

Holding forth the word of life. *Phil. 2:16*

2008 MID-YEAR REPORT

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Tom Lothamer
Executive Director

ARE YOU TIRED OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN YET? When it began so long ago, members of our Pastoral Advisory Committee and Executive Board urged us to come up with a way to mobilize our constituents to vote,

as much as our non-political status would allow. But as the political season has worn on, it's become increasingly difficult to be enthusiastic about any one candidate.

That doesn't mean Christians should shrink from political involvement, though. We deserve the government we get, by our own inaction as much as by the actions of others. Let's remind ourselves of

the biblical pattern.

Titus 3:1-2 says, "Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men." This is a good overview of how we should generally live in the world, but I want to pick out three phrases that apply to an election year.

1 "Be ready for every good deed." As well as any kind of compassion ministry that you may do, consider your trip to the voting booth on Election Day to be one of those good deeds.

2 "Be peaceable." As we submit to government, we can be grateful to the extent that this God-given institution

maintains peace in society. And we can contribute to the peace by participating in government – whether it be serving on a local board or seeking higher office.

3 "Showing every consideration for all men." Take that thought with you into the voting booth this November, not just concern about the economy. How will your choices – and those made by candidates – show consideration for all? How will they affect ones too often forgotten, such as the unborn and the chronically or terminally ill?

Whoever is chosen to lead our nation will leave a significant mark on the landscape of life. And, no matter who is chosen, God still expects us to pray on their behalf (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

MEET THE STAFF

Our newest staff member is **Sharlene Lade** (pronounced "lad"), who works closely with Tom to manage the office and coordinate events. Right now she's working hard on several, and she'd like you to consider participating!

The **2008 PARTNERS IN MINISTRY GOLF CLASSIC** will be held Monday, August 11, at the Pilgrim's Run Golf Club in Pierson, Michigan. Funds raised at this event enable BFL to develop and strengthen pregnancy care centers.

The Classic is an 18-hole, four-person, best ball scramble, with morning and afternoon flights. Enlist four golf buddies (men and women) from work, church, or school to form a team; we can also match individuals with a team. The cost is \$125 for an individual golfer and \$500 for a team, lunch included. We're also looking for sponsorships, starting at \$200. Contact Sharlene in our office, or email sharlene@bfl.org.

She also wants you to think about what happens to all the loose change that finds its way under the sofa cushions, the dryer, or the seats of your minivan. The **BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG** is the fundraising brain-child of Plans for You (an organization headed up by Tom Ham,



Sharlene Lade
Executive Assistant

a member of BFL's board), and one way to put those coins to good use. Empty baby bottles are distributed to churches and businesses, and three or four weeks later they come back to us full of coins (as well as currency and checks). BFL designates the proceeds to special projects that help PCCs here and abroad save the lives of unborn children and give their mothers the good news of salvation.

If your church would like to participate in the Boomerang, or if you own a business where an oversized bottle can be placed near the cash register or in the break room, let Sharlene know.

Sharlene joined us just in time for **THIS YEAR'S BANQUET**, which featured Scott Klusendorf of Life Training Institute as our speaker. Scott contends, "Scientifically, we know that from the earliest stages of development, the unborn are distinct, living, and whole human beings. Philosophically, there is no morally significant difference between the embryo you once were and the adult you are today. Differences of size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency are not relevant in the way that abortion advocates need them to be."

Next year's banquet will be our **25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION**. Slated for March 12, 2009, at Frederick Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, highlights will be an address by Dr. Michael Loftis, presi-

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dent of ABWE, and music by recording artist Steve Green. You won't want to miss this special night! Let Sharlene know if you'd like to host a table or help underwrite our costs.

Lisa Haan was recently reassigned to focus 75 percent of her attention on LIFT. Since then, she conducted a training seminar for four Wisconsin churches in April, and presented a workshop on spousal caregiving to a seniors group at Emmanuel Baptist in Flint in May. On two Sundays in June and July, she'll give adult Sunday School classes at Highland Hills Baptist in Grand Rapids an overview of the program. She's also preparing presentations on the impact of euthanasia and on parental caregiving, and planning a **CAREGIVER SUMMIT** for September 20th.

