

Aug 16,2009

From: Allen Allnoch

Hello everyone,

A huge thanks to all who prayed for me during the past week. By God's grace, I had a great time teaching at Simon's Town Elementary and running the Kids Club at Red Hill without my usual work partner along. I had to laugh at the absurdity of my circumstances last Tuesday: An American with no training as an educator, teaching in a South African public school, and using the Bible to support the lesson. With God, all things truly are possible.

As you know, the Life Skills program that I'm part of will be losing its U.S.-supported funding soon. This funding comes from the PEPFAR (Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) program that was begun under George W. Bush. The Obama administration has kept PEPFAR alive but decided not to fund NGO programs that teach sexual abstinence, such as Living Hope's. This ideological shift will result in an annual loss of \$300,000-plus for Living Hope's Life Skills operation, hence the concerted fundraising effort that is underway and that you can learn more about (and tell your friends about!) at [www.livinghope.co.za](http://www.livinghope.co.za).

Over the past few months, Living Hope founder and King of Kings Baptist Church pastor John Thomas has been preaching a verse-by-verse look at the book of 2 Timothy. Today Pastor John pointed out that next Sunday's sermon will begin with verse 22 of chapter 5, which includes the instruction to "keep yourself pure.." Living Hope's message of abstinence and purity ties right in with this verse, and will be part of next week's message.

The really interesting thing about this is that King of Kings is expecting some special guests at the service next week. Nine U.S. congressmen will be visiting and will hear the message of Living Hope and see the video linked from the website above. This isn't likely to result in any change of direction in PEPFAR funding, but it will at least give some American representatives a closer look at the impact of this loss. As John said today, he could never have planned this convergence of VIP visitors and sermon content in advance, but God surely has.

See my blog at <http://ps121trekker.blogspot.com> for a few more thoughts and observations from life in Cape Town.

Blessings to you all,  
Al

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Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life.  
He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;  
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.  
Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)