PLEASE use the following to mark and pray on

World AIDS Day 2014 – December 1st

Introduce World AIDS Day
(Display first slide)

The AIDS virus remains a global killer, 39 million people having already died. Worldwide, 35 million people are HIV+ and 25 million of these are in sub-Saharan Africa. It is those living in poverty who are particularly affected.

Irish Methodist World Development & Relief supports some partners that work with those affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS. Partners include:

- **Phakamisa in South Africa** – support for those who are HIV+
- **Open Schools Worldwide in Southern Africa** – healthcare
- **Lake Bosomtwe Methodist Clinic in Ghana** – healthcare
- **International Justice Mission in India** – rescuing girls and women from the sex trade, many of whom are HIV+

By supporting World Development & Relief, we support this work.

Ask someone to read this from another of our partners: Espoir Vie Togo
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The organisation, Espoir Vie Togo (Hope Life Togo) is based in Lome, Togo. It ensures that people have access to care and treatment if infected with HIV. It offers medical consultations, access to anti-retro viral drugs and counselling. It helps patients accept their condition and improve their self-esteem. Families are also helped to start small businesses to help themselves economically and which can be carried on by family members if a parent passes on.

Issaka Aminetou became sick after the death of her husband. Over the following months, she spent all her money on treatment and was then forced to sell her possessions to pay for treatment. Finally, after contact with EVT, she tested positive for HIV. However, life became difficult because of the rejection and stigma she faced from her family and community. ‘Because of my illness I became a beggar, I could do nothing... because of me people did not come to my house. I was ashamed of myself, as was my family’. EVT staff became an essential support to Issaka, providing ARVs and food, but above all moral support to help her regain her confidence. With the support and care provided through EVT, Issaka’s mental and physical health has dramatically improved. She says: ‘Now everything has changed. I am healthy. Now I have a good self-esteem. I now live.’

Pray this prayer

Rejecting stigma

We reject all forms of discrimination and stigma, Because we believe in God, Who created the world in all its diversity and colour, HIV-positive and negative alike.

We honour the dignity of all people, Because we believe in Jesus Christ, Who took upon himself the pain and suffering of the world, Carers and people living with HIV alike.

We speak and act with one prophetic voice, Because we believe in the Holy Spirit, Who summons us out of our complacency, Voiceless and influential alike. And we call upon governments to honour their commitments of funds and services in the response to HIV, as we stand as one with those who live with HIV, for the eyes of the Lord are on us all.

*Diakonia Council of Churches, South Africa – slightly adapted*