

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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Prayer on AIDS

To the Editor:

I read with interest the article concerning the black church and AIDS (Spectator, Oct. 4). Many of the points raised by the panel on "Minorities and AIDS" are valid. However, I believe there is reason for optimism for I detect a new recognition of the impact of AIDS on the black community by black churches. During the week of Sept. 10-17, 1989 this department coordinated the Harlem Week of Prayer on AIDS. We were able to bring together more than fifty religious and spiritual institutions in a week of prayer, education and outreach regarding AIDS and its victims. The response of these institutions from all denominations (including Christian, Muslim, Hebrew, Yoruba and Native American) was astonishing and rewarding.

My colleagues and I were delighted to witness the rallying of all these institutions and their memberships around the issue of AIDS and their ability to embrace all those infected with open arms. We believe that there is commitment within these religious institutions in the Harlem community to begin the long battle against AIDS. The Harlem Week of Prayer on AIDS was the beginning of a partnership between us, the health care providers, and all those committed community members who helped make this week a reality.

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