

Bishop Eddie L. Long

POSITION STATEMENT ON NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS

HIV/AIDS is without question a serious crisis that has global implications. Although, the lives of people infected with the virus and disease have changed drastically since AIDS was discovered nearly 30 years ago, HIV continues to be one of the leading causes of death in the United States.

I am honored to partner with the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS and applaud its efforts to renew attention and focus on this deadly disease that has devastated communities, disproportionately impacting people of color and the low income.

The enormity of the pandemic has not diminished, but as a man of God, I have faith that knowledge erases ignorance and saves lives. Each year thousands die of this disease and many don't even know that they have the virus, but HIV/AIDS is preventable. As there have been breakthroughs and victories, there is hope.

It is the vision of the Balm in Gilead to mobilize the religious community. Our greatest contribution is that we can reach the masses. Together we must stand up through service and advocacy and fight the good fight. Where there is unity, there is strength. As members of the faith based community, we must recommit ourselves to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and step up our efforts to assist those who have acquired the disease and need our assistance. We know that silence will only impede the progress in the battle against AIDS. We cannot allow those who suffer from the disease to suffer alone. So I join this important crusade and invite my brothers and sisters in the religious community to walk with me. It is incumbent upon us as Christian leaders, to stand together to help eradicate such a deadly disease.

It is my prayer that the faith community and religious leaders across America educate their congregations during the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us – Ephesians 3:20

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