



# Pro-Life Ministries that Change Lives

## 2011 MID-YEAR REPORT

P.O. Box 3158, Grand Rapids, MI 49501 [mail]; 5075 Clay Ave. SW, Suite C, Grand Rapids, MI 49548 [street]  
(616) 257-6800 [tel]; 1-800-968-6086 [toll free]; www.bfl.org [internet]; b4life@bfl.org [email]

## Let your little light shine

Daniel Nsomekela recently wrote us about his work among people with disabilities in Zambia. Paralyzed after a spinal injury, he now tries to help others “secure a sound education, healthcare, and good economic and social status” and to hear the Good News “as an ultimate goal.” He directs NACODI, the National Christian Organization for the Disabled, a group he formed with others who have disabilities.

People with disabilities lead challenging lives, but especially so in Africa. They’re often considered to be lazy beggars, or worse – demon-possessed. Parents hide children with disabilities out of fear of stigmatization. And people with disabilities are vulnerable to exploitation, often forced by Muslims to go to mosque, or excluded by “health and wealth” preachers.

We might look at the situation and think they need new laws modeled after our Americans with Disabilities Act, or more social programs. While helpful, these efforts could only be part of the solution.

Daniel understands that what’s needed is an attitude adjustment. That’s why NA-



Tom Lothamer  
Executive Director

CODI undertakes the hard task of first teaching Christians that all people are made in God’s image – whether rich or poor, black or white, disabled or not.

People transformed by the Holy Spirit and God’s Word should be leading the way in caring for the weak and vulnerable, but deeds don’t automatically match words. As we see here in the U.S., some churches still have a way to go in welcoming and engaging people with disabilities, even after many years of knowing that’s what we should do. Sadly we don’t do all we can to back up pro-life beliefs with alternatives to abortion or euthanasia.

This challenge is common to everyone in pro-life ministry. In dealing with believers here and abroad, pro-life leaders find that basic biblical doctrines are often not understood or fully integrated into practice. In some regions, women in strong biblical churches abort their babies with no pangs of conscience. Abortion is entrenched in their culture. Sound familiar?

Wherever we go, Baptists for Life finds it necessary to demonstrate that the pro-

life ethic is biblical, not just American. Biblical principles cross all cultural lines.

As we’ve said many times before, the sanctity of human life is not just a social or political issue. It must be addressed in those arenas, but it is a moral issue and *primarily* a matter of the heart.

This is why we’ve been hard at work to complete the curriculum for 4th through 6th graders – which is coming soon, Lord willing! And it’s why BFL produces materials such as our *Life Matters* bulletin inserts, our *Pastors’ Handbook* full of sermon outlines and other resources, and training manuals to equip people for pro-life ministry. In fact, our staff is currently writing a new section for the LIFT manual on how church volunteers can better serve people who have disabilities.

Sadly, one reason we must travel the globe is that many nations are in the dark as a result of adopting our bad habits. America leads the way in many good respects, but also in trumpeting abortion “rights.” We owe a huge debt to the world.

The thought of undoing all that damage is daunting, but we can’t neglect our duty. Perhaps all we can do is light a small candle or fan a dying ember, but, as the old chorus says, “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!”

## Abstinence education in the Philippines

Melisa “Mae” Serata is letting her light shine as an abstinence educator in the Philippines. She travels all over the islands to public and private schools where she’s given great freedom to share the messages of sexual purity and salvation in Jesus Christ. She carries on with little training and meager resources.

Melisa is frequently invited to return to schools where she’s made previous presentations. After she expressed a need for new materials and updated resources, BFL was able to send her some recently produced DVDs on abstinence and abortion.

Later, we learned she struggled in making presentations because she was forced to borrow equipment. In response, we made it a project for 2011 to send her a laptop computer and projector



so she could be more effective. Because a way opened up for us to inexpensively transport the equipment to the Philippines sooner than expected, we acted on the purchase before

we had collected all of the funds for this special project.

Please pray we’ll quickly receive the rest of the funds needed — about \$1,400. And pray for Melisa as she travels and speaks to young people. She’s pictured here (center) engaging students and using the equipment the first weekend after it arrived.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

RON FOOR, CHAIRMAN  
Bank Executive  
Grand Rapids, MI

RICK GEISEL, VICE CHAIRMAN  
Professor, Grandville, MI

CARLA LUDWIG, SECRETARY  
Dentist, Homemaker  
Grand Rapids, MI

DAVE BAILEY, TREASURER  
Contractor, Union, MI

RON CAMPBELL, Retired  
Executive, Portage, MI

BOB FOUST, Executive Director,  
Choose Life Alabama

THOMAS HAM, Pro-Life  
Consultant  
Sugar Hill, GA

DONN THOMPSON, General  
Manager, Round Rock, TX

NATHAN TREADWAY  
Logistics Coordinator  
Mishawaka, IN

## PASTORAL ADVISORS

REV. DUANE DUHON  
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH,  
Grand Rapids, MI

