

---

## A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

---

- ❖ 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 HIV 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)



---

## 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.”

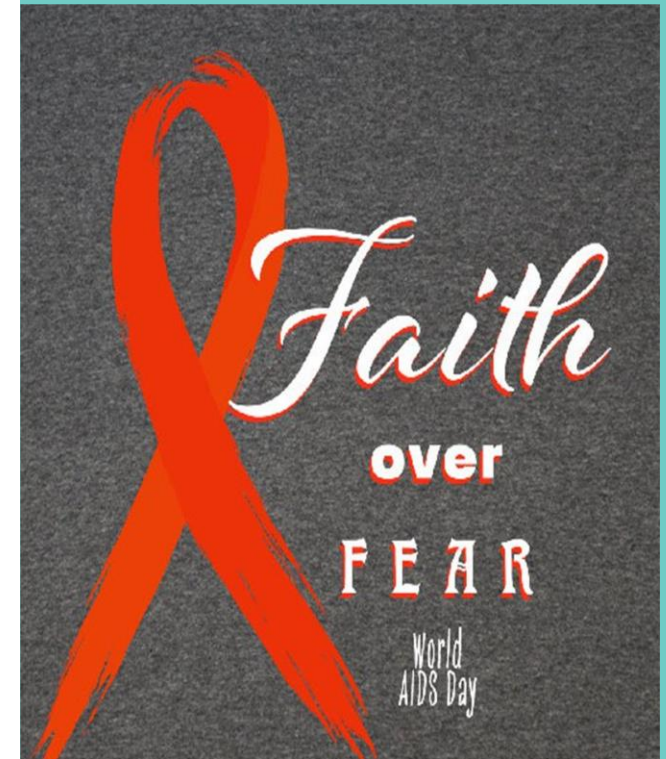


ACF  
P O Box 87761  
Tucson, AZ 85754  
[WWW.ACF.LGBT](http://WWW.ACF.LGBT)  
(520) 277-7161

---

## ACF HIV/AIDS MINISTRY

---



*Reaching out to the  
HIV/AIDS  
Community - one  
person at a time*





#### MEETING NEEDS:

An important facet of HIV ministry is to meet the needs of people in your community who are living with HIV.



#### TEACHING:

There is still a lot of ignorance and misinformation in the community about HIV and AIDS. Learn. Share.



#### COMMUNITY:

Your community needs to know that Christians care about this issue and about those who live with HIV.

# THE SAMARITAN MINISTRY MODEL

Samaritan Ministries, states “Our time-tested plan for developing a ministry that changes hearts and lives CAN be duplicated in your church, your community. It WILL take commitment and a willingness to take on a servant role within the community. You will need to work with others who are different than you; people who share different ideas and faiths, but IT IS POSSIBLE.”

#### FROM THE INSIDE:

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 challenging, and you will need the backing of the Pastor, but knowledge is power, and information dispels ignorance. Usually, a small group might show an interest, or you might be able to work through a existing ministry to get started. Here are some questions to ask:

- 1) Does your church have a program for HIV Education?
- 2) Is there a local HIV/AIDS agency that could use volunteer support?
- 3) Does your church already have an outreach program with food or clothing?
- 4) Is your Missions Team looking for opportunities to serve others?

Remember, talking about HIV means that sex and sexuality need to be discussed. Be ready. Use the words.

Also, 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”.

#### ON THE OUTSIDE:

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 as opportunities will present themselves once relationships are built. Demonstrate your 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!)

We can provide you with training and materials to achieve your goals! Call us.