

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

2007 YEAR-END REPORT

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AS THE END OF THE YEAR APPROACHES, thoughts naturally turn toward the Christmas story with all its twists and turns. Among them, Herod's slaughter of the baby boys in Bethlehem is not one we usually dwell on. It graphically depicts the desperate actions of a man who sought to destroy the Christ and, in his scheming, revealed contempt for the value of human life. As such, it serves as a seasonal reminder of what the Evil One attempts to do: diminish God's glory by destroying His image-bearers.

At its heart, this is the intent of abor-

tion, along with all the consequences of the "sexual revolution." That's why the pro-life cause isn't primarily a political – or even social – issue but a theological one.

We thank the Lord for churches who recognize this truth and participate in life-affirming activities – churches like those in Aurora, Illinois, whose members helped expose Planned Parenthood's deceptive tactics in their community. And churches like those who annually participate in Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (January 20, 2008), even though ending abortion may seem like a lost cause.

So, as we anticipate the holiday – a season of celebration – let's not neglect the part of the story that shows God protecting His Son from the wicked designs of a worldly king. Feel the urgency of a midnight escape to Egypt. Sorrow over the the unaccepted Messiah. Then revel in the victory of a God of life whose plans cannot be thwarted!

Merry Christmas!
from all of us at Baptists for Life

DONNA HARRIS MEMORIAL PROJECT. Our dear friend Donna Harris (*pictured here*) passed away September 24. She and her husband Chester have both served on our board. Before that, Donna was on our staff promoting ultrasound ministry in pregnancy care centers. She was also a member of the team that developed the LIFT program and was its lead trainer.



We praise God for all that Donna accomplished for the Kingdom over the years. She'll be sorely missed, but her legacy will live on. Please pray for Chester and the family as they mourn, and for BFL as we seek faithful servants to fill her shoes.

BFL has set up a special fund in her memory. As Chester and Donna requested, gifts will go toward purchasing an ultrasound machine for the Philippines. Dave and Lora Beverly, who serve as missionaries with ABWE in Davao City, began working with BFL two years ago to develop a pregnancy care ministry that includes evangelistic outreach programs and abstinence education for schools and churches. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 for this project: \$15,000 for remodeling a building to serve as a ministry hub, and \$10,000 for a used ultrasound machine. Learn more on our web site: www.bfl.org > Services > BFL & Missions > Pro-Life in the Philippines.

INDIA PROJECT. Thanks to a generous foundation gift, BFL was able to complete its India project and turn over \$5,000 to the Pregnancy Care & Counselling Center of Churachandpur. The center,

which has struggled financially, will use the donation to open a pharmacy that will, in turn, support the ministry. Shown here with BFL executive director Tom Lothamer are Chingboi and Pastor H.C. Stephen (*left to right*) who minister in Churchandpur and Delhi.



PREVENTING ABORTION IN PERU. Each year, missionary Evelyn Stone dedicates one week in September to take the message of life into high schools near the New Life Prenatal Center in Lima, Peru. "I conclude with a clear presentation of the gospel, an evangelist gives the invitation, and a team of volunteer counselors from the center and churches meet with each of the teens who respond." This year, she gave 15 presentations at eight different high schools to 1,481 students; 233 stayed afterward for personal counseling.

After starting the pregnancy care ministry in 1999, and counseling so many women hurting from abortion, Evelyn recognized the need to offer education to prevent abortion. "That's when I began going into the schools with conferences on abortion and abstinence. Because of the freedom and openness in schools here in Peru, it has been a fantastic opportunity to share the gospel."

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Evelyn is BFL's International Training Consultant. Staff members will again join her at the biennial pro-life ministry conference in Peru January 24-26, 2008.

SHELTERING CHURCH MINISTRY. Pregnancy care centers are proven gospel outreaches. That's why BFL wants to link churches up with them. Our program called Sheltering Church Ministry aims to bring the two together so all the needs of women tempted by abortion are met.

