

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

6300 Deane Hill Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37919

www.samaritancentral.org

Phone: 865-450-1000 x 827

Fax: 865-584-2249

E-Mail: smithmw@usit.net

2009 Giving Campaign Our "Stimulus Package"

Like many other organizations, Samaritan Ministry has seen a reduction in revenues going in to 2009. Our individual giving is off, and one of our major grantors will not be funding us in 2009.

In our budget, these funds will directly affect the direct services we offer to our HIV+ clients. Funding for our Thanksgiving

Banquet, the Hope Bucket Project, and our emergency utility and housing initiatives, as well as our Loins Club vision partnership, are all affected. Without additional funding, these programs will need to be severely limited. We will also aggressively be seeking new funding from other sources and we have several applications in the works.

But, it seems that for now we are going to rely on our many donors out there (PEOPLE LIKE YOU!) to help us to fund these programs. We need to make up about \$10,000.

Your assistance is needed. Please consider a tax deductible gift to Samaritan Ministry in any amount that you can give. You can use the handy envelope that is enclosed with this Newsletter. Checks can be made to Samaritan Ministry/CBCB.

GIVE
To Support
Samaritan Ministry
Ministry

The "Kit"-

An HIV Ministry Resource for Churches

This "Kit" was organized to give a pastor and/or parish nurse or other lay leader a box of materials in a ready-to-go format.

For the last several years we have worked hard to provide churches with the kind of information that can spur them to engage their congregation in awareness, education and prevention activities. We are often asked, "Do you have information I can take back to my Pastor?"

When we are part of a major national conference, we are often the ONLY organization with materials that are especially designed to accommodate the needs of congregations. We take

this need and this responsibility very seriously.

As part of the national campaign known as the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS (BCWOP), several Knoxville organizations partnered to provide a "Kit" to churches. This "Kit" was organized to give a pastor and/or parish nurse or other lay leader a box of materials in a ready-to-go format. This effort in Knoxville was very successful, with over 80 church congregations requesting this information. One pastor



The “Kit” Ministry Resource (con’t)

held up pamphlets from his Kit during a Sunday sermon. Impressive.

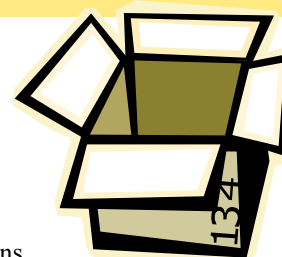
Our desire for 2009 is to update and remake this HIV Ministry Resource for Churches so it will be appropriate for any congregation to use. We intend to make this our main education and prevention focus for 2009.

Of course, you will want to order one for your congregation!

Kits will be made available beginning this summer and can be ordered using the form included with this Newsletter.

Contents of the Kit include:

- 1 - World AIDS Day DVD
- 1 - HIV Educational Game For Teens
Includes: 25 Questions, 25 answers, 25 cards, bag of candy, instructions
- 1 - Pastor’s Packet Including: Pastor’s letter, Finding Hope & Compassion, Prayers for Encouragement, 7- Day Devotional Guide, Samaritan Ministry brochure, Samaritan Model
- 1 – Letter to Parish Nurse or ministry leader
- 25 – Christian Response to AIDS booklet
- 25 – Abstinence Quiz
- 25 – HIV Facts



CROI Conference Update

The Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections

The CROI conference in February was held in Montreal and we have gathered highlights from press reports and from a colleague who was in attendance at this conference. There are several developments that are important in terms of understanding the long-term health and well-being of people living with HIV. For more information on CROI, go online at www.aidsmeds.com/archive/February_2009_2297.shtml. Here are a few highpoints.

“There are now multiple lines of evidence supporting the earlier intervention of treatment than is currently recommended.”

1. HIV microbicides, gels or creams that block HIV transmission, have been researched for some time, but with disappointing results. The first promising news in many years comes from two studies with two different agents, Pro 2000/5, and an antiviral drug combination of tenofovir and emtricitabine.
2. There are now multiple lines of evidence supporting the earlier initiation of antiretroviral (ARV) therapy than currently is recommended. Some studies confirm that starting treatment earlier than is currently recommended may increase rates of disease-free survival among HIV-positive people. Changes in the guidelines, however, will have to wait for more exhaustive study. Current guidelines call for initiation of therapy with a CD4 count below 350.
3. Half of the deaths in people with HIV are from something other than AIDS. Testifying to the success of antiretroviral (ARV) therapy, US death rates have plummeted since the early 1990s.
4. HIV treatment reduces, but does not eliminate the transmission of HIV. HIV-positive people taking antiretroviral treatment have a significantly lower risk of transmitting the virus to others.

