

“African Americans are the most disproportionately affected racial/ethnic group in California. African Americans made up just over 23% of the annual AIDS cases reported in 2000, more than triple their 7% representation in the state’s general population. Since 1997, over 20% of all African American AIDS cases have been female, while among White and Latino AIDS cases about 10% are female.” – California & the HIV/AIDS Epidemic, The State of the State Report through 2000 released February 2002

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY CHURCH COMMUNITY TIP SHEET

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is marking their fifth observance. It is a time when communities are encouraged to show compassion and solidarity for those infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Here are some tips on how your church can care responsibly for family, friends and neighbors in need.

1. Prepare a compassionate sermon about HIV/AIDS.
2. Distribute the “*Healing Begins Here*” quiz cards at bible studies, fellowships or following worship services. (*See below for information on obtaining quiz cards.*)
3. Invite the congregation to reach out and offer their compassion and help to someone with HIV/AIDS. For example, ask someone in need if you can help them by shopping for groceries, running errands, etc.
4. Recommend the members visit someone with HIV/AIDS.
5. Start an HIV/AIDS ministry in your church.
6. Include a message similar to the following in your church announcements:

Healing for AIDS Begins Here

In observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, we want to inspire compassionate conversation and dispel myths in connection with HIV/AIDS. We are asking all church members to remember in prayer those infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS. And, if anyone is interested in joining (or starting) an HIV/AIDS ministry, please see _____.

Pray for the Healing of AIDS

African Americans in California are infected and affected by AIDS at a rate triple their population, which means there is someone sitting here today that needs your prayers and compassion. During National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day observances, let’s make a commitment of caring responsibly for our neighbors in need. For confidential testing locations or other information, contact the HIV/AIDS hotline at 1-800-367-AIDS (2437). This message is brought to you by (*The church’s health ministry/social concerns/missionary society, etc.*).

Non-profit organizations and churches located within California may receive free hardcopies of “*Healing Begins Here: A Pastors Guidebook for HIV/AIDS through the Church*” and quiz cards by contacting BaumanCurry & Co. Public Relations at (323) 525-0559, x32. Anyone can download a copy of the guidebook electronically from the internet at: www.marconline.org or www.arkofrefuge.org. We thank you deeply, in advance, for your compassion in helping to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Please call Janice Walker, (323) 525-0559, x28 to let her know if these tips were helpful. If you use the bulletin message, we would appreciate a copy being sent to BaumanCurry & Co., PO Box 481296, Los Angeles, CA 90048.