

May 18, 2008

Hebrews 11:1 & Isaiah 58:6-12

Preacher: Princess Zulu, World Vision

A Living Hope

Increasing our awareness of needs in Africa through
"Step into Africa" – World Vision Experience: Aids

Exhibit: "Step into Africa"

Sermon: "A Living Hope"

Princess Zulu said 90% of Christians responded positively in some way to help persons who have been affected by AIDS but only 5% of Christians take action to help those who are infected with AIDS.

Princess challenged and encouraged us to be part of the legacy that responds, not part of the legacy that does nothing.

Read Hebrews 11:1

Read Isaiah 58:6-12

Reflect in Silence

Read Isaiah 58:6-12

Pray

Response

Talk about the World Vision Experience: AIDS exhibit.

1. Have someone explain the exhibit for those who did not experience it.
2. Have each person who did experience the exhibit share how they were impacted by it.

What is something that surprised you?

What new information did you learn about AIDS or Africa?

What feelings were stirred in you?

In what ways do you find yourself responding differently to those who are affected by AIDS and those who are infected by it?

What has been your previous awareness and response to needs in Africa? In what ways has your awareness of the situation of Africa increased through FPC hosting this World Vision exhibit?

What specific opportunities are you aware of for responding to needs in Africa? Do you know some of the ways people in our congregation or community have been responding? What new opportunities have you become aware of?

Where do you see God's grace or hope through the world situation of dealing with AIDS?

Put yourself in the place of one of the following people in Africa. What do you imagine would be your hopes?

a mother who is HIV positive

a 9 year old boy whose parents have died in the past year due to AIDS

a 30 year old pastor who is one of the few adult males in his village

a young adult from the US who just started 6 months of mission work in Africa

Have one person read the scripture while others listen for a word or phrase that catches their attention in a special way.

Sit in a time of silence allowing each person to reflect on the portion of the scripture that caught their attention. Consider what God might be saying to you through this scripture about how you might respond to your awareness of needs in Africa.

Have one person read the scripture again then lead the group into a time of praying together.

Share how you are personally feeling called to respond? How might you connect with others at FPC or in Spokane for support in this response?