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NEWS FLASH

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Sickle Sabbath Sunday

September 18, 2011

What Is Sickle Sabbath Sunday?

Sickle Sabbath Sunday is a national faith day to raise awareness and charitable giving within congregations for sickle cell disease. As a national partner of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA), **the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education** encourages our member churches to conduct sickle cell awareness and education activities on Sickle Sabbath Sunday.

PLEASE SEE THE INFORMATION ATTACHED FOR MORE DETAILS

***This News Flash is designed to inform officers, staff, faculty and friends of news and events regarding
The National Baptist Congress of Christian Education***

Facts about Sickle Cell Disease in the United States

Source: Sickle Cell Disease Association of America

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an inherited blood disorder which constitutes a global health problem. Approximately 100,000 Americans are living with the disease. One in every 500 African Americans and one in every 36,000 Hispanic Americans is born with SCD. Many more Americans perhaps as many as 2.5 million – including 1 in 12 African Americans are carriers for Sickle Cell Trait (SCT). Given that these carriers are generally unaffected by SCD complications, many are unaware that their children are at increased risk for the disease.

In November 2010, the world recognized the 100th year anniversary since the discovery of the disease. Dr. James B. Herrick, an attending physician at Presbyterian Hospital and professor of medicine at Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois, published an article on the case of an anemic West Indian patient. Herrick's clinical and laboratory findings of the patient's "peculiar elongated and sickle-shaped" red blood corpuscles represent the first description of sickle cell anemia in Western medical literature.

Despite the many strides that have been made to improve the lives of those living with sickle cell disease, the SCD community still face numerous challenges. For instance:

- ❑ The average life expectancy of a person with SCD is still relatively young at 45 years of age.
- ❑ Presently there is only one (1) medication that has been FDA approved to treat those with the disease.
- ❑ There is an overwhelming shortage of physicians (primarily hematologists) that treat or specialize in SCD which makes it difficult for patients to find a primary physician.
- ❑ To date there is no comprehensive model of care within federal agencies to help reduce the major healthcare complexities that SCD patients encounter.
- ❑ Though one of the oldest diseases existing, SCD receives a significantly disproportionate amount of funding for research and treatment compared to other diseases, particularly blood disorders and;
- ❑ Most importantly, 100 years since its discovery...there is still no cure.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1) **What is Sickle Cell Disease?**

Sickle cell disease is an inherited disorder that affects red blood cells. People with Sickle cell disease have red blood cells that become hard and pointed instead of soft and round. Sickle cells cause anemia, pain and many other problems.
- 2) **What is Sickle Cell Trait?**

If you have sickle cell trait, you have inherited the gene for sickle cell disease. Sickle cell trait does not turn into sickle cell disease. If someone has sickle cell trait and his partner has sickle cell trait they may produce a child with sickle cell disease. There are about 2.5 million people in America with sickle cell trait.
- 3) **If sickle cell trait is not an illness, why are people tested?**

Babies are tested to see if they have sickle cell disease. Teens and adults are tested Mainly to see if they can have a baby with the disease.
- 4) **What medical problems are caused by sickle cell disease?**

Lung tissue damage, pain episodes and stroke. The blockage of blood flow caused by sickled cells also causes damage to most organs including the spleen, kidneys and liver.
- 5) **How many people have sickle cell disease?**

Sickle cell disease is a global health problem. In the United States it is estimated that over 70,000 people have sickle cell disease. About 1000 babies are born with the disease each year in America.
- 6) **How long does a person with sickle cell disease live?**

The average life expectancy in America has improved. It is now in the mid 40 years of age range.
- 7) **Are people of African descent the only group affected?**

No. It is also present in Portuguese, Spanish, French Corsicans, Sardinians, Sicilians, mainland Italians, Greeks, Turks and Cypriots. Sickle cell disease also appears in Middle Eastern countries and Asia.
- 8) **Is there a cure?**

There is no universal cure for sickle cell disease. Research in gene therapy, the ultimate universal cure, is currently underway.
- 9) **What are some promising treatment developments?**

The use of hydroxyurea has shown promising results on some adult sickle cell patients. It reduces the frequency of severe pain, acute chest syndrome and the need for blood transfusions
- 10) **Can people with sickle cell disease live a productive life?**

Yes. But like all patients with chronic disease, sickle cell patients are best managed in a comprehensive multi-disciplinary program of care and a strong extended support system.

