



Serving Persons
Affected by Epilepsy

October 2005

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hotline

Concert to Promote Epilepsy Awareness

David M. Bailey Shares Hope! for those with epilepsy

ERC extends an invitation to the community to attend **Share Hope!**, a free concert on Friday, November 11, 2005 at Westside Christian Church (1819 W. Douglas) featuring award winning folk singer, David M. Bailey. Concert begins at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM, come early for best seating. Donations are appreciated.

The highlight of Epilepsy Awareness Month, the concert promotes awareness about the disorder. 2.7 million Americans are living with epilepsy; and 181,000 are diagnosed with epilepsy for the first time each year. Older people have the highest prevalence of epilepsy, comprising 25% of all those who have epilepsy.

David's story is one of unique courage, faith, and passion. On July 4, 1996, doctors told David he had a malignant brain tumor and would be dead by Christmas. David left his corporate career and returned to his first love of songwriting and performing. Since then, he has shared the hope on which his life depends with thousands of listeners: 9 years, 12 albums, 40 states & hundreds of concerts later, David, his songs, & his passions are alive and well.

The son of Presbyterian missionaries, David spent his childhood in Beirut, Lebanon. In 7th grade, he began writing his own songs and made his first recording a year later. The Lebanese civil war forced him to complete high school in Germany where he spent his weekends as a street musician touring throughout Europe. After college, he put his guitar away and entered corporate America. Ten years later, following his diagnosis, David returned to the stage.

David's songs are reminiscent of folk legends like James Taylor and Cat Stevens. Strong melodies and intricate finger picking serve to deliver keen, witty and insightful lyrics about time, faith, hope, love, and dreams. Hailed by one reviewer as a "prophet with a guitar;" David pens lyrics that resonate with surprising depth and clarity among audiences of all ages, keeping his music both universal and timeless.

His story has been featured on CBS News/48 Hours, 60 Minutes, Fox/Health, Family Health channel, NPR, & in newspapers and magazines across the country. David spends most of his time in his own niche of church and medical venues, he occasionally steps out into more traditional music venues. In May 2003, he won the prestigious Kerrville NewFolk songwriting competition. It is alone with his audiences where David finds his greatest joy: from Beirut to Budapest, from Pittsburgh to Portland, and on hundreds of stages in between, he has inspired and entertained thousands of listeners. David challenges all of us to live passionately and to treasure the beauty of each new day.

We are pleased to partner with **Cyberonics, Inc.** as the title sponsor of the event. Cyberonics designs, develops and markets implantable medical devices for the long-term treatment of epilepsy and other chronic disorders using the unique patented therapy, Vagus nerve stimulation (**VNS Therapy™**). www.vnstherapy.com



New Blood Test May Detect Epileptic Seizures

Hormone Test May Help Diagnose Epilepsy

A blood test that measures levels of the hormone prolactin may help determine whether a seizure was caused by epilepsy or some other disorder, according to new guidelines.

Researchers reviewed all of the published studies on the prolactin blood test and found it may be useful in certain situations in determining whether an epileptic seizure occurred in adults and older children with unexplained seizures.

The test, which must be used within 10 to 20 minutes after a seizure, measures levels of the hormone prolactin in the blood. Prolactin is produced by the pituitary gland, but an area of the brain called the hypothalamus controls its release.

Researchers say epileptic seizures are thought to affect the hypothalamus and may alter the release of prolactin, causing levels of the hormone to rise.

In the study, which appears in the journal *Neurology*, researchers evaluated eight studies on the prolactin blood test.

The results showed that the test could accurately identify seizures in adults and older children and distinguish them from nonseizure type episodes. Levels of prolactin in the blood increase after seizures but not during non-seizure activity.

Researchers found the test was useful at differentiating epileptic seizures from those caused by mental problems. But they say the test cannot distinguish epileptic seizures from those caused by a fainting episode because prolactin levels also rise after these types of seizures.

Therefore, the guidelines say the test may be appropriate as a secondary test, especially in cases when EEG is not available.

More research is also needed to determine whether the prolactin blood test is suitable for young children.

—WEB MD

erc's **Octoberfest Saturday, October 29, 2005**

Camp Hiawatha 1:00 - 7:00 PM 1605 W. 51st St N., Wichita

Join other families affected by epilepsy for an afternoon of entertainment and camaraderie.

Horseback Riding ■ Learn to Tie Balloon Animals ■ Games & Prizes
Apple Bobbing ■ Craft Your Own Christmas Bulbs ■ Moonwalks
"Seize the Medallion" contest ■ bon-fire dinner ■ Pumpkin Carving

🕒 DINNER SERVED AT 6:00 PM



\$2/person or \$5/family
To Register, call 316-943-2453

LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED DIRECTIONS OR A RIDE



Epilepsy and Men

New Survey Reveals Impact of Epilepsy on Men



Nearly fifty percent of men with epilepsy say that the condition and its treatment affects their relationships with family and friends, according to a survey by the British organization, Epilepsy Action.

Over 300 men with epilepsy were surveyed to investigate how having the condition impacts their lives. About half of the respondents feel that epilepsy and its treatment affects their relationships with their partner (48%), other members of their family (54%) and friends (49%). Over a quarter of respondents feel that their epilepsy and its treatment affects their ability to be a good parent, while over a third feel that their sexual relationships are affected.

It is vital that men have a good knowledge and understanding of epilepsy, so they can make sure they are getting the best treatment.

While there is a large amount of information for women with the condition, there is very little that is specifically aimed at men. These survey results were used to develop a new information booklet called *Epilepsy and Men**, which is designed to empower men living with epilepsy and to contribute to improving their quality of life.

This booklet gives an insight into the real thoughts and feelings of men living with epilepsy. If you are a man with epilepsy, this booklet will help you to have a better understanding of your condition and to be aware of those times when it may be a good idea to visit your doctor.



The survey results revealed that for many men with epilepsy, the possible consequences of the condition, for example loss of driving license and restrictions on employment opportunities, can have a considerable social and psychological impact. Seventy-two percent of the men surveyed said epilepsy and its treatment affects their social life and activities; their confidence (77%); their sense of self esteem (71%); and their plans for the future (74%).

—EPILEPSY ACTION

*The information booklet *Epilepsy and Men* is available at: www.epilepsy.org.uk/downloads/pdf/epilepsyaction_men.pdf

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share hope!

an epilepsy awareness concert

David M. Bailey

in concert

Friday, November 11, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Westside Christian Church
1819 W. Douglas ■ Wichita

Epilepsy Resource Connection and Cyberonics, Inc., proudly present a free epilepsy awareness concert with David M. Bailey — an award winning, best-selling folk singer, and prophet with a guitar. . .

. . . helping shatter the darkness for the 2.7 million people with epilepsy.

Open to the public, come early for best seating.
For more information call 316-943-2453.



Supported by an educational grant from:

VAGUS NERVE STIMULATION

Cyberonics®

GOLD SPONSORS:



SILVER SPONSOR:



* ERC has coordinated special hotel rates for our out-of-town guests who wish to attend the concert!
More Information: (316) 943-2453



Adult Epilepsy Support Group

Meets Second Tuesday of Month at 6:30 PM
2919 W. 2nd Street, Wichita (questions: 943-2453)

OCT 11: AWARENESS

NOV 8: DIET & SEIZURES

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