

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS

(Las Vegas, Nev., - February 25, 2002) – To mobilize Black churches in the effort to promote AIDS education and compassion, the Clark County Health District, Sista to Sista, and F.A.C.T. (Fighting AIDS in our Community) is collaborating with the organization The Balm in Gilead, to sponsor the 13th Annual Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS on March 3-9, 2002. The Balm in Gilead is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization with an international mission to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS throughout the African-American community.

During this year's week of prayer, churches' roles in addressing AIDS awareness will be highlighted. Each year, a growing number of Black congregations are developing AIDS prevention outreach programs, supporting and caring for persons living with HIV/AIDS and establishing HIV testing facilities with counseling services.

Additional activities will include African American church leaders at both the national and local level calling for a national state of emergency regarding the rising rates of AIDS cases in the United States. Based on 1999 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more African Americans were reported to have AIDS than any other racial/ethnic group. Rates among African Americans are twice the rate for Hispanics and eight times greater than Caucasians.

(more)

Local participant churches will host events described as programs of faith, compassion, music and HIV/AIDS awareness at the following times and locations:

March 4, 2002

Ebenezer Church of God and Christ
1072 Bartlett Avenue
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
702-646-1502

March 5, 2002

Zion United Methodist Church
2108 Revere Street
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
702-648-7806

March 6, 2002

Victory Missionary Baptist Church
500 W. Monroe
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
702-648-2286

March 7, 2002

Holy Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME)
700 Lola Avenue
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
702-877-0790

March 8, 2002

First African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME)
2450 Revere Street
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
702-649-1774

March 9, 2002

Second Baptist Church (Prayer Breakfast and HIV/AIDS Forum)
500 W. Madison
9 a.m. – Noon
702-648-6115

For more information contact the Health District Office of AIDS at 942-9274.

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