

Samaritan Ministry

"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."

Fall Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 2

An Update on Jeff

Wondering about Jeff since he started his new HIV medications?

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How can you work in your own church or community to recognize World AIDS Day 2008?

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"Defeating HIV/AIDS once and for all will require an unprecedented investment over generations."

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Meet Maddie

Our youngest volunteer.

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New CDC Estimates on HIV Infections

In July, the CDC raised its estimates for new HIV infections by 40%.

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The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

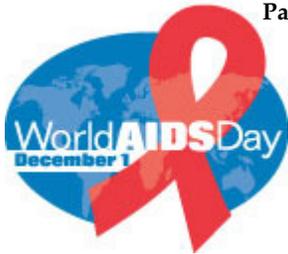
Samaritan Ministry co-sponsored the CBF AIDS Network Luncheon at the National CBF Assembly in Memphis this June.

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Dates & Events

A listing of Fall & Winter Samaritan Ministry Events.

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S A M A R I T A N M I N I S T R Y

An Evening with

Kate Campbell

to benefit Samaritan Ministry

with "Burden of a Secret"

author Jimmy Allen

A World AIDS Day Event

Tuesday, Dec. 2nd - 6:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15

info @ 865-450-1000 x 142 and at
www.samaritancentral.org

Middlebrook Christian Ministries
(formerly Mars Hill Baptist Church)
1540 Robinson Road
Knoxville, TN 37923

Kate Campbell has been a friend of Samaritan Ministry since 2004, when she came to Central Baptist to be part of our World AIDS Day Worship. Her unique style as a Southern singer and storyteller, makes East Tennessee a perfect place for her to share her music. This year, we will have the opportunity to spend An Evening with Kate Campbell in support of Samaritan Ministry.





WORLD AIDS DAY 2008

It's coming again. World AIDS Day. Another year.... another anniversary of an epidemic that has taken 2.1 million lives worldwide in 2007 alone, and infects 56,300 Americans every year. Who is infected? Men, women, children? Yes. Gay men. You bet. Heterosexual men & women. Yes. Minority communities, especially women. Yes, yes, YES!

How do we respond? Do we respond with ignorance, like the church that wouldn't host our women's support group? Do we respond with apathy, like so many Christians who don't even know that an American epidemic exists? Do we respond with hate & judgement so we can drive our brothers & sisters with HIV away from Christ?

Do we respond in love, using Christ's example, just as my church, Central Baptist Church of Bearden, has done now for more than 16 years? Do we respond with accurate information, honest discussion with our young people, care, concern and service?

This year as World AIDS Day (December 1) approaches, each of us needs to respond, especially those of us in the faith community. We can respond in the following ways:

- 1) A prayer , bulletin insert, or other acknowledgement on Sunday, Nov. 30.*
- 2) A table display in the church lobby.*
- 3) Form a partnership with an AIDS Service Organization in your community.*

Samaritan Ministry can provide ideas and specific materials to help your church take this first step in ministry. Some materials are available at our website, www.samaritancentral.org. Call on us. We can help.

Wayne Smith

Maddie's Gift

Even before Maddie was born she was our angel. No, Maddie does not have HIV. She is perfectly healthy, and so is Mom. Maddie is our youngest volunteer.

A little over a year ago Maddie's Mom began to come to our Support Group with her mother, one of our faithful volunteers. Maddie's Mom was pregnant, unplanned, and she came to sit in our midst on a hot June day as we celebrated with our Summer Cookout. That day she sat with our group, men & women who live with HIV, and on that day she became a part of our family. She did, and so did little, as yet unborn, Maddie.

When Mom delivered, everyone in the Group was interested and delighted, and Maddie's Mom surprised us all by bringing her very small gift to Support Group. Two-week old Maddie came to see her new friends, and that's when the miracle of her love began.

Even in 2008, 27 years into this epidemic, with 56,000 new infections every year in the US, there is much stigma, ignorance, and fear. Many people reject and ignore when love is so simple and so easy. Hope and love can come in simple ways, and we have been gifted to have all of this so well demonstrated by a little girl and her Mom. Maddie isn't talking yet, but her words are loud and clear.

Maddie comes to our support group every month. We watched as she walked the room as we all viewed the film, Girl Positive, patting nearly every one of our 18 group members that night. Her quiet humming and her touches made for a miracle of sound and hope, and offer a window into a world without stigma... without fear.

Thanks, Maddie.





Following-Up on Jeff's Drug Regimen

Samaritan Ministry client, Jeff, has shared with us his new drug regimen. In our last Newsletter we learned that Jeff had started his new HIV medications and that his new "cocktail" contained some of the very best in HIV retroviral therapy, including Isenress, Prezista, and Fuzeon, an injectable drug. Jeff had been off medications for his HIV for quite a while.

Since our last report Jeff has twice had blood work to check on his progress. Today we give you an update. First we look at the amount of virus in Jeff's blood, his viral load (VL). We want this number to go DOWN. Second, we will look at his CD4 T-cell count, a measure of a certain type of white blood cell. The CD4 count is a measure of the health of Jeff's immune system. Normal range would be around 1200 and we want this number to go UP. Here are Jeff's numbers as of September 9.

