

Baptist Global Response In-Home Care Kit Project

Introduction

In Sub-Saharan Africa the HIV/AIDS crisis is affecting large segments of the population. In 2007 over 1.6 million adults and children died because of AIDS. Currently, there are over 22.5 million adults and children who are living with the HIV virus in Sub-Saharan Africa. Because of the lack of health care, the limited access to anti-retroviral drugs and the continued increase in the spread of HIV, thousands of individuals die a very painful and horrible death each year. In addition to the HIV/AIDS crisis thousands in Sub-Saharan Africa die each year from sicknesses like cancer, tuberculosis, malaria and other life ending diseases – often the only care they will receive is at home.

The BGR In-Home Care Kit is a compilation of medical and hygiene supplies that Baptist Global Response is asking churches, groups, or individuals to provide to assist caregivers who are taking care of home-bound, terminally ill patients. Items in this kit will make the caregivers' tasks much easier, but more importantly will ease the suffering of the ones affected by the illness. The BGR In-Home Care Kit consists of a 5-gallon, heavy duty bucket with a sealable lid. In Africa a bucket is a very valuable item that can be used to haul and store water, store food away from rodents and insects, and store other goods away from inclement weather and environmental challenges. Inside the bucket are items that will assist in keeping patients clean and dry and items to protect their mat or mattress from soiling. Medicated lip balm and lotion are included to help treat the skin problems that AIDS sufferers battle. Other items are included that will make life easier and less painful.

The 2008 pilot phase for the In-Home Care Kit Project ended successfully with almost 1,400 kits finding their way to Zambia and South Africa. This year, our goal is to provide 5,000 more kits to help 5,000 more families in need. BGR asks you to consider joining us in reaching this goal. By putting together at least one kit, you will help us provide a physical and spiritual touch to those in Sub-Saharan Africa who are dying from AIDS and other illnesses. Our local Baptist and field partners in Africa will distribute the buckets in a way that gives dignity and hope to each family receiving a kit.

What BGR asks of those who commit to this project

This is an easy and fun project for an individual or a great opportunity for all ages in your church or group to work together. Involving more people offers the chance to fellowship, provides AIDS education opportunities, and more blessings to those in need. Here are the basics of what BGR is asking:

- a. Pray: Use the seven-day *AIDS Prayer Guide* to learn more about the needs of those receiving the kits. Also, pray for who may participate. Will this be a church-wide project, Sunday school project, children's ministry project, home-schooling project, will all of those participate or will you take this project yourself?

- b. Purchase: Raise funds and buy the items needed for the kits. You must use the list provided to purchase materials for the kits. This document is titled, *BGR INCK Shopping List*.
- c. Pack: Completely assemble your kits and take them to your state's collection point. Assembly instructions are found in the document titled, *A Step-By-Step Guide for Assembling Your BGR In-Home Care Kit*. Most of the Southern Baptist state conventions are coordinating collection sites and/or are arranging for pick-up. Please contact your state's convention office (using the *State Convention Contacts* document) to determine when and where you should drop-off your kits. If your state is not participating, please contact Baptist Global Response at bgrbuckets@gobgr.org or 866-974-5623. Please note, kits will not be received after September 1, 2009.
- d. Pray: We cannot stress the importance of prayer enough. Once the kits leave your hands, there is still a lengthy process to get the kits to those in need. Sometimes, the kits may be held in customs for a variety of reasons. While our deadline to receive the kits is September 1, 2009, many will not reach their final destination until the Spring of 2010. Please, continue your prayers for all those involved in this project.

BGR would also like to hear your ideas on how you made the process fun and full of fellowship. We may include them with next year's information! E-mail them to us at: bgrbuckets@gobgr.org.

If you have any questions, please contact BGR at bgrbuckets@gobgr.org or toll-free at 866-974-5623.