

Holding forth the word of life. Phil. 2:15

2005 YEAR-END REPORT

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Executive Director
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THE HEALING OF THE crippled man at the gate Beautiful outside the Temple (Acts 3 and 4) is an interesting study. A good deed – the miracle of healing after forty years of infirmity – was performed, yet the Jewish leaders responded angrily. As

they interrogated Peter and John about how the man was healed, Peter confronted them about what could possibly be wrong in making a man whole.

People are the same today. Desperate women find information and help in

pregnancy care centers, and happily choose life for their babies, yet the only response abortion advocates have is to raise their fists in anger. “How dare you deny women the right to do what they choose with their bodies?”

Or, when families lavish love and care on terminally ill family members, advocates of euthanasia rage at the “waste” of tax dollars and the denial of “death with dignity” for suffering individuals they deem nothing more than “burdens” on society.

We recognize such responses as sinful, but at the same time could allow “righteous indignation” to overtake our own lives and emotions. Violence and anger, however, do not befit the body of Christ.

James 1:19-20 says, “Wherefore, my

beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”

Let’s not imitate the world – which stores up anger, rage and violence – but instead imitate Christ in compassion and service. And let’s pray for each other and everyone in pro-life ministry to respond to opposition in the manner of the early church (Acts 4:31-37):

- speak the Word of God boldly;
- be of one heart and one soul;
- minister in great power;
- experience God’s great grace; and
- lack nothing.

Serving Churches

Orders for 2006 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday bulletin inserts, featuring a dad with his newborn daughter, are flying out of our store room. Churches and pregnancy care centers seem excited by this year’s emphasis on abortion as it relates to men. To view the insert in detail, or order quantities for your church, visit www.bfl.org/catalog.



Another service that many churches use is *Life Matters*, a flier that they print off on their own paper and place in their bulletins or tract racks. It’s a simple, non-threatening way to educate church members about pro-life ministries and current matters relating to life. Access past issues for free at www.bfl.org/life_matters. Recent topics include what the Bible says about abortion and euthanasia.

Thanks to Pastor Walter Widdis in Montana, we have a new one-day Sunday School lesson to offer churches for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. *Were They Worth It?* uses Jonah as its text and focuses on the value of every human life, small and great.

Baptists for Life recently hired retired pastor, Rev. Bruce Stewart (pictured at right), to work part time as our Coordinator of Church Relations. In that capacity, he’s been telephoning pastors to tell them how BFL can enhance the mission of the local church. He also speaks in churches on our behalf and represents BFL at church conferences.



Our LIFT program is being considered by more churches as a way to care for the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the chronically and terminally ill, and for their loved ones. LIFT helps church families make and keep three promises: 1) You will never be a burden; 2) You will not die in pain; and 3) You will not suffer alone. To learn more, give Pastor Stewart or Lisa Haan a call.



Serving PCCs

Another new part-time hire is Sue Ellen Doenier (pictured left), to serve as a liaison between BFL and pregnancy care centers. In addition to performing general office duties, Sue Ellen will organize the Leadership Summits and compose the bi-monthly prayer partner calendar.

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BFL served 31 PCCs from around the country and overseas at the Leadership Summit in Grand Rapids this past July. A variety of speakers presented workshops on the long term effects of abortion, ministry to men, designing promotional pieces, abstinence education in schools, and evangelism. Before they came, attendees cleaned out their back rooms and brought old brochures, videos, audio training tapes, and booklets to share with a struggling center in Kampala, Uganda.

Thanks to our supporters, we were able to host a group of missionaries at the Summit. One couple from Colombia had recently opened a center. Two other couples are hoping to open centers in Mexico and Chile.

Serving Missionaries

Also last July, ABWE missionaries Dave and Lora Beverly hosted an intense three days of workshops in Davao City, Philippines, presided over by a team from BFL. Ninety local pastors, church leaders, and volunteers learned how to provide alternatives to abortion in the context of evangelistic outreach.

The team, led by BFL international training consultants Dave and Evelyn Stone, included Holly Friesen (an ABWE missionary nurse to Peru) and Tonya Delnay (an abstinence educator from Grand Rapids, MI). Tonya was invited to present abstinence to hundreds of students in public schools.

Since then, Lora has pressed forward organizing and establishing the Philippines' first evangelistic PCC, and two Filipino women are already carrying on the work of abstinence education.

We anticipate making several major trips in 2006 to assist missionaries in pro-life ministry. First to Peru, in February for the biennial BFL pro-life conference. The reach of this South American conference is growing to include missionaries and others from Bolivia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia and Chile, as well as those from the New Life Prenatal Centers in Lima.

Then it's on to Ecuador, where Tom and board member Bob Foust will train and mentor the board and staff of a center in Quito. BFL has been asked to partner with missionaries there and another pro-life ministry in overseeing this PCC. It would involve providing funds temporarily, until the center becomes self-sufficient (see box, next column).

Tom and Bob traveled to Quito this past August to

assess this opportunity and came away impressed. Dr. Byron Argoti, the center's director, is an outstanding evangelist and abstinence educator and is regularly invited into the public schools. Tom and Bob saw dozens of youth pray to receive Christ and commit themselves to a lifestyle of sexual purity under his ministry.

In July, Evelyn Stone will visit Kenya, Uganda and Liberia to conduct pro-life ministry training and consult with missionaries and nationals. We're grateful to be able to help this needy continent, because our web site has drawn many desperate inquiries from people in that region of the world.

QUITO PROJECT \$127,000

BFL's portion - \$45,000

- Operations - \$12,000 annually for three years
- Expenses - \$9,000

Join us!

Contact Tom or check the box on the response card to learn more. BFL board members have already pledged \$10,000 above their regular giving toward this goal.

Serving Donors

Looking for an easier way to make your monthly gifts to BFL? Take advantage of electronic transfers through *eGiving*, a reliable and safe automatic service. This program is also more cost-effective for BFL than other methods. Sign up to learn more about this system by checking the box on your response card.

BFL has hired Dave Bailey, a development consultant, as Assistant Director (pictured here). He's sharing development duties with Tom as well as overseeing office operations and special events.

Last year at this time, BFL needed roughly \$95,000 to end up in the black. Through your generosity and our careful spending, we met that goal. Praise the Lord! This year, we need \$85,000 for the last six weeks. Please join us as we pray for this funding.

This ministry belongs to the Lord. We continue to be amazed at what He is doing. Real success depends on God's blessing, not on our skills or efforts. He can add or subtract any part that He pleases. We acknowledge that we couldn't achieve anything without Him or the faithful giving of our donor family.



Tonya Delnay uses audience participation in her abstinence presentation.

WHOSE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT HAVE YOU JOINED?*

Find out at the BFL banquet March 9, 2006
Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, MI
Call (616) 257-6800 or 1-800-968-6086
to reserve seats or host a table.

*A dynamic presentation by Kurt Dillinger of LIFE International.