

SAMARITAN MINISTRY

NEWSLETTER April, 2007 Volume 6, Issue 1

The Body of Christ

The work of our Lord on this earth is made possible through the earnest work of his minions, those disciples of Christ who are privileged to do His work. Samaritan Ministry is very fortunate to be working with an ever wider group of people of faith who contribute in a variety of ways and add to our ability to serve those living with HIV.

Our partnerships with a variety of churches, of various denominations, and with individual Christians who have contacted us from around the country, continue to inspire us to do this work and to serve Christ as we serve his people.

Faith Promise Church, Foster Chapel, Redeemer Church, New Trinity Tabernacle, and Caremark Rx, all participate with us in a Saturday Adopt-a-Meal program at Parkridge Harbor. Faith Promise Church also acts as a resource for us and we frequently call on them when circumstances warrant.

Cedar Springs Presbyterian has been a long time partner with us in the Holiday Hope Bucket program at Christmastime and also provides us with more than 30 Thanksgiving Baskets (with turkeys!) each year at Thanksgiving.

Beulah Baptist Church in Devereux, Georgia adopted us years ago and provides constant financial support as well as prayer support and volunteer assistance each year at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship National Assembly. Pastor Genie Hargrove serves on our Advisory Board.

Our monthly grocery delivery program is supported



Above: Inasmuch Team from Faith Promise Church Works at Parkridge Harbor
Below: Beulah Baptist Church in Devereux, GA

100% by the West Knoxville Cooperative FISH Food Pantry, a cooperative of 15 churches of various denominations. Learning of our special population several years ago, they have opened the doors of the pantry to our use and have also granted funds to Samaritan Ministry to purchase food cards so we can meet emergency needs.

We are delighted that Fountain City United Methodist Church is hosting a new HIV Support Group (Thinking

A ministry to persons with HIV and AIDS in the Knoxville Community.

Tennessee
Partners in Missions
Tennessee Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship

CDC
Tennessee Department
of Health



M·A·C AIDS Fund
Global AIDS Foundation

Beulah
Beulah Baptist Church
Devereux, Georgia

Knox County
Community Development




Central Baptist Church
of Bearden
Knoxville, Tennessee

(Body - continued from page 1)

Positively), with the leadership of Rick Sawyer. Our friends who are living with HIV need support and a variety of opportunities in which to become involved with each other.

Our Catholic friend in Connecticut sends us money, prayers and LOTS of books! Thanks Vincent.

We are working with Arlington Church of Christ in North Knoxville to begin a support group just for women. We are delighted with their interest in reaching out to this underserved group with a program to meet their special needs. We are looking toward a fall start-up.

King's Cross Church in Tullahoma, Tennessee is exploring ways to become involved in their rural area in Middle Tennessee, recognizing that people living with HIV/AIDS in rural communities can often face special challenges regarding access to services.

Just having finished another Spring trip to the Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis is also encouraging. The faculty at BCHS is always interested in learning more about HIV, and as a Baptist School, are open to honest and frank discussions about all of the moral and ethical issues surrounding HIV/AIDS.

We are consistently encouraged by our two Baptist partners that have been with Samaritan Ministry since the beginning, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and The Tennessee CBF. Our home church, Central Baptist Church of Bearden is totally AMAZING.

Ten years ago we wouldn't have dreamed of this kind of broad support in the faith community. Are things changing? You bet. God is always working.



TRENDS IN AIDS DIAGNOSES AND DEATHS

During the mid-to-late 1990s, advances in treatment slowed the progression of HIV infection to AIDS and led to dramatic decreases in deaths among persons with AIDS. The decrease in the estimated number of deaths of persons with AIDS continued, but the number of AIDS cases diagnosed during that same period increased. The reasons for the increase in the number of AIDS diagnoses are unclear but may be due to increased emphasis on testing; the fact that more people are living with HIV and thus are experiencing the development of AIDS; and technical issues in the statistical process used in estimating the number of AIDS diagnoses.

Better treatments have also led to an increase in the number of persons in the United States who are living with AIDS. From 2001 through 2005, the estimated number of persons in the United States living with AIDS increased from 331,512 to 425,910—an increase of 28%

CDC Fact Sheet 1/07

Gifts to Remember & Honor

In Memory of:

David Coffey (1954-2006) by Robert & Charlene White

To Honor:

Mom & Dad & Marlon by Rev. Genie Hargrove

Mark Hall by Shirley D. Hall

Carli Gaughf by Jonathan & Ace

Individual donations help Samaritan Ministry to be nimble and enhance our ability fill gaps in care.

Conference Season Approaches

We are entering into another conference season and will be attending three national conferences again in 2007.

May 20-22 - HIV Prevention Leadership Summit in New Orleans - We will be taking a team of three and will be exhibiting.

