

A black woman nurses an emaciated child beneath a cross; surrounded by text relating to Christ's crucifixion with a map of Africa in the background; representing the suffering experienced by AIDS/HIV victims; advertisement by CAFOD. Colour lithograph.

Contributors

Catholic Fund for Overseas Development.

Publication/Creation

London (Romero Close, Stockwell Road, SW9 9TY) : CAFOD, [between 1990 and 1999]

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THE WAY OF THE CROSS

A Meditation on the Stations of the Cross by Kay Lawlor MMM, Kitovu Hospital, Masaka, Uganda

1 JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

HE SITS SHOCKED, UNABLE TO SPEAK.
HIS HANDS TREMBLE. MARIO HAS JUST BEEN
TOLD HE HAS AIDS. "I'M GOING TO DIE" HE SAYS.

2 JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

HE'S WEIGHED DOWN WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT HE HAS AIDS.
HOW WILL HE TELL HIS FAMILY?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIS
CHILDREN? HE TELLS HIS BROTHER,
SELLS SOME LAND, ARRANGES FOR HIS CHILDREN.
IT'S HARD, IT'S A HEAVY CROSS VINCENT CARRIES.

3 JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

HE CANNOT STAND ALONE; THE ABSCESSSES ARE
TOO PAINFUL. PETER IS TOO WEAK. WITH HELP HE
MAKES IT HOME AND TO BED WHERE HE BEGINS
THE DIFFICULT TASK OF REGAINING STRENGTH,
SO HE CAN PICK UP THE CROSS OF LIVING
WITH AIDS AND CONTINUE HIS JOURNEY.

4 JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

SHE LIES THERE, WAITING FOR HER MOTHER TO
RETURN. REGINA HAS JUST LEARNED SHE HAS AIDS
AND IS DYING. SHE WANTS TO TELL HER MOTHER.
AS THEY MEET, A LOOK OF PAIN AND LOVE PASSES
BETWEEN THEM. "I HAVE SLIM." HER MOTHER
TAKES HER IN HER ARMS AND THEY WEEP.

5 SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

RICHARD HAS SO MANY DECISIONS
TO MAKE. HOW CAN HE GO ON?
WHEN HIS BROTHERS COME, HE TELLS THEM
HE IS TOO SCARED TO GO ON. THEY
COMFORT HIM; ARRANGE TO TAKE HIM
HOME; PLAN TRANSPORT SO HE CAN
RETURN FOR TREATMENT.

6 VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

SHE LIES THERE, TOO WEAK TO CLEAN HERSELF.
HER CLOTHES DIRTY AND SOILED BECAUSE THE
DIARRHOEA IS ALMOST CONSTANT NOW. SHE'S ALONE;
PUSHED INTO A CORRIDOR SO THE SMELL WON'T
DISTURB OTHERS. A YOUNG NURSE COMES, WASHES HER,
CHANGES HER CLOTHES. ROSE SMILES.

7 JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

HE'S BEGUN TO HAVE DIARRHOEA,
NO LONGER WANTS TO EAT.
SLEEP DOESN'T COME AND HE'S AFRAID.
THE ILLNESS IS GETTING WORSE.
PETER HAS TO STOP WORK.
IT'S HARD TO KEEP LIVING WITH AIDS.

8 JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

JANE HAS NO LAND. MARY HAS NO MILK FOR HER
BABY. SCOVIA'S HUSBAND SENT HER AWAY WHEN HE
LEARNED SHE HAD AIDS. JULIET WAS PUT OUT OF HER
RENTED ROOM. BETTY WORKS IN A BAR TO SUPPORT HER
CHILDREN, TO GET FOOD FOR THEM SHE PROVIDES
FAVOURS FOR MEN. THE PLIGHT OF POOR
WOMEN AND AIDS. JESUS WEEPS.

9 JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

HIS HEAD FEELS AS IF IT'S BURSTING; NOTHING BRINGS
RELIEF. PETER LIES IN BED UNABLE EVEN TO OPEN HIS
EYES. AS THE END NEARS, RELATIVES ARRIVE TO MOVE
HIM FROM HIS RENTED ROOM, WHERE HE'S SUFFERED ALONE
FOR MANY MONTHS. ONE MORE STEP ALONG THE WAY.

10 JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

THEY PUT HER OUT OF THE HOUSE; KEPT HER CLOTHES
SAYING THEY WOULDN'T FIT HER WASTED BODY.
THEY TOLD HER TO GO TO HER GRANDMOTHER'S TO DIE.
ONCE THERE, SHE WAS AGAIN REJECTED - STRIPPED OF ALL,
EVEN HER RIGHT TO BELONG. JULIET WAS RETURNED
TO THE HOSPITAL, LIKE AN UNWANTED COMMODITY.

