

Holding forth the word of life. Paul Till

P.O. Box 3158, Grand Rapids, MI 49501 [mail]; 5075 Clay SW, Suite C, Grand Rapids, MI 49548 [street]
(616) 257-6800 [tel]; (616) 257-6805 [fax]; www.bfl.org [internet]; b4life@bfl.org [email]

Pouring Out Your Life for Jesus

How much are willing to pour out for Jesus? You might think that's a question for missionaries or people in vocational ministry. But it's really one we all should be ready to answer.

Total dedication to anything other than self is a rarity today. We're so easily distracted by the demands of the world we tend to treat our faith as an entry on our "To Do" lists.

While most would claim without hesitation that we belong completely to Jesus Christ, the relationship seems to be on our terms, not God's. To our shame, giving our lives to Christ comes across more often as an intellectual transaction rather than total devotion.

The Apostle John gives an eyewitness account of how Mary of Bethany demonstrated her love and devotion to Christ in a very thoughtful and symbolic manner (John 12:1-8). It's a lesson we can take to heart, especially in light of the chal-

lenges we all face living in a society "where men will grow worse and worse" (2 Tim. 3:13).

The key to our daily witness is not simply what we say we believe but how we live our lives and for whom we live them. Mary left no doubt about herself when she anointed Jesus with a very expensive vial of perfume. She literally gave all she had to her Savior. Consider how she did that:

1 Mary prepared her life for Jesus (1-3a). She was ready to give her all to the Lord. Even her most valued possession of expensive perfume. It was a personal sacrifice.

2 Mary promised her life for Jesus (3b). The anointing of Jesus served as a contractual seal of her devotion. That fact was evident to all as the fragrance of the perfume filled the room. It was a potent sacrifice.

3 Mary proved her life for Jesus (4-8). She held nothing back. She accepted the world's

criticism for the "waste" of her commitment. It was a very precious sacrifice.



*BFL executive director
Ray Paget*

Baptists for Life will only grow in direct proportion to how much each of us is willing to identify with Jesus Christ, both organizationally and personally. Pro-life outreach is not an end to itself. It's simply a means by which we're able to share the love of Jesus Christ and extend the freedom from sin made possible through His shed blood on the cross at Calvary.

As we day by day pour out our lives for Jesus, He in return continues to give us opportunities for the Gospel through our ministry with local churches, foreign missions and pregnancy care centers.

DEDICATED TO Missionary Outreach

Missionaries continue to show interest in learning how pro-life ministry dovetails into church-planting efforts on the field, and BFL-sponsored projects continue to make progress:

- Board chairman Jack Horton represented BFL at the dedication ceremony for Bethesda Outreach near Pretoria, South Africa, an Evangelical Baptist Missions ministry providing care and housing for orphans of AIDs. He took a copy of our LIFT manual, which greatly interested Bethesda staff members who hope to begin a hospice-type outreach before the year is out. Our first SA training is scheduled for this fall.



A South African AIDS orphan living in one of the Bethesda Homes.

- In July, Ray Paget will again co-teach a missionary enrichment course at the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism headquarters, aided by ABWE missionary, Evelyn Stone (Peru).
- This past February, Ray traveled to Lima, Peru, to lead workshops at the first international conference of Baptists for Life. Peggy Sample, director of Alpha Women's Center in Des Moines, Iowa, and her husband accompanied Ray and led other work-

shops. Fifty-two participants represented five countries — Peru, Ecuador, India, Switzerland, and the U.S.

- New Life Prenatal Centers, founded by Evelyn Stone, are about to open a third center in a bustling Lima neighborhood. These centers are staffed by Christian Peruvian nationals and largely funded by their churches. During one week in March, Evelyn reported that eight people came to Christ through the ministry of the centers — one while in labor in the delivery room!
- One of the Lima volunteers who attended the international conference is praying to be sent to India as a missionary where she will open a pregnancy care center. She is burdened by the high number of baby girls aborted there.

DEDICATED TO PCC Excellence

Pregnancy care centers are the pro-life movement's best answer to abortion. Perhaps that's why they're always under attack.

