & AIDS

HIV and AIDS is one of the most important health issues of the present day, although sadly it no longer holds the public's attention. It disproportionately affects the poorest of the poor. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to two-thirds of all people living with HIV. India ranks third in the world for the overall number of people living with HIV and AIDS.

Today, more than 34 million people worldwide are infected with this devastating disease and about half of this number does not even know they are infected. Though significant strides have been made in slowing down infection rates in recent years, the human impact of this disease is still quite staggering. At least 7 million people living

with AIDS should be on anti-retroviral drugs but do not have access to them.

People dealing with HIV and AIDS not only have to overcome social stigmas, but poverty multiplies the difficulties they face. A holistic approach is being used to effectively address these issues. Individuals and churches in Canada and our partner churches in Africa and India are joining hands in the battle against AIDS by sharing resources, breaking down barriers erected by the stigma associated with the disease, creating communities of compassion and providing practical assistance to adults and children affected by AIDS.

It shouldn't matter where in the world you are born. What should matter is that as a human being you are created in the image of God and thus have a right to be treated with dignity and care. However, in our world, it DOES matter where you are born. If you are born in Canada, your access to food, education and health care means that on average you will live longer – much longer – than someone born in Africa, Bolivia, or India. And, odds are, you will also live better.

We believe that God uses local churches around the world to be centres of God's mission to heal a broken world. God wants to heal the whole person: mind, body and spirit. We believe that health refers to the presence of God's shalom, which brings wholeness to the physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cultural dimensions of an individual and community. This is what Jesus meant when He said that He came to bring life "to the full".



As of 2014, CBM marks a decade of serving people living with HIV & AIDS through the Guardians of Hope program. The program's success is built upon key elements that bring about healthy community. These activities include forming church-based support groups for people living with HIV and AIDS, providing education aimed at prevention, creating awareness about the condition, assisting with community development projects (including micro-enterprise initiatives aimed at starting small businesses) and the provision of resources to help communities respond to the financial, psycho-social and spiritual needs of orphans.

CHAGAS

Although it is not well known outside of Latin America, an estimated 15 million people are infected with a devastating disease called Chagas. The World Health Organization lists Chagas under the category of "neglected tropical diseases." This silent killer targets the poor of Central and South America, particularly those who live in adobe brick houses and keep farm animals next to their homes. Bolivia, with an infection rate of approximately 10 percent of the population, has the highest incidence of Chagas in the world. Without treatment, death takes place two decades after initial infection.

The deadly parasite is carried by an insect called the vinchuca which hides in adobe mud bricks, thatched roofs, and sheds where small animals are kept. Vinchucas come out at night to suck blood from people who are sleeping. In the process of ingesting blood, they excrete infected feces onto the skin. The sleeping person may inadvertently scratch the bite and thereby introduce the infection into the wound. The initial reaction is usually mild, but over the years, the parasite gathers strength. About 40 percent of infected people develop heart problems as Chagas disease attacks vital organs and soft muscle tissue. Eventually, they die.

CBM's Chagas program involves several components that include: public education, blood tests to confirm infection, and medical treatment for those in the early stages of the disease. On a preventive level, CBM works alongside our partner in Bolivia to reduce the vinchuca population in and around houses by applying insecticides and Chagas-proofing homes with plastered walls, cement floors, adequate doors and windows, and tin roofs to eliminate the infestation.

MOTHER AND CHILD CENTRE

300,000 women die each year during pregnancy or at the time of delivery. Over three million children die at childbirth or during the first twenty-eight days of life. A further 3.5 million die before they reach the age of five. The most common causes of early childhood death are infectious diseases, diarrhea and malnutrition.

The vast majority of maternal and deaths in children under the age of five occur in the rural areas of the developing world. Most of these deaths would have been relatively easy to prevent. Trained medical workers attend only forty-six percent of births in low income countries. Post-natal care is often simply not accessible for the poor. An estimated 42% of children below five years of age are undernourished. The large number of funerals for mothers and children (compared to men) are a reflection of the deep inequities that exist within countries and the world as a whole.

India has one of the world's highest maternal and child mortality rates. In Serango, a remote and neglected region, the rates are abnormally high and alarming. Most of these deaths could have been prevented with the availability of medical care during pregnancy, the presence of health workers at the time of birth, basic health care during the weeks after childbirth and adequate nourishment for infants and children under five.

CBM helped to establish the Mother and Child Care Centre and health program at the Serango Christian Hospital in 2010. It is making a major contribution to improving the quality of health and well-being for mothers and children throughout this region. Mobile services bring medical assistance to people who are unable to travel to the hospital. Throughout the year, community health awareness programs offered at the Clinic and in the surrounding villages provide young moms with vital information on common, preventable diseases including malaria, as well as illnesses resulting from the lack of nutritious food and clean drinking water. The dedicated Christian medical team meets regularly to pray and fast as they minister to those with medical needs in this community.

In the event a particular project or program is oversubscribed or where local conditions prevent implementation, CBM will redirect your donation to where it is needed most.

cbmin.org

Canadian Baptist Ministries
7185 Millcreek Drive
Mississauga · Ontario
L5N 5R4 · Canada

TEL: +1.905.821.3533
FAX: +1.905.826.3441
f cbmin.org
t canadianbaptist



CBM *embracing a broken world
through word & deed*