

# EAST LONDON'S COMMUNITY FAITH SYMPOSIUM

HIV &  
COMPASSION  
*LOVE*  
FAITH  
*HOPE*

12 MAY 2018  
11:00 - 15:00  
POSITIVE EAST

“AS FAITH LEADERS WE WORK TO CREATE HEALTHY AND CARING COMMUNITIES  
THAT SUPPORT PEOPLE LIVING WITH AND AFFECTED BY HIV”

Speakers include:



**Horcelie Sinda Wa Mbongo**  
2017 Miss Congo UK



**Pastor Tope Olukemi**  
Team Leader  
Community Church South Ockendon



**Deaconess Joycelyn Hayford**  
Area Women's Leader  
Church of Pentecost



**Most Senior Apostle Rahee Head**  
Whitechapel Misson  
Mount Zion Jesus Saves C & S Church



**Pastor Laetitia Fakamus**  
Apostolic Shalom Church



**Pastor Tony Fawole**  
Redeemed Christian Church of God -  
Royal Connections



**Pastor Abimbola Balogun**  
Cherubim and Seraphim UK



This event has been supported by a fellowship grant from Gilead Sciences

**159 Mile End Road**  
London, E1 4AQ

Register online: <https://bit.ly/2IzWR4w>

Positive East launched the Faith Forum on 22 February 2017. The Forum was specifically designed to enable faith leaders supporting Black and Ethnic Minority (BAME) congregations, to address sexual health issues and support people living with and affected by HIV within the context of faith.

The agreed aims and objectives were as follows:

- Raise awareness about HIV prevalence, treatment, transmission etc in their communities
- Promote openness to the many issues surrounding HIV/AIDS
- Reiterate the importance of faithfulness, forgiveness, love, and compassion
- Discuss ways of reducing HIV stigma and undiagnosed HIV prevalence
- Support HIV orphans and vulnerable children
- Mainstream HIV and AIDS education into church programs
- Improve the quality of life of PLWHIV (people living with HIV)
- Facilitate HIV education and testing in churches
- Explore and understand the impact of the new prevention technologies.

Positive East would like to thank you for catching and running with its vision to ensure people living with HIV live full healthy lives, free from stigma and discrimination. Specifically, we would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend our symposium, taking part actively and for your desire to become agents of change and symbols of hope.

We look forward to working with you in the years that come.



Mark Santos  
Executive Director  
Positive East



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[www.positiveeast.org.uk](http://www.positiveeast.org.uk)

[www.iwantanhivtest.org.uk](http://www.iwantanhivtest.org.uk)



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## Programme

Welcome: Mark Santos

Opening remarks and Prayer: Apostle Segun George

Keynote address: Horcelie Sinda Wa Mobong,  
"Why faith matters to people living with HIV"

HIV and Hope: Pastor Tony Fawole

HIV and Compassion: Deaconess Joycelyn Hayford

HIV and Forgiveness: Pastor Tope Olukemi

Tea break

PREP Talk: The end of HIV is up to us?

HIV and Faith: Pastor Abimbola Balogun

HIV and Love: Pastor Laetitia Fakamus

Why the Community Faith Forum matters: a call to action,  
Apostle Bolaji Raheem

Panel Discussion

Final remarks and prayer



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## Speakers biography



**Special Apostle Segun George** (JP, BD) is a dedicated man of God. He was born to a committed Christian home and family. He has achieved associate degrees, diplomas and certificates in journalism, communications, advertising and broadcasting. He has worked with many media outfits.

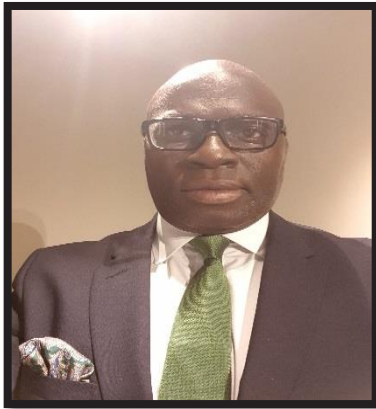
Apostle George became a minister of God in 1995, heading and leading the church. After a brief illness of cancer, in 1999, he became a full-time minister of God.

Apostle 'Segun George is happily married to Reverend Mother 'Funke George and their marriage is blessed with children.

**Horcelie Sinda Wa Mbongo** is an artist, activist and Campaigner. Horcelie volunteered with ICS (International Citizen Service) in South Africa in 2016, supporting sexual and reproductive health for 3 months, which led to her disclosing her status.



Upon returning from South Africa she entered the Miss Congo UK beauty pageant in the hope of winning and raising awareness about HIV/AIDS in the Congolese community. She won, and the Lord continues to open doors for her, and she continues raising awareness globally with interviews at Harvard University, BBC, MTVstayingAlive and in many more places. She received her Fine Art degree at Chelsea College of Arts and plans to do a Masters in Contemporary Arts at Sotheby's Institute of arts.



