

# Join the Conspiracy of Hope

RATHER THAN FEARING THE LEPER AND KEEPING HIS DISTANCE, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched the man with leprosy. — *Millard, p. 4*

OUR MODEST TARGET HAS BEEN TO RAISE \$8 MILLION THIS quadrennium (the equivalent of 25 cents per member each year), but we are unlikely to reach that goal unless you and your congregation reach out to help. — *Messer, p.7*

A DOLLAR IS A MARVELOUS THING – IT CAN GO WHERE WE CANNOT go. — *Messer, p. 9*

THE DREAMS AND VISIONS OF A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL MOVED an entire annual conference. — *Jenks, p. 11*

DOES YOUR CHURCH WELCOME EVERYONE, INCLUDING PERSONS living with HIV and AIDS? Where do families go for comfort, prayer, and spirituality if not their church? — *Thomas, p. 12.*

THROUGHOUT OUR LONG STRUGGLE WITH AIDS, WE GREW IN faith and were able to put our lives in God's sustaining care. — *Mutti, p.15*

PERHAPS WE SHOULD COME TO UNDERSTAND AIDS AS A WORD from God – a call to God's people to withhold judgment and respond with compassion to those who otherwise might die without knowing they are loved. — *Christensen, p,17*

PARTICIPANTS SPOKE CANDIDLY ABOUT THE LACK OF OPEN discussion about sexuality and the transmission of disease. According to one participant, women can talk about sex but when a man enters the room, the conversation stops. — *Bales, p, 20*

THERE IS, IN THE HIV AND AIDS STRUGGLE, THE EVER-increasing threat of hopelessness. That threatens to silence us emotionally, mentally, economically, and physically. This must never be allowed. We must ride the wheel of amazing hope. — *Dube, p. 23*

PEOPLE ARE DYING. THEY ARE DYING EVERY DAY, EVERY HOUR, every minute, and literally every second. They are children, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives, and they are dying. — *United Methodist Council of Bishops, p. 25*