**Christian Response to HIV/AIDS**

**Winter 2008**

**Forward Strategy**
At the threshold of this new year, I would like to share with you the exciting way ahead for LifeRise® AIDS Resources.

**Achieving our purpose**
LifeRise has a three-fold purpose:

♦ Share the gospel to bring the transformation of Christ to people suffering because of HIV/AIDS in developing countries worldwide
♦ Show the compassion of Christ by providing health and social services
♦ Promote Christian values and the evangelical response to HIV/AIDS in the international health arena

**Working through projects**
LifeRise accomplishes our purpose by partnering with evangelical Christian groups in poor countries to help them minister to those hurting from AIDS in their communities. We provide grants and expertise to enable our grassroots partners to conduct HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care projects. By *projects*, we mean serving a certain number of beneficiaries over a one-year period for a planned cost.

**Examples of HIV/AIDS projects**

♦ **Prevention** — promoting godly principles of abstinence until marriage and marital faithfulness; counseling and testing people who are at risk of infection; preventing the tragedy of mother-to-child transmission
♦ **Treatment** — providing life-saving antiretroviral medicines for adults and children sick with AIDS
♦ **Care** — compassionately caring for the dying; nurturing orphan children

**Examples of LifeRise partners in developing countries**
LifeRise partners may include: churches; indigenous Christian organizations; evangelical fellowships; relief and development networks; Christian clinics and health associations; and, missionaries serving with local Christians.

**Giving grants that start low and move up**
Our grants will be tiered and progressive. Entities that pass our careful screening will receive an entry level grant of $5,000. As funds become available, LifeRise will invite those partners that have performed well with their first grant to apply for a larger grant.

**Monitoring for good stewardship**
We will monitor grant recipients to ensure that they are achieving their objectives and being good stewards of the funds we entrust to them.

**Providing medical and technical assistance**
Grassroots Christian groups providing AIDS services face many medical and technical issues. We assist by providing a technical support network for our grantees. Through our network, we will:

♦ establish standards for services delivery
♦ send out information on “best practices”
♦ provide training in medical and ministry skills
♦ develop or collect tools, education materials, and training curricula
♦ help projects achieve sustainability.

**Reaching orphan children through first round of grants**
As funds become available, our first grants will go to 9 partners we have already screened who care for orphan children in 3 African countries — Ethiopia, Kenya, and Mozambique.

**Your opportunity to respond to the cry**
Churches or individuals have a great opportunity to underwrite a *full* grant, adding 20% for LifeRise administration, personnel, travel, and monitoring.

♦ $5,000 entry level grant can be underwritten for $6,000;
♦ $20,000 mid level grant can be underwritten for $24,000;
♦ $50,000 highest level grant can be underwritten for $60,000.

At this time, funds designated for grants must be in the amounts above. Consider joining with others to fund a grant together. Your undesignated smaller contributions are always welcome, which we apply towards smaller projects as we have funds (see article on page 2, LifeRise Contributes to HIV/AIDS Projects in Cambodia and Zambia).
In addition to our formal grant system (see page 1), LifeRise AIDS Resources is contributing to less structured HIV/AIDS ministries as appeals come to us and we have funds to give.

**Cambodia**

LifeRise has committed to provide $1000 to an HIV/AIDS ministry run by the local Assemblies of God church in a rural area of Cambodia called Kreik. The funds will help provide basic hygiene and preventive medicines, as well as transport for home and hospital visits, for 10 AIDS patients in the church and community and 7 HIV-positive inmates at the local prison.

As some of you may remember, I served in Cambodia as a missionary from 1993–95, coordinating the medical ministries. I am very pleased to “return” to Cambodia to help with this AIDS ministry.

**Zambia**

LifeRise gave a $500 offering to the Lazarus project in Zambia to provide food for children who have been rescued from living on the street. Many of these children have been orphaned by AIDS.

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**Funding HIV/AIDS as a Spiritual Battle for Lives**

It is often in the wake of disappointment that God reveals a better strategy. The Lord has done this for LifeRise AIDS Resources.

**Grant application submitted**

Our emphasis is to share the gospel through grassroots projects that deliver practical services to those in need from HIV/AIDS in poor countries. Therefore, in November 2006 we submitted a concept paper (preliminary application) to receive a project grant.

The plan was for LifeRise to serve as an intermediary organization to channel funding and medical/technical assistance to 10 local evangelical partners caring for orphan and vulnerable children in family- and community-based programs in 4 African countries. We would have served over 18,000 children by the end of the third year.

**Grant application not approved**

The competition for the grant was very stiff — over 470 other organizations applied, and only 14 grants were awarded. Although disappointed that we did not make the final cut, we understand that God’s purposes are not subject to competition and He opens doors that no man can shut. He did not, in His sovereignty, open this door for us.

The application process was a tremendous amount of work, but the knowledge and experience we gained have already proven quite useful as we follow a new strategy of providing funding to our grantees (see page 1).

**The fight for souls continues**

The outcome of the concept paper is a poignant reminder that HIV/AIDS is a spiritual battle for lives with eternal stakes. Please pray for other opportunities for LifeRise to meet the needs of hurting children. We will continue to seek the Lord’s guidance for funding and pursue every lead. Join with us in praying against the spiritual forces that would hinder the work of this ministry.