

## Our Mission:

“Our church should be a beacon of light and hope, by way of Christ, to anyone who suffers from or has family or friends who suffer from this disease.”



Samaritan Ministry  
Wayne Smith, Director

A Ministry of Central  
Baptist Church of Bearden  
Knoxville, Tennessee

[www.samaritancentral.org](http://www.samaritancentral.org)

Phone: 865-450-1000 x 827

Fax: 865-560-9977

E-Mail: [smithmw@usit.net](mailto:smithmw@usit.net)

# GIVE

**100 X 100  
Century Partners  
Campaign**

## That Southern Exposure

Often when we share statistics that point toward an increasing “Southern Exposure” for HIV/AIDS, we are asked, “Why the South?” It’s an interesting question. At Samaritan Ministry, we try to raise awareness concerning the American HIV epidemic and the 40,000 new HIV infections that occur each year in the US (320,000 since 2000) and the fact that the South leads the nation in per capita HIV/AIDS infections.

Seven of the 10 states with the highest HIV rates are in the South and more survivors of the disease live in the South than anywhere else in the country. The South is home to 45 percent of new AIDS Cases in the US. Why? There are many reasons.

Every Southern AIDS case receives

nearly \$500 less in federal aid than in the rest of the country and \$200 less per case in HIV prevention dollars (“The South Shall Rise Again” POZ, November, 2007).

“Poverty and lack of access to healthcare play a role. We think of poverty and education as issues for third world countries but poverty and malnutrition are also factors in our areas, too. We’re dealing with poor people who don’t perceive themselves at risk, people who are addicted to drugs that make them take chances, and a lack of comprehensive sex education.” (POZ, Nov. 2007)

Religious objections to comprehensive sex education in schools and a

[Continued - next page]

## “100 Times 100” Century Campaign

As we send out this Newsletter, we want you to know that we need your help to underwrite the programs and services of Samaritan Ministry. Our funding base includes many agencies and foundations, like the Tennessee Department of Health and the MAC AIDS Fund, among others, but we also rely on individual gifts from our friends to support our budget each year.

This spring we are seeking 100 donors who are willing to give at least \$100 for this purpose. Won’t you be one of our “100 Times 100” Century Partners for 2008? You can check progress of this campaign on our website at [www.samaritancentral.org](http://www.samaritancentral.org).

To give, please use the envelope provided and make your check out to Samaritan Ministry/CBCB.

Thanks, and may God bless you as you continue to bless us!



## Southern (con't)

reluctance of churches to embrace sex and sexuality as issues needing attention are also factors. Our students need and deserve comprehensive sex and sexuality education when we know that 60% of high school seniors report that they are sexually active before graduation. Our churches should be leading the way. In her March 28, 2008 editorial (Knoxville News-Sentinel), Leslie Snow writes, "Students should be taught the reasons to abstain from sexual activity and receive information to arm them if they

choose not to. We can't afford to avert our eyes and then act surprised when the outcome isn't what we desire."

The Samaritan Ministry High School "Basic HIV" class provides a sound and strong abstinence message, but is committed to a message that is also frank and comprehensive. Our students deserve nothing less.

Wayne Smith

## Prison Programming in *FOCUS*

Our partnership with FOCUS Prison Ministries has allowed us to gain access to state prisons in Tennessee. Our prison work involves:

*"Al has been incarcerated since Thanksgiving, and just started his antiretroviral treatment in March."*

1. Teaching a basic HIV/AIDS curriculum to inmates who are involved in Bible study through FOCUS.
2. Developing a DVD dealing with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C called "Locked and Loaded". This is now used in all 15 Tennessee Department of Correction facilities as an orientation/awareness tool.
3. Working individually with HIV+ inmates to advocate for care, compassion, and confidentiality. We are also involved with post prison housing and reentry issues.

This spring has been a busy time for us.

In March we made our yearly pilgrimage to West Tennessee to teach at the Baptist College of Health Sciences. As part of this trip, we visited two inmates at the Northwest Correctional

Complex in Tiptonville. One of these inmates, Al, has been incarcerated since Thanksgiving, and just started his antiretroviral treatment in March. His movement from jail to prison, and then from prison to prison, both for classification and medical evaluation, was largely responsible for this delay.

Our involvement with Al was to follow his case and interact with prison medical officials to advocate for treatment, which has occurred. Al's "numbers" are horrible, so we will be anxiously waiting his new blood work in the coming months.

Tom has been one of our clients for about 3 years. He is serving a long sentence, is doing well medically, and needs our continued support, prayer, and encouragement.

In early April, we attended a parole hearing with Danny. This time, his second time "up", he got a favorable nod from the hearing officer. Our friends at FOCUS have accepted Danny into a halfway house program, and we were able to deliver the good news to him at his hearing. Danny will need our continued support in the coming months.

## Rapid Testing Initiative

In partnership with Helen Ross McNabb Center, Planned Parenthood, Child & Family Tennessee, and Provision Foundation, we are off to the races with rapid testing. A three-day training event is being planned for late May which will allow us to train staff and volunteers in testing fundamentals, posttest counseling, and device training on the OraQuick Advance. This test is a very reliable oral fluid HIV antibody test that provides results in 20 minutes. With this partnership, we hope to be able say "yes" to any request from the community for an outreach-testing event.



