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Diarist: Alice

25/10/02

At 8:20 p.m. on 25th October 2002 I sat down chatting with my children. At the same time I was listening to the radio. When the time reached 8:30 evening, I heard about a certain AIDS programme from the radio. Dailesi Banda the announcer was talking to some important people who work in different organizations about AIDS. The Topic of their Conversation was ~~about~~ "How we can stay with [people] who have AIDS?" The first person to speak was Dailesi Banda, she asked to chat with the people. The people were: Sheikh Muhammad Osman from the Muslim Association of Malawi in Limbe, Mr Kumbukani Black the Reverend of the Anglican Church, Mrs Fransina Nyirenda from NAPHAM, Miss Lilian the AIDS facilitator from MANASO and Chathinkha Nkhoma from MANETI. Dailesi was asking a question and each one of the people I mentioned was answering her by giving out their idea and she began by a question which said, Can the one who is infected into AIDS have the right to get married or just having a sexual partner? Dailesi asked that question to all the people that she was chatting with and asked Sheikh Muhammad Osman to answer that question.

Sheikh Muhammad Osman answered her that the marriage is right for our culture therefore everyone is free to get married if he/she wants to. He secondly said that the marriage is [one of?] the five corner stones because it needs a long process for one to get married, his/her parents are concerned, his/her relatives are also concerned, the *nkhoswes* [marriage counselors] are concerned, the sheikhs and pastors at the mosques and churches are concerned, the Government through the Courts and the District Commissioners also are concerned if you went to register for your marriage. If the two people have agreed to marry each other then no any problem, they can do so but what should be done is that those two people should be advised before their marriage on how they should be staying in their marriage. They should be advised about their problem of AIDS, that they have got in addition to the advice which everyone receives during the time she/he has just soon married. In addition to that, Sheikh Muhammad Osman said that there is no any religion which refuses a person to get married.

The Sheikh Muhammad Osman stopped there and the same question went to the Reverend Kumbukani Black, who answered that having been infected is not a problem which can cause one not to get married. The person who lives with AIDS can get married but both people should go for blood test before they marry each other. When both have known that they have AIDS or one of them has AIDS, they must avoid speaking the bad words to each other in future. He secondly said that the two people should agree about one thing before they marry each other that they should bear children or not. He added by saying that getting married does not mean to bear children. People can stay without children with no any problem because everyone knows what the marriage is, and he stopped there.

The third person to answer at the same question was Miss Lilian who said that the Government encourages people to get married because the marriage is our culture, and for one to be respectful he/she must get married. If one of the two people who wants to marry each other has the fortunate of knowing that he/she has AIDS, it is better to tell his/her spouse and decide to use the condoms in their marriage or not. She then said that AIDS people should receive the advice in most of their times and that those people should be following the advice they receive from the hospital or from anyone who advises them for their problem.

The last person to answer that same question which Dailesi asked was Mrs Chathinkha Nkhoma. This woman said that the people who are living with AIDS have the right to get married and those people should do the wedding at their churches. She also said that the relatives of those AIDS people should not refuse them to get married because it is the culture. Everyone was born to get married therefore we should allow them to get married. She lastly said that people should not encourage promiscuous by refusing the AIDS people to get married. If the people living with AIDS are not allowed to get married then most of them will spread the disease deliberately therefore many people will die of it.

Lastly at the same point, Rev. Kumbukani Black added that marriages came before AIDS therefore there is no need to refuse anyone to get married, but what is needed is that the two people should agree on one thing if they need children or not.

That was the last answer to the first question which Dailesi Banda asked and the second question was about the girls. Dailesi asked the people that “Is it necessary for the girls to go for blood’s AIDS test before they get married?”

The first person to answer that question was Sheikh Muhammad Osman. He answered that it is very important to advise our children about the abstinence while young but we should avoid telling the two to go for blood test before marriage but already proposed for the marriage. Parents should avoid disturbing their children’s brains by telling them to go for the blood test before they begin living together as a marriage. Sheikh Muhammad said that it is the parents’ job and right to tell their children about abstinence while young.

