



ANNE LEBETHE, Openly Positive trustee and author of *Vida – a toast to life* in *Whisper not*.

Telling stories of positive lives



openly positive

The Openly Positive Trust (Openly Positive) helps to build a supportive environment for people living with HIV and AIDS to live positively and disclose.

We aim to:

- Encourage open living with HIV by sharing our stories as people living with and deeply affected by HIV.
- Be visible role models in promoting positive living and stigma-free language in writing and talking about HIV and AIDS.
- Work for equality, non-discrimination and active participation of people living with HIV in policies and programmes affecting us.

"When we first heard about HIV and AIDS, we whispered out of fear. As leaders, we need to talk openly and to learn from each other's journeys of living with and being deeply affected by HIV... This is the time for us to be united as Africans and citizens of the world to embrace and support all people living with and affected by HIV."

ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS DESMOND TUTU, Patron: Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation

After Derrick Fine's *Clouds move* and Elaine Maane's *Umzala*, *Whisper not* is the third in the Openly Positive Trust's series of personal stories about triumphing over adversity. It's a diverse collection of 15 short stories, together with three separately published stories translated into isiXhosa, Chichewa and French. Read on to find out more about all the books in our series...

For more information, please visit our website: www.openlypositive.com



Openly Positive's first book: *Clouds move* by Derrick Fine, 2007

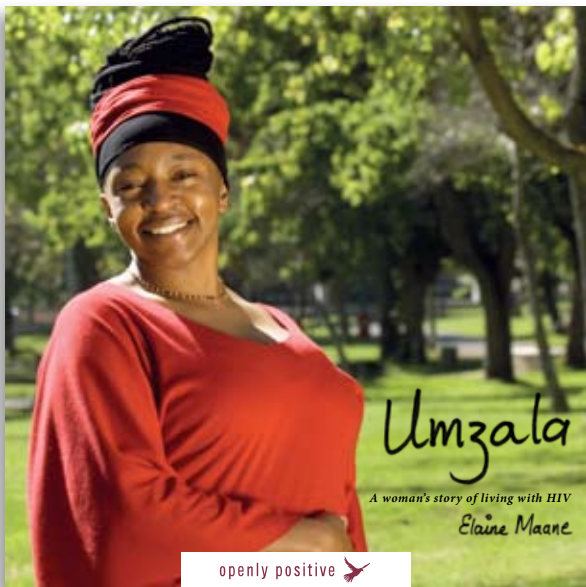
*“Time to show
Our faces
Our voices
Our names
Telling tales of positive living...”*

DERRICK FINE, Openly Positive trustee and person living with HIV for 11 years

Clouds move, Derrick Fine's poignant and revealing memoir of living with HIV in South Africa, is the first in Openly Positive's series of stories. Through flashbacks to his early years, the challenges of coming out as a gay man, his gradual disclosure of living with HIV and the joy of finding love, Derrick's personal journey celebrates life and calls for the greater visibility of people living with HIV.

“Clouds move is a personal love story, but it's also a powerful story about people from all walks of life. It encourages us to communicate positively and live our lives beyond the boundaries of HIV.”

MASIAS MAKHALEMELE, HIV activist and person living with HIV for 17 years



Openly Positive's second book: *Umzala* by Elaine Maane, 2009

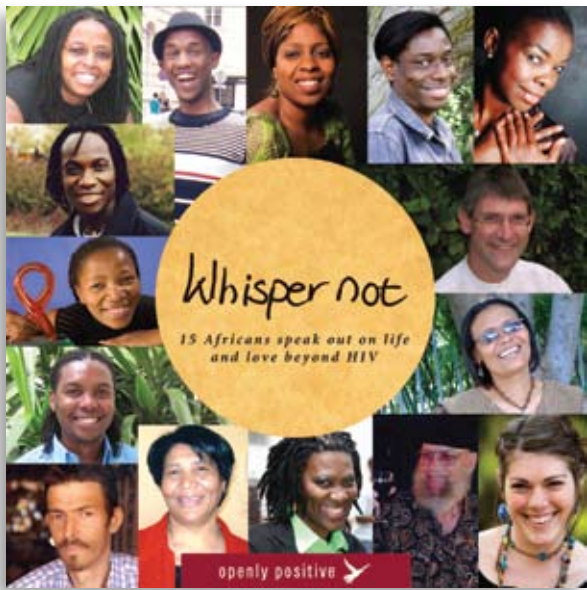
“Living with Umzala, or whatever you choose to call the HIV within you, is a lot easier than working against ‘your cousin’. Learn to accept Umzala and move on with your life.”

ELAINE MAANE, Openly Positive trustee and person living with HIV for 14 years

Umzala is Elaine Maane's story of living positively with HIV told with tears and laughter. Elaine shares the path charted by many women, who have felt like an island at some point in their lives. *Umzala* inspires us to rise above seemingly impossible odds. Elaine encourages us to heal, to love and be loved, and to appreciate life. Together with her, we discover that HIV should not be a barrier to reaching our dreams.

“Elaine’s book shines a light on the realities that women living with HIV and AIDS face in their daily lives. Umzala will also inspire and empower other women living with HIV about how to rise above difficult circumstances and live full, meaningful lives.”

NOMAMPONDO BARNABAS, HIV activist and person living with HIV for 14 years



Openly Positive's third book: the *Whisper not* short story collection, 2011

Whisper not celebrates the lives of 15 proud people from the African continent sharing our personal experiences of living with and being deeply affected by HIV.