Date	↓ VL	↑ CD4
Jan. 30, 2008	>100,000	44
Feb. 15, 2008	began	HIV meds
May 9, 2008	138	199
Sept. 9, 2008	< 50	292

This is a terrific report. Jeff's medications are working to control his virus. Jeff's doctor has also advised him that he can discontinue his injections, so keeping up with all of this will be much easier.

Jeff knows that he must ALWAYS take his medications, and that he can infect others even though his virus is under control. He must get his blood levels checked about every 4 months for the rest of his life. What is good to know is that Jeff's health is improving and he can clearly see a FUTURE that includes a health and well being. The last thing Jeff said as we parted company recently. "I'm going to have to set some new goals. I've met this one."

CDC Unveils Updated Estimates for New HIV Infections

New technology and methodology developed by CDC show that the incidence of HIV in the United States is higher than was previously known. However, the incidence has been

stable at that higher level for most of this decade. HIV incidence is the number of new HIV infections occurring during a certain time period, in this case, the year 2006. These findings, published in a special HIV / AIDS issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) that was released August 3, 2008, show that in 2006, an estimated 56,300 new



HIV infections occurred – a number that is substantially higher than the previous estimate of 40,000 annual new infections. It should be noted that the new incidence estimate does not represent an actual increase in the numbers of HIV infections. Rather, a separate CDC historical trend analysis published as part of this study suggests that the annual number of new infections was never as low as 40,000 and that it has been roughly stable since the late 1990s (with estimates ranging between 55,000 and 58,500 during the three most recent time periods analyzed). See the complete article at the CDC website @ www.cdc.gov/hiv.

Reauthorizing PEPFAR

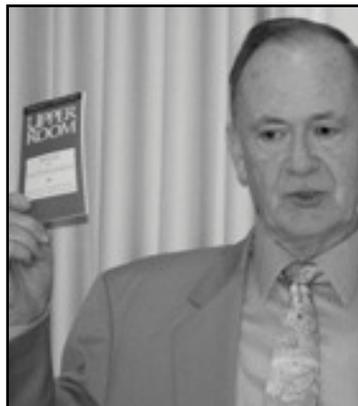
“Defeating HIV/AIDS once and for all will require an unprecedented investment over generations. But it is an investment that yields the best possible return: saved lives.” - President George W. Bush, July 30, 2008.

On July 30, 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008. This legislation responds to the President’s call last year to expand the U.S. Government commitment to this successful program for five additional years, from 2009 through 2013. In 2003, President Bush launched the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to combat global HIV/AIDS – the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history. This legislation will increase the U.S. financial commitment to the fight against global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, authorizing up to \$48 billion to combat the three diseases, including: \$39 billion for PEPFAR bilateral HIV/AIDS programs. When the President launched PEPFAR in 2003, approximately 50,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa were receiving antiretroviral treatment. Today, PEPFAR supports lifesaving treatment for over 1.7 million people worldwide, the vast majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa. PEPFAR has also supported care for more than 6.6 million people, including 2.7 million orphans and vulnerable children. To date, PEPFAR has allowed nearly 200,000 children to be born HIV free. These statistics are promising, yet there is no way to quantify PEPFAR’s greatest achievement – the spread of hope.

Don Messer Inspires at CBF AIDS Network Luncheon

Don Messer, author of “Breaking The Conspiracy of Silence: Christian Churches and the Global AIDS Crisis”, was the guest speaker at the CBF AIDS Network Luncheon in Memphis this summer. Each year, the Network provides for a focus on HIV/AIDS at the annual CBF General Assembly. In 2004, CBF hosted an AIDS Summit. Samaritan Ministry and others within the CBF family also provide workshops at these meetings and this year the focus was a luncheon featuring Dr. Don Messer. Dr. Messer is Executive Director of Center for the Church and Global AIDS, and also serves as President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Practical Theology of the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado. Forthcoming books

include *Names, Not Just Numbers: Facing Global AIDS and World Hunger* (Fulcrum, 2009) and *52 Ways to Help Create an AIDS-Free World* (Upper Room Books, 2009).



Dr. Messer’s *Breaking the Conspiracy of Silence* has provided the framework around which Samaritan Ministry finds structure, guidance, and principle. Our ministry goals come directly from Dr. Messer’s pen.

• To **challenge** the negative and judgmental attitudes that still exist toward people with HIV&AIDS.

- To **increase** knowledge and understanding, and decrease fear and misconceptions about HIV&AIDS.
- To **provide** accurate information about HIV&AIDS.
- To **give** practical and pastoral support to people living with AIDS and their families.
- To **engage** in prayerful dialogue with other churches, faith communities and secular organizations.

Samaritan Ministry is a CBF Partner, working with the CBF AIDS Network to foster awareness and education, and is also funded through this partnership with CBF.

Then I Shall Live

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am His child and I am not afraid.
So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;
The law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.
I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I'll dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your Kingdom come around and through and in me;
Your power and glory, let them shine through me.
Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor,
And may Your living Kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, O may I share with honor,
And may You feed a hungry world through me.