Another New Partnership

Partnerships are what we are all about! Samaritan Ministry has entered into a new partnership with Helen Ross McNabb Center and Knox Area Rescue Ministries, to offer HIV testing and education at their new Welcome Center. The Welcome Center is part of KARM’s effort to conquer chronic homelessness. We will work with HRMC to offer regular HIV education classes as well as Ora-Quick rapid HIV testing. We begin at the end of April.



Dates & Events:

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

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

April 1, 2, 3 Teaching at **Baptist College of Health Sciences**, Memphis

April 6 Lecture for **UT Department of Nursing**, Knoxville

April 15 Lecture for **American Leprosy Missions**, Greenville, SC

April 18 **Tennessee CBF** Annual Meeting, Nashville

May 9 Lecture for **Baptist Medical & Dental Fellowship**, Pigeon Forge, TN

June 2 **Samaritan Cookout** – (call for details)

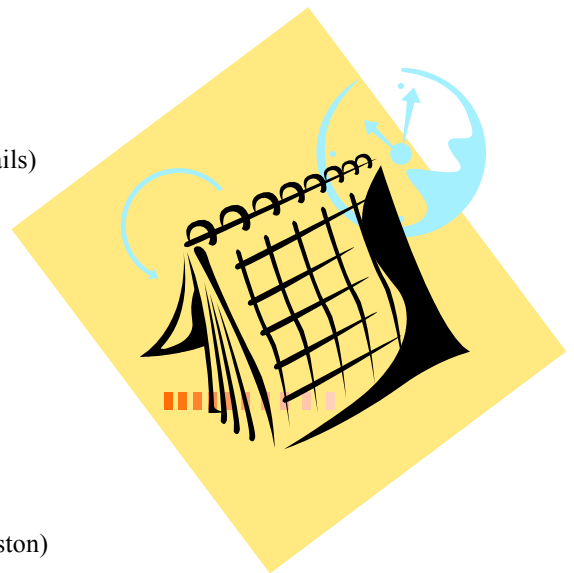
June 2 & 3 **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship** National General Assembly (Houston)
Samaritan Ministry will sponsor a panel/workshop on HIV/AIDS.

August 20 Samaritan Ministry presentation on HIV/AIDS for **Compassion Coalition** (Knoxville)

August 24, 25 **CDC Prevention Conference** (Atlanta)

October 28-31 **US Conference on AIDS** (San Francisco)

December 3 – **Samaritan Ministry World AIDS Day Event**



The Inner Circle

In a partnership with WordPlayers, a Knoxville based Christian Theater Group, we have co-produced an HIV Prevention drama for teens called *The Inner Circle*. This drama premiered at our Middlebrook Pike facility on April 5th, and was presented in 3 Knox County High Schools on April 6, 7 and 8 to more than 750 students. Four fine actors brought this drama to life as Sarah discovers her HIV status and deals with her three best friends. Playwright, Patricia Loughrey has used her script to share the trauma of a new HIV diagnosis, yet she also is able to teach most of the important prevention information in the process.

Our drama was well received by the Knox County Schools students and staff and we hope that this trial run will lead to another production next year.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the **East Tennessee AIDS Fund** of the East Tennessee Foundation for providing the finances to undertake the production of this drama.

The Inner Circle



Sarah (seated) tells her friends she has tested positive for HIV. Cast members included (L-R) Patrick Kimberlin, Seth Crowe, Jenna Purdy, and Alysha Cantrell.



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6300 Deane Hill Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37919

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**The East
Tennessee
AIDS Fund**



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ORDER FORM: The "Kit"

Our Church would like to order _____ HIV Ministry
Resource Kit(s) for Churches.

Church Name: _____

Person Placing Order: _____

Shipping Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

We will ship your Kit to you a no cost to you, however we will accept a donation to help defray the cost of these materials. The approximate cost to assemble and ship one kit is \$50 (suggested donation!).

Mail This Form to:

Ministry Resource Kit
Samaritan Ministry
6300 Deane Hill Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37919