From the DRC, Malawi, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and South Africa, hear the voices of Nombeko Mpongo, Bonga Melaphi, Bhatupe Mhango, Jan de Groot, Anne Lebethe, Richard Mukuka, Ann Ray Ray, Christo Greyling, Zanele Mphikwa, Jean-Claude Puati Bazola, Nomfundo Xotyeni, Marius Harmsen, Malehloa Ntlaloe Kalati, Mthokozisi Radebe and Christy-Joy Webster.

We are also launching alongside *Whisper not* three of the stories in this collection: Nombeko Mpongo's *Nakanjani* in isiXhosa; Bhatupe Mhango's *Kufinya mandimu, kukonza chakumwa* in Chichewa; and Jean-Claude Puati Bazola's *La sculpture des temps* in French. Read on for more about these translated stories...

“Across Africa, we have all been touched by HIV and TB. Openly Positive’s stories challenge us to see beyond HIV and to realise that HIV is not only about hopelessness, disaster and pain. These stories echo with living, resilience and victory. These voices call on each one of us to turn our whispers into loud choruses of hope!”

MUSA NJOKO, Musician and person living with HIV for 15 years



Openly Positive's fourth book: *Nakanjani* by Nombeko Mpongo, 2011

“I promised myself that, whatever I was going through, I had to help others in the same situation understand that they were not alone. It was never easy, but the support we get from different people always makes the journey less heavy.”

NOMBEKO MPONGO, author and person living with HIV for 11 years

Nakanjani is the isiXhosa translation of Nombeko Mpongo's short story, Anyway, which forms part of the English short story collection, *Whisper not*. Against the backdrop of her early years in the Eastern Cape, Nombeko's powerful poems and life story share how she has courageously survived being gang-raped to become a proud role model and advocate for living positively with HIV.

“I encourage you to read Nakanjani. Nombeko is a great leader, and has helped many people in the church and community come to terms with who they are and not allow memories of the past to shatter their expectations of the future. Nombeko's message is that, if you do not stand on your two feet and claim your right to live, no one will grant it to you.”

REVEREND DR SPIWO XAPILE, JL Zwane Church



Openly Positive's fifth book: *Kufinya mandimu, kukonza chakumwa* by Bhatupe Mhango, 2011

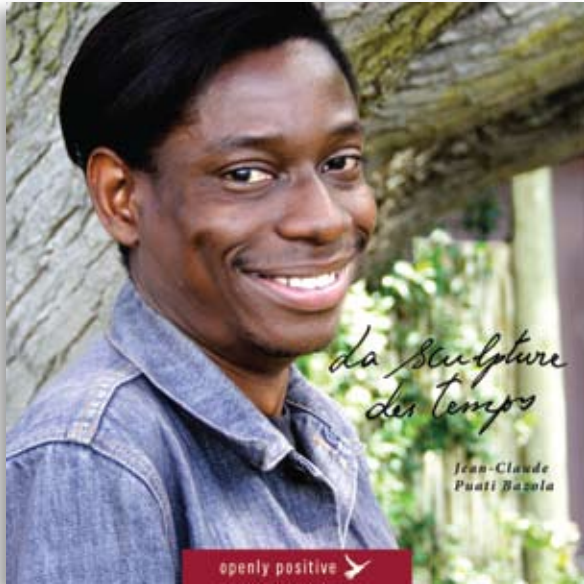
“This is the simple story of my life – a raw account of my vulnerability, how my life and body were attacked by a teeny-weeny virus, and how I got the courage to get up and keep on living.”

BHATUPE MHANGO, author and person living with HIV for 8 years

Kufinya mandimu, kukonza chakumwa is the Chichewa translation of Bhatupe Mhango's short story, *Squeezing lemons, making lemonade*, which forms part of the English short story collection, *Whisper not*. Bhatupe's life story takes us on a voyage of discovery through Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, leading to her becoming an advocate for living positively with HIV for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

“I invite you to read Bhatupe's story. It will be a light to many Malawians, many young women and all other people. I salute Bhatupe for living an open life and stepping where 'angels fear to tread'. Through her personal journey, she informs us that HIV is preventable, AIDS is manageable, and that we can reverse the tide of AIDS and AIDS-related deaths.”

REVEREND FR MACDONALD SEMBEREKA, Malawi Network of Religious Leaders living with or personally affected by HIV and AIDS



Openly Positive's sixth book: *La sculpture des temps* by Jean-Claude Puati Bazola, 2011

"Life is not a long quiet river."

JEAN-CLAUDE PUATI BAZOLA, author and person living with HIV for 3 years

La sculpture des temps is the French translation of Jean-Claude Puati Bazola's short story, *Sculptures of time*, which forms part of the English short story collection, *Whisper not*. Jean-Claude's life story is a journey of survival after growing up in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and escaping from homophobia to life with HIV as an asylum seeker in South Africa. Facing the additional challenge of xenophobia, his story is one of courage, resilience and determination against multiple odds.

"Jean-Claude's story highlights the overwhelming difficulties that homosexual men still face in Africa. In spite of stigma, discrimination, homophobia and gender violence, Jean-Claude's desire to improve his quality of life is inspirational. His journey has brought him to a destination of care, support and understanding, with the backing of medical professionals, including those who promote HIV healthcare management services for gay men. Viva la liberté!"

JUSTIN LEAHY, Friend and clinic administrator

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