June 28, 29 - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship annual meeting - Washington, D.C. - We will be taking a team of 5 . We will exhibit and also be part of 2 workshops designed to follow-up with the AIDS Summit of last year's meeting.

November 7-10 - US Conference on AIDS - Palm Springs, CA - Our team will be 4 people and we will exhibit at this conference. We will apply for the opportunity to present a workshop.

Our Partners

The work of Samaritan Ministry is enhanced by the wonderful partnerships that we have established with the following organizations:

Arlington Church of Christ
Caremark Rx
Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church
Hope Center @ Ft. Sanders Hospital
Cumberland Baptist Church
Faith Promise Church
FOCUS Prison Ministries
Foster Chapel
Helen Ross McNabb Center
Knox County Health Department -
Centers of Excellence
New Trinity Tabernacle
Parkridge Harbor
Quick Print & Copy, Lenoir City, TN
Redeemer Church
West Knoxville Cooperative FISH Pantry

Expert Details AIDS Treatment Paradigm Shift

by Mark Hubbard

In a Nashville town hall meeting held in May, one of the nation's best-known HIV/AIDS treatment advocates described a major paradigm shift. Martin Delaney, founding director of San Francisco's Project Inform, said that products becoming available in the coming months can be expected to dramatically improve treatment. This will impact quality of life for patients across the spectrum - from the recently diagnosed to long-term survivors. Several of these new drugs will become available before the end of the year (2006), with the next five years continuing to bring new products and strategies.

The meeting was organized by the Tennessee Association of People with AIDS in collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Health HIV/AIDS/STD Section, the Southeast Development District, and Glaxo Smith Kline, Inc. The meeting was attended by a wide range of interested care providers, advocates, and persons living with HIV/AIDS from across the state.

Delaney predicted treatment will improve in four major ways: drug regimens will be simplified for many, new medicines will be able to overcome prior resistance, prescribed regimens will retain their effectiveness for much longer periods of time, and patients will see fewer and less severe side effects. These changes can be expected to eventually allow researchers, doctors, and patients to explore radically different strategies for HIV/AIDS treatment.

Tennessee's drug assistance program does not provide coverage for everyone. Premiums, deductibles, and co-pays can be a barrier for those who are ineligible, whether they have private insurance or Medicare Part D. "It's exciting to hear about all these great new drugs" one activist said after the meeting, "but what good are they if those who need them can't get them?"

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.samaritancentral.org

Our MISSION STATEMENT

"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."

Photography by Ted Stryk
 Graphic Design by Annie Acree
 The Cast of *Born Yesterday*
 K-Town Softball League

Ryan & Annie Acree
 Todd Acree & Neil Chivers
 Susan Acree Judy Allen
 Lynn & Tupper Baker
 Gary Berthiaume & Sean Gangaware
 Bill & Carolyn Blevins Bud Brooks
 Mr. & Mrs. Ben A. Burnette, Jr.
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 Randy Holt Jimmy & Melanie Hyams
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 Henry McCarter Bill McConnell
 Carol-Ann McMillan
 Mike & Gaynelle Miller
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 Marsha & Richard Musgraves
 James K. Myers Carol & Gerry O'Farrell
 Juanita Parker Rev. Liz Pearson
 Kathy Pereyo Mr. & Mrs. Bob Poston
 Charles & Janet Purkey
 Nancy Prater Susan Roberts
 Mrs. Bonnie Rogers
 Sherrie Rumbolt Deaver Shattuck
 Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan R. Smith, Jr.
 Mrs. Ruth Smith Carol Stratman
 Ted & Mary Katherine Stryk
 Bill & Dotty Vinson
 Joyce Smith Williams
 Roy & Joyce Wyatt

Singles 4 Sunday School Class
 Adult 3A Sunday School Class
 Adult 4B (Hadley/Bennett)
 Young Married S.S. Class
 Central Baptist Children's Department
 Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church
 Faith Promise Church
 Foster Chapel
 Redeemer Church
 New Trinity Tabernacle
 Cumberland Baptist Church
 Caremark Rx
 Erin Presbyterian Church
 Mission Friends Girl Scout Troop 262
 Annie & Ryan Acree
 Todd Acree and Neil Chivers
 Charles Bey Sam Bowling
 Jan & Caitlyn Bradford
 Stacey Bristow Bud Brooks
 Jean & Dean Buchanan
 Alice & Lindsey Carson
 Todd Chambers Amy Clark
 Joan Clark Jim Copeland
 Jim & LaVerne Craig Sam Croft
 Lee Cross Frank & Nancy Dunn
 Bill Fox Sandy French
 Lori Gibbs Carol & Jerry Glover
 Joe & Betty Gross Vivian Gwinn Rosalie Hadley
 Billy & Harriett Hargrove
 Rev. Genie Hargrove
 Larry Helton Shirley Hembree
 Allen Hildreath Steve & Deborah Hill
 Matt Howell Elaine Kirby
 Glenda & Malory & Johnson
 Kristi & David Korda
 Rita Layman Pat & Henry McCarter
 Bill McConnell Juanita McGaha
 Carol-Ann McMillan
 Ron Murff Lee Ann Mynatt
 Annette Napier Louise Owens
 Mark, Dee Dee, & Hillary Packer
 Brent Painter Lisa Qualman
 Jeff Simmons David Smith
 Laura Smith Marty Smith
 Ted & Mary Katherine Stryk
 Jo Sweet Don Taylor
 Terry Weber Mimi & Phillip Webster
 Rod & Jane Wellman
 Jean & Dave Whitehead
 Debbie Wilkerson Sim Willis
 Stephen & Courtney Willis
 Joyce & Roy Wyatt
 Donna and Ron Yates