Gloria Gaither

In Appreciation

We appreciate all of the support we receive from many, many places, including gifts from the fine organizations listed here, from our "100 X 100" Century Campaign donors, and from many of you. We would like to thank Phillip Stratman for assisting in the production of this Newsletter.

OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

Apostles Anglican Church
 Beulah Baptist Church, Devereux, GA
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
 Central Baptist Church of Bearden, Knoxville, TN
Centers for Disease Control
(Tennessee Department of Health)
 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
MAC AIDS Fund
 ProVision Foundation
Tennessee CBF Partners in Missions Offering
 Until There's A Cure

The **American Massage Therapy Association -TN Chapter** is having a chair massage event at Belk's in West Town at the MAC Cosmetics Counter. This event will take place on Thursday, Oct. 22 from 10-5 to raise money for Samaritan Ministry. Massages are FREE and the therapists are going to take pledges for each minute of therapy. **National Massage Therapy Awareness Week** is October 20-24. Thanks AMTA!

Our "100 X 100" Century Campaign Donors

Ryan & Annie Acree
 Todd Acree & Neil Chivers
 Ronnie Adams
 Jimmy Allen
 Mack Bingham
 Bill and Carolyn Blevins
 Ben and Martha Burnette
 John & LuAnnette Butler
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 Ruth Smith
 Lou Anne Smoot
 Grant & Rhoni Standefer
 Steven & Lisa Sterling
 Phillip & Edy Stratman
 Ted & Mary Katherine Stryk
 Suzanne & Dan Stryk
 Andy Towe
 Dotty & Bill Vinson
 Mimi & Phillip Webster
 Sim Willis

Fall Dates & Events

September 17-21 US Conference on AIDS, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Samaritan Ministry exhibited and lead a Roundtable Discussion entitled "Creative Partnerships – Forming Collaborative Partnerships for Care and Prevention".

Oct. 1 & 2 Tennessee Department of Health Statewide Meeting, Nashville

October 22 American Massage Therapy Association -TN Chapter Chair Massage event at Belk's in West Town Mall

November 2 Holiday Hope Bucket Project kicks off

November 20 Annual Thanksgiving Banquet @ Central Baptist Church

December 1 World AIDS Day

December 2 Evening with Kate Campbell Samaritan Ministry Concert, Knoxville

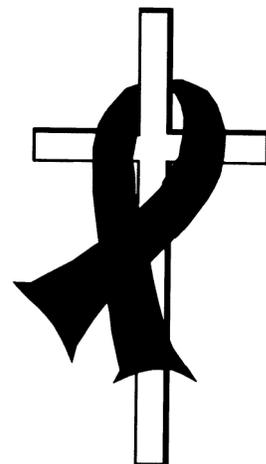
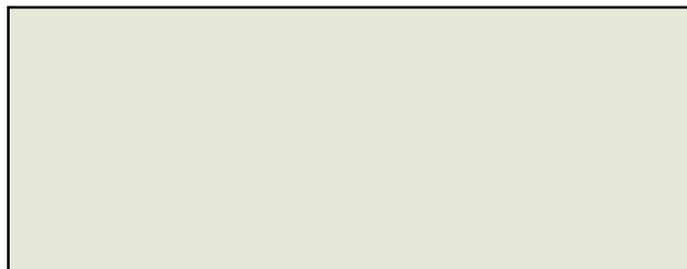
December 9 Hope Center Party @ Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church



In Memory

We would like to acknowledge the passing of Brandi, the loss of Jeff's niece's husband, Sam, and the death of Anne's first cousin, Melissa.

Samaritan Ministry
 Central Baptist Church of Bearden
 6300 Deane Hill Dr.
 Knoxville, TN 37932



Give to Support Samaritan Ministry

Samaritan Ministry Happenings

Samaritan Ministry has been busy serving our community since we last sent a Newsletter. We continue to be active in the Public Schools and are working on a new initiative to bring an HIV/AIDS drama to the schools in the Spring. Currently we work with five of our high schools to provide comprehensive HIV education in 10th grade wellness classes.

One of our most interesting new partnerships is with the **Knox County Sheriff's Department**. We have been asked to train the counselors and are on track for staff (guards, etc.) and inmate training. We will probably do quarterly classes for men and women. This will fit nicely with the quarterly inmate education that we already do at a local federal half-way house, and at Brushy Mountain Prison. We are also involved in counseling jail & prison inmates who are dealing with HIV and continue to have a great relationship with the local **Public Defender's Office**.

As we get ready for a busy Fall, we will be planning our annual **Thanksgiving Banquet** and our World AIDS Day benefit concert and we will again be working with Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church to donate about 200 **Holiday Hope Buckets** to the Hope Center at Ft. Sanders Hospital. Cedar Springs hosts the annual Christmas party for the Hope Center and we are glad to play a roll in the success of this event. Hope Bucket information is available on our website in the "Publications" section.

Our women's support group, **FIRST MONDAY**, is off to a slow but steady beginning and we feel like we are meeting an important need as we provide this opportunity especially for women.

We have just received a new grant from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS to support our client services programs.

God is good.

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