

Spring 2015

SAMARITAN MINISTRY



A GREAT AUTUMN IN KNOXVILLE

The fall schedule for Samaritan Ministry is always packed. Here are some highlights.

Thanksgiving Banquet

A great crowd of more than 225, including more than 40 volunteers from several Knoxville congregations, greeted, mingled and treated one of the largest groups ever for this annual event. We caught Robert (below) in the middle of the blessing thanking God for food and fellowship.



World AIDS Day

Samaritan Ministry partnered with several agencies to host the Community World AIDS Day Observation in downtown Knoxville on Dec. 1. A great program and our largest attendance allowed us to both memorialize those taken by AIDS and celebrate life for many thriving survivors.

FaithWalk and Al Ichiki 5K

Our 3rd FaithWalk was held on a brisk winter day in December. We honored researcher and mentor, Dr. Al Ichiki, for our event this year. Runners pause for prayer at the start line (above left).

Christmas Food Boxes

Another traditional item for our volunteers is the packing of Christmas Boxes for delivery to our HIV family. Pictured (above right) are faithful volunteers getting the boxes ready.

Hope Bucket Campaign

Our church once again provide almost 190 Holiday Hope Buckets for the Hope Center Christmas Party at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church. Pictured (center) are Central members Chase, Reed, and Larkin Bristow dedicating the Hope Buckets in Sunday morning worship.

MINORITY CONTRACT APPROVED

Samaritan Ministry has been awarded a contract through the *Partners in Faith and Health with Minority Communities Initiative*

We are using our significant network of partnerships to expand our reach into minority communities with HIV testing. To this end, we have been successful in obtaining a \$5000 grant with the Office of Minority Health, a part of the Tennessee Department of Health. This grant will provide us with the opportunity to offer up to 400 HIV Rapid Tests in our community using the QraQuick HIV Rapid Antibody Test.

Statistics concerning the impact of HIV in minority communities are of great concern. Read more about this issue at www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/raciaethnic/aa.

CONFERENCE SEASON APPROACHES

Samaritan Ministry will make significant contributions at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the US Conference on AIDS.

Again in 2015, Samaritan Ministry will have a vital presence at two important national conferences.

In June, Samaritan Ministry will exhibit at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Assembly in Dallas. We are also cooperating with CBF colleagues to provide for a workshop presentation, "Getting to Zero: The Fight Against HIV in 2015" and an HIV Network Breakfast that will focus on "Forming Together" with our secular and governmental neighbors in the fight against HIV.

In September, we will exhibit at the US Conference on AIDS in D.C. This important conference gives us the unique opportunity to rub elbows with the entire HIV community, including not-

for-profits, governmental agencies, and companies that support HIV prevention and treatment.

Again, we are the ONLY Faith-Based, local church connected, exhibitor at this conference.

2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

Here's a look at coming events:

- March 17-19** State DOH Meetings and CRCS Training/Nashville
- March 21** Testing at RAM clinic in Sevier County
- March 24-27** Lecturing at Baptist College of Health Sciences / Memphis
- April 14** Hepatitis C Community Group Meeting/Knoxville
- June 2** Samaritan Min. Cookout
- June 8** Hepatitis C Training /Knoxville
- June 16-19** CBF General Assembly/ Dallas
- September 10-13** US Conference on AIDS / Washington DC



LEADERSHIP IN TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Department of Health has asked Wayne to provide training and leadership with two behavioral interventions that are approved by the CDC to help reduce the spread of HIV. These interventions, known as CLEAR and CRCS, are used by agencies to work with individual clients in a "client-centered" approach to reducing the risk of becoming infected or of infecting someone else. Wayne will be conducting trainings and offering consulting on these two interventions throughout 2015.

"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."

HEPATITIS C

New Partnerships Push for more Attention to the HCV Epidemic in America.

Samaritan Ministry has been concerned about the Hepatitis C (HCV) epidemic for some time. Our initial foray into this area came as we recognized that about 25% of those infected with HIV are also HCV positive. We call this co-infection. Needless to say, this can be a difficult road to go down.

Here's the conundrum. HIV infection, as difficult as it is to manage, has a support system built many years ago (The Ryan White CARE Act) to help people obtain medical care and treatment. This is an income-based system and it works well.

With HCV, there is no such system. When people find out their HCV status,

they are often at a loss as to how to proceed. Without insurance, this can be very

challenging. Adding to this confusion is



OraSure Technologies

that fact that everyone who tests positive for HCV on an anti-body test does not necessarily have an active infection, and if they do, they might not need treatment.

There's more. Interferon, the nasty first line of defense against HCV, is going the way of the dial telephone as newer, more effective oral medications, come on line. AND, HCV is now considered curable in most cases.

New advancements are wonderful, but without access, they aren't much good.

These are some of the reasons that we have been talking about HCV and testing for HCV using the relatively new Rapid Test from OraSure Technologies. HCV is important, it is a serious liver disease, and it takes lives. Estimates are that more than 4 million Americans are living with HCV today, many of whom are totally unaware of their infection.

Samaritan Ministry is taking some important steps to provide leadership in this area.

1. We are continuing to offer Rapid HCV anti-body testing in Knoxville (in partnership with Helen Ross McNabb



Center) in order to help people know their status, educate them about this disease, and help provide treatment information.

2. We are partnering with the Tennessee Department of Health to offer comprehensive HCV Training to professionals in East Tennessee.
3. We are partnering with AbbVie and OraSure Technologies to offer a new HCV Support Program for those who test positive, and...
4. We are convening an HCV workgroup in Knoxville to look at this epidemic and to see how local resources can be marshaled in order to move HCV off the back burner of healthcare.

For comprehensive HCV information, go to the Hepatitis C Support Project at hcvadvocate.org.



WE ARE THERE - WON'T YOU HELP?

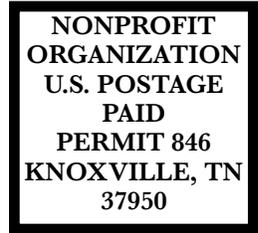
In the office, the jails, in halfway houses and in churches, Samaritan Ministry is there, working to educate, care for those who are impacted by HIV/AIDS, provide testing for both HIV and HCV (Hepatitis C). We are there to promote justice and to reduce stigma, providing a voice for many without voice. We are there to share love across our community using the model set for us by Jesus.

We need your help to make sure that our work can continue. Individual contributions make up a significant part of our overall budget. *Won't you give?*

Please give by check (made out to Central Baptist Church of Bearden) or by going online at www.samaritancentral.org.

Samaritan Ministry

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Return Service Requested

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SPRING 2015

FORMING TOGETHER

CBF HIGHLIGHTS MINISTRY WORK

In the current edition of **Fellowship!**, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship magazine, Samaritan Ministry is featured in a wonderful article. We appreciate this coverage, of course, but even more the partnership with CBF. We have always believed that we must form together in relationships, groups, and as followers of Christ to BE the presence of Christ in a world that needs to know of His love. You can read the article at cbf.net.