**Pastor Tony Fawole** is a Minister of Religion with over 15 years' experience in counselling, coaching and mentoring, and management. Prior to this, he worked for 30 years as an Administrator, Management Consultant and Policy Adviser both in the private and public sectors.

After a successful career in people management, Tony now coaches other people to achieve the same success. Tony also reaches out to the 'hard to reach' in the community and to those excluded from gaining access to the state welfare system. He loves football and supports Liverpool Football Club. He also enjoys travelling, driving and music. Tony is married and has two grown up daughters.

**Deaconess Joycelyn Hayford** was born and bred in Ghana, West Africa. She lives in UK with her husband.

Joycelyn, a member of the Church Pentecost and the Area women's leader, is the Operations Director of Black Women's Health & Family Support, an organisation that campaigns against FGM since 1994. She holds a BA in Social Policy and Management. She has passion for supporting women and families in need.



**Pastor Tope Olukemi** is married to Ade and they have three sons. He is one of the elders in Community Church, which is a multisite church based in Thurrock, and he oversees the site in South Ockendon. He is passionate about teaching God's Word and wants to see people come to the fulness of who they are in Christ.

He also works as a software consultant.

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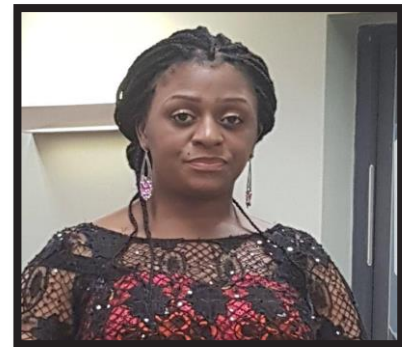


**Pastor Abimbola Oyebade Balogun** is a lawyer and an ordained Pastor with the Cherubim and Seraphim Church, Worldwide.

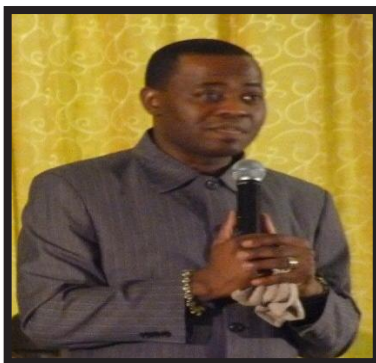
Abimbola is a volunteer manager and a mental health advocate (St. Mungos, UK). She is the Coordinator of HOPE - Seraphs Tackling Social Injustice, a faith based charitable organisation raising awareness

about and providing support for people coming out of human trafficking, domestic violence and modern-day slavery. Abi runs her charity as a church without walls. She serves God by serving others.

**Pastor Laetitia Fakamus** is a powerful, strong and influential woman of God born into a Christian family and raised with values to help individuals facing difficult situations.



Laetitia is an excellent multitasker impacting her community in various ways. She set up a charity called "*Entre Elles*" to raise awareness about the plight of raped women and disadvantaged children in Congo, her home country and to share her faith with women worldwide. Laetitia has built a team who helped her set up 3 awareness platform called "*les batisseuses*" in London and in Paris. Laetitia loves travelling and leaves a mark wherever she goes.



**Senior Apostle Bolaji Raheem** currently works as a senior FM manager with the NHS Trust. He's a graduate of Management & Leadership and a member of the Whitechapel mission under the banner of Cherubim & Seraphim Church (Mount Zion) Jesus Saves Christian Centre.

Bolaji is happily married and has three grown up children.

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## East London Community Faith Forum

### Call to action

Faith leaders have **positions, influence, power, authority,** and **compassion** that must be harnessed to create healthy and caring communities for people living with and affected by HIV (PLWHIV) as well as for the wider community

We want faith leaders and people of faith to:

**Inform** their communities that HIV must not be seen as punishment for sexual promiscuity

**Break the silence**, burst myths/eliminate misinformation- conversation about HIV/AIDS must begin in the pulpit and reach the pew so it can reverberate to the streets

**Underscore** the prevalence of this disease

Ensure **people do not judge**- Judge not (John 3:17---God sent his son into the world not to judge the world but to save the world through him.)

Ensure **people do not moralize** or ask how someone acquired HIV

**People of faith and faith leaders are not to be obstacles to change, rather, they should be drivers of change.**

### How?

#### Through

Greater engagement and commitment in the HIV response.  
Recognition of the need to respond to people living with and affected by HIV in a way that reflects a **loving God** rather than a **judgmental, dismissive** God.

Learning and keeping abreast of HIV news so we can correct misinformation and protect PLWHIV  
Confidentiality-gaining and trust -building

You can become involved

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# Upcoming Faith Forum dates

**21 June 2018**

**30 August 2018**

**8 November 2018**



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