

SAMARITAN MINISTRY

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."



Registration
Now Open
[HERE](#)

FAITHWALK AND AL ICHIKI 5K

OUR ANNUAL HIV WALK, **"KNOXVILLE STEPS UP TO HIV"** TAKES PLACE DECEMBER 3, 2016 IN BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN KNOXVILLE. WALK BEGINS AT 2:00 P.M. AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH.

We hope you will make plans to join us for the 5th annual FaithWalk and Al Ichiki 5k, presented by Samaritan Ministry! Our event's purpose is to commemorate World AIDS Day, raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in our community, fight stigma, and spread love.

Our event is a 5k run/walk or 2 mile walk through Knoxville's beautiful historic 4th and Gill neighborhood. The race begins and ends at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Here is a link to our [race route](#). Early Bird registration is \$25 through 10/31/2016 and \$30 from

November 1st through race day. Registration for participants 16 and younger is \$10.

All pre-registered race participants will receive a long-sleeved shirt and race day registrants will receive shirts as supplies last.

Our event is named after the late Dr. Al Ichiki, a renowned researcher at UT Medical Center who pioneered HIV testing in our community and played a significant role in the early growth of Samaritan Ministry. We are honored that Dr. Al's family has allowed us to memorialize our friend and mentor in this way.

Please join us on December 3rd!

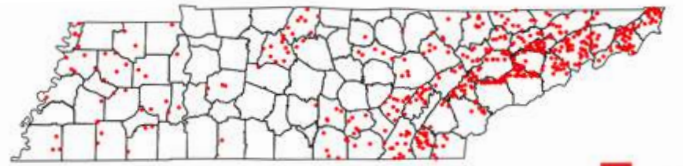
Dr. Al Ichiki



TWO EPIDEMICS CONVERGE

Much is being made of the Hepatitis C (HCV) epidemic in the United States, driven mostly by injection drug use with opioids. In East Tennessee, we are in an area that is part of the epicenter of this outbreak.

One of the concerns around the HCV outbreak is the possible, even probable, collision between HIV and Hepatitis C in areas where poverty, lack of education, unemployment, and intergenerational injection drug use, exist. As was the case in Scott County, Indiana in 2015, an HIV outbreak can occur if HIV is introduced into the needle sharing community. Samaritan Ministry has been working hard on several fronts to impact this issue.



**Acute HCV incidence
in Tennessee**



1. **Aggressive HCV Testing** - Working with our testing partners, Helen Ross McNabb Center and OraSure Technologies, we have aggressively been promoting HCV testing in the greater Knoxville community.
2. **Advocacy with Local and State Government** - Samaritan Ministry has worked with the Tennessee Department of Health to make sure that Hepatitis C gets the attention it deserves in our state. Recently, we have also received a grant from Knox County government to promote HCV testing.
3. **HCV Education and Training** - Samaritan Ministry is a partner with the Tennessee Department of Health to create and adopt a state-wide HCV Training Module.



USCA - The United States Conference on AIDS

Since 2004, Samaritan Ministry has had a presence at USCA, promoting greater engagement of the church in HIV advocacy, care, and compassion across the U.S. While our major focus is the love and care of the HIV community in and around Knoxville, we produce and distribute materials to help and encourage churches to become involved in fighting the HIV epidemic in the U.S. To find out more, and to view all of our materials, visit our website at www.samaritancentral.org.

Pictured below are scenes from our booth at the 20th USCA in Hollywood, FL.



CBF RESPONDS TO ORLANDO SHOOTINGS

On June 12, 2016, at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, FL, 49 people were killed and 53 others were wounded in a terrorist attack/hate crime.

The [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship](#), one of our long-serving financial partners, held its annual General Assembly during this same month, and the weight of this tragedy was heavy in the hearts of Baptist church leaders during this 3 day assembly.



Truvada prevents the spread of HIV.



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Forming Together

On June 24th, the CBF Governing Board released a statement in response to these shootings. We are very moved by this statement, which reads, in part, “ **Admittedly and sadly, the Church has been said to be tacitly complicit in the Orlando attack because some Christians have either spoken in hateful ways about LGBTQ persons or have remained silent when other people spewed hate. No more. We stand united in our belief that every person is created in God’s image and endowed with a sacred dignity that cannot be taken away. We stand**

united in proclaiming that God loves each person and wants all people to know God through God’s Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. That is to say: God is in Christ, reconciling the world unto Godself, making all of us into a single family. We stand united in condemning anyone who questions the full worth of LGBTQ persons before God or as citizens of our country. We reject any language and condemn any person who advocates violence against LGBTQ persons.

[Please read the entire statement here.](#)

PrEP Gains Ground in the U.S.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, or PrEP, FDA approved since 2012, has been a concept with slow uptake and acceptance in the community, but gains are being made.

PrEP is the use of a drug combo, called Truvada, to prevent the spread of HIV from someone who is living with HIV to an uninfected partner. This daily medication (not a day-before or morning-after pill) has had spectacular results in several studies. We are happy to see that the uptake and acceptance of PrEP in the United States is improving.

Since its introduction in 2012, over 80,000 prescriptions have been written for HIV negative individuals who are seeking to protect themselves from HIV. ([poz.com](#))

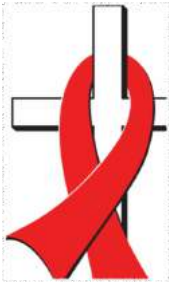
For more information about PrEP, visit the CDC info page at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/prep>.

Samaritan Ministry

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OUR FRIENDS MAKE IT WORK

Many, many organizations and sponsors make Samaritan Ministry function. We are amazed at the support that we receive from all over America.

Recently, two ministry friends lost their battle with cancer and we were honored to be mentioned as recipients of memorial gifts at their passing.

Jean Buchanan was a member at Central Baptist and along with her husband Dean, have been long-time supporters of our work.

Rev. Genie Hargrove served a small church in central Georgia and served as a member of our Advisory Board. She was a supporter in many ways, including her assistance at our booth at the annual Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly.



**Rev. Genie
Hargrove**



**Jean
Buchanan**