REV. KEN FLOYD, STATE REP.  
Michigan Association of  
Regular Baptist Churches

REV. JEFF HALSTED  
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
Grand Rapids, MI

REV. STEVE HARDUK  
FALLS ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH  
Rocky Mount, NC

REV. RICHARD LIVERANCE,  
KENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, MI

REV. BURLAND MARGESSON  
RETIRED, Lowell, MI

REV. RAY PAGET, GRAND HAVEN  
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, MI

DR. JOHN WATSON, STANDALE  
BAPTIST CHURCH, Walker, MI

To learn more about Melisa and other projects, go to [bfl.org](http://bfl.org) and click the *How You Can Help* tab and the "Special Projects for 2011" link. To designate your gift to one of the projects, select it from the "Purpose of Gift" dropdown menu on the *Online Giving* page.

## Equipping and sustaining pro-life ministry in South America

The month of March was eventful for our partners in Quito, Ecuador, at the *Salva Una Vida* (Sav-a-Life) pregnancy care center. They hosted trainers for both abstinence education and ultrasound technology. Donors enabled us to send Jim Scheffler from Innovative Imaging Technology in Texas to help this center grow in its expertise.



Dr. Carlos Feijoo, missionary and director of *Salva Una Vida*, applies what Jim Scheffler (center) taught him.

Later that month, Tom Lothamer and Bob Foust (BFL board member and executive director of Choose Life Alabama) made the trip to Quito to provide training in board governance. They also met with area pastors and volunteers from the center to discuss ways churches can be more involved with the center.

Tom also spent part of his South American sojourn in Santiago, Chile, meeting with ABWE missionaries, pastors, and lay leaders to discuss how pro-life ministry dovetails with the ministry of local churches and church planting efforts. He also presented the message of sexual purity and the sanctity of human life to 350 young adults and students in schools and churches.

## The Heart of God in Ministry: PCC Summit 2011

What does God desire in the heart of His servants? Keynote speakers Anne Nelson (of LIFE International) and Pastor Andy Merritt (of Edgewood Baptist Church in Columbus, GA) will hone in on this topic during plenary sessions at the annual Summit for pregnancy care centers July 21-22. Workshops will include: Helping clients get off welfare, biblical counseling and evangelism, abortion recovery, and how to grow a ministry. BFL expects to host over 100 participants from around the country in Grand Rapids, MI.

## Manual revisions in the works

BFL staff are currently working to revise several of our manuals: LIFT training, pregnancy care center volunteer training, and *Standards for Excellence*. The ambitious projects have required outside help from volunteers and could also benefit from your prayer support.

## March 10 banquet results

Nearly 500 friends enjoyed an inspiring evening of worship, fellowship, and challenge from Jay Riemersma of the Family Research Council. The evening netted over \$30,000 after expenses, and gained for us 49 new prayer partners, 32 new volunteers, and 35 new donors.



## Baby Bottle Boomerang

The following churches are all hosting BBB campaigns on our behalf this spring: First Baptist Church of Middleville, MI; First Baptist Church of Lowell, MI; Haddon Heights Baptist Church in Haddon Heights, New Jersey; Kingsley Baptist Church in northern Michigan; and Northland Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, MI. Pray with us that more people will become aware of the sanctity of human life and that funds will come in to help save the lives of unborn children.

To learn more about this means of helping BFL, go to [bfl.org](http://bfl.org) > *How You Can Help* tab > select "Baby Bottle Boomerang" from the dropdown menu.

## Golf Classic August 8

Registrations, sponsorships, and prizes are coming in, so don't put off signing up for the Partners in Ministry Golf Classic at Pilgrim's Run Golf Club in Pierson, MI. Go to [bfl.org](http://bfl.org) > *Events* > *Golf Classic* > *Golf Classic Registration*.

Pilgrim's Run is a pleasure to play. Your participation helps save the lives of unborn children by enabling us to develop and strengthen pregnancy care centers as lights in a dark world.

## Financial realities

Many ministries have reported that their gift income was down 10-15% for 2010. We were at the low end of that range, with a 10% shortfall (approximately \$30,000); the first quarter of 2011 has also been down at least another \$5,000. Heading into summer, a typically low giving period, we ask you to pray with us:

- for our faith to increase
- that we'll enjoy the favor of friends who can help
- that expenses of the Summit will be met
- that the Golf Classic will succeed in bringing in funds and friends for the ministry

To contribute online, please go to [bfl.org](http://bfl.org) > *How You Can Help* tab > *Online Giving*. Thank you!

