

Andrews University, Seventh-day
Adventist Theological Seminary

Title: An Adventist Pilot Project to Reduce the Spread of HIV/AIDS Among Young People in Umuahia Capital Territory of Abia State, Nigeria

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Human life and economic resources are wasted as the HIV/AIDS pandemic destroys the fabric of society in Abia State, Nigeria. In the Umuahia Capital Territory, the spread of HIV/AIDS is growing at a terrifying rate; therefore, there is a compelling need to consider how HIV/AIDS has spread in the past, to discover the factors responsible for its rapid spread, and to develop and implement an Adventist pilot strategy for reducing its spread.

Current literature was reviewed, including books, articles, and internet materials dealing with the HIV/AIDS situation in Abia State. These were studied in the context of the Umuahia Capital Territory in order to determine if the principles used in the HIV/AIDS reduction approach could be contextualized to be used as a dependable analysis tool of the problem and also for the purpose of constructing a strategy.

The descriptive modular strat-

egy was chosen as the preferred approach to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic among young people in the Umuahia Capital Territory. This strategy was developed and partially implemented in April 2009 at three centers—the Seventh-day Adventist church in Umuoriehi, the Adventist church in Apumiri, Ubakala, and at the Mgbaja Ossa Community Hall in Umuahia. This was a pilot project and because of the favorable results the Adventist Church is willing to develop the strategy further in order to register a greater impact in the area. The analysis of the oral interviews and questionnaires has given direction for further development of similar projects in the future. Although the strategy was only partially implemented, there is great confidence and enthusiasm among the church membership who are convinced that a full implementation of the project can be realized by the end of December 2009. The lessons learned will be used in future revisions, revitalization, and adjustment of the strategy for better results.

The early results indicated that by surveying the territory, the Adventist Church was able to become acquainted with the factors militating against the reduction of the spread of HIV/AIDS and was then able to develop a well-structured strategy for future application.

The modular strategy process also allows the Adventist Church to impact various regions and areas as the strategy is further

developed and implemented. The most encouraging result of the project was that the strategy was able to change the lifestyle and culture of the people involved in the project.

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Title: Developing a People Group Approach in Ghana as Illustrated in the Krobo Project

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The Seventh-day Adventist Church is expanding in Ghana but the Krobos have not been reached with the message even though many efforts have been made. The number of Krobo Adventists is so insignificant that a well-developed strategy is needed to establish a ministry among them.

My personal profile as a Krobo was shared since much of this project arises out of my own personality and spiritual characteristics.

A survey of the Krobo people and a cultural analysis of the Krobos forms the basis for the strategy that was developed. Library research, questionnaires, interviews, and observations were all used to help develop the new approach. A profile of

the Krobo community as well as the church was also developed through research, interviews, and the data gathered.

A strategy was developed to evangelize the Krobos. The strategy will be implemented and assessed partly through this Doctor of Ministry project, but the final results are not yet available. The Krobos are gradually being reached with the Adventist message. There have been some baptisms of Krobos into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist schools have been established, and some of the illiterates in the church can now read and write. Church services are now held in the Krobo dialect due to availability of Adventist literature in the Krobo language.

The great commission of Matt 28:19, 20 stresses the importance of reaching all ethnic groups with the gospel. This is now being fulfilled among the Krobo people in Ghana. The Seventh-day Adventist Church can use a people group strategy to reach other people groups and to help contextualize the Adventist message to increase its appreciation by unreached groups in Ghana. It is hoped that through the people group approach more attention will be paid to the cultural context of unreached groups so many more will join the church. The people group approach also provides a more sensitive and meaningful worship experience as people are allowed to sing and worship in their own language.