When he finished speaking the same question went to the Reverend Kumbukani Black who answered that the organizations like Mosques and Churches should have the AIDS Counselling Clubs which can help teaching our youth about to abstain themselves from having sex while young. Mr Kumbukani also said that our children should test their blood for AIDS while they are at a friendship. For the marriage to take place, it needs a long process therefore during that process it is the time to go for the blood test for HIV/AIDS. The Reverend Kumbukani also said that children who are under 21 years old should learn to abstain while young for them to grow up with health and strong bodies, because children are leaders of tomorrow. He continued by saying that though the religion has heard that the two people would like to marry but they have AIDS, and they did not go for the blood test, the religion should not refuse to make their wedding. It is not a religious concern. He lastly said that parents and other organizations should teach the young people about the abstinence while young and before the time for their marriage.

The programme was proceeding and Mrs Fransina Nyirenda said that the Rev. Kumbukani and the Sheikh Muhammad were saying the truth that we should teach our children before they get married and we should tell them about the importance of testing our blood for HIV/AIDS. Mrs Nyirenda added by saying that if we leave our children to die of AIDS we should know that we have reached to the end of the world. She continued by saying that parents should avoid telling their daughters to go out with men in order to have soap and salt from her. If we do that, we have killed our daughters. She also said that parents should advise their daughters about the dangerous of that disease of AIDS. And she said that parents should begin advising the children at home while very young. They should not hide anything to their daughters before time.

Lastly Miss Lilian Dindi Kumwenda answered Dailesi Banda’s question by saying that the AIDS Information should be found and heard at the schools and at the Churches. She also said that Parents should make sure that they answer all the questions that their children ask and we should answer them very well without hiding anything, because if we cheat them, one day those people will meet with the same thing that you cheated, he/she will need to see and know about the truth of it therefore he/she can test and meet with troubles. She also commented that Parents should teach and advise their daughters while young. She then said that parents should advise their children to avoid having sex while young and before marriage, and if many children will die of AIDS then we should just know that the world has gone.

Lastly, Dailesi Banda asked Sheikh Muhammad Osman to explain about the freedom of marriage to the people who live with AIDS. What freedom do they have on marriage affairs? The Sheikh Muhammad said that people who have AIDS and are married stay well, the same as everyone does because both of them fear each other therefore they try to be faithful to each other. In so doing, AIDS cannot continuously be spread. They cannot have sex with many people since each one of them feels afraid of his/her spouse therefore AIDS cannot be spread. He finally said that all the people who live with HIV/AIDS should get married and do everything what the normal person does. There is no need to refuse them to get married if they need to. He stopped there and the programme ended.

27/10/02

On the 27th October 2002, I went to M___ A.D.D. for the Association meeting. All the Chairmen, Secretaries and the Treasurers of all seven SMAGs in Southern region of Malawi met there as an Association. We began our discussions at 9.00 a.m. and we had the break at 12.00 noon for lunch. When we were at lunch, I went to a certain Restaurant which was close to the Chamber that we sat for our meetings.

I entered in the restaurant and I found three women talking to each other about the condoms. Two women were sisters and one of them was a daughter to the elder sister. The elder sister was the owner of the Restaurant and her daughter was just helping her working in the Restaurant. The younger sister just came to see her elder sister on that day. She stays in N___ Turnoff with her husband. The daughter was telling her mothers [sic] that she has been hearing in the radio that people should be using condoms always. They are encouraging ~~in~~ the use of condoms, they don't know that they are also encouraging people that they should be having sex because they cannot get AIDS. Don't they know that sex is very bad unless in a marriage?

Her younger mother answered her that the people who announce about condoms are just talking because they were employed to announce everything that they are given to speak. Those people know the badness of condoms. The condoms cause some disease especially to men who put them on. They cause some sores on the penis's skin and some wounds on the foreskin. She continued by saying that she doesn't see about the importance of using the condoms because they cause other diseases and it sometimes happens that one uses the condoms and he/she is safe from AIDS but he/she [is] found sick from another disease and goes to the hospital especially the Private ones, where he/she is injected using the unsterilized needle which the Doctor had used for injecting someone who had AIDS. In so doing he/she also gets AIDS.

