



Human Life International's Mission Report



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VIOLENCE AT HLI-SWITZERLAND'S MARCH FOR LIFE



Police in Zurich were on hand to control people protesting against the March, and they were needed, as leftist groups from the Revolutionary Federation attempted to disrupt it.

In this month's edition of *Mission Report*, Joannes Bucher tells about his experience at the Zurich March for Life, which HLI-Switzerland helped sponsor. This March emphasized the rights of disabled children in the womb. Even though there was a violent attack by anti-life protesters during the March, Joannes and the participants joyfully marched forward for the rights of the unborn. Also this month, Brian Clowes reports on the Asia-Pacific Congress (ASPAC) in Kazakhstan and the great networking that occurred.

MISSIONARY TRIP TO SWITZERLAND—*Reported by Joannes Bucher, September 2011.*

In September 2011, I had the privilege of traveling to Zurich, Switzerland to participate in the March for Life. HLI-Switzerland joined with 11 other pro-life organizations to co-sponsor the March. **It was a beautiful gathering of about 1,500 people that brought both Catholics and Protestants together to stand up for life**—especially for our disabled brothers and sisters—even in the face of tense violence.

It was a great pleasure to be able to visit those who are a part of HLI-Switzerland. They have done fantastic work to promote respect for all life. In 2002, Switzerland introduced anti-life laws that shocked many

Dear HLI friends and supporters,

With the Advent season here and the wonderful celebration of Christmas quickly approaching, it is very easy to get distracted by the glitter of the season and forget the true meaning of Christmas. We must never forget the wondrous message of Christmas is a significant reminder *that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son for our salvation*. May the image of the holy infant lying in Mary's arms serve to remind us of the precious gift we have received in our Savior Jesus Christ and the reason our pro-life missionaries work tirelessly everyday to defend human life at its most delicate state.

pro-life groups. The Swiss Catholic People's Movement "Pro Ecclesia" stated in a 2010 press release that "... (in Switzerland) at least 10,000 children are killed before birth each year."

Recently, HLI-Switzerland has been working on a petition to stop a horrible "sex education" program from infiltrating Swiss schools. The petition is trying to stop a number of different elements, including those that influence "sexual orientation," those that include pornography, and those that include sexual games being taught to the students. The petition has been well received, and HLI-Switzerland has collected about 50 sheets with signatures on them. For these reasons, I am thankful to be a part of the March for Life in Zurich.

Mary Longlois, an American who advocates pro-life issues on behalf of HLI at the United Nations, also joined us at the March. She had only attended a few marches in the United States and was honored to join us in for the Zurich March for Life. She stated, "I am always deeply moved by the capacity of the pro-lifer to extend the love they have for preborn babies to men and women who suffer for having been involved in abortion ..."

The slogan for this year's March for Life was "disabled people also want to live," which focused on a very specific part of the culture of death's mentality. A trend within the abortion industry is "pre-implantation genetic diagnosis," where labs create embryos that are tested for genetic abnormalities. If disabilities are found, the embryos are never implemented into a womb. **This is a great violation of life that we wanted to educate people on through the March for Life.** At the start of this event, we heard from a professional social worker



with achondroplasia (a disorder of bone growth that causes the most common type of dwarfism). By present-day standards, this woman might not have survived. And yet she is not some poor, miserable soul, but rather radiates confidence and joy. It is incredible that some believe people with conditions like hers do not deserve to live!

We also heard from a mother who adopted two Down syndrome children. She proclaimed that life does matter, and it was clear that she loved her disabled children. As they waved from the podium, they won over the crowd's hearts. Seeing these two people testify for life made me ask the question: Are not the people who push to have disabled embryos destroyed crippled themselves ... crippled by emotional anger of some sort? Isn't that also a real disability?

It was exhilarating to begin the March, which wound through the streets of downtown Zurich for about two hours, with trams, buses and cars detouring or stopping to make way for us marchers. Shoppers, bystanders,



The Board of HLI Switzerland with Joannes Bucher (pictured third from the right).

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Ethiopia	Portugal	

and people in cafés looked on, many showing signs of support by waving or smiling. There were some who frowned at our stance and some who were just curious about what was going on. A wonderful Brazilian-style music group provided us with an energizing drum beat that inspired us as we went along the route. We began with a funeral march, which was shown by people carrying crosses and children's coffins for the first hour. The second hour, however, was very cheerful and energetic.



Joannes Bucher, HLI's
Regional Coordinator for
Europe.

Police in Zurich were on hand to control people protesting against the March, and they were needed. Leftist groups from the Revolutionary Federation attempted to disrupt us. Thanks be to God, their intended impact misfired because of the vigilant watch of police. Although the anti-life protestors were outnumbered by pro-lifers at least ten-to-one, **police had to take measures to maintain order, a few times resorting to water cannons and tear gas, because protesters were entering the plaza where the pro-lifers gathered, and were behaving in a threatening way.**

The police were successfully able to protect the peaceful pro-life marchers from the violent tactics of the protestors. At one point, they even needed to fire petards to hold back the aggressors, who carried banners and yelled hurtful words, trying to provoke the faithful. The left-wing aggressors have yet to realize that their violent tactics only hurt their agenda.