Under the program, one church might focus its efforts on housing, clothing, or food, while a sister church (or churches) might offer biblical counseling, Bible studies, and discipleship. Learn more about this hands-on approach to pro-life ministry by visiting our web site: www.bfl.org > *Services* > *Sheltering Church Ministry*.

COMPASSION MINISTRIES. Any church can promote biblical, pro-life compassion ministries by using



our latest bulletin insert (*shown here*). It highlights Jesus' earthly ministry as a perfect example of compassion ministry. He not only *felt* compassion for people, but also *acted* upon it . . . and directed His followers to do likewise.

The world offers counterfeit compassion that leads to death, but ministries such as LIFT and PCCs point toward the source of ultimate

transformation – Jesus Christ Himself. View the insert in full color online at www.bfl.org > *Services* > *Catalog*, then call to order.

TOOLS FOR MINISTRY. Barb Mead, pastor's wife from Calvary Baptist Church in Greenville, Michigan, is currently leading a Sunday school class on how to minister to people who are chronically or terminally ill. She's using our LIFT manual and plans to start a LIFT ministry after volunteers are equipped.

Barb reports: "Every week someone comments on how much the material is affecting them. . . . I think [it's] opening their minds to the needs of people and providing them the tools to be more comfortable in relating to people in crisis."

To serve the burgeoning community of LIFT coordinators and volunteers, BFL development assistant Lisa Haan compiles a weekly email newsletter called *LIFT List* that offers news and information related to respite care, disability, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. If you'd like to receive *LIFT List*, please email lisa@bfl.org.

LIFT List is modeled after the *PCC List*, an email newsletter that BFL editor Michele Shoun has been publishing since 2001. She scours the Internet for resources that will help pregnancy care center directors serve their clients, volunteers, donors, staff, and board members.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. We're grateful for and, at times, overwhelmed by the opportunities for pro-life ministry that exist. And we've learned that we can't do everything. We rely on the Lord's leading and our board's wisdom for direction in choosing which opportunities to adopt as our own.

After examining our general budget and our remaining special projects for the last quarter, we estimate our October 1 through December 31 need to be \$145,000. This sounds like a lot, but considering year-end giving for past years, it's reasonable to be confident the Lord will provide again. (This amount is less than last year's need of \$164,000, which He graciously provided.)

Please join our staff and board in praying for a successful finish to 2007. And please pray that your BFL team will have wisdom as we seek God's will for 2008. Thank you for your partnership with us and for your sacrificial giving.

MAKE YOUR GIVING MORE POWERFUL. What makes BFL more efficient and reduces costs? What allows us to plan more strategically and focus more attention on our mission? Answer: Egiving.

What's that? And how does it work? Egiving is simply a way to facilitate secure, electronic, monthly donations. It builds the strength of this ministry because it's funding we can count on. And, because it's electronic, not as much time and expense is allocated to receiving and accepting gifts.

You're welcome to call our office to learn more about Egiving, or you can sign up now by visiting www.bfl.org > *How to Help* > *Become and eFriend of BFL*.

UPCOMING EVENTS. Guests at BFL's annual fundraising event March 13, 2008, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, will hear Scott Klusendorf (*right*), president of Life Training Institute (www.prolifetraining.com). A passionate and engaging platform speaker, Scott travels throughout the US and Canada training pro-life advocates to persuasively defend their views in the public square. His seminar "Making Abortion Unthinkable" and article series *The Five-Minute Pro-Lifer* have shown thousands how they can defend their beliefs in a winsome and attractive manner.



Rather than a banquet format, this year's event will feature an array of hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Also, there is no charge to attend, but we are seeking event underwriters. Call or email Lisa Haan (lisa@bfl.org) to learn more or make reservations.

Golfers – set aside August 11, 2008, for the Partners in Ministry Golf Classic. This will be our 10th annual golf event, and will be played again at Pilgrim's Run Golf Club in Pierson, Michigan. Reserve a tee time (morning or afternoon) by contacting our office.

