

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

## 2007 MID-YEAR REPORT

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Tom Lothamer  
Executive Director

**S**INCE WE BEGAN IN 1984, a core aspect of Baptists for Life's mission has been to mobilize God's people for effective pro-life, evangelistic outreach. From our earliest days, we were convinced it wasn't enough to know what Scripture teaches about the sanctity of human life, but that we had to also seek the Lord's will as to what our role in compassion ministries might be.

In *The Trouble with Jesus*, Joseph Stowell articulates that conviction very well. He writes, "Authentic Christianity is not just about keeping and protecting the faith and keeping the rules. It is even more than living to deepen your relationship with Jesus. Authentic Christianity, the real deal, is about embracing all of these important elements and using them as a resource to actively and intentionally engage your world with acts of love that show off Jesus."

If we're only educated in the Scripture and have no works, we're missing God's will for our lives (James 2:14-26). Jesus came to serve, not to be served (Matthew 20:28). He met our need in the face of much opposition and we're called to do the same for others.

By no means does service come at the expense of keeping and protecting the faith, or deepening one's relationship with Christ. We must spend time in the Word, in prayer, and in worship. But our relationship with Him will grow even deeper and stronger as we step out in obedience to His call to go into our world. The challenge of serving others in His name will force us to draw more deeply and thoroughly on His rich reservoirs.

We are saved **by** grace, through faith in the Son of God who gave His life for us (Ephesians 2:8-9). And we're saved **for** the accomplishment of the good works that God has prepared for us to walk in (verse 10). How's your walk today?

## PCC LINK

**THE COMFORTER'S CENTRE:** Veronica Nakyewe (at right) directs The Comforter's Centre in Kampala, Uganda. This center is our first associate on the African continent. We were thrilled to meet her in May when she visited Grand Rapids. Always appreciative of the materials and advice we've shared with her, this remarkable woman graced us by telling her fascinating story over lunch.

Veronica was born the victim of her mother's abortion attempt. The witchdoctor's herbs failed to kill Veronica, but left her crippled. Years later, her sister died of abortion complications. When Veronica learned how pregnancy care centers help women avoid abortion, she realized her life's calling. To read more of



her amazing story, go to [www.bfl.org](http://www.bfl.org); under the *Services* tab, point to *Partners in Ministry*, then click *Veronica's Story*. With no training and no money, Veronica opened the first center of its kind in Uganda. She found BFL on the Internet and requested our help. With the aid of LIFE International and a Baptist church in Texas, The Comforter's Centre now serves about twenty women a week. They also provide post-abortion care and teach abstinence in public schools and universities.

*More PCC Links next page*

## CHURCH LINK

### Support

*"In these days in which our nation has drifted far from its biblical moorings, the ministry of Baptists for Life is highly valued. It is a pleasure to be able to support the good work you are doing."*

PASTOR RON BURNET, Berean Baptist Church, Bunker Hill, Illinois

### Materials

*"Thank you for all that you do to support life and to support local churches in their stand for life. ... Last January, we had the first Sanctity of [Human] Life Sunday in the history of the church. I ordered your Pastor's Handbook and greatly benefited from the information contained in it."*

PASTOR DREW GARDNER, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Paulding, Ohio

*"You did it again – another great bulletin insert to give emphasis to a biblical perspective of your ministry. BFL continues to produce outstanding inserts every year."*

PASTOR RICK SAUER, Yeddo Baptist Church, Yeddo, Indiana

### Speakers

*"Our people were blessed by [Rev. Bruce Stewart's] presentation of BFL and reports of what God is doing through the ministry of BFL. And Bruce's message from the Word was also well received."*

PASTOR DOUG COMPTON, Alpine Baptist Church, Comstock Park, Michigan

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**LEADERSHIP SUMMIT:** Each summer, our consulting ministry with pregnancy care centers in the U.S. culminates in our annual Leadership Summit in Grand Rapids. Staff members look forward to hosting 100 or so PCC directors, volunteers, staff members, and board members from all across the country. We offer them valuable opportunities for training, networking, and fellowship at a relatively low cost.

