

AIDS and HIV not instruments of God's wrath

Troy Martin
Staff Writer

All sinners beware! God is out for revenge and this time He's serious. No more frogs and locusts. Those are outdated and primitive methods of punishing sinners. God has been reading His biology textbooks, and though He tore out all of the pages on evolution, He's become a scholar on viruses. I think He was particularly impressed with Human Immune Deficiency Viruses (HIV), and it really didn't take a very spectacular miracle to create one. We call it AIDS.

Yes, my friends, amongst us are fundamental Christians who say God sent AIDS to America as punishment for those "evil" homosexuals, "hell-bound" drug users, and "immoral" prostitutes. Should we thank these Christians? Though they have not found the cure for AIDS, they have discovered the purpose of AIDS. Maybe next time they'll let us in on the purpose of the common cold or allergies (I know I can't wait).

Well, I'm sorry, but I just can't accept the purpose of the AIDS virus as a militant tour de force, killing for the benefit of Christianity. The purpose of the AIDS virus is to live in conditions best

suited for its survival (fluids such as blood or semen) and to reproduce. Its objectives in life are the same as any other HIV or any other animal or life form on earth. But for those who insist that AIDS is a cruel but necessary divine method of eliminating some of the world's sinners, I will most gladly present several reasons in refutation.

If God has decided to "clean house" in America (or on earth for that matter), why would He choose a virus that can kill innocent humans? (We're assuming that He's mellowed in His old age and doesn't kill the innocent anymore like in the Old Testament.) Let's take a look at God's

credentials. He is credited with parting oceans, turning seas to blood, and creating everything that we perceive as reality in seven days. Why doesn't He just vaporize the people with whom He's not happy? Or is God trying to keep a low-profile these days?

Secondly, AIDS began in Africa. Why is this important? Well, God is obviously not aware of Africa's existence. If He were aware of the continent, I'm sure He wouldn't allow small children to die of starvation without a chance of life. Aren't you???

Finally, if it took any kind of god to get things started on this planet millions of years ago, it doesn't anymore. Nature takes

care of herself. God quit playing around with the earth a long time ago. Biology can explain the sustenance of life, and nature is God to herself. Man is nature's only obstacle.

Perhaps AIDS is in some mysterious way nature's method of getting back at man. Nature doesn't know prejudice and neither does AIDS. But as long as man continues to poison the waters, destroy the ozone and spend \$1550 for a mink's fur, nature has ample cause for avenging herself. As far as God is concerned, maybe in a round-about way He did send AIDS to earth. Think about it.

Habitat for Humanity makes a difference in Greensboro

Graham Lashley
Staff Writer

Habitat for Humanity is an international organization that was started by Millard Fuller in 1976. Greensboro formed one of the current three hundred partnerships in

1987. Habitat is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide low income families the opportunity for affordable housing. Millard Fuller believes that it is Habitat's "theology of the hammer" that builds homes, bringing together people from varied social, political and religious backgrounds to create housing for needy families.

The homes are built with donated material, labor, and money. The labor expense in the current home market causes the price of the homes to be out of most low income families' reach. Habitat provides the mortgages allowing the family to repay over a twenty year period with no interest. The catch to this interest-free loan is that the family must help build their home by volunteering two hundred hours, and they must be able to repay the loan. The cost of a current Greensboro Habitat house is about \$24,000. The Greensboro partnership must raise \$34,000 to build this house because for every house it builds it must donate \$10,000 to Habitat International. The money donated will go to build two homes in a Third World country; and Habitat currently has built or has under construction houses in twenty-six nations.

Habitat of Greensboro has already built seven homes and has just received six new lots from the City. Joy Becker, who heads up the volunteers for Greensboro, always needs work crews and volunteers because of the current goal to complete a house per month, and said, "I would like to see the school (students) get involved and be available to do work during the week and on weekends." No experience is necessary but one must want to help others to

get the full benefit of Habitat.

Guilford will have the option of forming the next available work crew that comes open if students are interested, but until then there is always a need for extra help. College President Bill Rogers has expressed interest in the Greensboro Habitat Project since it was started and would like to see the student body get involved. He said that Habitat for Humanity is, "a project that serves as a material and direct expression of Guilford's commitment to serve the student and the community." President Rogers who will serve on the crew, has skill in construction are glazing, wiring, foundations, and rough carpentry. Rogers said that "the skills that a project like Habitat allows the participant to develop and the friendships that are formed are to the benefit of the student and the life of the community in general."

Habitat for Humanity cannot change the problem of poor housing and living condition across the world without the support of its volunteer. Involvement from the community is a must and Guilford students should participate. There will also be opportunities for interested groups to travel to different work sites in the United States and other countries during school breaks to build homes. Habitat requires a crew to be available one Saturday a month and it is not necessary for every member to be present each time the crew works.

I am a student at Guilford and have worked with Habitat for the last two years on a roofing and flooring crew. The house sites are near downtown and most of the

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