RELIGION/The Charlotte Post

Churches battle against HIV/All

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With that in mind, some black churches like Anderson's have begun to address the issue as they have done with racism, financial literacy or diabetes.

The level of involvement varies from church to church. But for Anderson, whose sister's diagnosis with HIV in 1985 propelled him into AIDS advocacy work, educating his congregation about the virus

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some money from GPA under

then-Gov. Mike Foster were

being used to promote reli-

gion, including the purchase

and providing support for those living with it is just part of his church's larger mission.

Compassion is key, he said. His church has an AIDS Care Team program, a wing of the nonprofit Multifaith Works in Seattle, which partners community members living with HIV with volunteers who provide support.

Anderson also hopes to dispel myths his congregation might have about the disease

of Bibles and religious tapes. Although program officials argued that they had stopped

such spending, Porteous

issued an order that the pro-

and instead provide basic information.

That includes advocating abstinence and encouraging sex safe for people who are already sexually active, Anderson said.

Dr. DeMaurice Moses, health care coordinator at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Seattle, acknowledges the need to address the fact that people of color are disproportionately affected.

But he worries about

gram stop giving money to organizations or people that

convey religious messages.

appeal and settled in Novem-

state abandoned an

stereotyping. As was the case with gay men when the disease first emerged, people now too often associate the disease with black Americans and Africans, Moses said.

On the Net: www.cdc.gov/ The Balm in Gilead:

AIDS is a problem for the whole world, Moses said

www.balmingilead.org/home.as

Louisiana abstinence site.

/www.abstinencedu.com

ber 2002

On the Net.

Thursday, June 30, 2005



Lawmakers: Congress must deal with religious bias at Air Force Academy

Judge rejects arguments against web site

The

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON Aiı Force investigators merely scratched the surface in their report about alleged religious intolerance at the Air Force Academy, two lawmakers said in calling for stricter congressional oversight of the military school.

Reps. Steve Israel, D-N.Y., and Lois Capps, D-Calif., said the problems are deeper than investigators indicate. They urged the Air Force to tighten

Christian character

Continued from page 8B

ously better off than those who do not. Second, people who are mourning in any kind of tragedy are more likely to learn deep truths than people who live happy but superficial lives

Thought to Remember: It is a blessed and happy thing to be a follower of Jesus

Rev. J.A. Cuthbertson - Pastor

compliance with federal antidiscrimination laws, and said Congress should use its authority to make sure that happens

"Congressional oversight is necessary to ensure the appropriate changes are made at the academy," Capps said. "We must continue to hold the Air Force's feet to the fire.'

Capps and Israel have pushed for investigations into accusations of religious intolerance at the academy and called on Congress to calm religious tensions at the 4,300-student school near Colorado Springs, Colo.

A Pentagon investigation into complaints that evangelical Christians at the academy have bullied Jews and cadets of other faiths found no overt discrimination, but cited a degree of "insensitivity.

"There is a lack of awareness on the part of some fac-ulty and staff, and perhaps some senior cadets, as to what constitutes appropriate expressions of faith," said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel.

But at a Capitol Hill news conference Wednesday, Israel and Capps said the report backed up their belief that the climate at the academy and in the military needs to be fixed. They said investiga-tors offered excuses for cadets, faculty and staff instead of acknowledging there is a ``pervasive and coercive religious environment."

"It is not a whitewash, but it does resemble a milquetoast," Israel said.

Other members of Congress praised the academy and the Air Force for taking steps to fix the problems

"I believe we should focus on the fact that the Air Force investigation found that the academy leadership aggressively dealing with this issue and that a significant majority of individuals contacted expressed an opinion that the overall climate at the academy has improved over the past two years," said

Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., a member of the Air Force Academy Board of Visitors.

The investigators said academy leaders and the Air Force should clarify policies on religious expression so religious minorities do not feel discriminated against or pressured.

Seven incidents were referred up the chain of command for possible investiga-tion, but Brady did not provide details. He said "there's certainly insensitivity" at the academy.

The investigators' report came on the same day that a chaplain who spoke out against religious intolerance at the academy, Capt. MeLinda Morton, said she had resigned her commission after 13 years in uniform. She has said she was fired from her chaplaincy at the school and a transfer to Japan was hastened because she spoke out about the academy's reli-

Please see ACADEMY/6B



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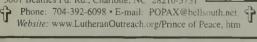
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