
A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE*

- ❖ Challenging the negative and judgmental attitudes that still exist toward people living with HIV.
- ❖ Decreasing fear and misconceptions about HIV & AIDS by providing accurate information.
- ❖ Providing practical and pastoral support for people living with HIV and their families.
- ❖ Engaging in prayerful dialogue with other churches, faith communities, and secular organizations.

*From Donald Messer in Breaking the
Conspiracy of Silence (2004)



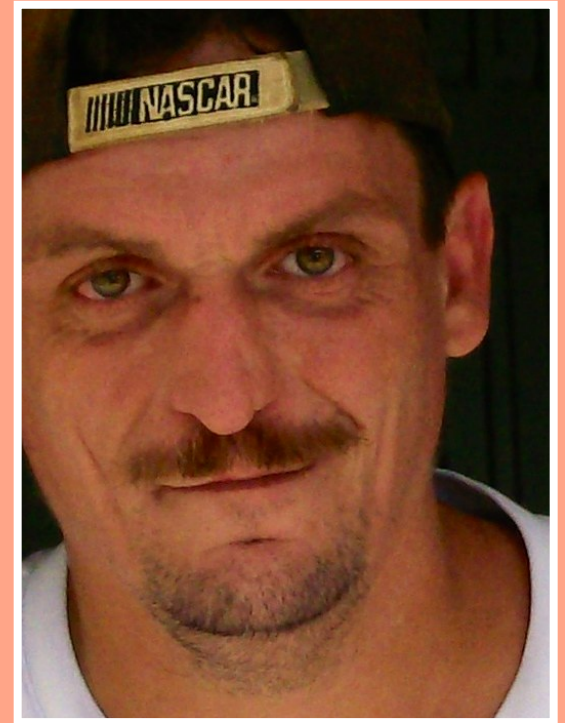
OUR MISSION

“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
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SAMARITAN MINISTRY



*Reaching out to the
HIV Community*

*one person at a
time*





MEETING NEEDS:

An important facet of HIV ministry is to meet the needs of people in your community who are living with HIV.



TEACHING:

There is still a lot of ignorance and misinformation in the community about HIV and AIDS. Learn. Share.



COMMUNITY:

Your community needs to know that Christians care about this issue and about those who live with HIV.

THE SAMARITAN MINISTRY MODEL

Patience has become the by-word for Samaritan Ministry. Many years passed before we engaged our first partner church. Our time-tested plan for developing a ministry that changes hearts and lives CAN be duplicated in your church, your community. It WILL take commitment and a willingness to take on a servant role within the community. You will need to work with others who are different than you; people who share different ideas and faiths, but IT IS POSSIBLE.

ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS:

All too often members of the Christian community think they need to partner with like-minded groups. They tend to ask... “Do you believe what I believe?”, and let this become a litmus test for partnership building.

We suggest a different question. “Do you care about what I care about?” This can open up all kinds of possibilities, from other faith communities to governmental, and not-for-profit groups that may not share the same religion/belief system as you do, but may care deeply about the HIV epidemic and the stigma that is often associated with HIV/AIDS.

And remember, talking about HIV means that sex and sexuality need to be discussed. Be ready. Use the words. It’s OK.

Also, it is vital that the position of the church be one that provides a non-judgmental and compassionate approach to serving the needs of those suffering with HIV/AIDS without

questioning the guilt or innocence of the victim. We don’t need to know “how they got it”.

EVERYONE NEEDS LOVE:

Christ commands us to love. (John 15:12) This simple directive from Jesus is sometimes a challenge for us. We have learned that loving in the HIV world brings us together with segments of our community with whom we may have discomfort. We love everyone the same and there do not need to be caveats, such as, “Love the sinner, hate the sin.” Our LGBTQ friends need and deserve their place in the family of God, without condition.

TAKE THESE STEPS:

- 1) Go slowly. Trust building is essential.
- 2) Show up. Be a part of community gatherings where HIV prevention and care are on the agenda. Your presence will be noticed and appreciated.
- 3) Help existing programs before trying to start your own. Watch and listen.
- 4) Be willing to partner with secular groups, acting as volunteers. Set evangelistic goals aside as opportunities will present themselves once relationships are built. Demonstrate your faith by example. Be a servant.
- 5) Minister first to physical need.

WE CAN HELP:

We can provide you with training and materials to achieve your goals! Call us.