Her elder sister answered her that she was true. Even herself, she don't see the reason why people are encouraged to use the condoms. To her it seems that people are encouraged to have sex in any ways they can do. They are doing that to reduce the number of people in the country.

And the daughter said that there is no need to discourage people having sex with partners who are not their spouses because in Malawi, women are many than men therefore there are many women who are single. Those women are not employed to any organization but they need food every day. Who will help them in terms of money for their daily living? Those people cannot stay without having sex with men because nobody is helping them in terms of cash for buying their needs. Unfortunately, not many people especially men accept the use of condoms because they do say that they cannot just pay money for the tasteless thing. They kept talking about the condoms and the daughter's Aunt said that if men are not accepting in the use of condoms, then everyone will die of AIDS since no any security is there. It would be very good of men and women agree about the use of condoms to reduce the number of people who will die of AIDS. If many women are single, they can be helped by men through sex but they should use condoms always in order to protect themselves from getting AIDS. It is better to feel tasteless than being infected to the AIDS disease. It is also better to stay without a child than getting AIDS and a pregnancy at the same time and both of you die at the same time.

The time was out and we went back into our meeting room and I left them still speaking about condoms and AIDS.

28/10/02

On the 28th October 2002, I sat down at my house's verandah where I was listening to the radio. The radio announcer was announcing to the people in Malawi that many people in Malawi like to isolate the AIDS patient.

It was the report from our leader that he was very concerned because people who have AIDS are the people like us therefore there is no need to isolate them. Our leader said that he is also worried because he understands that many Companies have the rules of choosing healthy looking people only to work in their Companies. If one of the Company Servants have found with AIDS, they isolate him or her from his/her friends. Most Bosses do not promote the people who have AIDS at their Companies, which is very bad. He continued by saying that he would like to ask all the Managers in many organization that

they should stop that system of isolating the people who are looking sick from the AIDS disease. They should work with them together because those are people like everyone else therefore they need to be respected and live a happy life. He also said that if one has found suffering from AIDS while [at] work e.g. a Driver, that one should stop Driving and the Company should give him/her a light job like the office work for him/her to stay for a long time with life.

During that time, Dailesi my son was there with his friend Majaya. When the report from our leader was finished reading, Dailesi and his friend began commenting on what the leader said. Dailesi commented that it is true that many people isolate their relatives who have AIDS even in the villages. And he added that he saw a certain woman at M___ Hospital who was a Guardian to her elder sister who was suffering from Tuberculosis. The Guardian was not giving any support to her sister but she was just going to the Market where she was sleeping with men. Some people who were mercy were helping the patient ~~in the~~ most of the times that her Guardian was away. He said that he found her shouting to her patient that she was wasting her time waiting for her in the hospital because they were not together when she got her AIDS though she was cheated that she had Tuberculosis. Majaya added that many people who suffer from AIDS are usually isolated from their friends or even their relatives. You can find patients with AIDS in the Hospitals but with no Guardians yet they have their relatives. Majaya continued by saying that people are very naughty [“noty”] because they every day hear in the radio that there are condoms which were made for protection from that dangerous disease of AIDS. But they don’t want to buy and use them or going to the hospital to beg some of them and use them. It just shows that people are killing themselves. They don’t want to stay in the world for a long time. Dailesi answered nothing therefore his friend left talking.

29/10/02

I was on my way going to M___ for Annual General meeting which was held at M___ S___ College. When I was in the Bus, the Bus had a breakdown at E___ and the Bus Driver told all the people in the Bus to come out from the Bus because he wanted to add water in its tank.