## Dates & Events:

**First Tuesday HIV Support Group** for men & women (monthly – call for details)

**First Monday Women’s Group** (monthly – call for details)

April 11 & 12 **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship North Carolina**

April 19 **Tennessee CBF Annual Meeting**

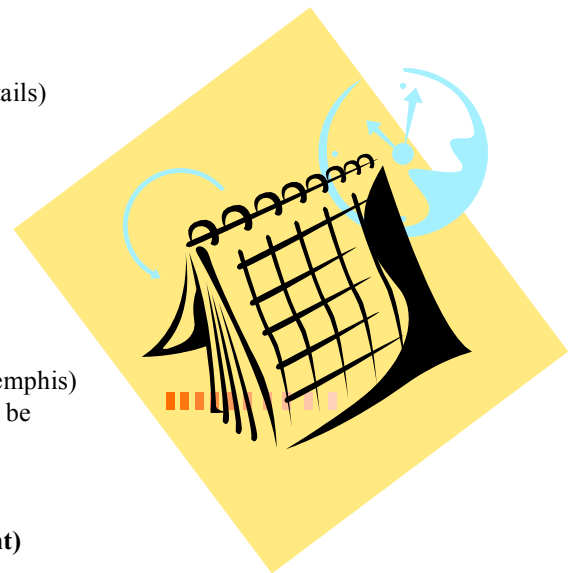
April 28- May 1 **Tennessee Community Planning Group**

June 11-14 **HIV Prevention Leadership Summit** (Detroit)

June 18 - 21 **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship National General Assembly** (Memphis)  
Don Messer, author of “Breaking the Conspiracy of Silence” will be the speaker at the AIDS Network Luncheon on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

September 18-20 **US Conference on AIDS** (Miami Beach)

December 2 – **The Concert for Samaritan Ministry (World AIDS Day Event)**  
featuring southern singer/song writer Kate Campbell  
6:00 p.m. @ Middlebrook Christian Ministries, Knoxville



## Meet Jeff (and His New Meds)

Jeff has been a Samaritan Ministry client for several years. He has been on antiretrovirals in the past, but has not been a very consistent patient. Events in his life have caused gaps and Jeff has, at times, not been committed to staying “with it”. At times he has been homeless and his resources are, at best, limited. Recently Jeff returned to Knoxville with a new interest in meds (His numbers were poor.) and some great determination. He went to our local C.O.E. (Centers of Excellence) at the Knox County Health Department and got a new prescription from our wonderful health department ID (Infectious Disease) Doc.

Jeff called and asked me if we could go to the pharmacy together to get his new meds.

The first thing we did was to review his labs together. Interesting report. CD4 count was 44 and viral load “out the roof”, to quote Jeff. We both realized that there is some work that needs to be done to restore this immune system!

I sat in my truck as Jeff went in to get his meds. When he returned, we went through the bags together. I was astonished at what I saw. Jeff’s new regimen include some of the best and newest,

*“When he returned, we went through the bags together. I was astonished at what I saw.”*

including Isentress (new integrase inhibitor), Prezista (new protease inhibitor), Truvada (NRTI), Norvir (PI), and Fuzeon, the injectable entry inhibitor. (I’m not even going to tell you the cost of these meds for one month!) Jeff is enrolled in Medicare Part D and qualifies for “extra help” due to low income. The bottom line for cost to Jeff - zero.

I told Jeff that I thought he was very fortunate. I also told him that, as a taxpayer, I was delighted that he had this opportunity and that I was glad to know that these wonderful drugs were indeed for everyone. I also told him that he needed to take these drugs and do everything in his power to make them work.

Jeff IS doing a great job. He is managing his meds and working hard with the Fuzeon, his biggest challenge. He has a great chance to succeed.

In spite of the many negative things we hear, it is good to know system works.

Wayne Smith



Samaritan Ministry  
Central Baptist Church of Bearden  
6300 Deane Hill Dr.  
Knoxville, TN 37919

*Tennessee*  
*Partners in Missions*  
Tennessee Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship



Tennessee Department  
of Health

**M-A-C AIDS Fund**  
Global AIDS Foundation

**The  
ProVision  
Foundation**

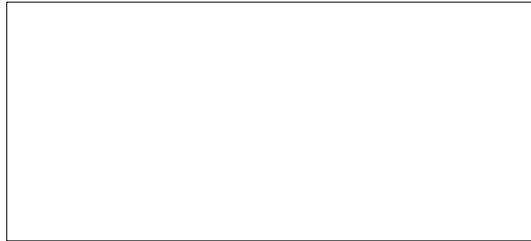
Knox County  
Community Development

**Beulah**

Beulah Baptist Church  
Devereux, Georgia



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## OUR PARTNERS

We work closely with many agencies in order to serve the HIV/AIDS community, including:

- AIDS Housing Authority
- Child and Family Tennessee (Ryan White provider)
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- FOCUS Prison Ministries
- Helen Ross McNabb Center (Mental Health Agency)
- Hope Center at Fort Sanders Hospital
- Hope Resource Center
- Knox County Health Department & Regional Health Office
- Knox County Public Defender's Office
- Knox County Sheriff's Department
- Knox County Schools
- Midway Rehabilitation Center
- N.E. TN Regional Community Planning Group / Ryan White Consortium
- Parkridge Harbor (residential men's facility)
- Planned Parenthood
- Remote Area Medical
- Tennessee Department of Health
- Tennessee Department of Corrections

## Our Prayer of Confession....

“We publicly confess and acknowledge that we have too often contributed to stigmatization and discrimination and that our churches have not always been welcome places for people living with HIV/AIDS. We therefore commit ourselves to a faithful and courageous response in breaking the silence, speaking openly and truthfully about human sexuality and HIV/AIDS.”

Put another way, “We confess that the church has rejected when it should have embraced and judged when it should have shown love & compassion.” (Don Messer)