This year, Kurt Ramspott of Guys for Life is our main speaker. Guests will also benefit from workshops on post-abortion grief, counseling skills, avoiding burnout, and ministry to Muslims.

**ULTRASOUND:** With your help, South American centers received two ultrasound machines recently. BFL raised \$8,000 to purchase a second-hand portable unit for centers in Lima, Peru; that machine was shipped in March, arrived safely, and was immediately put to good use. A new machine was donated to the center in Quito, Ecuador; BFL sent sonography technician Jim Scheffler there to train the team to use it. Since February, eleven abortion-minded clients of Salva Una Vida (Quito) chose life after viewing their babies on the ultrasound screen and recognizing their humanity. Praise God for this wonderful tool!

**INDIA PHARMACY PROJECT:** In 2003, BFL sent a team to Manipur, India, to train volunteers to serve their community through a PCC. The center immediately began helping clients, but financial support has been difficult to obtain. Pastor H.C. Stephen and his team devised a plan to open a pharmacy whose profits would go toward funding the center. Our board has agreed to raise \$5,000 for this project. Will you help?

## MISSION LINK



**JAPAN:** Noney and Elisa Mita (shown here) are Japanese and serve the Lord in Tokyo with Baptist Mid-Missions. Noney's husband Joe had contacted BFL to learn more about the effective

use of pro-life ministry in church planting. In May, Noney and daughter Elisa came to Grand Rapids for a week of intensive training.

We arranged for them to be trained in pregnancy counseling by Debbie Harrington, the director of Alpha Women's Center. They also spent a few days shadowing volunteers in the center. Then, through the Pregnancy Resource Center (also in Grand Rapids) they were introduced to abstinence education.

In Japan, Buddhists perform the "waterbaby ritual" to relieve the mother's suffering after an abortion and

release the aborted baby's soul from limbo. Sexual promiscuity and abortion are rampant. The Mitas plan to first offer abstinence education and later add a pregnancy care ministry. The need is great!

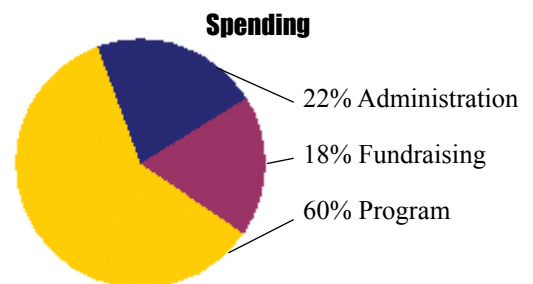
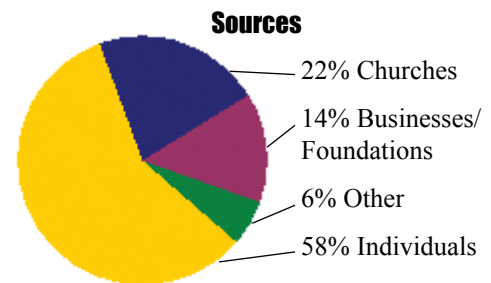
**HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP:** In July, executive director Tom Lothamer will meet with ABWE's International Healthcare Committee to discuss our continued partnership. We hope to expand what we've already been doing on a small scale, in order to help missionaries around the world offer pregnancy care and respite care through medical ministries.

**THE PHILIPPINES:** Dave and Lora Beverly have found out how well PCC ministry dovetails into the work of evangelism and church planting. They serve with ABWE in the Philippines. BFL training consultants held a conference there in 2005. Since then, a PCC has opened and an abstinence education ministry in the public schools has flourished. Dave and Lora are in the United States this summer and will participate in our July Leadership Summit.

## FINANCIAL LINK

The Lord blessed us again, enabling us to close out 2006 in the black. Here's a snapshot of last year's income and expenses, and this year's budget need:

### 2006 INCOME - \$350,000



### 2007 BUDGET - \$370,000

**EGIVING:** Want a safe and convenient method for transferring monthly donations directly from your checking, saving, or credit card account? Sign up for eGiving by visiting [www.bfl.org](http://www.bfl.org). Click the *How to Help* tab and then select the link to *Become an eFriend of BFL*.