

# the SAMARITAN ministry

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010

## ✘ The HIV Ministry Resource for Churches ✘

“I WAS SICK AND YOU TOOK CARE OF ME.”

Matthew 25:36



### Victory Baskets

*This February, our Women's Support Group conceived and carried out a new project that was a big success. Our ladies made Victory Baskets as a gift for some of the women in our community who are living with HIV. We delivered these baskets on Saturday, February 13 as a Valentine's Day gift. What a treat this was! We hope to make this an annual event.*



In 2009 we distributed over 45 of our Resource Kits to churches all across America. This is only a start.

Our HIV Ministry Resource Kit is full of just what you need to begin the process of getting your church involved.

Why should your church step up? Several reasons. First, people who have HIV live in YOUR community. Many of them have needs that are outside the scope of governmental agencies, or not-

for-profits that assist people who are living with HIV. Second, we are still dealing with an epidemic in America that sees over 56,000 new HIV infections every year. Third, it is what Jesus commanded us to do. We are called on to serve the needy, to help the sick, and to fight for social justice. We should all be involved and our churches should be leading the charge.

Order your kit today at [www.samaritancentral.org](http://www.samaritancentral.org) or call us at 865-450-1000 ex. 827.

### Resource Kit Contents

- 1 - World AIDS Day DVD (3.5 min.)
- 1 - Hope Bucket/Victory Basket Project Packet
- 1 - HIV Educational Game For Teens
- 1 - Pastor's Packet
- 1 - Letter to Parish Nurse or ministry leader
- 25 - Christian Response to AIDS booklets
- 25 - Abstinence Quiz Brochure
- 25 - HIV Facts Brochure





# World AIDS Day 2009

Our World AIDS Day Celebration in December was a success. Our guests did a great job. Mike Young, from the Tennessee Cooperative Fellowship, brought a Biblical message, Rick Felder, from Tibotec Therapeutics, shared a great personal story of faith and perseverance, and Dr. Martha Buchanan, from the Knox County Health

Department, shared about the KCHD commitment to HIV care and answered questions. Our meal was provided by Tibotec, and the Youth Group from Sacred Heart Catholic Church helped to serve our meal.

This was a great opportunity to celebrate LIVING.

## HAPPENING 2010

**APRIL 8**

Spring visit to Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis

**APRIL 9**

“Inner Circle” opens in Knox County Schools and

**APRIL 11 @ 7:30**

Public Performance at Middlebrook Christian Ministries

**JUNE 1**

Samaritan Ministry Cookout at Central 6:00 p.m.

**JUNE 23-26**

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Assembly in Charlotte, NC

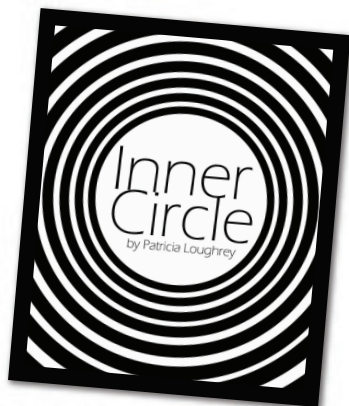
**SEPT. 12-15**

US Conference on AIDS Orlando

## INNER CIRCLE

We are delighted to be able to bring Inner Circle, an HIV Prevention Drama for Teens, back to the Knox County Public Schools.

This partnership with WordPlayers, Knox County Community Development, and East Tennessee AIDS Fund, will give us the opportunity to again present HIV issues in a way that will impact students.



## TREATMENT NEWS

HIV Treatment Continues to develop and improve. Here are a few items of interest from TPAN. ([www.tpan.com](http://www.tpan.com))

1. One of the hottest issues in HIV care is the issue of when to start treatment. The previous recommendation was to begin treatment (with anti-viral drugs) when the T-cell count is below 200, although anyone who is pregnant, has an AIDS defining illness or kidney disease should start treatment. US guidelines now recommend treatment begin when the T-cell count drops below 350 and treatment should be considered when the T-cell count is between 350 and 500.
2. The Isentress + Truvada combo has been added to the “preferred” list for first-timers.
3. GSK and Pfizer have combined their HIV medications and development divisions into a new company, ViiV Healthcare.
4. A new single-dose integrase inhibitor is in development called GSK-144.

As always, patients should consult their doctor before changing or stopping any medications.



# The Samaritan Model

*The model we have used for nearly 15 years has been an effective tool for getting our church*

*engaged in HIV work in our community. We call this the Samaritan Model. We have found that success here does not happen quickly... it takes patience. It was almost 8 years before our first World AIDS Day Service happened.*

*Our time-tested plan for developing a ministry that changes hearts and lives CAN be duplicated in your church, your community.*

*Here is a summary of our method.*

## WITHIN THE CHURCH

The first step in changing the relationship between the HIV/AIDS community and the church is to provide opportunities for church members to learn about HIV and AIDS. This can be done through educational programs that should include the following:

- 1) A message of Compassion from the pulpit
- 2) HIV lessons directed at every age level- (first grade through senior adult)
- 3) Special programs targeting youth
- 4) Development of a church policy or statement concerning HIV/AIDS
- 5) Use the words....we need to talk about sex if we are going to talk about HIV.

It is vital that the position of the church be one that provides a non-judgmental and compassionate approach to serving the needs of those suffering with HIV/AIDS without questioning the guilt or innocence of the victim. We don't need to know "how they got it".

