

## **MOBILIZING YOUR CHURCH**

### **Six Ways Your Church Can Minister to Those with HIV/AIDS**

#### **C – Care and Comfort the Sick**

Churches are commanded to care. It is their calling. Love leaves no choice! Members can offer physical and emotional care in homes.

I Thessalonians 5:14  
Romans 12:13  
James 1:27

#### **H – Help with Testing and Counseling**

Just being tested has proven to promote healthier behavior. Members can be trained to give medical, emotional, and family counsel to those receiving results from their testing

Proverbs 13:16  
Proverbs 19:20  
II Corinthians 1:4

#### **U – Unleash a Volunteer Force of Compassion**

There aren't enough professionals in the community to teach prevention, administer treatment, and offer care to those who need it. There is an enormous pool of untapped talent and energy sitting unused in churches waiting to be mobilized.

Matthew 16:18

#### **R – Remove the Stigma**

Churches must embrace those infected. They can replace rejection with mercy. The church must remove abuse and alienation. They offer faith, hope, love, forgiveness, and grace – spiritual support which neither business nor government can offer.

I Corinthians 15:43  
Romans 15:7  
Galatians 4:14

#### **C – Champion Healthy Behavior**

Churches have the God-given authority to promote healthy behavior and to offer Biblical imperatives for the family and teach the moral motivation for abstinence and faithfulness. To resist peer pressure and relapse requires faithfulness. Faithfulness requires faith.

Psalm 119:73  
I Corinthians 6:19-20  
Romans 6:13

#### **H – Help with Nutrition and Medication**

The church has the largest distribution network in the community. It is already in place! Organizations come and go, but churches are permanent community fixtures. Members can support essential nutrition. The church can offer pre-treatment preparation, treatment education, adherence support, direct observation therapy (DOT), and treatment coaching to the entire family.

Isaiah 58:7  
Galatians 6:2