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African-American Ministers Get To Root Of Diabetes Problem

By: CYNTHIA POST

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Atlanta's African-American ministers will gather this week for an innovative roundtable discussion on major health issues - diabetes in particular -- primarily affecting their congregations.

In a first-time forum, the "Health & Well-Being Challenge Ministers' Roundtable" will be held Thursday, Sept. 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Paschal's Restaurant, 830 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive, S. W.

Ministers will dialogue on ways in which their respective health ministries can have a positive impact on managing diabetes.

Speakers will focus on the power of health ministries, and effects of diabetes in the African-American community.

Speakers include Rodney J. Reynolds, founder and publisher, American Legacy Magazine; Dr. Mark J. Wade, founder, president and CEO, Arise and Walk Ministries Foundation; and Mitch Johnson, regional vice president Southeast Region, GlaxoSmithKline.

Dr. B. Wayne Kong, CEO, Association of Black Cardiologists will be the keynote speaker.

The Rev. Milton Biggham, founder and director of the Georgia Mass Choir, will moderate the distinguished ministers' panel.

The roundtable will also serve to launch a diabetes health awareness challenge and collaborative effort to host a multi-church diabetes health fair Saturday, Oct. 26.

The forum is co-sponsored by American Legacy Magazine and GlaxoSmithKline.

"GlaxoSmithKline has a long standing commitment to partnering with the African-American community through health education initiatives that have a positive impact on the well-being of the community," said Johnson.

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positive impact on the well-being of the community," said Johnson.

"By working in collaboration with religious leaders on initiatives such as the Ministers' Roundtable, and Health and Well-Being Fair, we hope to raise awareness of the link between diabetes and related-health complications.

"The church health ministries also play a key role in communicating to parishioners the overall importance of early disease detection and management, and practicing health-seeking behavior," he continued.

American Legacy Magazine's involvement indicates its strong commitment to readers, said Reynolds.

"American Legacy has established a solid relationship with churches across the nation," he said. "Because of our reach within the Black churches and the diabetes health epidemic in our community, we wanted to partner with GlaxoSmithKline and key ministers to further educate our community on health issues.

The "Health and Well-Being Fair," Oct. 26 at the Georgia World Congress Center, will offer local church congregations and community residents an opportunity to receive diabetes information, free diabetes testing, healthy nutrition and exercise tips, as well as gospel entertainment and refreshments.

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Reader Opinions:

▶ **Robin Roberts**

Sep, 16 2005

I would like to offer my testimony and a herbal formula called Combetic to help diabetics manage their blood sugar. Please visit: <http://www.thirddayresources.com> My testimony is under Rob Roberts and I am the president of Third Day Resources. Please let me know how we can get the word out to help the epidemic of Diabetes. Thank you, God Bless

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