

HCCI HOSTS "A HEALING IN HARLEM" NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS EVENTS IN HARLEM

Photo By: Karl Crutchfield

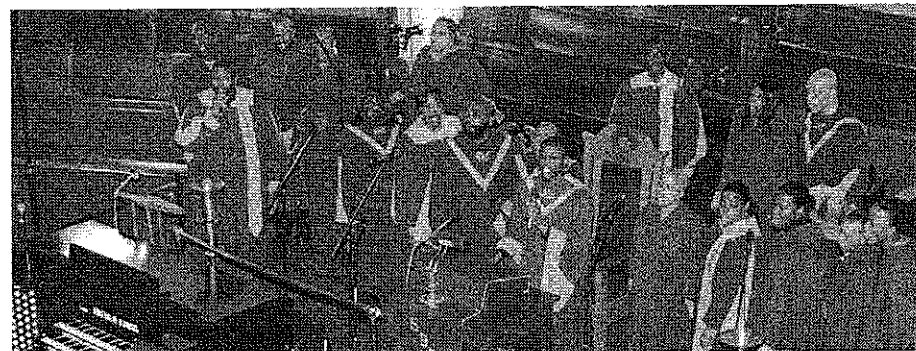
Founded by the Balm in Gilead, The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS (NWPHA) is a glorious and informative celebration on faith, unity and triumph in the face of the still virulent HIV/AIDS epidemic. For the past 12 years, Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc. (HCCI), has led this informative call to arms by producing the opening and closing events for the Week of Prayer. The HCCI-produced Kick-Off Breakfast took place Friday, March 2nd at St. Charles Borromeo Church, and the Week of Prayer closed with a "A Healing in Harlem", a prayer vigil and gospel concert, held Friday, March 9th at Sutherland Baptist Church.

On Tuesday, March 2nd the breakfast featured the keynote speaker - Bishop Jasper Rolle, Jr, Senior Pastor of Abundant Life Tabernacle Ministries, a renowned pioneer in helping religious communities respond creatively to the HIV crisis.

Bishop Rolle stated that "all of our lives have been affected by someone who has AIDS".

"A Healing in Harlem" was hosted by the dynamic and spirit filled soulful artist John Stanley and charismatic speaker Michael Peterson and featured over 20 choirs and soloist throughout the tri-state area.

John Stanley said he "felt privileged to be a part of an event that renewed the spirit by many that have been infected



ARC (which stands for "Addicts Rehabilitation Choir")

with this disease".

The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is a week of education and AIDS awareness that highlights the role that churches are playing in addressing the AIDS crisis. Each year, a growing number of congregations are developing AIDS prevention outreach programs, supporting and caring for persons living with HIV and estab-

lishing HIV testing facilities complete with counselors knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS.

The Kick-Off Breakfast and the Prayer Vigil distributed educational information and provided a critical point of contact for over 40 congregations serving African American and Latino/-a communities to access HIV education, information and technical assistance.