If you'd like information about the Caregiver Summit, want to arrange for a presentation at your church, or to sign up for Lisa's weekly e-newsletter *LIFT List*, ask for her when you contact our office, or email lisa@bfl.org.

Lisa also works with **Pastor Bruce Stewart**, helping him stay in touch with local churches.

Sue Doenier works part-time but fulfills important roles, preparing our bi-monthly prayer calendar and coordinating our annual PCC Leadership Summit.

Ministries such as BFL and PCCs would be ineffective without the support of prayer. If you'd like to join our group of prayer partners, let her know whether you prefer to receive the **PRAYER CALENDAR** by post or through email. Her email is suellen@bfl.org. Our calendar can also be found in a savable, printable version on our website: bfl.org > *About Us*.

Registrations are coming in for our **2008 PCC LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**. This year we look forward to hearing from Lori DeVillez, executive director of Austin (TX) Pregnancy Resource Center and BFL board member.

The Summit typically hosts about 100 participants in Grand Rapids, MI, for two days of training, encouragement, refreshment, and partnership. This year's workshops cover such topics as the impact of racism, evangelism to post-moderns, long-term complications of abortion, and center development. Sue asks you to, "Please pray for the effective work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of everyone involved with this event."

If anyone had told **Michele Shoun** that writing a **CURRICULUM FOR 4TH THROUGH 6TH GRADERS** would take five years or more to accomplish, she may have thought twice. We're grateful to be able to report that the writing has



Lisa Haan, LIFT Liaison



Rev. Bruce Stewart
Coordinator, Church
Relations



Sue Doenier, PCC Liaison



Michele Shoun, Editor

been completed and the pro-life, pro-abstinence curriculum is now in the editing phase. Tonya Delnay, abstinence educator in Grand Rapids, and Sonya Valentino of Right Ideas in the Philadelphia area contributed to the project. Please continue to pray we'll connect with the right publisher/marketer and come up with a good name.

Michele also helps Tom prepare articles for his column in *At the Center* magazine, a publication for pregnancy care centers. It focuses on issues of board governance, especially as they relate to PCCs. Find past articles by surfing to bfl.org > *Services > Partners in Ministry > Board Governance*.



Carol Scott
Administrative Assistant



Nancy Lothamer
Donor Relations



Ron Kersey, Bookkeeper

A careful division of part-time labor preserves BFL's financial integrity. In addition to her vital support role – answering the phone, managing the speakers bureau, filling orders for bulletin inserts, etc. – **Carol Scott** prepares the bank deposit, while **Nancy Lothamer** generates receipts, and **Ron Kersey** manages the books. Two other staff members are authorized to sign checks.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

We're pleased to report that generous giving enabled us to end 2007 "in the black" and to complete projects mentioned in previous reports:

- DONNA HARRIS MEMORIAL PROJECT** - \$25,000 to remodel a building and purchase an ultrasound machine for New Life Care Center in the Philippines.
- SAV-A-LIFE CENTER IN QUITO, ECUADOR** - \$15,000/year, 3 years

In addition to a general fund need of \$400,000, we're currently accepting designated gifts for the following projects (if you'd like to know more, please give Tom a call):

- **PAPUA NEW GUINEA** ultrasound training - \$2,000
- **LEADERSHIP SUMMIT** in July - \$10,000
- **LIBERIA** trip for board training - \$3,000
- **PHILIPPINES/JAPAN** team travel - \$7,000
- **CURRICULUM** production and marketing - \$10,000
- **SOFTWARE TRAINING** for staff - \$1,500
- **TOGO, WEST AFRICA** - board training for ABWE hospital in November 2008 - \$3,000
- **INDIA TRAINING TRAVEL**, winter 2009 - \$5,000
- **PRO-LIFE MINISTRY CONFERENCE**, Lima, Peru - February 2009 - \$3,000
- **PHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE** - \$3,500

Have you explored **E-GIVING** yet? If you're comfortable with online giving, just point your mouse to bfl.org > *How to Help* and click on *Become an eFriend for Life*. If not, give our office a call. We'd be happy to answer your questions and talk you through the process.