



## **HOSPICE KITS NEEDED**

**The HIV/AIDS epidemic presents enormous challenges to health care world wide.** Missionaries, their health care worker colleagues, and patients' families in third world countries must provide daily care to AIDS patients who suffer from the symptoms of a devastating, end-stage disease. There is pain, nausea, diarrhea, skin eruptions, to name a few. Hospice kits provide cleanliness, comfort, and hope.

**“These hospice kits are a sign of God’s love”** says a home- based care nurse as we visited hospice patients at an impoverished rural village in Tanzania.

**Case Study:** A young woman, suffering from the effects of AIDS and near death, is abandoned by her husband and family and living with her 7-year-old daughter in an abandoned store front. Her husband accused her of being unfaithful, when, in reality, she likely contracted the HIV/AIDS virus from him when he was symptom-free. We asked where her seven-year-old daughter was, and the nurse said, “She has gone to fetch water for them as she does every day.” God only knows how far this little girl had to go for the needed water. We left a hospice kit with this mother, and for the child who would use the personal hygiene items (soap, band-aids, etc.) to care for her mother. The rubber household gloves alone were a blessing for the girl would be able to bathe her mother and dress the open sores on her skin without infecting herself.

**How can we be “Christ’s beacon of light,” offer dignity to dying patients like these in Tanzania and showing them that someone, somewhere cares about them?**

**You or your church groups can actively assemble and supply hospice kits for Global Health Ministries who distributes them to many third-world Lutheran medical facilities, including our companion synod hospital in the Southern Diocese, Ilembula Lutheran Hospital.**

Global Health Ministries is committed to shipping 7,000 kits to Tanzania this year. They currently have 2,000. Let us seek to assist them in meeting their goal of compassion and care to those who suffer.

**See the back side of this flyer for Hospice Kit instructions.**

**Asante sana** -- thank you very much.

~ WIS Medical Task Force Team

## **Instructions for Hospice Kits:**

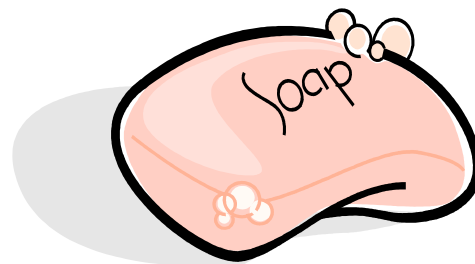
### **Contents:**

#### **New or gently used:**

- 1 regular-sized bath towel
- 1 wash cloth

#### **New:**

- 1 bath size bar of hand soap (wrapped)—any kind
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 tube of tooth paste, medium or large (or two small sample sizes)—any kind
- 1 “pick” hair comb
- 1 nail clipper
- 6 Band-Aids
- 1 jar or tube of petroleum jelly
- 1 pair heavy-duty household gloves (kitchen type)—size medium
- 1 small devotional booklet such as Portals of Prayer or Christ in our Home (does not need to be current issue) used by caregivers to offer spiritual support to the patient.



**Additional Need/Option:** send a \$5/kit separate donation to Global Health Ministries (7831 Hickory Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432) so that vitamins and pain medications may be added to the kit prior to distribution as Tanzanian law requires that these items be purchased in-country.

#### **Assembly Instructions:**

1. Wrap all items in the towel
2. Place all in large (2 gallon or larger) Ziploc plastic bag
3. Include note that reads “AIDS/Hospice Kit”—the note should be visible through the bag
4. Squeeze out the air of the bag
5. Pack 10-15 kits to a box

#### **Sending Options:**

1. Deliver them anytime to Exira Lutheran Church (106 W Harrison St. Exira, IA 50076; 712-268-2660). Someone will eventually deliver them to Global Health Ministries.
2. Deliver them to the Western Iowa Synod Assembly (May 1-3 in Sioux City) to the Global Health Ministry Drop-Off Site. Someone will eventually deliver them to Global Health Ministries.
3. Deliver them directly to Global Health Ministries (7831 Hickory Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432 (763-586-9590).

#### **Helpful Hints:**

- As you assemble the kits, pray for those suffering from HIV/AIDS and other diseases.
- Pray, also, for their personal care-givers.
- Check with local hotels or hospitals for towels and wash cloths
- Check with local dentists for toothbrushes and toothpaste.
- Check “dollar stores” for gloves, nail clippers, hair picks, soap, band-aids, etc.
- Check with church secretary for devotional booklets.