



IN THE FIGHT TO END

HIV & AIDS

SEVEN ADVANTAGES

OF LOCAL
CHURCHES

COMPASSION
COMMUNITY
REAL SOLUTIONS

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HIV & AIDS
— INITIATIVE —
SADDLEBACK CHURCH

// SEVEN ADVANTAGES OF THE CHURCH

There will never be enough professionals to adequately address the global giants of spiritual emptiness, egocentric leadership, extreme poverty, pandemic disease, and crippling illiteracy. The need always outpaces the supply. Government, business, and relief agencies continue to pursue lasting solutions, but even their best efforts don't seem to be enough. Local churches scattered throughout the globe offer several unique advantages.

1. The Church Has the Largest Participation

With over 2.1 billion members, the Church has the largest volunteer labor force. While there will never be an adequate supply of doctors, nurses, lawyers, educators, and social workers, there is an enormous untapped pool of talent, energy, and compassion available in churches that can be mobilized.

2. The Church Has the Widest Distribution

In villages around the world, there may not be post offices, hospitals, or schools, but there are churches. In many places the only social structure is a church. The Church is the only truly global organization. If you have an idea, a product or medication that needs to get to local people, the most efficient way is through the church, the local church is an existing, highly capable distribution channel.

3. The Church Has the Simplest Administration

Local churches comprise a grass-roots network. Grass-roots networks are extremely fast and efficient, moving faster than centralized bureaucracies.

4. The Church Has the Fastest Proliferation

To beat a rapidly expanding pandemic, a distribution network is needed that grows faster than the problem. While the HIV pandemic grows at a rate of about 6,000 new infections every day, the Church multiplies by 60,000 new converts every day.

5. The Church Has the Longest Continuation

The Church has existed for more than 2,000 years. Empires, governments, and corporations come and go, but the Church lasts into eternity.

6. The Church Has the Strongest Authorization

Jesus Christ created the Church and gave it his authority to do good in the world. He authorized his followers to go into the world in the Great Commission: "All authority is given to me in heaven and earth . . . Therefore go."

7. The Church Has the Highest Motivation

The Church has the highest motivation for service. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves.