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**2007 National HIV Prevention Conference – Day 4
Closing Session
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
December 5, 2007**

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[START RECORDING]

KEVIN FENTON, M.D., Ph.D.: So sometimes we wake up in the morning and there is a song in our heart that just keeps repeating all day. We can't say exactly why it's there or how it got there. But we keep humming it over and over to ourselves in the shower, on the way to the office, while we are at our desks at work. It keeps going over and over and over again in our heads sometimes all morning and sometimes all day.

And often the song is infectious. We think it's playing silently in our hearts. Yet we sometimes hear others around us humming the same song. And quietly too. And that's when I think that a small miracle has occurred.

If you get caught, between the moon and New York City, the best that you can do is fall in love. Jessie Miland [misspelled?] December 2, 2007. [Applause] If this conference were to have a theme then I would want to say that it would be the chorus of this song from Christopher Cross, Office theme. How many of us have been thinking about these words over the past three days?

Humming as we passed by stands, singing as we pass by silently going about our business in this conference from session to session, meeting to meeting, talk to talk, how many of us in this room, were moved by Jessie to think about his personal dilemmas which he shared at the beginning of this meeting at the beginning of this conference.

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And Jessie shared about his dilemma of being caught between the moon and New York City. Of being caught in a time and place where he is faced with thinking about those he loves and those who he has loved and lost. Of being caught between knowing what's right, expedient, and needed and where we are in fact are today.

Of being caught between a hope and a vision for a better future on one hand and the realities, ups and downs of daily and everyday life and simply making it through the day. Yes, my friends, if there was a theme for this conference, and I think it would indeed be this song, and in many ways I too, feel caught between a Moon and New York City.

Caught between a vision for when HIV is no more and the realities of dealing with this virus that continues to wreak havoc on our friends, our families, and our colleagues comes to an end. Caught between a vision for the eradication of hate, which is at the core of all of the isms that we discussed at this meeting.

And the realities [applause] of our day to day lives, at work, school, at home, and in our communities caught between having all the resources, innovation, passion, and hope that we need to put this epidemic behind us, once and for all and the realities of simply making it through the day.

And caught between a place where we are all valued, honored, respected, and loved for who we are and the amazing,

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wonderful, powerful, and firming creations that were meant to be.

And yet having sometimes to feel less, to do less and to have less than we should. Sometimes I feel caught between the moon and New York City, but Jessie continued to say that whenever we feel in this position of indecisiveness and hopelessness and challenge and uncertainty that the best that we can do is to come back to a place of love.

And I think that it was this message, three days ago, that cut to the hearts of so many of us in this room. Love for ourselves that enables us to respect ourselves and propels us to do our best in everything that we do. And that love of ourselves which gives us the confidence to say no more. HIV stops with me.

Love for the people and communities that we serve every day, every week, and year by year. The love that propels us to do more, to do it faster, to do it deeper, and to give hope, love for the work that gives us hope and propels us to work longer, to be more creative, to celebrate successes, and to prepare for another day.

Love for those who've gone before us and our sincere desire to show that we're making a difference in this world. And love for those who will come after us so that they too can gaze upon the moon from New York City, and perhaps be even that much closer to touching it, than we are today.

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Now I began this conference by sharing a challenge to all of you who joined us for this meeting that you participate, interact, engage, and act. And as we close now, I want to thank you for what has been an exceptional meeting. Thank you for participating, for bringing to this meeting your passion, presents, diversity, drive, enthusiasm, and energy.

For this meeting was made all the better for each of you who were able to attend and be here with us. And as you leave, inspire others to participate in ending this epidemic. Thank you for interacting, for sharing your experiences with others you met along the way, in the corridors, in the hallways, in the meeting rooms, over coffee, over donuts, while sitting down to get some rest.

Your interaction made this meeting even more powerful, more relevant more rich than others. Please continue to interact as you return home and share the good news and the hope of what you've learned.

Inspire others to interact. Thank you also for engaging, your engagement made each session more lively, more fun, more real, more relevant for every day lives and experiences and it ensured that the transition from knowledge to action will become real. But the true and final tests of this meeting will be our actions. What we will all do and what impact we will have with the knowledge that we have gained the knowledge that we will share and the knowledge that we will now

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implement in our organizations, in our communities and even in our own lives as a result of attending this meeting. Twenty-six years, six months to the day after the publication of the NMWR of the first five cases of AIDS in the United States, as you leave this conference, I hope this meeting has inspired you to participate, engage, to interact, and to act.

Thank you for coming and we shall close this meeting and I'd like to invite Enrica Mercado and El Castrilyrico [misspelled?] to end us and to take us out on very high note for this conference. Thank you. [Applause] [Spanish Band playing]

MALE SPEAKER 2: You're a great audience. I want to say thank you to the 2007 National HIV Prevention Conference. I want to say thank you to Mr. Ford, Mr. Friedman, Martinez and all of you all for having us here on this wonderful event. And we're going to play one more tune from Mexico. [Music Playing]

MALE SPEAKER 3: We are El Castrilyrico [misspelled?]. Thank you so much.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Muchos gracias, everybody who has played here, on piano from Venezuela Jose Manuel Garcia. [Applause] Background vocalist Gordo Jesel [misspelled?] Columbia. [Applause] Monteo Constanera [misspelled?] the Columbian symbolist [misspelled?]. Puerto Rico in Congo. [Applause]

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MALE SPEAKER 3: [Speaking in Spanish], Nicolai from Columbia. [Speaking in Spanish], Enrica Mecal [misspelled?] de Puerto Rico.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Thank you. You want one more? What do you want? A Meringa [misspelled?], a salsa? [Inaudible]

MALE SPEAKER 3: Hey, sir. [Music Playing]

MALE SPEAKER 2: Hello, hello. [Music Playing] Thank you. Thank you so much.

MALE SPEAKER 3: Gracias. Gracia. And I want to say also thank you to the sound crew, Monty and the guys. Thanks a lot. Thank you, muchos gracias. Hasta next year.

[END RECORDING]