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Impact outside the church and within the community is the goal of an HIV/AIDS

ministry, but this goal cannot be accomplished without great patience. There is great mistrust in the HIV community concerning the church, and much of this mistrust is warranted. Messages of hate and condemnation from Christian people have caused many people to view the church as the enemy. It takes TIME to change these perceptions. Here are our rules for working with the community.

- 1) Go slowly. Trust building is essential.
- 2) Show up. Be a part of community gatherings where HIV prevention and care are on the agenda. Your presence will be noticed and appreciated.
- 3) Help existing programs before trying to start your own. Watch and listen.
- 4) Be willing to partner with secular groups, acting as volunteers. Set evangelistic goals aside and demonstrate faith by example. Be a servant.
- 5) Minister first to physical need.
- 6) Don't preach.
- 7) Don't judge.
- 8) TOUCH!!! (It's magic!)

## A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE MEANS...

**Challenging** the negative and judgmental attitudes that still exist toward people with HIV/AIDS.

**Decreasing** fear and misconceptions about HIV & AIDS by providing accurate information.

**Providing** practical and pastoral support for people living with AIDS and their families.

**Engaging** in prayerful dialogue with other churches, faith communities, and secular organizations.\*

\*From Donald Messer in "Breaking the Conspiracy of Silence" 2004. Fortress Press, Minneapolis

# Reflections

## PAUL DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING ON ME

*Tommy is serving time for a serious crime. On top of the difficulties that he faces with his prison time, he deals with an HIV diagnosis. Tommy is an inspiration.*

Dealing with the seriousness of his crime and his first degree murder charge is hard enough on self esteem. Add an HIV diagnosis to that and it is easy to see that Tommy could draw the conclusion that he is pretty worthless. Worthless to society and to God.

One purpose to our involvement with Tommy is to deal with his shame and disappointment. We try to build him up. What we really want to communicate to Tommy is that he IS important, to us and to God.

In a recent letter I shared 1st Timothy, Chapter 1 with Tommy. I wanted him to identify with Paul and his own shame and disappointment. But I also wanted Tommy to read about Paul's understanding of grace.

*The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 1 Timothy 1:14-15*

Tommy's reply "Paul doesn't have anything on me." only tells us there is work to be done. Jesus DID come into the world to save all of us.

## THE BEST PART OF THIS IS THAT WE ARE PROMISED TO BE LOVED!

*Sometimes the Bible is surprising to us and it reveals truths in new ways. Recently, Jeff wrote to me about something new to him - a revelation. Pay attention.*

You know it as the story of the Prodigal Son. The son takes his father's money and goes off, living an irresponsible life, only to find himself broke and in need of help from, you guessed it, the same father who gave him money in the first place. It is a story repeated over and over in daily living.

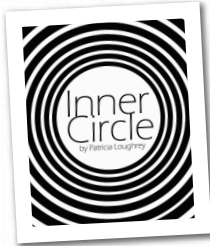
In the the telling of this tale, recorded in Luke 15, Jesus wants us to understand the depth of his love. Even after disappointment, our Father in heaven is delighted when we come home to him.

*"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." Luke 15:24*

Jeff gets this. He understands this on three different levels. First, his family loves him and has welcomed him home. Secondly, God's love is big enough to welcome all of us into the fold, not by being perfect, but by accepting the gift of his love... his grace. Thirdly, Jeff understands that as humans we need love, and we need to give it, too. Jeff gets it.

Quoting Jeff here, "The best part of this is that we are promised to be LOVED!"

Do you get it?



# 2010 Fundraising Campaign

PREVENTION EDUCATION AND TESTING	RENT AND UTILITY RESCUE	MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT	WORLD AIDS DAY PROGRAMS	JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY
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With the beginning of a new year upon us, we always need to remind our supporters of the continuing need for financial support. As we ended 2009, our faithful givers did a good job and we ended the year in pretty good shape. With that said, please take a minute to assess when you can help us during 2010 and make your plans accordingly. **Please note that all checks for Samaritan Ministry need to be made out to Central Baptist Church of Bearden, with Samaritan Ministry in the memo.**

Case Management and Counseling - Vision Services - Food and Furniture Ministry - Jail & Prison Ministry - HIV Prevention Education and Testing- Nursing Seminars - HIV Awareness Seminars - HIV Materials Development and Distribution - Support Groups - Social and Family Support - Rent and Utility Rescue - Prescription Drug Assistance - World AIDS Day Programs

## UNTIL PARTNERSHIP

We have entered into a partnership with The **Until There's a Cure** organization that will help both of us. Any online purchasing of Until products, like the fabulous jewelry, will result in a 25% gift to Samaritan Ministry. All you need to do is log on ([www.until.org](http://www.until.org)), make a purchase, and select Samaritan Ministry in the pull down menu. Easy peasy.



## USCA

We will again exhibit at the **US Conference on AIDS** in 2010. This is an important time for us to share our mission and to interact with many people who work in the HIV/AIDS field. Please pray for us as we travel, support our trip with your gifts, and look us up if you are there!



## CBF

Another awesome opportunity for us is to exhibit and provide leadership at the **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship** Annual Meeting. CBF is a supporter of Samaritan Ministry and we are always glad to be able to spread the word at this important Baptist gathering.

## THE WARMING STATION

Our coolest opportunity this winter was getting to know Pastor Kip at **Life Center Church** in Morristown. Not only did they help us with a Victory Basket, but we went to do training (with Helen Ross McNabb Center) and we have been out there 3 times doing HIV testing with the homeless folks that they have befriended as part of their Warming Station. God is good.

# SAMARITAN *ministry*

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OUR 2010  
FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN  
IS NOW UNDERWAY.

# *the* 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.”