

SAMARITAN MINISTRY

A MINISTRY TO PERSONS WITH HIV AND AIDS IN THE KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 3

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AIDS Striking Women, South

It is widely held that HIV and AIDS has a much greater impact on communities in urban areas, particularly those in the Northeast and far West. The opposite is true.

Rural communities and small cities are feeling the impact of this disease as the numbers of new infections in the U.S. continue to grow at the rate of 44,000 per year. The impact of many new infections, with death rates dropping, means that our communities are seeing increases in the numbers of our neighbors who are LIVING with HIV.

Increases in numbers of new infections are affecting women in large numbers, especially young women. While Southern women represent about 29% of the women in the U.S., they represent 76% of new HIV infections in this country. ¹

Poverty and lack of access to healthcare continue to be main contributors to new infection, yet the best friend of this virus is silence. Silence has helped HIV gain a foothold in small cities like Knoxville and the surrounding, mostly rural counties. Between 1999 and 2003 the number of people living with HIV/AIDS jumped more than 36% in the 16 counties surrounding Knoxville. The South has lost more than 200,000 people to the epidemic - more than any other region of the country. ²

It still seems, however, that talking about AIDS is still taboo in many places. Talking about AIDS means talking about sex and sexuality... and drug abuse. But silence about the issues related to HIV continues to be a great stumbling block. An effective attack on this virus, one that can really make a difference, will involve courage and action.

TennCare Changes Impact Real People

Over the past several weeks we have seen the effects of TennCare changes on the people we serve. These changes do impact people differently, depending on income and individual circumstances, but there has been an impact. Most notably, Samaritan Ministry clients are feeling a pinch because Ryan White funds are being used to provide for medical appointments and medication, and not for some traditional Ryan White "items" such as dental care, vision services, and transportation. Many patients are also impacted by new co-pays and drug limitations, which will mean that some needed medications are not covered at all.



We have seen an increase in the number of calls that we receive from our partners (Knox County Health Dept., Hope Center, Parkridge Harbor) who seek our assistance with these needs. Because of donations from individuals and a grant from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, we are fortunate to have funds available to meet most of these needs as they arise. This will continue to challenge Samaritan Ministry and all of the organizations that serve people who are living with HIV.

Conference Activities

Samaritan Ministry was present at two national conferences this summer, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) national assembly in Dallas, and the HIV Prevention Leadership Summit (HPLS) in San Francisco.

The CBF conference allowed us the opportunity to share our ministry and mission with a large number of Christians from all over the United States. We are a unique local church-sponsored ministry and we do receive a bit of attention! Wayne presented on the topic, "Breaking the Silence: HIV, AIDS, and the Church" and we were present in the exhibit hall for the duration of the conference. AIDS, recognized mostly as a worldwide problem, was on the minds of many at this year's conference, and we were excited to see the leader of CBF, Dr. Daniel Vestal, sporting an AIDS ribbon on his lapel as he addressed the gathering. CBF is a long-standing financial partner with Samaritan Ministry.

Prison and Jail Ministry

Over the past few months, Samaritan Ministry has begun to have a presence in four East Tennessee prisons and in the two Knox County Jail facilities. Inmates in these facilities who are HIV positive are in need of support and advocacy that requires a knowledge of the issues related to HIV. Working in partnership with FOCUS Prison Ministries, we are able to meet and support a number of inmates, and to establish a relationship with medical personal in these facilities.

Also in partnership with FOCUS, we have developed an orientation video, *Locked and Loaded*, which deals with the risk of Hepatitis C and HIV for inmates. Officials in the prison system have given this video a good review, and we hope that it will be viewed in prisons statewide.

References

- 1 USA Today, June 15, 2005
- 2 The Nashville *Tennessean* September 11, 2005
- 3 The Daily Beacon *Online*, October 16, 2005

Information & Educational Sessions

Educational efforts continue to be an important part of our ministry's focus. Working with volunteer educator, Stacey Bristow, we are able to offer informational sessions in schools, churches, colleges, and universities. As of the end of the third quarter, we have been responsible for 79 presentations reaching 3,900 people.

