

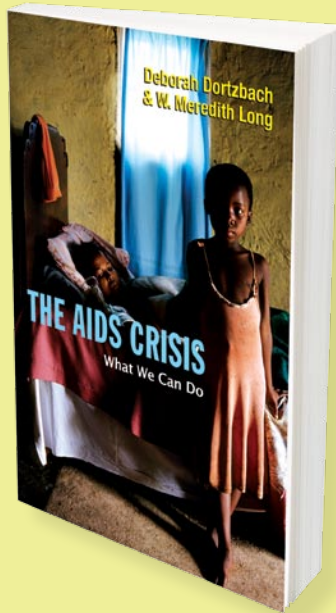
  
IVP Books

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Press Kit

# THE AIDS CRISIS





## The AIDS Crisis: What We Can Do

In *The AIDS Crisis* Deborah Dortzbach and W. Meredith Long offer personal stories, up-to-date statistics and their years of international experience to give us the global portrait of AIDS: the roots of the problem and the role of the church. They also suggest practical ways for individuals to make a difference.

*The AIDS Crisis*, 0-8308-3372-2, 132 pages, paper, \$13, December 2006

Q: Why did you decide to write *The AIDS Crisis*?

A: "Our purpose is to press you not only to understand more as a concerned global citizen, but also to act."

ACT ON IT



### **Deborah Dortzbach**

is World Relief's international director for HIV/AIDS programs. She mobilizes and equips the local church to promote and provide AIDS awareness, sexual education for youth, orphan support and much more. In 2002 Debbie testified before a United States subcommittee on HIV/AIDS and continues to promote active involvement of churches in the AIDS crisis through frequent speaking engagements.



### **W. Meredith Long**

is vice president for planning and integration at World Relief. Dr. Long has worked with churches to combat HIV/AIDS in Africa since the early 1990s. His overseas program implementation experience includes fourteen years in Kenya and Bangladesh.

For more about Deborah's and Meredith's work, visit the World Relief website at [www.wr.org](http://www.wr.org).

**“We have been deeply changed by our confrontation with AIDS and the issues surrounding it—changes that not only define what we do, but make us who we are.”**



## Elizabeth's Story

Over 40 MILLION people today are living with HIV/AIDS.

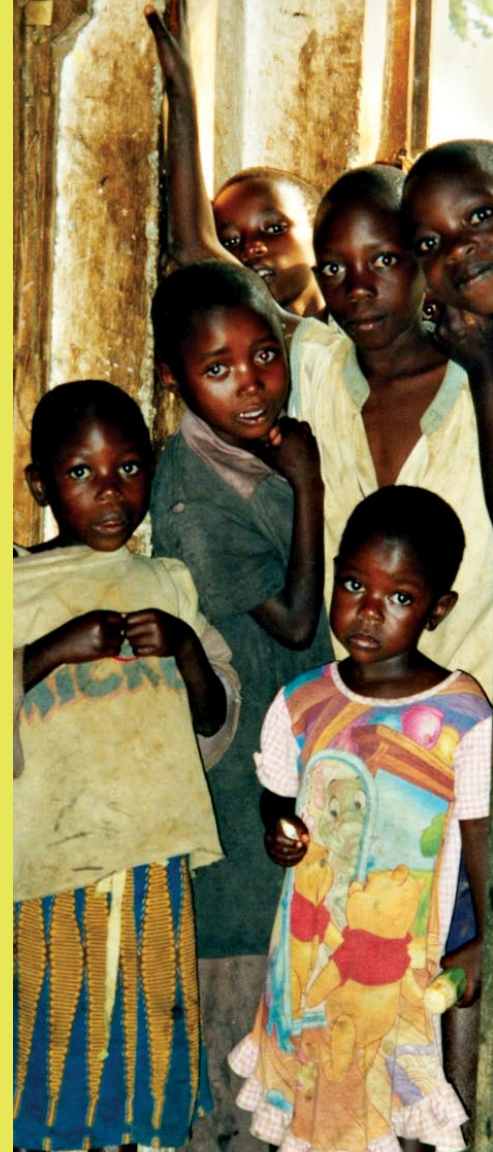
**“Elizabeth** is eleven years old and lives in Kenya with her mother and two brothers. Her father died of AIDS two years ago; her mother also has AIDS. When her father died, her uncles came and took all the family property, ejecting Elizabeth’s family from their home and their only source of livelihood. Elizabeth had to stop going to school for two reasons: She had no money, and she had to care for her mother, who was becoming increasingly ill, and her two younger brothers.”

# A PICTURE

**“Elizabeth’s** struggles are far from over. She will probably face the death of her mother when she is twelve years old, and she will shoulder the entire responsibility for her younger siblings. She’s confused about what to tell people who scorn AIDS as a generational curse and grapples daily with the stigma and

rejection, even from family members. There will be no family income and no way to get it unless she begins giving sexual favors to “sugar daddies” who prey on girls in her neighborhood. If she ever gets back to school, there will be a shortage of teachers because they too are dying of AIDS.”

“Elizabeth’s story highlights the impact of the AIDS crisis on families, communities and the future. Even if we were able to intercept the fourteen thousand new infections that happen each day and eventually declare our world AIDS free, the legacy of twenty-five years of colossal devastation to individuals—particularly children—to families, and to our communities will hound us for generations to come.”



“The HIV virus is not easy to transmit, but the nature of the epidemic assures its spread. Up to ten years can pass between the time of infection and the onset of clinically recognizable AIDS. During that entire period, infected people can spread the virus to others and not even know they have it themselves.”

Deborah Dortzbach and Meredith Long suggest ways to confront unhelpful attitudes about AIDS, educate youth about sex, care for people with AIDS, help families and simply offer grace to those affected by the AIDS crisis.

### **First Steps for Turning the Tide of the AIDS Crisis:**

- (1) End the debate as to whether Christians should respond to HIV and AIDS.

“We must instead repent of our slow response.”

- (2) Decide how to respond.

“The scope of possible involvement is just as broad as the scope of the AIDS disaster.”

- (3) Know with whom to respond.

“The fight against AIDS brings together many unlike organizations, divided by worldview and practice but sincere in wanting to protect and save lives.”

- (4) Daily ask yourself: What attitude am I responding with? How vulnerable am I willing to become?

EDUCATE



**By 2010, 25 MILLION children  
will have been orphaned by AIDS.**

“I lost my parents to AIDS and then my auntie followed. I was then taken and adopted by an [orphanage] where I have lived for the last five years. . . . We live in homes named by numbers and so called house mothers. . . . We as children need real love from our relatives, not people paid to love us. . . . How can a child be adopted by just an organization?”

Deborah Dortzbach and Meredith Long help people become informed about the AIDS crisis and what's already being done so that individuals can partner with organizations at work around the world.

**In Cambodia**, the Way of Hope church is helping communities understand how AIDS is transmitted. And through their “Hope for Teens” program, small groups meet with a mentor to talk so that teenagers can make responsible choices about sexuality and education.

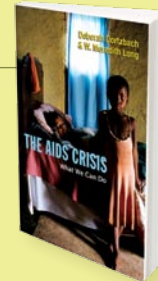
**In Rwanda**, a church pairs up skilled workers in the congregation with children orphaned by AIDS to train and equip them.

**In Kigali, Rwanda**, Pastor Augustin has taken in Tatu, whose extended family refused to take care of her when her parents died of AIDS. A Good Samaritan support group for men and women with AIDS also meets at their church.

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**IVP Books**  
Think Deep. Live Smart.

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