



Pro-Life Ministries that Change Lives

2010 YEAR-END 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]

Pro-Life to the Core

Have you ever read a portion of Scripture for, say, the hundredth time, when suddenly the Spirit of God penetrates your heart in a new way? This happened to me while reading Matthew 5:21-22: "I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment... whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."



Executive Director Tom Lothamer

Jesus equates abusive speech with murder! The more I meditated on His words, the more I was convicted that this text is not only tied to the Ten Commandments, but also to the sanctity of human life ethic – with profound implications for

relationships within families, churches, and Christian ministries. Jesus was saying you can't call yourself His follower while hating a brother or sister made in the image of God. (See also 1 John 4:20-21.)

But it's not just brothers and sisters in Christ of whom we must speak carefully. He goes on to say, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." (Mt. 5:43-44; see also Titus 3:2 and James 3:8-10.)

None of us would think of committing the crime for which an Oxon Hill, MD, man was recently convicted. He had insisted his girlfriend abort their child, and when she refused, he ran her over in his car and left her to die.¹ Disgraceful! But what about the angry slur, the epithet, the sarcastic denunciation? Are they

equally abhorrent in our minds?

Calling myself pro-life profits me or the kingdom of God very little if regard for the sanctity of human life isn't written deeply on my heart and soul. It must be reflected in my relationships with my wife, my children, other family members, co-workers, neighbors, members of the community (the store clerk, the waitress, etc.), and those whom I might classify as enemies (say, in the political realm).

You see, the sanctity of human life ethic begins with understanding that all people are made in God's image. We're must protect and respect them because they bear that image, not because they're innocent or conform to standards.

This is the message of our bulletin inserts for next January's Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Please pray with us that they will effectively challenge and encourage Christians across the country to be "pro-life to the core."

The "culture of death" began the day Adam and Eve sinned. From Genesis 3 on, things went darkly downhill. In chapter 4, Cain murders his brother; a few verses later, Lamech is boasting of killing a man over a relatively minor offense. By chapter 6, the earth is full of violence.

In the 20th century, mankind certainly learned new tricks for devaluing and destroying one another, but nothing substantially changed. Horrors of cruelty have existed throughout time.

The story of the Oxon Hill man above demonstrates the inherent violence of abortion. People willing to kill an unborn baby may be capable of any sort of violence. Indeed, murder is a leading cause of death for pregnant women.² While a true "culture of life" won't be possible until our corruptible bodies are made incorruptible (1 Cor. 15), we can show we belong to it here and now.

When BFL published a newsletter (1984-2000), we'd regularly comment on news stories. Today, we keep three blogs where such items are posted. In this year-end report we'll highlight a few recent stories that didn't make the evening news, and show how they relate to what we're doing to foster a "culture of life."

CHINESE WOMAN GIVEN FORCED ABORTION AT EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT.

Xiao Aiyong was kidnapped from her home by Chinese officials and held for 40 hours, until the injection she'd been given took effect and her baby was born dead. Distraught afterward, she cried, "Oh, my baby, I am so sorry! You left us even before you could see the light."³

Her husband expressed his indignation about the ordeal online. He'd been willing to pay the fine for having a second child, but a Chinese official had insisted, "There must be an abortion!"

In the past few months Baptists for Life has received a couple requests for help from sources inside China. While we've worked with individuals and churches around the globe to establish PCCs, this would be a new and uncharted

field for us. Will you pray with us about these needs?

Working from the American model, the methods must be adapted to fit a local culture. As we've written about in the past, missionary Evelyn Stone has done this to great effect in Peru. Most recently, she used a grant from BFL to translate and develop



EXECUTIVE BOARD

JAMES PETTIT, CHAIRMAN
Pastor, Elkhart, IN

ERIN HOOGENDYK, VICE CHAIR
Township Trustee
Kalamazoo, MI

CARLA LUDWIG, SECRETARY
Dentist, Homemaker
Grand Rapids, MI

THOMAS HAM, TREASURER
Pro-Life Consultant
Sugar Hill, GA

RON FOOR, Bank Executive
Grand Rapids, MI

RON CAMPBELL, Retired
Executive, Portage, MI

RICK GEISEL, Professor
Grandville, MI

CHESTER HARRIS, Educator
Grand Rapids, MI

JUDY KONING, Homemaker
Rockford, MI

MELVIN OLSON, Realtor
Caledonia, MI

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



various English-language resources for use in Latin American PCCs. A newly

established non-profit publishing house, Editorial Vida and Esperanza (The Life and Hope Press), will produce Spanish-language videos, manuals, and flyers that teach sexual purity, the sanctity of human life, abuse counseling, biblical counseling, and marriage counseling, as well as pregnancy counseling.

