

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

2006 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]



Tom Lothamer
Executive Director

“Are you Baptist Right to Life?”

If all pro-life groups have the same goal, why not just merge and share resources?

Whenever I’m asked to describe our work in relation to other pro-life groups, I

divide the movement into three categories.

One consists of national and state organizations whose focus is education, legislation, lobbying, and endorsing candidates. BFL has been pleased to partner with Michigan Right to Life in the past, but we’re not a political organization.

Another arena of pro-life engagement is activism: carrying protest signs at abortion clinics, marching at the capital, writing

letters to the editor, and boycotting companies that support abortion. BFL has also participated in these activities, but we’re not an activist organization.

A third category encompasses pregnancy care centers, sidewalk counselors, post-abortion recovery programs, abstinence education – all working to prevent abortion and provide alternatives. Our efforts coincide with these, but we’re not, for the most part, directly impacting the lives of men and women on a daily basis.

Before I tell you what we do, I hope you grasp that pro-life engagement has many forms. No single organization can do it all. And there’s also no single means of ending abortion. We must all do our part.

God has uniquely gifted and positioned Baptists for Life. Our job is to help God’s people articulate the biblical pro-life message

in word and deed. We give you tools so you can impact men and women through pro-life ministry as you fulfill the Great Commission. These tools are for ministry in all phases of life, from conception to natural death.

Local churches are God’s instruments for transforming lives, and we are committed to working with them. We’re blessed to associate with churches already committed to biblical truth. Unlike other “religious” pro-life groups, we don’t have to convince our churches to uphold the sanctity of human life, but merely equip them for service.

Jesus said God the Father has “life in Himself” (John 5:26). Whether we think of life in spiritual or physical terms, eternal or temporal, it’s all God’s. Please join us in this ministry for life, and take joy in the following stories of what God is doing through His people.

Asia-Pacific

PHILIPPINES UPDATE: Missionaries Dave and Lora Beverly report they have found a building in Davao City (below) to house both the pregnancy care center and abstinence education program. (Part of the building will also be used to provide training and resources for pastors and church workers.) Their sending agency, ABWE, has approved the purchase and fundraising is underway. The cost of purchasing and remodeling the building will be around \$150,000.

The ABWE field council for the Philippines recently endorsed the promotion of PCC ministry to churches throughout the country.



One center plus a separate satellite center will open soon – the first evangelistic PCCs in the Philippines! Their goal is to establish additional centers elsewhere in this island nation.

It was only last August when a team from BFL trained 90 local pastors, church lead-

ers, and volunteers in offering alternatives to abortion. On May 13, the Beverlys hosted an abstinence training seminar to prepare 61 attendees to take the message about sexual purity to public schools during the new school year.

ULTRASOUND FOR PNG – Delaware County Pregnancy Center in Chester, PA, gave us an ultrasound machine to give to ABWE missionaries Bill and Lori Smith, who are stationed in Papua New Guinea. Lori has operated a medical clinic there for 15 years, serving as many as 100 patients a day. One third of her patients’ needs are pregnancy related. Delaware County Pregnancy Center staff trained Lori to use the machine, which will be shipped in June.

South America

ULTRASOUND FOR ECUADOR AND PERU: We have two ultrasound machines ready to ship to Quito and Lima. Please pray that all financial, legal, and logistical hurdles will be cleared so these valuable tools can be put to good use.

ABWE missionary Evelyn Stone (Lima) knows first-hand how the Lord has used the ultrasound machine they already have to change hearts. She recently reported: “I rejoiced with the Peru-

EXECUTIVE BOARD

JACK HOOGENDYK, PRESIDENT
State Representative
Kalamazoo, MI

CHESTER HARRIS, VICE PRESIDENT
Educator, Grand Rapids, MI

DANIEL ZEMAITIS, SECRETARY
Circuit Court Judge
Grand Rapids, MI

PHIL WERKEMA, TREASURER
Business Owner, Caledonia, MI

BOB FOUST, Care Net South
Birmingham, AL

DONNA HARRIS, Ultrasound
Technician, Grand Rapids, MI

ERIN HOOGENDYK, Township
Trustee, Kalamazoo, MI

MEL OLSON, Realtor
Kentwood, MI

ROXANNE REYNOLDS
RN, Oberlin, OH

JOHN VAN DYKE, Financial
Consultant, Hudsonville, MI

PASTORAL ADVISORS

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

REV. KEN FLOYD, NORTH PARK
BAPTIST CHURCH, Grand Rapids, MI

REV. JEFF HALSTED, CALVARY
BAPTIST CHURCH, Grand Rapids, MI

REV. RICHARD LIVERANCE,
KENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH,
Kentwood, MI