Until There's A Cure offers financial support to Samaritan Ministry

The organization that most people know as UNTIL, has given a grant award to Samaritan Ministry to assist with educational projects. UNTIL is the organization that produces the wonderful bracelets, pictured below, that are sold to provide funds to organizations like Samaritan Ministry that serve on the front lines with those living with HIV.

To find out more about Until There's a Cure or to buy a bracelet, log on to www.until.org.

Remember, an UNTIL bracelet makes a great Christmas gift!



10 Years

Our Volunteer Team

In February 1996, a small group of Central Baptist Church of Bearden members organized an HIV & AIDS educational program in Sunday School classes and pastor Larry Fields preached a sermon about compassion. It was then that the committee, known as the "Infectious Disease" committee, first recorded our policies and the words that make up our mission statement. Wayne Smith and Steve Humphreys visited Danny Montgomery (Danny died of AIDS in March, 1999) and Samaritan Ministry was born. These first steps made by a Baptist church were the inspiration of now retired Minister of Education, Mack Bingham who was inspired into action after reading "Burden of a Secret", the powerful story of Baptist minister, Dr. Jimmy Allen.

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."

AIDS Global Fund on the Edge

With Bill Frist on the forefront as Senate Majority Leader, Congress is dickering with the U.S. response to funding of the Global AIDS Fund, a worldwide nonprofit fund devoted to raising political and financial capital to combat the global AIDS pandemic. David Bryden, communications director for Global AIDS Alliance, said the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is in jeopardy because of a lack of funding from the United States. "(In 2005) all other donors have done their part, and now we're waiting on the United States," he said.³ The U.S. of \$840 million commitment to the Fund has been a long-standing goal, but the U.S. seems to be begging off the promise it has made. Congress needs to step up to the plate and save lives.

Singles 4 Sunday School Class
Adult 3A Sunday School Class
Adult 4B (Hadley/Bennett)
Young Married S.S. Class
Central Baptist Youth Department
Central Baptist Children's Department
West Hills Baptist Church
Faith Promise Church
Mission Friends
Girl Scout Troop 262

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
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| Carol Bardill | Stacey Bristow |
| Bud Brooks | Jerry Bryant |
| Jeff Burnette | Todd Butler |
| Neil Chivers | Amy Clark |
| Jim Copeland | LaVerne Craig |
| Sam Croft | Lee Cross |
| Frank & Nancy Dunn | Sean Gangaware |
| Michael Grant | Joe & Betty Gross |
| Rosalie Hadley | Billy Hargrove |
| Genie Hargrove | Larry Helton |
| Shirley Hembree | Allen Hildreath |
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| Sandi Irons | Elaine Kirby |
| Steve, Glenda, Malory & Kayla Johnson | |
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| Bill McConnell | Carol-Ann McMillan |
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Our Partners

FOCUS Prison Ministries
Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church
West Knoxville Cooperative FISH Pantry
Quick Print & Copy, Lenoir City, TN
Friendship Class @ Cumberland Baptist
Knox County Health Department
Centers of Excellence
Hope Center @ Ft. Sanders Hospital
Parkridge Harbor
Helen Ross McNabb Center

Funding Partners



Tennessee Department
of Health



Central Baptist Church
of Bearden
Knoxville, Tennessee

M-A-C AIDS Fund

Global AIDS Foundation

Tennessee

Partners in Missions

Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship



Beulah

Beulah Baptist Church
Devereux, Georgia

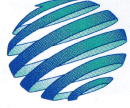
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Samaritan Ministry

Wayne Smith, Director
Central Baptist Church of Bearden
6300 Deane Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37919
www.samaritancentral.org 450-1000 ext 827 smithmw@usit.net

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