



Saddleback Church: Six Ways The C.H.U.R.C.H. Can Minister to Those with HIV/AIDS

Care for and support the sick

Churches are commanded to care. It is their calling. Love leaves no choice! Local congregations are the only caring organization found in almost every community around the world. Members can offer physical and emotional care in homes.

Handle HIV testing and counseling

Churches are the most trusted organizations in communities, so people may be more willing to be tested and counseled there. 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.

Unleash a volunteer labor force

Churches have the largest volunteer labor force on the planet – more than 2 billion members. What if half of those could be mobilized? There aren't enough professionals in the world 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.

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.

Champion healthy behavior

HIV/AIDS is complex and yet preventable. Churches have the moral authority to promote healthy behavior and to offer moral imperatives for the family and teach the moral motivation for abstinence and faithfulness. To resist peer pressure and relapse, faithfulness requires faith.

Help with HIV medications (ARVs)

The church has the largest distribution network on the planet. It's already in place worldwide! Millions of villages have a church, but nothing else. For treatment to become universal, we must develop a church-supported treatment model. Organizations come and go, but churches are permanent community fixtures. Members can be trained to distribute HIV/AIDS medications and 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.