

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS

(Las Vegas, Nev., - March 4, 2004) – The 15th annual Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS will be commemorated March 7 through March 13. This weeklong observance has become the largest AIDS awareness program in the United States targeting the African-American community, with an estimated reach of over 200 million church members worldwide.

Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS seeks to educate the community about the disproportionate incidence of HIV/AIDS in African-Americans, and bring national attention to the important role churches play in the HIV/AIDS crisis. Each year a growing number of congregations develop AIDS prevention outreach programs, distribute information, provide support and care for people living with HIV/AIDS and establish HIV testing facilities staffed with counselors and knowledgeable nurses.

Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is modeled after the groundbreaking Harlem Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. This program was established in 1989 by Pernessa C. Seele, CEO of The Balm and Gilead. The Balm and 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.

The Health District Office of AIDS reports that 23 percent of the AIDS cases and 26 percent of the HIV infections occur in African Americans. On a national level, AIDS is the leading cause of death among African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44 and of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections each year, more than 50 percent are among African Americans.

(more)

Activities are scheduled at the following locations during Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS:

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Victory Missionary Baptist Church
500 W. Monroe Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89106
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, March 12, 2004

First African Methodist Episcopal Church
2450 Revere Street
North Las Vegas, NV 89030
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 13, 2004

Prayer Breakfast
Second Baptist Church
500 W. Madison Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89106
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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