Some people began complaining that the Driver did not check the Bus before he departed from C___ and the Driver said that the problem just happened accidentally on that place it had a breakdown but it had no any problem when he was doing his service on that Bus. Still people were shouting saying that he was not saying the truth. He did not do the service because he was in a hurry rushing for money. Someone who sat at the back seat added saying that the death by the Bus accident is the same as the death because of AIDS. The AIDS is better off because there are some things which one can use to protect himself or herself from being infected to it while an accident have no any protection. Once the accident has occurred, a person can die at the same spot. People began talking, everyone was speaking on what he or she wanted. Some people were speaking that the accident’s death is better than the AIDS death. It was like a depot in the bus where most of the people were supporting that it is better to die at an accident than because of the AIDS disease.

There were three people I knew by name in the bus because we were together going to the Annual General meeting and we were all from the same SMAG (Small holder for marketing Action Group). Those people were Miss B. Harawa, Mr Z. Chabwera and Miss E. Bengo. These people were also speaking about the better death between and accident and from AIDS.

Mrs Harawa was among the people who were saying that it is better to die of Accident than die of AIDS. She said that if one has died at the same spot that the accident has done, [one] do[es] not feel any painful. He/she just dies. If any painful is there, it is just for a short time, but if you have been infected to the AIDS, it takes a long time for you to die. You found sick for a long time while feeling pain until you ask to your God that it could be better to kill you than leaving you alive but feeling pain every day. Mr Chabwera said that Miss Harawa was very wrong including her friends. It is very wrong to choose the type of death which one needs to have. Death is a painful thing therefore there is no any better. Death is death but if there are some ways which can help to protect [ie prevent] that death then you can use them. But as far as I know, there is no anything which one can use to protect himself/herself from death. If the day have come for you to die, then you cannot do otherwise there. You have to die and you die, Mr Chabwera said. Though many people are cheating themselves to use condoms in order to prevent themselves from death which can come because of AIDS, they just waste

their times. The death will still come through other way round. God is very clever and nobody can compete with him. God has not vice or Deputy. If you don't be faithful to your Spouse you will die of AIDS. If you don't want to abstain from sex, you will die of AIDS. If you shall receive the unsterilized injection, you shall die of AIDS. If you [are] found sick and receive blood from the hospital, you shall die of AIDS. Many ways which can make one to suffer from AIDS and one can use condoms always when having sex but long at last, you can find that he/she has AIDS: Why? He also added that though he never used the condoms but he heard many people complaining that the condoms have some problems. When men use them they just see that the sores have come out and those sores itch and after some time, they began [to be] painful. Condoms cause other disease in addition to the AIDS disease. Those sores is also a disease because it causes itching and one feels painful. Unfortunately, nobody knows its kind of treatment unless you go to the hospital to explain about that problem.

When Mr Chabwera finished speaking, the Bus Conductor who put on the Khaki short trousers and a Green T-shirt answered that AIDS is the dangerous disease because the only common way of being infected to is through sex yet our God knows that there is that AIDS dangerous disease which can kill his people. He is the same God who created people and AIDS too because there is nobody who can create anything apart from God the great. God has an aim with us and that is why he is just looking on what is happening. His many people are passing away every day and ~~some~~ many of them are sick. But still he is doing nothing. He would like to punish us but since everyone likes life, that is why we are trying to use the condoms always for protection. Using a condom is not a bad thing because it is the only way which we can save our lives. Since there is no any treatment that one can receive and get recovered from AIDS, then it is better to use the condoms which can protect our lives for some days before death.

Ettar also put her comments on what the conductor said. She said that there is no good death or the bad death in the world. Both deaths by making an accident or getting sick for a long time is also the bad death. Death is death and no better death is in the world. She continued by saying ~~that~~ the difference between the death because of AIDS and the death through accident. If one is sick, his/her relative know that one day, they will cry for their relative if he/she has shown the signs, while the one who dies of an accident cannot show the signs of anything but he/she stays normal and maybe a happy life. After some minutes or hours, people just see that they have made an accident. About the use [of] the condoms, Ettar said that it is the good idea to use the condoms because the AIDS disease is very dangerous and many people are passing away every day because of AIDS and it has no treatment. If all the people in the country are not using the condoms, All the people will die of AIDS at a short time because they lack the knowledge and the ~~lack of~~ money for daily life. Many women are not married therefore they want to depend on men as their husbands though they are not their husbands. She also said that the use of condoms are very good though they encourage people in doing sex unnecessary and no matter they are causing problems like the sores our father Mr Chabwera has said. It is better to suffer from sores than die of AIDS. If you use the condom and have sores, you can go to the hospital to explain and you can be helped by the Doctors while if you just have sex without any protection like condoms and be infected to AIDS, just know that the hospital can help you but you cannot get recovered until you die. Therefore it is good to use the condoms [rather] than having sex plain.