IRAN STUDY SHOWS ABORTION BREAST CANCER

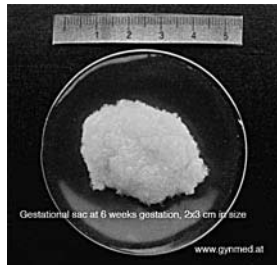
LINK. According to researchers at Iran's Babol University of Medical Sciences, women who have an abortion have a 193% greater risk of breast cancer than those who carry to term. This coincides with many other studies, including a recent one conducted in Sri Lanka in which women with a past abortion are 242% more likely to contract breast cancer.⁴

In addition to continually encouraging pregnancy care centers to use the best practices in dealing with women, Baptists for Life uses its Summits and the *PCC List blog* to keep them up-to-date on topics like this. PCCs tell women about the risks of abortion, while Planned Parenthood, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, the National Cancer Institute, and the American Cancer Society do not.

ABORTION GROUP PUSHES IMAGES THAT OBSCURE HUMANITY OF THE UNBORN.

The Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada recommends that media outlets use images like this one of a gestational sac to illustrate stories about abortion, rather ones of the embryo inside.⁵

BFL has long been committed to helping centers obtain the latest technology that will bring the unborn child into sharper focus for moms and dads. This year we were able to supply two centers with ultrasound equipment – one in Centralia, Illinois, and one in Papua New Guinea.



Gestational sac at 6 weeks gestation.
www.gynmed.at/index.php/english/abortion



Approximately 6 weeks estimated gestational age from conception; by Lunar caustic, on flickr,

PROLONGED SURVIVAL FREQUENT AFTER WITHDRAWAL OF NEONATAL NUTRITION AND HYDRATION.

Five severely disabled Canadian infants were transferred to hospice care from their neonatal intensive care units and then food and water were discontinued. Researchers observed how long it took for them to die

– between 3 and 26 days. The study also found that the longer a child lingered and grew increasingly emaciated, the harder it was on the parents – even though sedation masked his or her symptoms of hunger.⁶

This story underscores the need for BFL's LIFT program to incorporate training that values and protects the sanctity of human life for all. LIFT enlists church people to provide the kind of support that parents need when they have a disabled child.

Trainers Ruth TenBrink and Jack Hoogenydk recently conducted a Care Coordinator Training Seminar at Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Rapids for several area churches. Contact BFL if you'd like this type of training at your church.



7 Ways to Help

1 Pray: That the cause of life would advance, that all BFL's needs would be met, and that we'd be faithful to our calling.

2 Give. Our year-end need is about \$114,000. Please give as you're able.

3 Serve as a Table Host for our upcoming banquet. Our featured guest is Jay Riemersma, former pro-football player and current regional director for Family Research Council.

The banquet is our main fundraising event. By filling a table, you introduce your friends to the ministry. Learn more by calling our office or visiting www.bfl.org > Events > Annual Banquet.

4 Participate in the Powered by God matching challenge. Gifts designated toward this project will help us get over the final hurdle of launching this teaching tool for 4th-6th graders on the web. Help us meet the \$15,000 match!

5 Host a Baby Bottle Boomerang at your church. Learn more at www.bfl.org > How You Can Help > Baby Bottle Boomerang.

6 Sign up to play in the Golf Classic next summer. Go to www.bfl.org > Events > Golf Classic.

7 Live out the pro-life ethic. Make the Pro-Life Commitment your own, @ www.bfl.org > How You Can Help.

1) www.gazette.net/stories/10212010/uppenew181414_32540.php 2) www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16570396 3) www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/44766/ 4) www.lifenews.com/2010/10/13/int-1665/ 5) www.arcc-cdac.ca/backgrounders/media-photos.html; www.flickr.com/photos/28004184@N00/323348224/ 6) www.medscape.com/viewarticle/730086

