



Pro-Life Ministries that Change Lives

2010 MID-YEAR REPORT

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PRAY
GIVE
LIVE

Pledge of Pro-Life Commitment

Relatively speaking, giving to a pro-life ministry is easy. Consistently praying for the end of abortion is harder. And a personal commitment to speak and act according to the biblical, pro-life ethic is hardest of all. We introduced this pledge at our March banquet. Join us by making it your own, and in making a real difference for life:

■ **I thank God** our heavenly Father for the gift of life – for my own life, the lives of my loved ones, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and all of mankind. We were created to bear His image.

■ **Today, I pledge** to uphold the biblical pro-life message in word and deed. As I fulfill the Great Commission, I will also do my part to preserve the sanctity of human life.

■ **I will speak up** for the unborn, the disabled, the elderly, and the terminally ill – anyone whose humanity is questioned. I will choose words that show respect for all – even my enemies – and honor their dignity as people who bear God's image.

■ **I will live** my life – including my viewing choices – in a way that is sexually pure and respectful of the sanctity of marriage as designed by God.

■ **I will take action** on behalf of vulnerable human lives where possible, in the way the Holy Spirit leads, with God's grace and provision. I want my life to reflect His mercy, expressing compassion to others in practical and sacrificial ways. I will persevere until all human life is protected or Jesus Christ returns.

Churches make a difference for life

In January, Monongah Baptist Church in Monongah, West Virginia, conducted a **BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG** campaign for BFL. Over four weeks, they raised over \$1100! The first Sunday, their head usher pushed a bottle-laden crib down the aisle while two junior-aged children handed out one per family. The crib stayed at the front of the church until the last Sunday when representatives from each family came forward to place their filled bottles back in the crib.

Their example shows that a church need not be large to have a huge impact. Find more photos and the BBB Wall of Fame featuring the top three churches on our website: www.bfl.org > *How You Can Help* > *Baby Bottle Boomerang*.



On May 13, Good News Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, MI, agreed to host a **LIFT TRAINING SEMINAR** for future Care Coordinators at churches in Portage, Middleville, Muskegon, and Lansing. The trainees will take the LIFT program back to their churches to provide help and support to families facing long-term or terminal illnesses.

Staff members are currently involved in updating the LIFT training manual and planning the 3rd annual **LIFT CAREGIVER CONFERENCE**. The conference will be held Saturday October 23 at Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, and is for anyone involved in Christian caregiving. If you'd like to attend, go to www.bfl.org > *Events* > *LIFT Caregiver Conference*.

Other upcoming events:

JULY 22-23 – THE SUMMIT

This two-day conference is for pregnancy care center leaders and volunteers. It will be held at Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, and feature an array of speakers, exhibitors, and workshops. The Summit offers opportunities for networking, fellowship, inspiration, and maximizing potential. Please pray for our staff as we plan and prepare.

AUGUST 9 – GOLF CLASSIC

Join us for 18 holes of fun and fundraising on behalf of Partners in Ministry, BFL's service to pregnancy care centers around the world. If you'd like your team to play the beautiful course at Pilgrim's Run Golf Club in Pierson, MI, go to www.bfl.org > *Events* > *Golf Classic*. You may register online!

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Curriculum update

For several years, BFL has been developing a curriculum for junior-age children (4th-6th grades), teaching the biblical concepts of sexual purity and the sanctity of human life. **POWERED BY GOD** will include an interactive website for children and downloadable lessons for parents and teachers.

Students will be able to access 13 lessons, reading Bible studies, responding to questions, viewing flash animations, writing essays, and participating in activities beyond the web. The downloadable lessons will equip parents and teachers for use in a variety of settings: Sunday schools, home schools, and Christian schools. The lessons coordinate with the website and offer supplemental material to be shared under parental guidance.

A matching gift challenge of \$15,000 has been offered to complete the project. Please pray about this goal, and consider accepting the challenge.

Making a difference for life in other lands

At the invitation of missionaries, BFL staff traveled overseas to promote pro-life ministry. In March, executive director Tom Lothamer visited Baptist Mid-Missions missionaries Dave and Jan Santos in **SAO PAULO, BRAZIL**, with the aim of helping them start pregnancy care centers. He also gave the abstinence message to groups of young people, and facilitated the transfer of an ultrasound machine to the existing CERVI center in Sao Paulo.



In April, Tom and associate director Jack Hoogendyk visited ABWE missionaries and Christian leaders in **TSIKO, TOGO**. The goal was to develop LIFT ministry, particularly with HIV/AIDS patients and their families. The two also had the opportunity to speak in churches and consult with the board of the mission hospital.

We make these journeys because the needs overseas are so great. They're not regular budgeted items, however, but must be accomplished through special gifts. In January, our board named six projects requiring support beyond our budget, totaling \$59,500.

Completed foreign projects: Thanks to generous donors, funding is complete for two projects plus the trips (\$2,000 for Brazil; \$4,000 for Togo):

■ **SPANISH TRANSLATION PROJECT** for pro-life training in Peru – \$30,000

■ **ULTRASOUND PROJECT** for Papua New Guinea – \$16,000! The machine is now in a shipping container bound for PNG.

Remaining projects: We're confident these remaining projects will also be completed this year:

■ **COMPUTERIZED MEDICAL RECORDS** for Emmanuel Hospital in Assam, India. BFL is partnering with Selungba and Lamina Singh to advance the hospital and develop a PCC. We hope to raise \$6,000 so they can obtain three computers, medical records software, and training.

■ **EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS** for the Pregnancy Care & Counselling Center in Charachandpur, India. BFL helped start this center in 2003. With a grant of \$1500, they can purchase a laptop computer, printer, digital camera, electrical generator, table, and chairs.

Donations to any of our special projects, including the curriculum matching challenge, may be made through our website. Go to www.bfl.org > How You Can Help > Online Giving. Designate the 'Purpose of Gift' from the dropdown menu.

Financial update

Of course, we can't accomplish special projects without attention to our general budget, which is \$420,500 for 2010. It covers funding for all programs, publications, events, and salaries. We strive to develop a conservative budget that anticipates the growth of our programs in the United States and around the world.

Here's a snapshot of the first five months of this year (not counting special projects): Income – \$118,817.90; Expenses – \$144,295.89. The shortfall is \$25,477.99. We're praying this deficit will be erased by year's end. (It should be noted that approximately 25% of our annual gift income is received in December.)

We remain committed to financial integrity. Our finances are reviewed or audited each year. Our auditor's 2009 financial review says: "I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made . . . in order for [the 2009 financial statements] to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."

Baptists for Life also received commendations from the Evangelical Counsel for Financial Accountability (member since 1995) and the Better Business Bureau of Western Michigan. These letters, as well as our current financial reviews and 990s, are available upon request.