She stopped there because we reached at the roadblock and nobody continued speaking.

31/10/02

It was the second day of our meetings that we had in M____. Our President Mr Chavula added the story about AIDS on what he was speaking. Mr Chavula said that the SMAG people are only the farmers which the Government depend on because it is the only farming organization which helps the whole Malawi in terms of seed and food to people. He asked all the farmers from all the 8 associations in Malawi to avoid AIDS and be faithful to their marriages. He continued by saying that if the farmers are not protecting their lives, they cannot work while sick therefore there will be no any development in the country. Farmers should keep themselves busy working in their garden. Farmers should grow both rainy season crops and the winter crops to reduce the hunger in Malawi therefore the farmers are lucky because they have no time for drinking or moving with men or women and doing sex with them. Real farmers are always busy working in their gardens or keeping their crops at a right place, grading and

many things at their homes. He also added that if there are some farmers who think [they] cannot manage to abstain from sex then they should be using condoms always for the protection of their lives.

One of the farmers from the Northern region of Malawi at C___ SMAG stood up and said that our President for the ASSMAG was right to encourage all farmers to work hard in farming and he was also right because he advised his people to avoid AIDS. He added by saying that the best way to avoid AIDS is by abstaining from sex especially during the time we have the big meetings like that meeting we had. He said that most farmers like to have sex with people who are not their spouses especially when they come to the big meeting like the meeting we had. Most farmers think that the meeting we had is the only chance of them for doing their needs. He continued by saying that he wanted to ask his fellow farmers to make sure that they are faithful to their spouses. To those who were not married he asked them to abstain from sex because the world is now very dangerous therefore it is better to prevent their lives from getting AIDS because there is no treatment which can cure AIDS. He continued by saying that farmers should respect themselves during the days of the meetings. He also advised his fellow farmers that they should not be encouraged in the use of the condoms. The condoms encourage many people to have sex with other people who are not their life partners especially in the days of the meetings like ours.

After he finished speaking, the ASSMAG President Mr Chavula asked women to put their comments about the AIDS disease if anyone had an information. A certain woman known by Mrs Ngwira said that the two men, the ASSMAG President and a farmer from C___ Association, said was true. She said that she agreed with their advice because most people have the system of making the plan for having sex at the place where meetings occur. Usually the men take advantages of proposing a woman who he kept on loving by his heart. He then took an advantage to propose a woman they know and love. Even some women take an opportunity of sleeping with men who are not their husbands. It might happen that they were having no chance at home of sleeping together as sexual partners and they are lucky today because they have come to this meeting. A good woman is always faithful to her husband, she added. It is very shameful to hear that the married woman has [been] caught red handed with a certain man elsewhere because it just really shows that the woman is a prostitute, she doesn't depend on her husband and she is not faithful. She added by saying that the world is very dangerous because there is this killer disease of AIDS. AIDS has no treatment therefore it just needs to prevent from it. The best way to prevent it and protect one's life against AIDS is through abstinence. If one manages to abstain himself or herself from sex, that is the best of him/her. Force yourself saying "no" to men because men were born to propose women even if they don't want to, they just propose as their law but if a woman say "no", they don't do anything. She also said that it is true that condoms were made for the protection of people's life, but what we should know is that, if we depend on them, we cannot stop that bad behaviour of sleeping [with] our friend' husbands. We shall not make ourselves busy working in our gardens because we shall most of the times feel busy chatting with our sexual partners. She finished by asking all the women farmers to show their good behaviour at the meeting.

