

Show an AIDS Patient You Care

AIDS is an indiscriminate killer. It afflicts young and old, rich and poor, white and black, homosexual and heterosexual, Christian and non-Christian. Here are some practical things you can do to show God's love to people with AIDS.

- **Visit them** in the hospital or in their homes by permission. Many people with AIDS have been abandoned by their families and friends, and they're desperate for personal contact. The AIDS virus is transmitted only through a significant exchange of blood or body fluids, so don't let your unfounded fears keep you from touching and hugging people who are aching to feel Christ's love.
- **Love the person**, hate the act. People who contracted AIDS through abusive behaviour will expect you to blame and judge them. Surprise

them with concern and compassion.

- **Form a group** to help with meals or home maintenance. As AIDS progresses, the victim's strength diminishes. A hot meal or help with the housework can visibly express the love of God.
- **Assist financially.** Most AIDS victims soon grow too sick to work, if they don't lose their jobs before then. That means dwindling incomes and mounting medical bills. Any financial help Christians can provide will go a long way.
- **Pray with them.** Your prayers will encourage and comfort those with AIDS. They can also provide tangible physical and emotional help for AIDS sufferers.

Coupons for the Sick

Call a meeting for those willing to give a few hours each month to help friends and neighbours who are sick. Ask people to bring crayons, coloured pens, scissors, and tape. Then brainstorm a list of things each person wishes someone would do for them when sickness strikes.

Volunteers make up 12 coupons apiece, one for each month of the year on poster paper, describing a specific service they would like to perform. They include their name and phone number on each coupon.

The coupons are collected and arranged in packets of 12. The packets are kept in the church office. As seriously ill people call, a packet is delivered to them. The volunteers do not find the unexpected

phone calls from those who are ill burdensome because the services are varied and infrequent.

How can you adapt this idea in your church, small group, or among like-minded friends and neighbours? Here are some coupon ideas to get you started:

- walk the dog
- take the kids to sports practice
- deliver groceries and meals
- launder and iron clothes
- mow the lawn
- clean the house
- prepare a meal
- write notes/letters
- water house plants