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For information about HIV

Terrence Higgins Trust Lighthouse

Helpline: 020 7242 1010

National AIDS Manual

AIDS Treatment Update, published monthly: 020 7627 3200

AIDS Treatment phone line: 0845 9470047

This leaflet has been produced in collaboration with:

East London & City Health Authority Religious Leaders Steering Group

East London and The City 
Health Authority


MILD MAY
Hospital UK


RAIN
TRUST


Barnados
GIVING CHILDREN BACK THEIR FUTURE
CANDL Project

What is HIV?

HIV is Human Immunodeficiency Virus, which can cause infection.

How is it transmitted?

HIV is transmitted by

- unprotected sexual intercourse
- infected blood
- a mother to her baby

It is **NOT** transmitted by

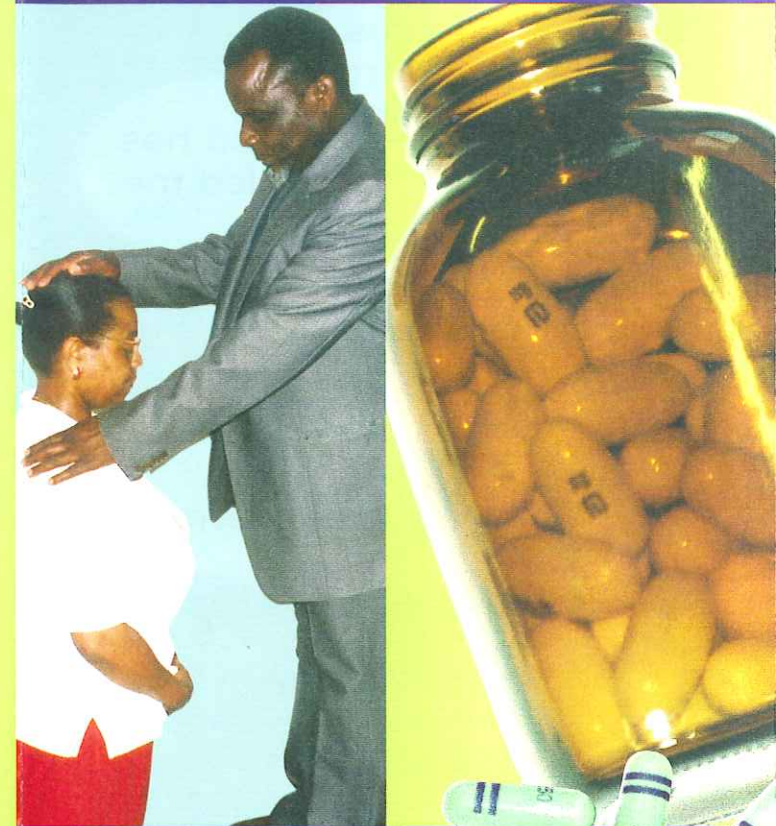
- sharing cups
- toilet seats
- hugging

What is AIDS?

AIDS is Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.

AIDS occurs when the HIV virus has damaged the immune system, so that the body cannot fight infections.

Prayer or medicines for HIV?



Must there be a choice?

Healed of HIV?

Christians with HIV often ask for prayer for healing. You may have heard the following statements:

"The virus has gone from my blood"

"God has healed me"

"I don't need to take precautions because I can't spread HIV"

"I don't need treatment"

Let's look at some of the facts about HIV

A few years ago, many people in the UK were dying of the effects of HIV. Now there are new medicines for HIV. Many people with HIV are leading healthier lives with an **"undetectable viral load"**. This means

- the level of virus in the blood is very low
- medicines are working
- HIV virus is still locked up in other cells eg brain and glands
- if medicines stop the person will be well for a time. The virus will come back and may be harder to treat
- the person can still infect others

THERE IS NO TEST TO SHOW HIV/AIDS IS CURED

Peter's story

Peter is a Christian. He was near to death with AIDS. He was very thin and wasted, barely able to swallow. He and his family prayed, his church prayed, his doctor prayed.

He started medicine for HIV and was surprisingly able to swallow it. Gradually he got better and gained weight.

He went back to work full-time. At his clinic, he agreed with his doctor that

"God worked through prayer and combination therapy to bring me back to health."

(Peter has given written permission for his story to be used, and has encouraged us to produce this leaflet)

Medicines and Faith

The Bible tells us

"Through him all things were made, and without him nothing was made that has been made."

John, chapter 1 verse 3

God gives us all things. He gives them to us to use. Do you get on a bus to go somewhere, or stand at the bus stop, let the bus go past and pray to God to get you there?

We don't lack faith when we use a bus to travel.

It doesn't show lack of faith when we use medicines. Medicines are not different from everything else in creation: God gave them to us to use.

"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer."

1 Timothy, chapter 4 verses 4 and 5

(Bible texts are from the New International Version)