

# – WHAT YOUR – CHURCH CAN DO

**World AIDS Day** is an opportunity for your church to participate in one of the most widely-held health action days in the world. It is a time to commemorate those who have been infected or affected by AIDS, to grieve and comfort the loss of lives, and to look forward to the future with hope. **Saddleback Church HIV&AIDS Initiative** has made **World AIDS Day** an important part of our church life together as we educate and engage our members and our community in caring for people living with HIV, by demonstrating the love of Christ in tangible ways. Here are a few things that we have done over the years. This is not a comprehensive list, but it may encourage your own thinking as you help every person know that you care.

- Hold a conference or seminar for your entire church.
- Invite people living with HIV to share their testimony.
- Invite physicians, nurses, researchers, and specialists to offer updates.
- Preach a sermon on “God’s Heart for the Sick.”  
(Access this sermon at [www.saddlebackresources.com](http://www.saddlebackresources.com))
- Meet for prayer. Pray for local and global needs.
- Have a guided prayer walk around “stations”. Individuals pause at each station and read a bit of information, and then pray. For example, at one station participants may learn about the pandemic in a certain country, or among a certain population such as children.
- Have a guided “responses to AIDS” station where people write letters to God or prayers for people living with the virus. They may post these on a board or on a cross.
- Give people a place to express their grief or prayers through artistic expression, such as drawing or painting.
- Provide a one-week small group curriculum about HIV and the Biblical mandate to care.  
(Purchase curriculum at [www.saddlebackresources.com](http://www.saddlebackresources.com))
- Invite special speakers to share on HIV prevention to all high school and college-aged people in your church.
- Connect with local agencies and provide something special for the county workers or AIDS Service Organization providers such as gift cards, notes of thanks for what they do, or cookies.
- Offer to give an interview to local newspapers and radio stations about how your church cares for people living with the virus.
- Link with other churches in the area to hold a joint-service that remembers those who have died, prays for those who are infected, and encourages others to get involved.
- Show videos or movies about HIV/AIDS. Some can be found at [www.hivaidsinitiative.com](http://www.hivaidsinitiative.com)
- Offer HIV testing and counseling at your church.