At the beginning of this year, the Attorney General of New York issued subpoenas against 24 centers in his state. He claimed his office had received complaints from former clients of these centers, but by March, when he dropped his order for documents — records, training materials and names of volunteers — none were substanti-

BFL Executive Board

JACK HORTON, CHAIRMAN
Kent County Commissioner, Lowell, MI

REV. BILL ABERNATHY
VICE CHAIRMAN
Pastor, Columbus, OH

BERNICE NORRIS
SECRETARY
Teacher's Assistant
Wyoming, MI

TOM RITCHIE, TREASURER
President, Ritchie & Associates, Lowell, MI

DAVE BAILEY
Development Consultant, Goshen, IN

CAROL BALDWIN
Registered Nurse
Flint, MI

DR. QUENTIN KENOYER
Physician/Medical Director
Willoughby Hills, OH

DR. JOHN LILLIS
Exec. Vice President
Bethel Seminary
San Diego, CA

JANET SCHOUT
RN, Homemaker
Ada, MI

ated. The effort turned out to be a “fishing expedition,” orchestrated by the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League.

One reason this effort failed is that the majority of PCCs operate with integrity. Truth in advertising and honest dealings with clients have long been hallmarks.

Still, when NARAL put out its step-by-step guide to “unmasking fake clinics” back in 1999, pro-life leaders swung into action. Representatives from Baptists for Life and other organizations met to discuss the threat and compose a response. A “Commitment of Care” resulted. This nine-point statement, which has been adopted by all PCCs associated with BFL, reaffirms their commitment to integrity, confidentiality, compassion, and accuracy. The coalition also published a step-by-step guide for how centers should respond to NARAL’s campaign, called *Serving Clients with Care and Integrity*.

The threat to centers is by no means over. In February, California abortion activists were invited to learn how to “expose the hidden agendas and activities that take place behind the doors of crisis pregnancy centers,” and also how to take action against them. BFL remains committed to standing alongside centers, helping them constantly improve the level of service they provide.



Peruvian centers learn PCC excellence at the international conference.

In July, we’ll host our annual Leadership Summit for representatives of PCCs around the country. Mike Reid, the president of Care Net, will be our main speaker. Numerous sessions – ranging in topic from evangelism and discipleship to strategic planning and fundraising – will be led by various other “experts.” In addition, we’re sponsoring the second national Adoption Trainers’ Seminar, to help centers enhance their volunteers’ ability to persuade women to consider adoption.

DEDICATED TO the Local Church

This past January, BFL again helped churches commemorate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday by sending them speakers, bulletin inserts and other materials. Our pastor’s handbook, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*, continues to be popular, and some significant new items were added to our catalog as well:

- Pastors at Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Rapids contributed to a new Sunday School curriculum called *Created in His Image*. It’s a one-day lesson

plan for children, teenagers and adults.

- *That They May Know* is a new post-abortion awareness kit for pastors and others. It includes a book, a video, a music CD, pamphlets, and other items to help Christians minister to men and women who grieve past abortions.

These items are available through our catalog, which you can view online at www.bfl.org/catalog.htm.

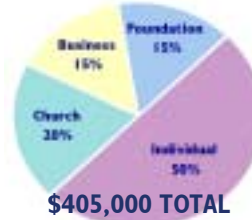


Our 2002 bulletin insert features a PCC client and her new baby.

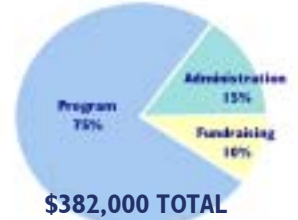
DEDICATED TO Financial Integrity

The support given to BFL is truly an investment in life-saving ministry. And, as members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, Baptists for Life is audited each year by an independent accounting firm. You can trust that each dollar is prayerfully and carefully spent. Here’s a “taste” of our financial “pie”:

SOURCES OF 2001 INCOME



2001 EXPENSE CATEGORIES



And here are some creative ways you can give to BFL:

- **Online giving.** Go to www.bfl.org and click on ‘Contributions.’ From there you’ll be able to use your credit card to make donations. You may also sign up to become a Prayer Partner. Click on ‘Prayer Calendar’ to see the current month’s requests.
- **eScrip.** Donate a portion of every purchase from a wide range of merchants – including grocery and restaurant chains, shoe stores, and major airlines – through a charitable-giving program called Electronic Scrip. Check their website (www.escrip.com) for participating stores. Then sign up at local stores using BFL’s ID number – 34688.
- **Long distance phone service.** Customers with Lifelines and PowerNet Global automatically contribute a portion of each phone charge to BFL. To sign up for Lifelines, see their ad on our website. To learn more about PNG or to sign up, call 1-866-329-7279 toll free.

Director of finance & development, Tom Lothamer

