



# BAPTIST CONVENTION OF SOUTH AFRICA

## HIV and AIDS Desk



## Newsletter

4th Edition – December 2010

Welcome!

In this 4<sup>th</sup> edition of our newsletter you will find a lot of information about what is going on in the BCSA HIV and AIDS ministries and you will also find facts about the bigger picture: latest AIDS statistics for Southern Africa. But the first and foremost objective of this letter is to encourage you to take a stand and make a difference: rethink your attitudes using our Bible-based principles, take concrete steps to mobilize your congregation or take part in our Voluntary Counselling and Testing Campaign – let's get started!

### From the Desk of the General Secretary

It is almost 12 years since we began the intervention program for HIV&AIDS. Much has happened as far as care, education and counseling is concerned, but the numbers of new infections released by UNAIDS (see page 3 of this newsletter) show that South Africa is not actually winning the battle against the spread of the virus. The Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi has launched a campaign on prevention, by inviting every South African to take an HIV&AIDS test. If every person knows their status it becomes a huge step towards prevention. People are afraid to take these tests but it is a very important thing to do.

On behalf of the Baptist Convention of SA I wish to encourage all our members and every South African to take a voluntary test to know their status. We have taken a huge step this year by inviting the Jubilee Hospital to set up a mobile clinic during the Assembly at Prestige College to encourage people to go for a test. I am encouraging all of us to do the following:

- Become a role model by taking your HIV&AIDS voluntary testing.
- Spread the message in your community by encouraging others to take the test.
- Be responsible and prevent the spread of HIV&AIDS.

I wish you all a joyful Christmas and blessed New Year.

*Ngwedla Paul Msiza*



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All contents by HIV and AIDS Desk  
unless stated otherwise.

Conducted any activity around World  
AIDS Day 2010?

Used our material for anything? We  
would appreciate your FEEDBACK!  
Please contact us at our information stall  
or send us the feedback form after the  
Assembly.

Thanks a lot!



## Supporting Bereaved Children Through Play

Throughout the year 2010 a group of 12 people who are working with orphans in our organizations have been trained by our partner organization Dlananathi from Pietermaritzburg. We learned how children communicate through play and how we can use play to communicate with them. We acquired play skills that can be used to help bereaved children grapple with their feelings. Many times bereaved children are overseen after a death case and not taken serious in their need to understand deeper what has happened and to process their feelings. If we don't give bereaved children a platform to address their feelings, they are likely to develop problem behavior like violence or drug abuse later in order to cope with their suppressed loss experience.



All participants have gone back to their organizations on the ground and implemented a series of play sessions with an individual child. Now everyone is working with a group of up to 12 children. In February the training will be completed on a feedback day that will also include the handing over of certificates. It has been wonderful to see healing happening amongst the participants as well as amongst the children and how God has used people to be a comfort for others just when they needed it. We hope that this is not the end of it and that the participants will continue blessing the children in their communities by working with them in play groups.



### PREVIEW 2011

As far as workshops are concerned, in the year 2011 there will be a focus on **LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER**: we strive to train key persons out of the organizations so that they pass on their skills to others within the organization. We also want to strengthen the networking between the HIV and AIDS organizations by helping every organization discover their particular strength points and how they can share them with other organizations

#### HIV and AIDS Board Meetings:

18-19 February; 29-30 April; 8-9 June; 11-12 November

**Workshop Networking and General Capacity Building:** 7-10 March

**Train the Trainer Workshop Healthy Nutrition:** 6-8 June

**Annual General Meeting:** 8-10 August

## Our organizations...

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## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: Latest HIV and AIDS Statistics

- Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region most heavily affected by HIV worldwide, accounting for over two thirds (67%) of all people living with HIV and for nearly three quarters (72%) of AIDS-related deaths in 2008.
- An estimated 1.9 million people were newly infected with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa in 2008, bringing the number of people living with HIV to 22.4 million.
- In 2008, more than 14 million children in sub-Saharan Africa had lost one or both parents to AIDS.
- The nine countries in **southern Africa** continue to bear a disproportionate share of the global AIDS burden—each of them has an adult HIV prevalence greater than 10%.
- **South Africa** continues to be home to the world's largest population of people living with HIV—5.7 million in 2007.
- While the rate of new HIV infections in the region has slowly declined, the number of people living with HIV slightly increased in 2008, partly due to increased longevity stemming from improved access to treatment. Adult (15–49) HIV prevalence declined from 5.8% in 2001 to 5.2% in 2008.
- By the end of 2008, 44% of adults and children in the region in need of antiretroviral therapy had access to treatment. Five years earlier, the regional treatment coverage was only 2%.
- As a result of treatment scale-up, people are living longer in many countries. In **Kenya**, AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 29% since 2002.
- Women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. Throughout the region, women account for 60% of all HIV infections.
- Young women between the ages of 15 and 19 are particularly vulnerable to HIV. In **Kenya**, young women are three times more likely to become infected than their male counterparts.

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### HIV prevention:

Evidence suggests that HIV prevention programmes may be having an impact on sexual behaviours in some African countries. In southern Africa, a trend towards safer sexual behaviour was observed among young men and women between 2000 and 2007.

In **South Africa**, the proportion of adults reporting condom use during their first sexual encounter rose from 31.3% in 2002 to 64.8% in 2008.

Sub-Saharan Africa has made remarkable strides in expanding access to services to prevent mother to child HIV transmission. In 2008, 45% of HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral drugs, compared with 9% in 2004.

Source: UNAIDS Fact Sheet Sub-Saharan Africa Update 2009; from [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

