



health

Department:
Health
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

MURCHISON HOSPITAL

YEAR END PRAYER AND CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

Murchison hospital commemorated world aids day and a year-end prayer on 12 December 2012.

The event was attended by hospital staff and community members. It was a day to thank God for keeping us safe until now and also to intensify awareness on HIV. On this day we wanted to pay tribute to all our loved ones who died due to HIV. We also intended to pray that God help us with interventions done to fight the disease and become successful in reducing new infections. The candlelight ceremony was hosted shortly after we learned that UGU District is one among two districts that has a high rate of people being infected by the virus.

The Nursing Manager Mrs. Mkhwanazi explained on how the world aids day concept came into being. She motivated staff to take responsibility of their lives especially those who have tested negative. She emphasized that a long and a healthy life is attainable even though a person has tested positive. HIV is a battle to be fought by all with positive attitude and knowledge on our side, HIV can be defeated. We should promote a comfortable atmosphere where people can talk openly without fear of being discriminated. "If you care enough about your life, get tested now" said Mrs. Mkhwanazi.

Sister Gigaba operational manager for Lindokuhle clinic gave a brief history about the clinic since it came into being in 2004 and commented on the type of patients they were seeing. "Back then people use to come when they were bed ridden and critically ill but now most people know the importance of testing early". She concluded by motivating pregnant women to start attending ANC timely as to give birth to healthily babies.

Ms. Zakhona motivated all in attendance that knowing and accepting your HIV status is very important it prolongs your life expectancy. Zakhona tested positive in 2002 and was initiated on treatment in 2004.

Pastor TC Msane from Izingolweni High Praise Ministry shared God's word from Romans 8:31. "*What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?*" The Pastor encouraged us that it does not matter what difficulties and challenges that life throws at us, because God is on our side.



Mrs. C Mkhwanazi (Nursing Manager)



Sister JG Gigaba (OM – ARV Clinic)



Mrs. Z Duma