JESUS WEPT

John 11:35

By Wayne Smith, Director

He has this February and March.

Often when asked what I "do", my reply engenders a response of, "Oh, that must be so hard." or, "I guess you see a lot of suffering." My reply usually is to argue the point. You see, much of our time in ministry involves happy relationship building, and usually meeting the needs that people have is a joy for the giver. This job, Director of Samaritan Ministry, is not a downer. Not usually.

February and March have been different. We have seen suffering, loneliness, despair, and, death, and not all at the hands of AIDS. You see, we have some "clients" who we have adopted that are HIV negative, that came to us (with God's guidance) because they need love.

Barbara suffers from mental illness that is so severe. She barely functions. She is totally alone with no family at all (no brothers, sisters, parents) and few friends. Her challenges are great and we have seen her condition decline in recent months.

George lived alone and enjoyed the support of a small family unit. He died this month from lung cancer, after a brief stay in a hospice unit. In my last time of prayer with George, he asked for prayer for his soul, and talked with me about the two thieves that died with Jesus. He said he was one of those thieves. We prayed and thanked God for his faith that led him to salvation. Paradise awaits.

Brad died early on a Sunday morning. His partner was at his side, a faithful caregiver during unbearable suffering. I visited on Thursday and called on Friday, never knowing that we would lose our friend. Brad had been a reporter for a rather well known gay newspaper and wrote a story several years ago about Samaritan Ministry and about the walls of mistrust and misunderstanding. Brad helped us reach out... helped us spread God's word. His death is a terrible loss to our community. He was 34.

Chris was 30. He hanged himself inside his apartment. He was found by dear friends who now grieve terribly. Chris lived with HIV and depression. He fought drug addiction, which finally won out over this troubled soul. He was preceded in death by his mother and wife, losses that hurt and consumed him. Chris was also a kind soul who believed in God and prayed earnestly for his daughter. One of the items found in his things after his death was a letter to his daughter that Chris had written at Christmastime, but never mailed. It was signed, "Daddy". It is very important to see Chris and others, not in the context of HIV or addiction, but in the same context in which we see ourselves. Chris had a daughter he loved. He was first of all a father.

And kindly Tony is back in the hospital again. HIV and cancer continue to take a toll and I just don't know how much longer this can go on. Tony always asks me how I am doing, and he asks about my wife, Laura. He has a kind heart and a soft voice.

Jim is in ICU this morning at St. Mary's Hospital with PCP. He is alone and family cannot be reached.

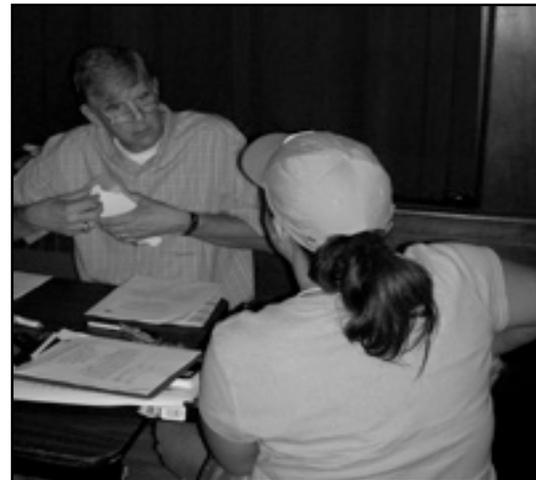
JoAnn has just gotten home from the hospital after a bout with mono. She has lived well with HIV for ten years and she worries that the virus is beginning to cause problems with her health.

Jesus weeps when his children suffer. Samaritan Ministry is privileged indeed to offer care and to assist with these family struggles and very difficult times. We provided memorial services for Brad and Chris and our volunteers have stepped up numerous times and in many, many ways to offer love, care and support to each of these families. It is a labor, but it is a labor of love for these people we love.





Above and left: World AIDS Day
Worship at our new facility. Bill
Bruster gave the message.



OraQuick HIV Teating at the
University of Tennessee.



Above and Right: Volunteers paint the
dining room and spiff up the
kitchen
at Parkridge Harbor.

