

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

2006 YEAR-END REPORT

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AND JESUS . . . SAW A GREAT MULTITUDE AND WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION FOR THEM, BECAUSE THEY WERE LIKE SHEEP NOT HAVING A SHEPHERD. Mark 6:34

How do you measure success in ministry? Is it in numbers served? Lives changed? Funds raised?

If you suspect that the model for success in ministry should be fundamentally different from the world's, you're on the right track, but it's somewhat difficult to pin down, isn't it?

How did Jesus measure success? John

Maxwell has noted that in his ministry, Jesus was not motivated by duty or obligation, or by a desire to build an image. He was instead moved by compassion. He counted success as putting His Father's will and others' needs ahead of His own.

Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come



Executive Director
Tom Lothamer

after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." We model Jesus by serving lost sheep as He did, with the right motives and the right focus. This requires a constant renewal of our minds (Romans 12:1-2).

We will know we've succeeded when it's evident our minds have been transformed and are growing in conformity to the image of the Son (Romans 8:29).

I hope you will enjoy reading this report as the story of people who are being brought into that precious likeness.

LIFT: Whether it stands for "Loving Individuals through Fearful Times" or "Loving Individuals in Final Transition," the acronym LIFT means a church is serving the needs of chronically and terminally ill people and their families.

At First Baptist Church of Elkhart, Indiana, LIFT has made profitable inroads in two areas. According to James Pettit, pastor of care and evangelism, the first inroad is the training vehicle. "We have now held two LIFT training courses that taught through the tenets of what LIFT [respite] care is. Our people have gained valuable insights on life issues, preserving the dignity of life through a terminal or chronic illness, dealing with the crisis cycle, grief, dying well, and ministering biblically to a patient."

The second vehicle is implementation. Pastor Pettit reports, "In the first year we have been using LIFT, we have had several terminal situations in which our people were able to effectively use the training in profitable ministry. Our people are able to enter into a meaningful care-giving situation uninhibited by the fear of ignorance to meet needs, not only for the patient but also for the immediate family and friends of the patient. LIFT has been an incredible, revolutionary, and indispensable addition to the care-giving ministry of First Baptist Elkhart."

PCCs: Throughout the course of a year, BFL staff members have the opportunity to come alongside leaders of pregnancy care centers in the U.S. to counsel them on board governance, strategic planning, fundraising, team building, and leadership.

Our primary venue for such ministry is the Leadership Summit (the next one is July 26-27, 2007); but we also take part in other national conferences. In November, we helped bring an Alliance for Life of Michigan forum to Petoskey.

In the last six months, BFL staff has met with board members and administrators of centers in Manistee (MI), Springfield (MO), Angola (IN), and Prescott (AZ). We helped guide them in team and ministry development, equipping them to become more united and effective in the ministry to which God has called them.



PCC personnel from centers in Flint and Bay City, Michigan, share ideas at the 2006 Summit.



SOHLS:

Churches and pregnancy care centers are gobbling up our 2007 bulletin inserts for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (shown here).

The inserts focus on the goodness and variety of life as God created it. They also celebrate God as the source of all life – both physical and eternal. Churches can also order a CD with PowerPoint presentations that

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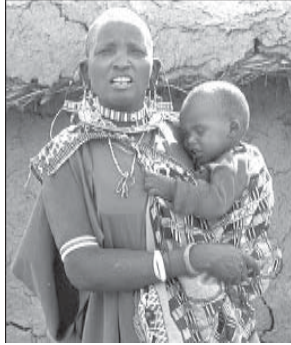
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celebrate the sanctity of human life and describe the various pro-life ministries available through BFL.

Liberia/Kenya: This summer, BFL International Training Consultant Evelyn Stone spent a month in Africa training nationals and missionaries to articulate and defend a biblical pro-life view and prepare them for pregnancy care center ministry. She visited Liberia and Kenya, two very different countries whose believers share a remarkable zeal for God's word.

The Liberians she met were still suffering the effects of 14 years of civil war. "Rape and unplanned and unwanted pregnancies abound. Abortion by the local herbalist, witch doctor, or in the back of a medicine shop is far too common. In the town of Gbarnga where we held the conference, the people knew of five places where a woman could obtain an abortion. The conscience, hardened by years of war and killing, does not recognize the sanctity of life of that unborn child."



Evelyn Stone congratulates a Kenyan graduate of the PCC training.

After five days of intense training, the 40 men and women told Evelyn this was the first time they had ever discussed abortion; yet they readily comprehended and accepted biblical truths. It will be

difficult for them to start a PCC in Liberia. Pray with them that they can adapt the training to their individual, church, and school counseling efforts.

In Kenya, which is more prosperous and stable, Evelyn found a similar passionate response among the 20 nationals and six missionaries she met with. Rosalie, a medical student, told her, "You have left a legacy for a lifetime." One pastor challenged his congregation to pray for the salvation of the village woman who performs abortions and they, with one voice, agreed. Evelyn's missionary colleagues in Kenya look forward to the day they can begin a PCC in Nairobi as an evangelistic tool for church planting.

Ecuador/South Africa:

BFL board member Bob Foust traveled to Ecuador in late October in order to train volunteers at the Sav-A-Life center in Quito. He also met with mission agency leaders and pastors in the region to talk about ways to increase the presence of pro-life ministries in the coun-

try, and how to get Ecuadorian churches to support such ministries.

While Bob was in South America, Tom Lothamer traveled to South Africa on a similar mission. In one session he cast a vision for pro-life evangelistic outreach, articulating a Biblical pro-life message, and explaining how a PCC could be established in the community. The next day he outlined what the Word of God says about life and our need to care for those nearing the end of their lives. During the rest of his visit, he met with missionaries and leaders from local churches and seminaries.



Tom Lothamer presents the biblical basis for LIFT at a conference in South Africa.

Financial Report: While we are pleased with our financial progress the last two years, and praise the Lord for His provision, we've faced lean times in 2006. We're asking the Lord to richly provide for us during this last quarter of the year.

As you may know, we projected a gift income need of \$164,000 by December 31. Reaching this goal will allow us to finish the year with all debts and expenses paid and place us in a positive financial position at the start of the new year.

Several friends have already given or pledged toward that amount, but we still have a long way to go. Would you please pray and then consider as generous a gift as possible? Your support will be a tremendous blessing to all of us. Maybe you'd like to give toward one of these special needs:

- **Two desktop computers.** The ones they will replace are extremely slow, eating into productive work time. **\$600 each**
- **A new laptop computer** for presentations and other work outside the office. **\$800-\$1,000**
- **A video projector.** Our six-year-old model is no longer reliable. **\$1,000**
- **Desktop publishing software upgrade.** Adobe Creative Suite 2.3. **\$750**
- **A conferencing speaker-phone** to replace one that is wearing out. **\$600**

GIFT IDEAS: 1) Perhaps you've accumulated airline miles and have no expectation of using them. Gifts in 25,000-mile increments will purchase a round-trip ticket and save BFL hundreds of dollars in staff travel. **2)** Consult your financial advisor about gifts of stock or gifts from annuities. Tax structure is favorable now.