11 JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

HE CANNOT MOVE; FINDS IT HARD TO BREATHE; MUST
WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO CARE FOR HIM TOTALLY. AN AIDS
RELATED BRAIN TUMOUR HAS NAILED JAMES
TO HIS BED. HIS MOTHER KEEPS WATCH.

12 JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

ROSE, PETER, JOHN, ALECHA, KAKANDE, JOSEPH,
WILLIAM, GEORGE, GRACE, PAULO, GORRETH...
JESUS' BODY DYING OF AIDS.

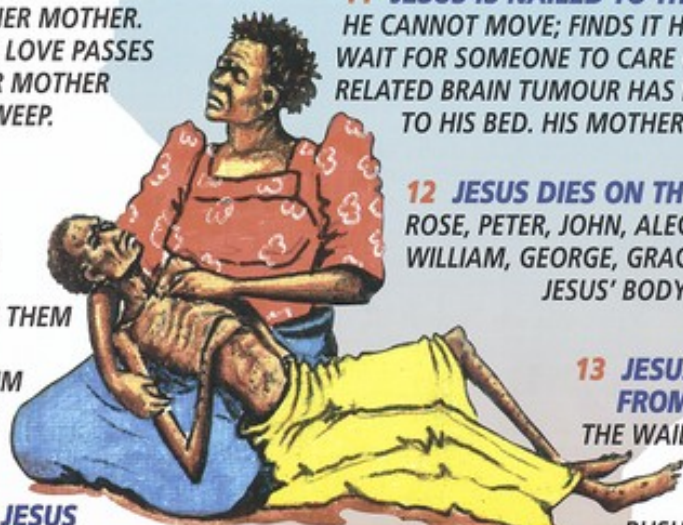
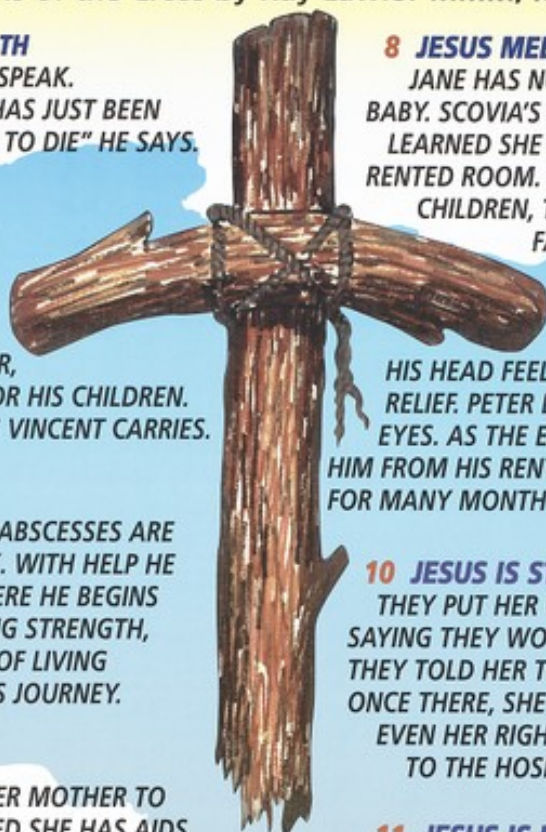
13 JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

THE WAILING BEGINS; THE CAR
REACHES THE
HOMESTEAD; AS MEN
RUSH FORWARD TO CARRY
PAULO'S SHROUDED BODY, A WOMAN COMES FROM THE
HOUSE. SHE REACHES OUT TO TOUCH THE BODY OF HER SON.

14 JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

A GRAVE IS DUG ON HOSPITAL LAND -
ONLY STAFF FOR MOURNERS. HER
NINE-MONTH-OLD CHILD CRIES, NOT
UNDERSTANDING. THE GRAVE IS FILLED.
ALL GO AWAY. ROSE IS DEAD.

15 THE RESURRECTION... WE WAIT!



WE ADORE YOU, O CHRIST,
AS YOU CARRY YOUR CROSS
ALONG THE DUSTY ROADS OF
MASAKA, UGANDA.
WE MAKE THE WAY OF THE CROSS
IN THE HOMES AND AT THE
BEDSIDE OF THOSE WITH AIDS.
WE BLESS YOU BECAUSE THROUGH
THIS SUFFERING YOU HAVE
REDEEMED THE WORLD.