



In September 2007, I had the great honor of being introduced to a former President Bill Clinton at a fundraiser in New York City. The opportunity arose to discuss CAMI and its mission in Nigeria while posing for a photo-op. Mr. Clinton expressed interest and said, "I'd love to learn more about that". I gave him a more thoroughly detailed brief on CAMI's birth, development, and mission in Nigeria. It discussed our desire to be prudently cost-effective in resource-limited Nigeria. Herbs and supplements are far less expensive than anti-retroviral drugs and can be inexpensively produced locally. We can utilize evidence-based herbal medicines instead of pharmaceuticals and delay the initiation of those limited supplies of HAART for Nigerians well enough to not need them. This approach would conserve the limited drugs and make anti-retrovirals available for those Nigerians with an AIDS diagnosis who most critically need them rather than prescribing them for otherwise healthy Nigerians with only an HIV+ test result. Using herbs and supplements can help keep HIV+ Nigerians healthy longer and delay the need for HAART until symptoms indicate its necessity. Due to the cost of the more advanced front-line drugs, Africans with HIV largely receive older, more problematic anti-retrovirals because they are less expensive. If we preserve the immune systems of HIV-infected Nigerians for as long as possible, then adequate supplies of quality anti-retrovirals will be available for those with true immune collapse. Delaying initiation of HAART by using natural medicinals could preserve many lives and perhaps sustain them until there is a cure.

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