

## How can the church love and support our brothers and sisters living with or at risk of HIV and AIDS?

### SERVICE

- S- Seeds
- E- Embedded
- R- Relationship
- V- Vision
- I- Illustration
- C- Christ's
- E- Example



Photo credit: NCFL-Wonderopol

‘A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.’ Luke 8:5-8

Consider how serving is similar to a farmer planting seeds. As a farmer expects to put in the time needed to create quality soil and purposefully place seeds with care and attention, so should our service. We as the body of Christ should be planting **Seeds** of service **Embedded** in fertile soil built in **Relationship**, through clear **Vision** in seeing others as Christ sees them, and **Illustrating** His love through His **Example**. Only then can we grow as one body in love and support.

## What are practical ways we can be involved?

1. Educate yourselves and others about HIV/AIDS.
  - a. More than 1.2 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV, with nearly 1 in 8 unaware of their status.<sup>2</sup>
  - b. Whether or not infected, we are all affected. Education reduces the spread of HIV and its stigma!
2. Locate local organizations who serve brothers and sisters living with HIV/AIDS, and simply get involved as volunteers.
  - a. Examples of ways volunteers can be involved: Peer support counseling, HIV testing, meal preparation and delivery to those who are homebound
3. Consider how existing or new ministries within your church can reach out in support of our brothers and sisters living with or at risk for HIV in your communities.
  - a. Become an Open Table Model supported church, where 8-10 individuals build a relationship with a brother/sister either living with HIV or at risk, to create and accomplish a life plan.

Contact **HopeSprings** ([info@hopesprings.org](mailto:info@hopesprings.org)) or **PHEWA/PAN** ([phewainfo@gmail.com](mailto:phewainfo@gmail.com)) to learn how your church can participate in educational trainings to become more aware of HIV, as well as learn about ways to volunteer.

<sup>1</sup> National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) (2015). Wonderopolis: How do seeds sprout? Retrieved at <http://wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-do-seeds-sprout/>.

<sup>2</sup> CDC (7/2015). HIV in the United States: At a glance. Retrieved at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/basics/ataglance.html>.





equipping to eradicate HIV



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