

HIV/AIDS Peer Education Centre at Taung

The Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman wants to establish an HIV/AIDS Peer Education Centre in Taung, under the auspices of Fr Elias Bokala, currently the priest there and also HIV/AIDS Co-ordinator for the Diocese. A building already exists, but there is a need to convert it and make it suitable for residential courses.

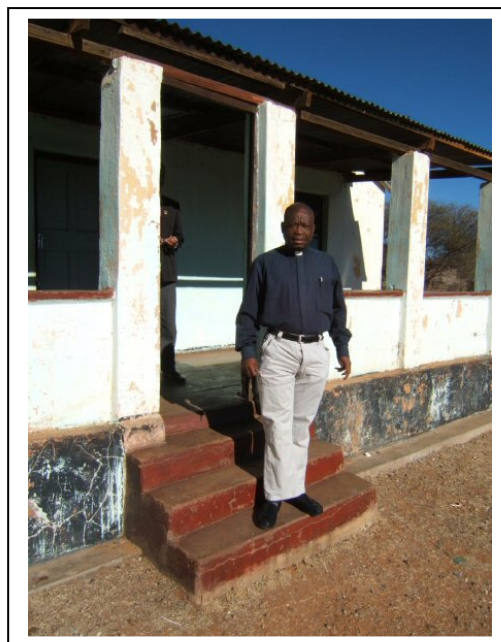
Once open, the centre would host one or two week education courses to train young people as Peer Educators. They would go back to their local communities to educate their peers about HIV/AIDS.

The need

From the project proposal:

'South Africa is currently experiencing one of the most severe AIDS epidemics in the world. At the end of 2007, there were approximately 5.7 million people living with HIV in South Africa, and almost 1,000 AIDS deaths occurring every day.... Average life expectancy in South Africa is now 54 years – without AIDS, it is estimated that it would be 64. Over half of 15 year olds are not expected to reach the age of 60.

'... to date there has been no integrated HIV/AIDS programme in the Kimberley and Kuruman Diocese. The Diocese desperately needs a centre to co-ordinate, train, monitor and evaluate all the HIV/AIDS work that can or should be happening in Kimberley and Kuruman region.'



Peer education

From the project proposal:

'Peer education focuses on providing information about HIV transmission, answering questions and handing out condoms to people. Peer educators make contact with their target audience at least weekly and their sessions will usually be in the context of informal discussions with individual people or groups. This gives people the opportunity to ask questions

outside an academic environment and with someone who isn't an authority figure, and isn't going to test them or expect them to perform activities such as might be expected in the context of a classroom-based lesson. This form of education also has

the advantage of avoiding the possibility of embarrassment, which might make people feel unable to ask questions of a teacher or person they find more difficult to relate to.'

People involved

The HIV/Aids Team in the Kimberley & Kuruman Diocese:

Father Elias Bokala AIDS co-ordinator for the K&K Diocese

Father Reggie Leeuw Head of Peers Education Training.

The regional heads of HIV/Aids in the K&K Diocese are:

Hope Tshenkeng, (Fryberg) Father Raymond Kolele (Mafikeng) and Syliva Sebogodi (Pampierstad).

In the UK:

The Revd Charlotte-Banister Parker, Bishop's Advisor for Overseas Programmes

The Revd Canon Nick Molony, Co-ordinator of the K&K Link.

Katheryne Ellis, Founder of ACHIVA.

Maranda St John Nicolle - Diocesan World Development Adviser.

Dr Paula Clifford, Head of Theology for Christian Aid.

Costings

Charlotte Bannister-Parker said she is waiting for these from South Africa, so they are not yet available. Any money sent would be channeled through the Diocese of K&K, as all our donations to the parish of Taung are.