Lastly our President thanked both people for speaking out their views about AIDS.

31/10/02

During the same day of 31/10/02, we were chatting tonight after we closed our meeting at 10:45 night hours. We were Mrs Tepeka from C___, Mrs Kekala from M___, Miss Harawa from N___, Miss Bengo from C___ and myself. Mrs Kekala is the Seed Inspector at D___ research station and she began by putting comments on what people said about AIDS. She tried to encourage us her friends that we must behave properly as human beings. She said that in the last year's Annual General meeting, people did not behave well. They really shown that they wanted to fulfil their missions. That was why the President has identified that point of letting everyone know that there is AIDS and it is really killing people.

Mrs Tepekai answered on what Mrs Kekala said. She added that [there] is no any other dangerous disease like AIDS in the world and if the AIDS has covered the whole country and it is true that there is no any treatment which can cure it, then nobody will remain alive. The most dangerous way of getting AIDS is through sex but there are also other ways which one can get AIDS through it like transfusion and through the injections. Had it been that one can only get AIDS through sex only, it could be the

better because people could have been using the condoms for their protection. But the problem comes because we sometimes get sick and then we go to the hospital and there we maybe [are] told that we don't have enough blood and transfusion is needed there, unfortunately we receive the blood which has already the AIDS disease. In so doing, we cannot get recovered on what we were suffering from but instead, we add yet another disease and die. The same thing applies to the injection. One can get sick and go to the hospital to seek for the treatment but if he/she is unfortunate, he/she can be injected using the unsterilized needle therefore you can suffer from AIDS if he once injected an infected person. Though using a condom or not still we shall all die of AIDS and though we try to abstain from sex, still we shall die of it.

She continued by saying that, in C___, many people [have] died of AIDS and many of them are still passing away every time. She added by saying that she saw three people who were suffering from AIDS at the R__ F__ Central hospital. They were all married but their relatives were not helping their in-laws at the hospital looking after their relatives who were patients at the hospital. All of them were men and their wives. Nobody among their relatives were coming to see them and even coming with food or money. The wives were always being worried and complaining about the problems at their homes especially to their children that they left at home. They were also complaining about hunger and soap for cleaning their bodies and washing their clothes since they had no money. Among those three men, two of them died at the hospital but the third one was told to go back home and they were told that the guardian should be going to the nearest hospital to receive tablets for her husband. She said that everyone was crying when they saw that man going back home. He was very thin and weak. He couldn't manage to walk by himself until his wife asked the permission to the nurse asking her to help the patient by giving him a lift using the Ambulance. She was fortunate that her husband was taken in the ambulance but she was told that they should avoid sex even if her husband gets recovered until the hospital's members of staff tells him to do so.

After her speech, Miss D. Bengo put her comments on that people can get AIDS through injections. She said that she was once employed at a certain private hospital known as N___ private Clinic and the owner of that clinic was Mr Kantasi. She said that Mr Kantasi was not changing the needles when injecting people and he was not even cleaning the needles with spirit. He was cleaning them with cold water and she said that she is sure that he is still doing that until this time. If he once injected someone who was infected to the AIDS disease, it means that all the people who were injected after him using the same needle are all infected. The problem is that, it can happen that the one who was injected through the unsterilized water was very faithful and even his/her spouse was also very faithful but they got AIDS from the hospital. Perhaps it can happen that the one who was infected was a child who had no AIDS and could be the leader of tomorrow but he/she got AIDS from the hospital. She complained that it would be better, enough if the AIDS is only spread through sex because only people who are not faithful would have been infected to it and not children who don't know what sex is. People would have been using the condoms always to avoid being infected. But nothing is good because there are many ways ~~of which~~ one can get AIDS ~~from~~.

