



- WHAT?** CABSA guides and supports Christian communities towards HIV competence, through advocacy, information services, mobilising, training and networking.
- WHY?** The AIDS epidemic in Africa is characterised by stigma (judgement, fear, isolation), lack of knowledge and indifference (apathy and irresponsibility). The infection rate is still very high with two new infections for every person accessing treatment. There are however churches with structures in every outpost of the continent. This means that a wonderful potential exists for churches and Christians to be part of the solution to this crisis. CABSA helps unlock this potential.
- HOW?** CABSA makes information available, creates understanding, helps congregations become involved, trains leaders, is involved in initiatives and supports processes to assist faith communities to understand and live out their calling in a world with HIV.
- WHERE?** We have an office in Wellington in the Western Cape and our information service (CARIS) is based in Johannesburg. CABSA works mainly in Southern Africa, while CARIS services are accessible internationally.
- WHO?** CABSA operates with a small core staff and has various co-workers, including part time CABSA representatives in different provinces and regions, volunteers and staff contracted for specific tasks.
- WHEN?** Various **continuous services** are offered: e.g. the webpage www.cabsa.org.za is available 24/7; a "Message of the Week" and a monthly newsletter is sent electronically to subscribers; enquiries are responded to during office hours; information is sent out for special occasions such as World AIDS Day and AIDS Candlelight Memorial Sunday.
Opportunities for training, workshops and events are utilised where possible. CABSA facilitates various workshops; presents focussed training programmes and have speakers available for events. (*See following page*)
- WITH WHAT?** CABSA is a registered NGO responsible for its own funding. Sources of funding include: donations from individuals; financial support from faith-based organisations and congregations; funding through trusts; project funding from local and international donors and provision of services on contract.
- HELP?** Your support will help CABSA change lives and communities! For more information on our prayer requests and how you can support us, please enquire about the Friends of CABSA programme. Please also consider making a financial contribution towards our services.
Account Details: "Christian AIDS Bureau", ABSA, 910 467 4160 (Active saving account), Branch: Wellington (632005)
- WHAT ELSE?** For more information visit www.cabsa.org.za
or **phone** us at 021 873 0028 or 011 796 6830
or **email** at: training@cabsa.co.za or management@cabsa.org.za

Caring Christian communities ministering reconciliation and hope in a world living with HIV and AIDS.



"Churches, Channels of Hope" (CCoH)

CABSA, along with many other organisations, believes in the incredible potential of faith communities to address the serious challenges still posed by the HIV epidemic. This sentiment is reflected in a recent report which stated: "The role of religion is becoming increasingly important in the context of health, both globally and locally. There are numerous experiences that show that some of the most effective agents for behaviour change at community level are religious leaders or faith based groups."¹ This potential is unlocked through CABSA's services and programmes.

Through our flagship training programme - Churches, Channels of Hope - CABSA offers targeted training and information sessions suited to specific environments. This approach has been adopted in response to feedback from the field, where individuals and communities called for different levels and types of support.

CABSA is also very aware of the complexities of gender relationships and its immense impact on the vulnerability of women, and therefore realize the need to actively and deliberately integrate gender advocacy and focus into our training materials and activities. In this way we ensure that we address one of the root causes of vulnerability to HIV infection.

CABSA offers any of the following training and information session options:

1. Sensitizing events - Such as doing a presentation on CABSA, HIV, Positive living, etc at a women's tea or other event at a church or club.
2. Positive speakers - CABSA holds a small database of individuals living with HIV who are willing to address gatherings about their experiences.
3. Worship services - CABSA is often invited to preach or give presentations during church services
4. Mini-workshops - Covering topics such as Introduction to HIV & AIDS; Gender; HIV Competence; Positive Living, and Stigma.
5. HIV Integration - This course equips individuals with thorough knowledge of, and sufficient insight into, HIV and AIDS related facts and issues that will empower them to integrate this information on a personal, spiritual and professional level.
6. CCoH workshops - These workshops focus on faith communities and churches, and is offered by facilitators who have been trained in the full 7-day Churches, Channels of Hope training. Workshops can be tailored to cover the topics and time preferred by the church or organisation.
7. CCoH Training - The purpose of this 7-day programme is to equip participants with the appropriate attitudes, knowledge and skills to be channels of hope and assist faith communities in their journeys towards HIV competence.

CABSA support the Channels of Hope programme in a number of ways, including the CARIS (Christian AIDS Resource and Information Service) programme. CARIS provides knowledge, information and resources to empower an informed Christian response to HIV through a comprehensive website, three online searchable databases, a material distribution programme, a physical resource centre, guiding and supporting local resource centres, materials distribution, newsletters and through social media tools like Facebook and Twitter.

CABSA is involved in a variety of advocacy activities, to strengthen the voice of those who do not have a platform, to provide faith input in secular environments and to ensure an informed and competent faith community.

Networking opportunities are created and utilised to strengthen the respons of organisations and explore synergies.

The outcomes of all these activities are faith communities who understand their calling and are competent to respond to the challenges of the HIV epidemic

¹ "Why bother? Global Health and AIDS: Fighting for justice and equity" NORAD