These rioters in no way deterred us. We all continued on our



HLI-Switzerland's March for Life.

March unconcerned. It was very sad to see protestors try to disband our March with violence, but thanks to the Zurich police they were unsuccessful. A full report of the violence can be read on HLI's very own blog, HLI World Watch (www.hliworldwatch.org). This report was also printed on LifeNews.com and LifeSiteNews.com.

Mary Longlois also praised the marchers for their determination to continue forward even against strong opposition. "Zurich was no exception, as over 1,000 prolife people calmly and with dignity braved the taunts and insults of vocal and disrespectful protestors, to listen to the call to protect life and to pray for our opponents in this world-wide battle to stop abortions."

The rally was attended by people of all different ages. It ended in Helvetia Square, with a reading of the "Charter of Human Life" and an ecumenical prayer service. The March was inspiring and exciting. It was wonderful to see HLI-Switzerland's involvement in this March for Life. Thanks in part to HLI, there is a lot of energy in Europe for life and family. Pope Benedict is defending European Catholic heritage, and people of all creeds are fighting back against the culture of death. We are not separated by language or culture. We are united in this pro-life cause.

MISSIONARY TRIP TO KAZAKHSTAN—*Reported by Dr. Brian Clowes, September 2011.*

Kazakhstan is the ninth-largest country in the world, nearly four times the size of Texas. It is located between Russia and China, and has only about 15.5 million people, giving it a very sparse population density.

About 47 percent of Kazakhs are Muslim and about 44 percent are Russian Orthodox, with Roman Catholics and Lutherans comprising small minorities. The nation's total fertility rate is currently about 1.9 children per woman, well below the replacement rate of 2.1. The United Nations says that this will soon decline to a disastrously low 1.3 children per woman.

This is the lethal malady common to all of the former Soviet Socialist Republics. Once an anti-child attitude has been drilled into the minds of the people for three generations, once abortion has become a



Congress Host, His Excellency Tomash Peta, Archbishop of Astana and President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Kazakhstan, delivering his homily with the aid of interpreter, Sr. Joanna, Opening Mass, 18th ASPAC, September 2011.

convenience that people are accustomed to, once they cannot imagine living without it, their country *will* die unless three generations of intensive pro-natalist education counters the ingrained anti-life mentality.

MALICE IN WONDERLAND

In September, Human Life International's 18th Asia-Pacific Congress took place in Astana, most of which has been built since it was designated the national capital in 1994. Astana is a beauti-

ful city of the future, and its people are very well-off. But the visiting pro-lifers from 16 different nations felt an almost subliminal undercurrent of uneasiness, brought on by something important that was missing — in this case, small children.

You would think, in an empty nation like Kazakhstan, there would be groups encouraging people to have more children, but exactly the opposite is the case. Family Health International and USAID distribute contraceptives by the ton, and the Population Council actively supports the continued availability of abortion for any reason or no reason at all.

One of the worst features of population control in Kazakhstan is that the abortifacient intrauterine device (IUD) is by far the most popular form of birth control, with over two-thirds of contracepting women using it. The IUD causes a wide range of sometimes lethal health problems and is rarely used in the United States. Apparently,

the population controllers think it is fine for the women of poorer nations. This is another of the dozens of examples of “contraceptive imperialism” that is being imposed on people all over the world.



**Dr. Brian Clowes, HLI's
Director of Research and
Training.**

SPEAKING AND NETWORKING, THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE ASPAC

We began the Congress with a beautiful Mass featuring twenty priests, including five bishops. We then moved from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to the Convention Center, where each of the sixteen national delegations brought their flags up to the stage to the accompaniment of

MARCH

WITH HUMAN LIFE INTERNATIONAL



Visit www.hli.org/march2012 for additional information on where we'll be meeting, and on our booth at the Hyatt Regency. We would love to meet you in person!

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MARCH FOR LIFE
JANUARY 23, 2012 IN
WASHINGTON DC.**



several young ladies in colorful Kazakh traditional dress. Then, Archbishop Tomash Peta, Archbishop of Astana and current Chairman of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Kazakhstan, welcomed us warmly. In fact, he and three other bishops—Astana Auxiliary Bishop Athanasius Schneider, Bishop Jan Pawel Lenga from Karaganda and Bishop José Luis Mumbiela Sierra of Holy Trinity of Almaty—attended every session over the three-day Congress.

The Kazakh government officially recognized the ASPAC by sending two high-level officials from the ministries of family and inter-faith relations to speak, welcoming the Congress and its participants. We hope that this will lead to pro-life initiatives by the government in the near future.