What Can I Do to Help?

You can:

- Get tested and know your trait status....
- Help raise awareness by talking about sickle cell disease to family, friends and associates.....
- Become a blood donor and, if allowed, designate your donation to a hospital that serves sickle cell patients.....
- Volunteer with your local Sickle Cell Community organization for camps, programs, health fairs and other activities for the kids.....
- Donate to support better research.....
- Participate in activities at your church that support sickle cell disease awareness!

For more information, go to www.sicklecelldisease.org. These are other useful websites:
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/; www.scinfo.org/;
www.nhlbi.nih.gov/new/sicklecell.htm.

Post-observance instructions: Use the NBC H.O.P.E. Health Ministry Report Form to provide information about your observance. E-mail the completed form along with relevant collateral material and pictures to hope@midsouthchurches.org.

Thanks and God bless!

Sickle Sabbath Sunday 2011 Worship Helps Sunday, September 18, 2011

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Sickle Sabbath Sunday Sermon Outlines

From “Hopeless” to Hopeful to Healing (Mark 5:25-29)

- I. **A “Hopeless” Situation (v. 25)**
 - a. Years of suffering
 - b. Most likely single or divorcée in a male dominated society

- II. **“Hopeless” Results (v. 26)**
 - a. Medical treatment only made things worse
 - b. Her financial resources were gone

- III. **Hopeful News (v. 27a)**
 - a. She heard about Jesus
 - b. Jesus brings hope to a “hopeless” situation

- IV. **Hope Brings Action (vv. 27b-29)**
 - a. She pressed her way through the crowd
 - b. She had faith in Jesus to be healed
 - c. She was healed immediately

- V. **Hope Brings a Testimony (vv. 28-34)**
 - a. Jesus’ asks a rhetorical question
 - b. Jesus’ disciples’ negative response
 - c. The woman testifies
 - d. The woman is not only healed but blessed

Why Do Our “Brooks” Dry Up? (1 Kings 17:1-9)

- I. **What Are Our “Spiritual” Brooks?**
 - a. Sources of blessings in our lives
 - b. Our physical and spiritual families
 - c. Our trust in God

- II. **Why Do Our Brooks Dry Up?**
 - a. The commonality of people: What can happen to you can happen to me
 - b. The nature of living: We might fool “Mother Nature” but we can’t out run “Father Time”
 - c. The pressures of life: The more I pray the worse things *seem* to get

III. Why Are We Always Blessed in the End?

- a. The providential will of God: We can see to the corner but God can see around the corner and beyond
- b. A whole life of suffering on earth is nothing compared to an eternal life of joy in heaven

Responsive Reading

Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?

Why then is there no recovery for the health of the daughter of my people?

(Jeremiah 8:22, NKJV)

Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.

For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. (Mark 5:25-29, NKJV)

Blessed is he who considers the poor;
The LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

*The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive,
And he will be blessed on the earth;
You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies.*

The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness;
You will sustain him on his sickbed. (Psalm 41:1-3, NKJV)

Litany

Adapted from **Litany 95 “Health and Wellness”** in the *Total Praise: Songs and Other Worship Resources for Every Generation* –
Sunday School Publishing Board

Leader: We stand in Your presence, acknowledging You as our Creator and our all-knowing God.

People: We thank You for creating us in Your image and after Your own likeness.

Leader: We praise You, O God, for providing deliverance for our souls and healing for our bodies.

People: Help us to call upon You, for You are the one who blots out our sins and heals us from our diseases.

Leader: For the times when illnesses like sickle cell disease attack our bodies with seemingly no hope for a cure,

People: Help us, O God, to seek You for comfort when our bodies do not respond to the remedies that we employ. We will rest in the knowledge that one day we will have new bodies that are free of sickness and pain.

Leader: O God, You loved us so much that You gave Your Son. We now have eternal life, we have Your Spirit, we have Your Word, and we can enjoy healing that comes from You.

People: We thank You, Lord, for Your many blessings, and for those medical personnel who give of themselves in caring for the sick. Thank You for researchers who work relentlessly to find cures for illnesses that in the past were not available. Thank You for medical facilities all over the land that provide much-needed care.

Leader: It is You who has made us, and not we. Therefore, we will look to You as our Lord, our Savior, and our Healer.

All: We thank You, O Lord, that it is Your desire for us to enjoy good health, even as our souls prosper.