

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

2005 MID-YEAR REPORT

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Tom Lothamer
Executive Director

What comes to mind when you see or hear the term “partnership?” You could define it as two or more individuals or organizations working together on a project, event, or business. Often such arrangements involve some sort of mutual benefit.

Might there be more to the meaning, particularly when it refers to a partnership of Christian ministries?

What principles make ministry partnerships succeed?

According to the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:5-11, for any ministry partnership to not only succeed but also honor Christ, the participants must:

- 1 See themselves as servants of the Lord and wait on Him for their assignments [verse 5].
- 2 Acknowledge it is the Lord who blesses the work with fruit [6-7].
- 3 Maintain a single focus and expect rewards to coincide with the

amount of effort each partner expends in ministry [8].

4 Understand that God is the primary partner [9].

5 Remember that the foundation is Jesus and remain cautious about how they build on Him [10-11].

As Baptists for Life patterns itself around these principles, we seek opportunities to work with sister ministries sharing the same values. No one can go it alone! Such partnerships are vital if we will effectively reach a lost and dying world for Jesus Christ.

AROUND THE WORLD WITH BFL

COLOMBIA. In March, former board chairman Tom Ritchie traveled to one of the world’s most dangerous countries. Pastor Jose Alonso of Grace Baptist Church in Chia, Colombia (a suburb of Bogota), invited a team to conduct a three-day volunteer training seminar. The team consisted of Tom, BFL International Training Consultant Evelyn Stone, and New Life Prenatal Center director Doris Hutdwalcker – both from Lima, Peru. Pastor Alonso’s goal is to open pregnancy care centers that will serve this metropolitan area of seven million people.

ABWE missionaries have started 30 churches in that region. Volunteers and support for the PCCs will be drawn from those churches. As a result of the challenges and materials presented during the training seminar, Pastor Alonso expects a center will open within the next year in a building owned by his church, and then three more after that.

Tom reports that about 40 were expected to attend the seminar, but over 90 showed up. “The Chia church, which runs about 75-100 in attendance, did a wonderful job of planning and organizing the conference and should be commended for their efforts. Their job of facilitating the details made [it] move very smoothly.”

BFL is blessed to have people and resources available to quickly respond to requests such as Pastor Alonso’s.



The Columbia team, from left: Doris Hutdwalcker, Pastor Alonso, his wife Karina, Evelyn Stone, and Tom Ritchie.

SOUTH AFRICA. The last half of May, Tom and Nancy Lothamer traveled to South Africa with BFL board member Roxanne Reynolds and her husband Bill. They met with ABWE and EBM missionaries stationed in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Durban in order to present the vision of developing LIFT programs in local churches. As compassionate respite care, LIFT is ideal for reaching men, women and children dying of AIDS.

Several ministry partnerships are in the works in South Africa. One of them may involve a young missionary couple who’ve

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been called to South Africa in order to develop HIV/AIDS ministries through local churches. BFL hopes they will someday establish a pilot LIFT program in that region and become training partners.

Please pray with us as we strategize over these many opportunities and coordinate our efforts with others.

PENNSYLVANIA. Fifty PCC leaders came together on June 23 at Calvary Fellowship Church near Philadelphia, PA, for Encouragement Day. They were exhorted to faithfully continue in ministry by BFL board member Bob Foust, who has vast experience leading PCCs in the southeastern United States through the ministries of Sav-A-Life and Care Net. Attendees were blessed by the fellowship and encouragement.

GRAND RAPIDS. The Alonsos (see Columbia story) are slated to share their plans for pro-life ministry at the July 28-29 Leadership Summit in Grand Rapids. Evelyn Stone also expects to attend. Bob Foust will again be our featured guest, along with LIFE International's Kurt Dillinger and a cadre of workshop speakers on a wide variety of topics.

THE PHILIPPINES. This spring, we received a call from ABWE missionary Dave Beverly, who is based in the Philippines. Native pastors had been asking him for help dealing with pregnant young women. Could we help them?

In August, Dave and Evelyn Stone will travel to Davao to conduct a pregnancy care ministry training seminar for pastors, their wives, and missionaries. Two hundred or more are expected to attend. The pastors are excited they'll soon have more ministry tools. They hope to establish pregnancy care centers throughout the Philippines within the next few years.

ECUADOR. Later in August, Tom Lothamer and BFL board member Bob Foust will travel to Quito to engage in a field study and discuss a possible partnership with the staff of a PCC there. A medical doctor from that ministry has a tremendous impact in the public schools through abstinence education. Tom and Bob will also meet with other pro-life ministries in the area.

PERU. The dates for BFL's biennial pro-life conference in Peru have been set for February of 2006. Our staff plans to participate in workshops for the fur-



Residents of the Bernie & Ann Berg Memorial Children's Home in Pretoria, S. Africa. BFL supporters helped build this home for AIDS orphans.

ther equipping and encouragement of PCC workers in and around Lima.

AFRICA. Evelyn Stone, BFL's International Training Consultant, is planning a conference for either Uganda or Kenya in July of 2006. She hopes to encourage fledging pro-life ministries in that region, such as The Comforter's Center in Kampala, Uganda – BFL's first associated pregnancy care center on the African continent. Please uphold its director, Veronica Nakyewe, in your prayers.



GOLF CLASSIC.

On August 15, four-person teams from area businesses and churches will take to the greens for 18 holes at Cedar Chase Golf Club during our annual Partners in Ministry Golf Classic. Consider joining us for a day of friendly competi-

tion, fellowship and prizes! Funds received benefit Partners in Ministry, BFL's service to pregnancy care centers both here and around the world. To play, call or email Lisa Haan at our office.

FINANCES. BFL's financial records are audited each year. In June we received a completed audit for 2004 from the Grand Rapids accounting firm, Laansma and Laansma. We're pleased to report we ended the year in the black and received a very good report of the current state of ministry operations. As of the end of June, 2005, we are still operating without debt.

The board and staff of BFL is committed to financial accountability and remains a member in good standing of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). We are grateful for the prayer and financial support we receive from our churches and many friends. And we ask for your continued support during the remaining months of 2005.



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SUMMARY. BFL always seeks to position itself to be more effective and efficient in pro-life evangelistic outreach through strategic partnerships. This is even more vital as our scope broadens around the world. We ask all who read this to pray for us and with us as we seek His will in every opportunity. We also ask you to partner with us in ministry by giving gifts that will allow us to assist and train others in order to multiply the impact.