Ligaya Acosta, HLI’s Regional Coordinator for Asia and Oceania, also welcomed everyone, and Joseph Meaney, HLI’s Director of International Coordination, read a statement from Father Shenan Boquet, the new President of Human Life International. Finally, Archbishop Buendia read a letter from the Holy Father welcoming everyone and highly commending HLI’s work, sending his “vivid encouragement to all those who, personally or collectively, in Asia and Oceania, undertake to serve human life with the light of faith and reason.”

During the three days of the Congress, eleven speakers took the stage and spoke on such varied




Above: The Papal Nuncio to Kazakhstan, His Excellency Miguel Mauri Buendia, delivering the message of the Holy Father at the 18th ASPAC, Astana, Kazakhstan.

Below: HLI’s Joseph Meaney, delivering the message of HLI’s new president, Fr. Shenan Boquet.



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The speakers of the 18th ASPAC (except for Dr. Brian Clowes, who took the picture), with the Bishops of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

topics as demographics, the war on unborn baby girls, assisted reproductive technologies and ecumenical pro-life activities. Yuriy Timofeevich Novgorodov, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kazakhstan, covered this last topic, and his talk was fascinating because it laid out a roadmap for cooperation among the pro-life groups in the country. HLI has operated on these principles for decades, and it was refreshing to know that this bishop was so experienced in pro-life and pro-family organizations that he could speak on them fluently, even with the necessity of an interpreter. He received enthusiastic applause at the conclusion of his presentation.

Archpriest Father Maksim Obukhov of the Russian Orthodox Church spoke on the current and potential activities

of the pro-life movement in Eastern Europe, heralding a new Catholic/Orthodox cooperation that has not existed before in Kazakhstan. Demographer Igor Ivanovich Beloborodov, Director of the Institute for Demographic Research in Moscow, spoke of the massive and deadly impacts of anti-natalist programs all around the world. I had a private conversation with Igor, and he described the motorized “March for Life” movement in Russia that has recently expanded to ten cities. We agreed that the potential for HLI’s pro-life mission work in dying Russia is enormous.

After the last talk, the Malaysian delegation and Ligaya Acosta invited everyone to the 19th Asia-Pacific Congress, to be held in Malaysia in 2013. Archbishop Peta gave us a final blessing, and we all walked to the Cathedral courtyard for dinner and a couple of hours of networking and just plain “fellowshipping,” as the Lutherans so appropriately call it. It was indeed edifying to see people from so many countries and so many faiths working and planning together for a pro-life Kazakhstan.

WRAPPING UP THE ASPAC

The closing Mass in the Cathedral was inspiring and most edifying. The Nuncio read another statement commending the work of Kazakh pro-life workers.

Immediately following the ASPAC, Joseph Meaney conducted a full day of pro-life training for all of the priests and religious of the Archdiocese of Astana. Auxiliary Bishop Athanasius Schneider trans-

lated all of his talks, which covered the primary anti-life and anti-family threats to the people of Kazakhstan.

If Kazakhstan is to have a future of any kind, its people must reject the anti-life mentality that has gripped their nation for so long and must embrace a true Culture of Life.

Please pray for the people and the leadership of Kazakhstan.

Dear friends, I thank you for your continued support and loyalty to our pro-life missionaries who make daily sacrifices to educate people about the dignity of life. I ask you to please remember all of our pro-life missionaries in your prayers for their continued success.

May the peace of Christ be with you and your family during this Advent season and the approaching Christmas season, and may Our Lord keep you constantly under His loving protection during this coming year. Your intentions will be remembered in prayer at all the Christmas Masses celebrated by the priests of Human Life International.

I leave you with the inspired words of Isaiah 9:6: “*For unto us a child is born and unto us a son is given; and leadership is placed upon his shoulder, and his name will be called ‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, father of the future age, Prince of Peace.’*”

God bless you always!



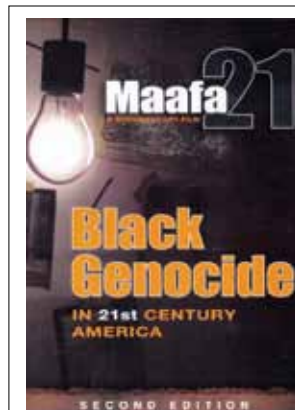
Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

P.S.— This month I would like to send you a copy of the shocking and disturbing documentary *Maafa 21: Black Genocide in 21st Century America* from Life Dynamics, which includes an interview with HLI’s very own Dr. Brian Clowes:

They were stolen from their homes, locked in chains and taken across an ocean. And for more than 200 years, their blood and sweat would help to build the richest and most powerful nation the world has ever known.

But when slavery ended their welcome was over. The wealthy elite had decided it was time for them to disappear and they were not going to be particular about how it might be done. What you are about to see is that the secret plan these people set in motion 150 years ago is still being carried out today.

In this documentary, this hidden racial agenda is dragged out of the shadows and into the light. Before the next two hours are up, you will know things that America’s politicians and power-brokers never intended for you to know and you will see things that the media was never going to show you. This is ... Maafa 21: Black Genocide in 21st Century America.



The documentary *Maafa 21: Black Genocide in 21st Century America* is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$49 or more!