



2011 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 2009 over 1.3 million adults and children died because of AIDS, and more than 14.1 million children were estimated to have lost one or both parents to 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 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 assist in keeping patients clean and dry. There are also items to protect their mat or mattress from soiling. Medicated lip balm and lotion help treat the skin problems that those suffering from AIDS battle. Other items are included that 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. In 2009, 3,200 kits were packed and were used in South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, Lesotho and Mozambique. Only 1,400 kits were packed during the 2010 project. A new country who is receiving kits from the 2010 project is Swaziland. However, because of the low number packed in 2010, we were unable to meet the many requests we received for kits. This year, our goal is to provide 5,000 kits to help 5,000 families in need. BGR asks you to consider joining us in reaching this goal. By putting together at least one kit, you will help 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.

Important! *Everything you need to participate in this project can be found at www.inhomecarekit.org, including all of the italicized documents listed in the following paragraphs. Before making your purchases for your IHCK make sure all of your instructions are for 2011 as contents and instructions can vary from year to year.*

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 for fellowship, provides AIDS education opportunities, and allows those who care to bless those in need. Here are the basics of what BGR is asking:

- a. Pray: Use the seven-day *2011 IHCK Prayer Guide* to pray for and learn more about the needs of those receiving the kits. Pray for those who will participate. Will the project be church wide, mobilizing Sunday School classes and other children's and adult small groups? Will a home-schooling or small Bible study group take it on? Maybe you will mobilize friends in your community or choose to pack a kit on your own. Pray and ask God how you might be involved!
- b. Plan: Before you pack or purchase materials for kits, go to the main page of our In Home Care kit web site (www.inhomecarekit.org), take a look at our list of "champion" churches, and plan where you will take your kits after they are packed. To save on USA costs, we are asking churches or associations to be "champions" for this project. They are serving as centers where kits can be dropped off and they will be handling the logistics of storing, packing and transporting the kits to prepare them for overseas shipping. Is there not a champion church near you? Pray about your church or association taking on this ministry! If you are interested, contact our Nashville office at BGRbuckets@gobgr.org or call toll-free at 866-974-5623. If you are in the Richmond, VA area, it is easy – you can deliver them to the A & O Services warehouse, details also listed on the main website. We anticipate this list of "champions" to increase as more churches get involved, so keep an eye on the website for the most updated information!
- c. 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 entitled, *2011 BGR IHCK Shopping List*.
- d. Pack: Completely assemble your kits, packing them in the buckets following the instructions in the document titled, *2011 Step-By-Step Guide for Assembling Your BGR In-Home Care Kit*.
- e. 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. 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.