

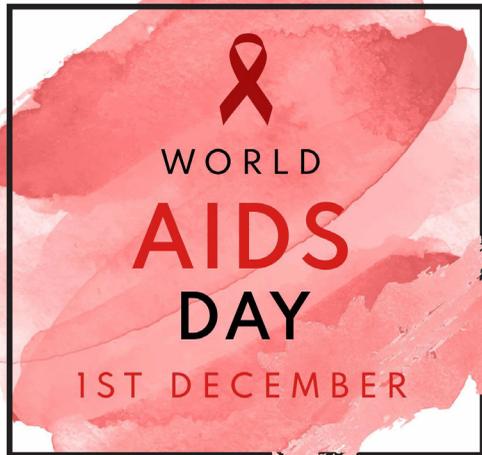


Ministering to Adolescents Living with HIV

It's all about the gap!

Each year, on December 1st, the world commemorates World AIDS Day. People around the world unite to show support for people living with HIV and to remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses. Every year since its inception in 1988, World AIDS Day has focused on a specific theme.

In Dec of 2013, while interviewing adolescents living with HIV in Kenya, I heard a still small voice in my head say, "Fill the gap." What I didn't know at that time was the theme for 2014 was "Close the Gap." What that meant was to close the gap between people with access to HIV services and people without services. God chose that specific point in time to show me how



to go about creating the Maarifa Curriculum. Maarifa offers spiritual and emotional support and life skills that are often missing in government programs that concentrate solely on medical treatment. The other aspects that play into HIV treatment like self-acceptance, adherence, stigma, discrimination, relationships, and disclosure are often seen as not being urgent. A medicine only treatment approach is dangerously unbalanced.

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health stated that, "Every dollar invested in selected adolescent health interventions is estimated to produce a 10-fold return in health, social and economic benefits. And the investment has a "triple dividend": benefits for adolescents now, for their future adult lives and for their children."

The Maarifa curriculum is a triple-dividend investment.

Creating awareness about and remembering lives lost to the HIV pandemic is so important, and I'm so grateful we set aside a day to do just that. World AIDS Day should also call us to action! Dec. 2nd should be the day that we roll up our sleeves and put our money, time, and efforts toward supporting those living with HIV.

That's why I'm launching the WHAT COMES NEXT campaign on Dec. 2nd, to raise funds so that we can get the Maarifa curriculum into the hands of every adolescent who can benefit from the support, skills and especially the hope it offers. I would like to raise \$5000 so that I can partner with at least 5 and maybe as many as 10 new organizations serving adolescents living with HIV in the first quarter of 2023.

I hope you will consider donating to the WHAT COMES NEXT campaign and if you already give on a regular basis, please consider an extra gift to jump start the reach of the Maarifa curriculum in 2023.

To donate: <https://globeintl.org/members/steyn-jessica-maarifa/>

Select: **Give** (Enter your Gift)

Select a fund: **MAARIFA**

Thank you for your financial support. Without it, reaching adolescents living with HIV with this faith-based curriculum would not be possible.

Your prayers contribute as much as the financial support! Because as UK Pastor, Stephan Gaukroger, said so beautifully, "Prayer needs no passport, visa, or work permit. There is no such thing as a 'closed country' as far as prayer is concerned. Much of the history of missions could be written in terms of God moving in response to persistent prayer."

Your persistent prayer has given me the strength to keep moving forward despite all the changes in my life and ministry plan since I began this journey in December of 2013. Thank you for sticking with me.

And if you are just learning about the Maarifa curriculum and how beneficial it is to adolescents living with HIV, please feel free to contact me directly for more information at maarifa@info@gmail.com. God is revealing new plans and ways to bring this curriculum to its intended audience, like a new website by the beginning of 2023! Visit www.mymaarifa.org for more information.

I will be posting on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn once a week at least until Dec. 1 about World AIDS day and the WHAT COMES NEXT campaign beginning on Dec. 2. Share these posts with your followers.

Praise

- Praise for a peaceful transition after the Kenyan election in August.
- Praise for 8 years of marriage that I get to celebrate with Daniel on November 22.
- Praise that I will be spending a couple of days with the Kimani kids when I'm in Kenya this coming December! They are the children of my friend Njeri Kimani, who passed away in March 2022. Be in prayer that I can support them both emotionally and spiritually during our time together.

Prayer

- Pray for the ongoing drought and the high inflation in Kenya that are causing families to struggle.
- Pray for the WHAT COMES NEXT campaign and how you can contribute.
- Pray for my upcoming trip to Kenya at the end of December.
- Pray for Joshua, Jacquie and Esther as we end our formal working agreement. Pray that they find meaningful work that will support their families.

In His Service, Jessica, Daniel, & Nadia Steyn

GIVING

Checks should be made out to **Globe International** (write Maarifa in the memo)
P.O. Box 3040 • Pensacola, FL • 32516-3040

ONLINE GIVING

www.mymaarifa.org/donate



www.globeintl.org