

From: Concord Times Newspaper Online

HIV/AIDS messiah in town

Babah Kanu 15/2/2007

To complement the effort of the National Aids Secretariat, Mrs. Yvonne Washington Turay, an African-American arrived Freetown to sensitize Sierra Leoneans on how to prevent themselves from being affected with HIV/AIDS. Turay is based in the USA where she practices her nursing profession and she has served as a United States Air Force nurse for over ten years. "I have been called by God to serve the people of Freetown, Sierra Leone where I provide medical care, food, HIV prevention for the past six years", she said. Her programme, 'God's House International Inc,' is a product of the several visits she made to the Northern town of Gbendembu in the Bombali District where her husband hails from. During her visit, she spoke to people in various communities in Kalangba, Gbendemby and the Northern Headquarter town, Makeni. Back in Freetown, she held street discussions on HIV/AIDS and spoke to women whom she said are the most vulnerable because they do not have access to the female condom as a prevention method.

Turay said she has discovered that women are just being sensitized but do not prevent themselves. "They know very little about the female condom" she lamented. She promised to engage in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and provision of the female condom for Sierra Leonean women which will be provided free of charge to the residents. "This will be a clinic which will have several guest rooms for volunteers who help to provide service to the Freetown community. I am soliciting support to help with the continued operational expenses of this project," she concluded.