

Dying in Silence
Available in VHS or DVD
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For more information, go to:
www.dyinginsilence.com

Dying in Silence is a powerful presentation of the extraordinary character of the Malawian people in facing the overwhelming challenges of HIV-AIDS. It needs to be seen by everyone."

Gordon Radley, President of Lucasfilm Ltd.
Malawi Peace Corps Volunteer 1968-70

Only someone who loves Africa could make a film like this. A compassionate snapshot of the greatest tragedy man has ever faced, but too many of us ignore. Dying is profound in its simplicity."

John Riber, Director of Media Development Trust
Harare, Zimbabwe

A film about the brave people of Malawi who are fighting a heroic battle against the devastation of AIDS.



Vice President Justin Malewazi started his career as a biology teacher. He now is the first democratically elected Vice-President of Malawi. His adopted daughter died of AIDS. He urges parents to talk to their children about AIDS, advocates changing social habits, does as much as possible to mobilize the government because, "we are all living with AIDS."



Catherine Phiri became HIV positive 12 years ago. She founded SASO, an AIDS support organization that looks after orphans, advocates AIDS testing, and supplies medication and counseling to people with AIDS in the Salima District. Catherine says of her AIDS stricken clients: "we want them to die with dignity."



Harry Nchasta works as an electrician. Due to deaths in his extended family, Henry has more than a dozen people to feed, including his wife's two sisters and their children. He knows about AIDS, but says that many children in school are so hungry they "can't hear anything (about AIDS) ."



Maryline Mullenba is the Director of Doctors Without Borders in Malawi. She directs a pilot program that distributes antiretroviral drugs to people in villages. "People are now saying we have to do it. If not, the country goes to a real disaster. When you put people under treatment, you are really starting to break the stigma (of AIDS)."



Geoffrey Mhone is HIV positive. He was a founding member of Youth Ambassadors, an AIDS education resource for schools. When the group lost funding, Geoff found work as an AIDS counselor. Recently, Geoff has lost weight and worries what might happen to his wife and young daughter if he were to get sick.

Specific Points About the AIDS Epidemic

- 1) People don't want to admit they might have AIDS. They live in silence and denial. They don't get tested or try to contain the disease by behaving responsibly.
- 2) AIDS spread because of a lack of information. Many leaders did not take the disease seriously. Others, such as Malawi's Kamuzu Banda, discouraged discussion of sexually transmitted diseases.
- 3) Unfortunately, most women in Malawi have little economic power. Facing poverty, they often find it difficult to say "no" to a sexual advances that includes a reward. Traditional initiation rituals often encourage women to be passive when it comes to sex. Though this practice is changing, it is still prevalent in many areas.
- 4) AIDS is decimating the ranks of medical workers, teachers, police, and government administrators. Many have died and there are few skilled people to replace them. This drain on human infrastructure is devastating. Crime and corruption are on the rise. As faith in government institutions decline, social instability grows, moving the country toward chaos.

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