

Raleigh Moravian Church and the Board of World Mission Sponsor:

***Adopt a Village Program: Give hope to AIDS Orphans  
in Tanzania***



Raleigh Moravian has joined the Board of World Mission (BWM) in their Adopt a Village program. The BWM and the Moravian Church of Western Tanzania developed this community-based orphan program to assist children under the age of 16 who have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Churches contributing \$1,000 per year can help meet the needs of as many as 50 children for an entire year, depending on the cost of food that year. The program offers emotional and material support, enabling the children to remain with extended family members and participate in the community. We invite you to invest with us to adopt the village of Iyombakuzova.

**The most effective care for AIDS orphans**

In the early days of the AIDS orphan crisis, there was a rush by well-meaning non-governmental organizations to build orphanages. This response was unsustainable given the scale of the problem, as the cost of maintaining a child in such an institution is many times that of other forms of care. Most people now agree that orphans should be cared for in family units through extended family networks, foster families and adoption, and that siblings should not be separated. Unfortunately these families have become overwhelmed by the AIDS pandemic.

**Who leads our Moravian efforts?**

Adopt a Village is led by Dr. William Hoffman and his wife, Dr. Margaret Kraybill, members of Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem. Though retired, they are actively leading our church's response to HIV/AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean. They are on the cutting edge of combating what is one of our most challenging medical crises in centuries.

Under the leadership of the Hoffmans, the community orphan program has evolved in the villages of the Sikonge district and in the city of Tabora. From the villages, 2 to 4 women who love children were chosen to administer the program. Fifteen women, 10 in the

villages and 5 in Tabora, are now helping around 1500 children. The communities cover a large geographic area south of Sikonge.

The women administering the program canvass the neighborhoods and register children requiring care. They distribute provisions every four to six weeks. This includes staples such as maize, rice, and milk for infants; personal items (sleeping mats, sheets, soap and skin oil); school uniforms and supplies, and sometimes school fees. Medical care is provided through agreements with the local medical facilities.

The Hoffmans' direct involvement ensures that the donations given will go directly to help AIDS orphans in Iyombakuzova, the village selected for Raleigh Moravian.

### **Moravians in Tanzania**

Over half the Moravians in the world live in one of the four Provinces in Tanzania. They have reached across their borders through evangelization and started Moravian Churches in Malawi, Zambia, and Congo. They have been the fastest growing area of the Moravian Church for many years.

The AIDS epidemic has deeply affected Tanzania. In addition to the Adopt a Village program, the Moravian Church provides literature and organizes training sessions in AIDS awareness for pastors and their wives. Also, at the hospital in Sikonge, the American Provinces supply testing kits to help prevent mother-to-child transmission. They also supply a drug to be given during labor and to the newly born child to reduce chances of that transmission. The BWM has affirmed that AIDS is a primary focus for our mission outreach.



**There are as many AIDS orphans in Africa as there are children under 5 in the U.S.**

**\$1,000.00 a year per village can help as many as 50 children. That is just \$20.00 per child.**

### **The Way Forward**

The way forward is prevention and care. Our focus is care for the AIDS orphans in Africa, but it is also important to remember HIV prevention. Preventing more adults from becoming infected with HIV, and providing treatment and care, will reduce the chance of more children becoming orphans in the future.

