



**WHEN  
DIFFERENT  
IS BETTER**

## Part 4: A Different Vision for Influencing Others

Guest Speakers: Amanda Miles & Issa Ebombolo

### APPETIZER

#### 1. Motivated by Love

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

**Romans 12:9-13, NLT**

### DINE IN

#### 2. Overcoming the Odds

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.

**Romans 5:3, NLT**

#### Issa's Journey

- Born into a Muslim family
- Experienced war and life as a refugee
- Faced hardships and poverty
- Lived in a society impacted by HIV/AIDS
- Inspired by the grace of Jesus
- Encouraged by various Scriptures

**Psalm 1-3; James 1:27; Matthew 25:34**

#### 3. Starting Something Different

Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

**Isaiah 58:10, NLT**

- Peace Clubs
  - Rebuilding communities fractured by HIV/AIDS.
  - Helping young people realize their abilities and powers to bring positive change to society and the world. Students learn skills, exchange experiences, teach others, and apply the knowledge of peace in their everyday life.

#### 4. Impacting Communities

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Romans 12:1-2, NLT**

### TAKE OUT – Be the Answer to Someone Else's Prayer

#### AIDS CARE 2015

[themeetinghouse.com/aidscares](http://themeetinghouse.com/aidscares)

Let's intentionally use this month to talk with God, stretch ourselves in generosity and be transformed in the process! Together, let's assemble 750 AIDS CARE Kits and 2,300 \$100 AIDS CARE Cards.

1. **Home church challenge:** Collect 4 AIDS CARE Kits and 13 \$100 AIDS CARE Cards in order to achieve our shared goal.
2. **Family challenge:** For those not in a home church, contribute one \$100 AIDS CARE Card per family or join a home church through this season.
3. **Invite friends,** colleagues and neighbours to join your efforts.

#### Learn More

- To read about the 14 MCC projects we are partnering with, go online and learn more at [themeetinghouse.com/mcc](http://themeetinghouse.com/mcc).
- Participate in experiential activities that facilitate learning and a sense of solidarity with those who have less...simplify, fast, share a cultural meal, read together, and pray.
- Invite an Africa Learning Team member to your home church.
- For parents: please help your kidmax students collect bars of bath soap and the UNDERGROUND collect bars of laundry soap. We need 1,500 of each!
- Collection Day for Kits and Cards is **Sunday, March 8**.



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Get teaching notes at  
"Live" and search "Oakville"



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## Home Church Notes

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic / Starting Conversations]

1. What inspires you most about our partnership with Mennonite Central Committee through our annual AIDS CARE fundraisers?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

2. Have someone begin this time in prayer to intentionally invite God to speak to you all as you read the Bible together. Have a few people read **Romans 12:9-13** in two or three different translations.
  - a. Is there a word or phrase that rings in your ears as something that challenges you or encourages you?
  - b. How do you see these verses being lived out in Issa's life?
  - c. How do you see these verses being lived out in your home church?
  - d. How do you see these verses being lived out in your own life?
3. Read and discuss the following quote from Eugene Cho: *"Don't underestimate what God can do through your life. God has a long and proven history of using foolish and broken people for his glory."*
  - a. Brainstorm a list of 3-5 people from the Bible that could fit into the category of being 'foolish and broken'.
  - b. Review the 'kingdom' accomplishments that some of those same characters achieved.
4. While you are still together as a large group, discuss your goals for AIDS CARE. This is an amazing opportunity to get practical with our love for others and invite friends and neighbours to join our efforts. Different sites have different goals, but in general each home church will want to aim to collect around 4 AIDS CARE Kits and 13 \$100 AIDS CARE Cards.
  - a. Go to [themeetinghouse.com/aidscares](http://themeetinghouse.com/aidscares) for the Kit contents and FAQs.
  - b. Look through the TAKE OUT suggestions in the notes and create some tangible goals for your home church.
  - c. Send an encouraging text or email to your pastor with your goals now!

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

5. Share together about how you are feeling about participating in AIDS CARE this year. Is there anything holding you back from being the answer to someone else's prayer(s)?
6. Pray together...
  - a. for us as individuals, that we would be stretched and changed through the process of learning, solidarity and generosity.
  - b. for our home churches as we work together on these shared goals.
  - c. for our kids and youth as they learn more about our partnership with MCC and participate in AIDS CARE.
  - d. for the staff at MCC, their partners and the communities impacted.

January 25 / February 1, 2015 || Amanda Miles || @mandymiles || #AIDSCare

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## Quotes

Every time you sacrifice something at great cost, every time you renounce something that appeals to you for the sake of the poor – you are feeding a hungry Christ.

~ Mother Teresa

When people look at the church, they should see the very embodiment of Jesus! When people look at the church, they should see the One who declared – in word and in deed to the leper, the lame, and the poor – that His kingdom is bringing healing to every speck of the universe.

~ Corbett & Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts*

Don't fail to do something just because you can't do everything.

~ Dr. Bob Pierce, *Founder of World Vision*

If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?

~ 1 John 3:17 (NLT)

When people see love in action they are better able to believe in a loving God

~ Ronald Sider, *Philip Olson, Heidi Unruh, Churches That Make A Difference*

Don't underestimate what God can do through your life. God has a long and proven history of using foolish and broken people for his glory.

~ Eugene Cho, *Overrated*

While it is easy to become paralyzed by the world's suffering...we actually hold immense power for change simple by virtue of our wealth...If enough of us decided to share, we would unleash a torrent of justice to sweep away disparity, extreme poverty, and hopelessness.

~ Jen Hatmaker

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

~ The Apostle Paul, Romans 12:9-13 (NLT)