REV. BURLAND MARGESSON
RETIRED, Lowell, MI

REV. LARRY ROWLAND, ROCKFORD
BAPTIST CHURCH, Rockford, MI



vian doctor who told me of the girl who looked at her sonogram to confirm the pregnancy she wanted to abort and saw her baby waving a hand. Realizing that it was a real little baby, she made the difficult decision to let her baby live and to trust God with her life.” Evelyn was excited to learn about a three-year-old portable ultrasound machine that is available for only \$8,000. The size of a large laptop computer, it can be shared among the other New Life Prenatal Centers in Lima, and be used in their mobile clinics. We’re in the process of raising funds to purchase it.

PERU CONFERENCE: Over 80 missionaries, pastors and PCC volunteers attended this international pro-life conference in February. BFL’s team of workshop speakers consisted of Tom and Nancy Lothamer, and board member Bob Foust.

ECUADOR TRIP:

After leaving Peru, Bob Foust and Tom Lothamer led a training seminar for the board of the Sav-A-Life center in Quito.

Tom and Bob (pictured here cutting the ribbon), along with Nancy Lothamer, attended the dedication of the center’s beautiful facility. Later this year, if funds are available, Bob hopes to be able to make another trip to Ecuador to train volunteers.



LIBERIA AND KENYA

CONFERENCES: Two pro-life conferences

are planned for June and July in Nairobi and Monrovia. BFL International Training Consultant Evelyn Stone has been asked to work with local pastors, missionaries, and pregnancy care center staff members to establish and strengthen evangelistic efforts through pro-life ministry. Pray with us that the Lord will enable us to raise the \$5,000 needed for her travel expenses.

SOUTH AFRICA: EBM missionary John Mixon has asked BFL staff to conduct both PCC and LIFT training sessions in October. He and his wife Lois plan to attend our Leadership Summit here in Grand Rapids.

SUMMIT: July 20 and 21 are the dates for this year’s annual PCC Leadership Summit. Author Ann Spangler will present a series based on her book, *Praying the Names of God*. Other workshops will focus on making abstinence presentations for church youth groups, ministry to Hispanics, board gov-

ernance, creating better brochures and PowerPoint presentations, reaching Generation X/Y, financial health for centers, and counseling women over the Internet. We expect to host participants from Colombia, South Africa and Peru, in addition to representatives from centers across the U.S.

LIFT: Some people associate being pro-life with ending abortion, but it also involves protecting the vulnerable from euthanasia. BFL’s LIFT ministry offers compassionate and practical care to chronically and terminally ill individuals and their families.

Our office has seen an upsurge of interest in LIFT recently. In the past three months we hosted two training sessions in Grand Rapids, with four churches participating. Rev. Jim McLeish (BFL-MN) also trained folks from several Minnesota churches in May.

To learn how your church can become involved, request the new LIFT promotional packet.

WEB SITE UPDATE: If you’ve visited our web site recently, you may have noticed big changes. Our friends at WayCool Software (www.waycoolsw.com/) helped us overhaul its design and structure. We hope you like it. A few things still await tweaking, but we think the fresh, new look makes for a functional and friendly site. And now, thanks to WayCool software, we’re able to update it ourselves.

www.bfl.org

FINANCIAL UPDATE: We ended 2005 fiscally fit – donations having totaled over \$320,000 – and began 2006 with just over \$40,000 in our general fund.

Our 2005 audit is complete and our auditor concludes that “all the financial ratio indicators have been positive for several years in a row” – CPA lingo for all being well on the financial front. We continue to be “members in good standing” of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

Our projected budget for 2006 is \$428,000. We are committed to wise stewardship of the funds you give, and remain grateful to God for all who stand alongside us with their prayers and financial support.

GOLF CLASSIC: Golfers at this year’s Partners in Ministry Golf Classic have an added incentive — someone could win the \$1 Million Shootout! Another incentive is finding a church team to dethrone North Park Baptist, winners of the traveling trophy two years in a row.

Teams are forming now, and there’s still room for you at this scramble-style event that raises funds for our division that works with pregnancy care centers in the States and around the world.

If you can join us August 14 at Cedar Chase Golf Club in Cedar Springs, Michigan, give Dave or Lisa a call at our office. You may also access the registration brochure from our web site by following the links under the *Services* menu to *2006 Events > Golf Classic*.

United States