Miss Harawa said that everything that God has made for people will be for people and not animals. If God has created the AIDS disease for people in order to kill all of them, it will happen and with no mercy. She continued by saying that people should just be living as they were doing before. Everyone might be doing whatever he/she wants to do because it has really shown that all the people who are alive by today will die of AIDS through many ways. The condoms are not useful in terms of protection against AIDS. AIDS is everywhere, even in the condoms one can get AIDS if he/she is unfortunate. Nobody knows where the condom are coming from and who made them, and what things did the condom made of. She said that she never used the condoms ever since and she doesn't think that she will use them in her lifetime because she don't know about the befits that she can have if she uses them. What she knows is that she will die of the disease which God made for her. It might be AIDS, Blood Pressure, diarrhoea, syphilis or any other disease.

Mrs Tepeka answered her that it is better to abstain from sex and die with other diseases but not AIDS. Do not put yourself in a hot soup but try to protect your life for some days so that you manage to develop your family and support your children properly. Think that your children will not live a happy life when you will die as they are doing today when yourself is there. Try to ask your God to add your days of your life so that your children should grow up and reach the age that they can help themselves.

Mrs Kekala thanked Mrs Tepeka that she produced a good advice and if one of us did not want to follow, then that will be a great taboo [meaning?]. It is very good to abstain from sex if you are not married but if you think that you cannot manage staying without sex, then it is good to use condoms always for your protection. To those who are married, they should both be faithful to each other which is very difficult especially to men. Now those married people should depend on each other but if one of them cannot manage to be faithful to his/her spouse, then it is better to use condoms with other partners who he have sex with apart from his/her spouse. It is very difficult to use a condom with your spouse though you heard and know that your spouse has another sexual partner somewhere therefore it is very good for the one who leaves his/her spouse at home and has sex with outsiders. Those people should use condoms with their other partners therefore Miss Harawa should remove out of her mind and idea of just sleeping with men without using any protection. After she finished speaking she said bye to all of us and then she went to her bed.

1/11/02

Our second meeting began at 7:30 am and we closed at 5:30 p.m. We departed at O___ S___ College at 6.00 p.m by the Coster going to M___ Bus depot. We boarded the Bus at M___ at around 7:30 evening. We kept on travelling the whole night and we reached at N___ Turn-off at 1:00 a.m and we went to N___ Motel to look for the rooms to sleep. During that time we were five people, Mr Chabwera, Mr Sub Traditional Authority Petulo, Mr Theness, Miss Bengo and myself Miss Alice. When we reached at N___, we booked the two rooms, one for the three men and one for the two women. Unfortunately Mr Petulo found the condoms in their room and they were opened. Mr Petulo began shouting to the receptionist that he was not making any cleanliness in the rooms because the condoms showed that there were some people who were there having sex and the owners/workers did not change the beddings and they did not even sweep again in the room. Because of that reason we all began chatting outside and the men began their conversation about the use of the condoms.

The conversation began by Mr Theness, the Secretary of N___ Association and he was from O___ SMAG. He asked his friends about the condoms. He said that he never used them before and he don't think that he will use them because he just think that they are harmful therefore he can get some diseases from them but nobody told him that they are bad.

Mr Petulo answered him that the condoms are very good and are also very bad as everything is. Everything is good and everything is bad. Where there is a profit, the loss is there too. Condoms have their advantages and that is why the Government is still importing them from outside countries. Those plastics help in two things. The first thing is to protect yourself against a disease which is sexually transmitted. If you would like to avoid having diseases like buboes, gonorrhoea, AIDS or syphilis you have to use those condoms. You can have many friendships at the same time, but without being infected to the other diseases. The second advantage is that, if you have not yet planned about having a child in your house, you have to use the condoms for the protection against a pregnancy ["the pregnant"] in your house. Condoms help in child spacing and diseases like AIDS, gonorrhoea or buboes. Sometimes the condoms are very bad because they delay bearing a child. The second is that, the condoms are very bad because there is a fluid which they applied in the condom, and those fluids cause other disease to the person. The condoms are also very bad because the one who uses them feels tasteless since the whole private part is covered with the condom and there cannot be good if you don't use skin to skin.

Mr Chabwera also put his comments that in their religion, Muslims are discouraged in the use of those condoms because the Muslims are told that they should not come along the place where sex is happening. Sex to them is sin [?] therefore there is no need to use them.