

Morality alone cannot stop AIDS

December 18, 2006

Updated: 12/15/06

Morality alone cannot stop AIDS

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (ABP)—The choice between preventing AIDS by teaching abstinence or by distributing condoms is a false choice, Sen. Barack Obama told a mostly evangelical audience on World AIDS Day.

Instead, both methods for dealing with HIV/AIDS should be used to their fullest extent, Obama (D-Ill.) told listeners at the Global Summit on AIDS and the Church at Saddleback Church in Southern California.

Barack Obama

AIDS workers debate what

lessons Uganda teaches

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This 14-year-old arrived at the Nsambya Home Center in Kampala, Uganda, for a checkup required of all patients receiving HIV medication through the U.S. PEPFAR program. (RNS photo courtesy of David Snyder/Catholic Relief Service)

AIDS workers debate what lessons Uganda teaches

By Jason Kane

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Stalled in the gridlocked streets of Johannesburg on her way to an AIDS event, Rukia Cornelius fumed about the tendency of Americans to mix their religious and political beliefs. South Africans have suffered as a result, she said.

“I’m a little bit tired, but I’m also angry, because we need the money, but treatment can’t be done with such a provision on abstinence,” said Cornelius, national campaign manager of the South African AIDS lobby group Treatment Action Campaign.

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 - [Warren urges ministry to AIDS victims](#)

DBU students raise funds to help hungry

December 18, 2006

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DBU students raise funds to help hungry

Dallas Baptist University students recently completed a Christmas food drive for Bro Bill's Helping Hands Ministry in West Dallas, collecting more than 1,800 food items to benefit the West Dallas community ministry.

The DBU Ministry Student Fellowship sponsored, organized and administered the food drive.

Baskets
were
strategically
placed at 15
locations
around the
Dallas
Baptist
University
campus.
They were
emptied
periodically
and their
contents
boxed and
stored for
delivery to
Brother
Bill's
Helping
Hands
Ministry.

Brother Bill's Helping Hands Ministry grew out of West Dallas Baptist Church, where Bill Harrod served as pastor. Harrod led the church—now named Iglesia Bautista Harrod Memorial—to minister to physical needs in the community beginning in the 1950s.

The ministry's Christmas outreach to children is its best-known program in the area, but Helping Hands also provides services—including food—to families throughout the year.

Ex-gay says: Treat homosexuality as temptation, not orientation

December 18, 2006

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Ex-gay says: Treat homosexuality as temptation, not orientation

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (ABP)—For Christians to love homosexuals like Jesus would, they should stop thinking of homosexuality as an orientation and start thinking of it as a temptation, says Tim Wilkins, himself “formerly gay.”

Wilkins, who founded a group that helps people who have “unwanted same-sex attractions,” offered his controversial view during a breakout session at Saddleback Church’s Global Summit on AIDS and the Church. The summit brought Christians and AIDS workers together to address prevention and treatment of the disease, which originally was associated with homosexuals.

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Court to decide if taxpayers can sue over faith-based plan

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Court to decide if taxpayers can sue over faith-based plan

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Supreme Court will, for the first time, hear a case directly related to President Bush's faith-based initiatives, his attempt to expand the government's ability to fund social services through churches and other religious charities.

However, the case does not deal directly with whether the program violates the First Amendment's ban on government establishment of religion, as some of its critics contend. Rather, the court will consider a narrower issue—whether a group of taxpayers has “standing,” or the right to sue, over the use of general executive-branch funds to promote the faith-based plan.

Book Reviews

December 18, 2006

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Book Reviews

The Christmas Angel by [Katherine Duhon](#), (Vantage Press)

In this children's book, Katherine Duhon relates the story of a typical brother and sister eagerly waiting for Santa. Except this year, Milly and Tommy must see the bearded gift-giver in person. They want Saint Nick to bring back their momma's smile after their daddy's death.

When the jolly fellow fails to appear, the young boy and girl don coats, caps, mittens and muffs, and slip out to search for Santa. The two lose their way as the snow slows their steps and the wind whistles through the trees. But God's Christmas angel helps the children learn a lesson in patience and the healing of time.



What are you reading that other
Texas Baptists would find
helpful? Send suggestions and
reviews to

marvknox@baptiststandard.com.

Black-and-white pen-and-ink illustrations of the wide-eyed children add interest to *The Christmas Angel*, a story of love, hope and the magic of

Christmas.

Waco students light up lives, raise money

December 18, 2006

Posted: 12/15/06

Waco students light up lives, raise money

By George Henson

Staff Writer

WACO—Students at McLennan Community College are helping Waco-area residents hang Christmas lights this holiday season so that they can share the im-pact of Christ's birth with other students next spring.

"There are a lot of people who can't put up their own lights anymore, and their sons or daughters live too far away or don't have time to put lights up for them. We get to help with that and raise money so that we can participate in Beach Reach," Jacob Garcia ex-plained.

Students
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residents to
raise money
for
BeachReach,
a spring
break
evangelistic
ministry.

Cartoon

December 18, 2006

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News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

BaptistWay Bible Series for December 24: Jesus stands ready to heal

December 18, 2006

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BaptistWay Bible Series for December 24

Jesus stands ready to heal

• John 5:1-24

By David Wilkinson

Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley: The Tie that binds

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CYBER COLUMN: The Tie that binds

By Jeanie Miley

On the first Sunday of Advent, I sat in my regular place in the sanctuary of my church, looking around at all of the people who form my community of faith and anticipating the coming Christmas season with eagerness and joy. I know some of the people with whom I have gathered for worship really well, and they know me. Others are still strangers to me, even after all these years, and I often wonder if that is simply choice or if it is, somehow, a kind of failure.

Jeanie Miley

I've served on various committees with many of these people, and we have met for prayer and projects, banquets and business meetings, fellowship dinners and the usual funerals, weddings and baby dedications that mark the passage of time and the meaning of community.

RIGHT or WRONG? Conflict mediation

December 18, 2006

Posted: 12/15/06

RIGHT or WRONG?

Conflict mediation

We've had some relational breakdowns in our congregation. Some have suggested that we contact a conflict-mediation expert. Does that idea have merit?

AIDS summit challenges Baptists to âbreak the silenceâ

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David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World, underscores the connection between poverty and the global HIV/AIDS pandemic during the "Breaking the Silence: Compassion for an HIV Positive World" summit, held in conjunction with the CBF general assembly in Atlanta. (Photo by Mark Sandlin)

AIDS summit challenges Baptists to 'break the silence'

By Carla Wynn

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

ATLANTA (ABP)—Baptists and other Christians responded slowly and poorly 25 years ago to the advent of AIDS, but God has been in the trenches from the start, said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy group.

"God is in the midst of this," Beckmann told more than 400 people gathered in Atlanta June 21-22 for an HIV/AIDS summit, dubbed "Breaking the Silence: Compassion for an HIV-Positive World." The event was scheduled in conjunction with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly.