



HLI MISSION REPORT

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By Emil Hagamu
and Dr. Ligaya Acosta

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- ✳ **Keeping Abortion Out of Sudan**
- ✳ **Sudan's Pro-Lifers Eager for Training**
- ✳ **HLI's Asia-Pacific Congress Packed with Legislators, 2 Cardinals and 10 Bishops from 15 Countries**
- ✳ **Over 600 Inspired by Rousing Talks on Contraception, Winning Pro-Life Debates, and Much More!**
- ✳ **HLI's 6-day Congress Hits Primetime Asian TV, Radio, and Headlines!**
- ✳ **HLI Speaking Engagements Quadrupled from Congress**
- ✳ **Media Captures Massive, Thunderous Zeal for Life**



Dear HLI friends and supporters,

This month, Emil Hagamu reports on his mission trip to war-stricken Sudan – Africa's largest country and one of the few in the world that has not legalized abortion. HLI is gravely needed to counter the mounting, devious efforts at reversing Sudan's current pro-life laws. Next, Dr. Ligaya Acosta reports on HLI's wonderfully successful 17th Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life and the Family, the biggest pro-life event of the year for Asia and Oceania. With over 15 countries in attendance and broad media coverage, the Congress amounted to a mighty push forward for the Culture of Life!

MISSIONARY TRIP TO SUDAN—*Reported by Emil Hagamu, August 24 – 30, 2010*

My visit to Sudan was occasioned by two years of communication and correspondence with Mrs. Elizabeth Nyanaut, National Coordinator for the Family Commission in the Catholic Bishops Conference of Sudan. I had dearly wanted



to visit this country, the largest in Africa (geographically), with a population of about 35 million people. I wanted to see and understand the state of the family and the battle for life, particularly in light of the wars that have been raging there. War has devastated western Sudan, the Darfur area, which has borne untold suffering and displacement of its inhabitants; as well as the south, where the African people are demanding independence from the Arabic Khartoum-dominated government.

Northern Sudan is Arabic and Muslim, while southern Sudan is inhabited by people of African descent. During my trip, I stayed in the northern city of Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, where Islamic religion and culture are clearly identifiable from the many mosques decorating the region, to the official Arabic language, the way people dress, and the Islamic calls to prayer that permeate the city.



BUSINESS BEGINS

I began my missionary activities with a brief presentation of my pro-life ministry to 36 workshop participants who had been meeting to learn natural family planning methods. The participants came from all the different regions of Sudan to meet at St. Paul's Major Seminary, which is situated on the banks of the beautiful Blue Nile River. The Blue Nile merges with the White Nile in Khartoum; the waters of these two rivers form the lifeblood of the city's residents.

I presented on the cultures of death and life, explaining what John Paul II affirms in *The Gospel of Life*, that "an international conspiracy against life" is being waged by Western population controllers. Though abortion is still illegal in Sudan, many abortions are taking place, particularly among young women. **Fortunately, Sudan is among the only five countries in Africa that has neither ratified nor acceded to the pro-abortion**



Trainees listen to Emil's presentation on his pro-life ministry.

Maputo Protocol legislation – along with Egypt, Eritrea, Tunisia and Botswana. Use of contraception in Sudan is very low, despite the many population control groups trying to push it on the people. Muslims in Sudan simply want to multiply their numbers; contraception and abortion are considered great crimes against Allah, their God.

My two-hour presentation was followed by questions and recommendations. Participants expressed their desire for **a nationwide pro-life program to empower people to reject Western population control policies hidden in their government's development programs and proposals**. They exclaimed to me, "Imagine! This vast country has only 35 million

people, and yet we are told to adopt contraceptive family planning practices and are encouraged to have small families of two children."

SEMINARIANS

My next pro-life presentation was made to 56 Seminarians of St. Paul's Major Seminary. The vice rector, Fr. James Pab was present. My two-hour talk centered on how **seminarians as future priests can be effective agents of the culture of life**. During the talk, critical issues of a pastoral nature kept coming up and were

discussed – such as how priests should deal with discordant couples; how they should handle cases of marriages where one spouse had been displaced as a result of the wars; and the question of mixed marriages between Christians and Muslims.

A few seminarians seemed to have succumbed to the idea that when death poses a serious threat, the baby should be aborted to save the life of the mother. At this point, the vice rector made a clarification using moral theology teachings on “good intentions and good results on the one hand, and bad intentions and bad results” on the other hand. I emphasized the fact that a medical doctor who is treating a pregnant woman should always take into consideration the fact that he is treating two people, the baby in the womb and the mother carrying that baby. The doctor’s intention should be to save the lives of both the mother and the baby. If he were to make a decision to kill the baby in order to save the life of the mother, he would be acting out of bad intentions and be responsible for willful killing.



Emil with seminarians and other pro-lifers.

JOURNALISTS

My third pro-life engagement was a three-hour meeting with 16 journalists who represented different media houses. Media information in this country is highly censored, so giving a talk to journalists is a sensitive matter. I focused on discussing abortion and the Maputo Protocol.

To add weight to my words, I showed the journalists several abortion videos that HLI distributes, *The Silent Scream*, *The Genocide in the Womb*, *The Slaughter of Innocents* and *The Hard Truth*. Seeing these videos, **the journalists understood the atrocities being committed against innocent and defenseless unborn babies.** At one point, when watching *The Slaughter of Innocents*, two women (journalists) could not control their feelings. Crying silently, they stood up and went out of the room! They came back later only after the show ended. “Abortion,” they said, “is a horrible reality.” **One journalist remarked that if these films were shown to a great number of people, especially young people, incidences of abortion would decrease drastically.** Another participant said, “If our president, Al Bashir, were to order us to lock indoors all minors and let the adults watch these films through the national television, there would no longer be women who would go for abortions. **Abortion thrives on ignorance. If women were to see how they are being humiliated, how they are being injured, how they are drawn into brutality, abortion would have no place in our society.**”

Talking about the Maputo Protocol, participants praised their government for not ratifying and acceding to it. They said that the Maputo Protocol is a projection of yet another form of modern imperialism which is driven by commercial interests of Western population control groups to control the economies of developing countries.

MEETING BISHOP ANTONIO

On Sunday, August 29, I was privileged to meet His Excellency Bishop Antonio Menegarse, Apostolic Administrator to El Obeid Diocese, who has been in the country for 53 years. He was the head of the Pastoral Commission of the Episcopal Conference of Sudan, which facilitated my visit.

In our meeting, he explained the difficulties the Church in Sudan faces on a daily basis. In short, he said the Church in Sudan is a “suffering Church.” **He gave the example of how many Church properties have been either demolished or confiscated.** My host, Mrs. Elizabeth Nyanaut, took me around and showed me a vast number of these properties. I saw one church that had been turned into a government museum. On a different property, St. Comboni had been buried in the church there; after demolition of this sacred site, a Mosque was erected in its stead. I was shown yet another area which once belonged to the Church but was taken by the government; the statues and crosses were all destroyed. One sad story related how a government officer had ordered a statue of Mary, the Holy Mother of Jesus, to be thrown into the Nile River. (Only two weeks later, this officer died in a plane crash in southern Sudan.)



A Cathedral threatened with demolition.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND LESSONS LEARNED

My visit to Sudan was a great success. All the groups I met expressed the need for continued help; I was asked to return with even more intensive training to equip them to fight the culture of death, which is slowly and

steadily penetrating their society. One participant suggested the Bishops’ Conference should arrange for me to travel to each of Sudan’s dioceses to conduct pro-life training. A youth group proposed I return to train youth groups throughout the country. **From such expressed desires, I realized HLI is very much needed in Sudan. And I strongly believe HLI’s presence will make a big difference.** Given the people’s present positive pro-life mentality, HLI could help build a solid foundation for the culture of life in this country. And a strong pro-life base would be a critical spiritual counter to the wars and killing that continue to devastate Sudan.

I trust that God will intervene in Sudan’s conflicts and bring a lasting solution – a peaceful co-existence of all who inhabit this country, the largest in Africa. I am deeply indebted to HLI Central, who provided the necessary funding for this trip. I especially extend my esteemed thanks to all HLI supporters and donors. Their financial and material support for my work is very crucial in defeating the culture of death in the region. I also extend my deep gratitude to my host in Sudan, Madam Elizabeth Nyanawut, who warmly welcomed me and made all the necessary preparations for my visit. The welcoming hand of the Bishops

THE PRO-LIFE WISDOM *of* FR. PAUL MARX THE APOSTLE OF LIFE



Fr. Paul Marx

Abortionists appear unimpressed by the argument that, since human life must surely begin somewhere between conception and birth, he who would snuff it out must bear the burden of proof. Are their rationalizations and evasions no more than evidences of the compounded philosophical confusion of an affluent society enslaved by hedonism? Or does the truth go deeper and blacker than that? Perhaps what they are afraid to face is not the humanity of the unborn child but their own willingness to become utilitarian killers of their own kind.
— *The Death Peddlers*, pages 155 and 156.

Conference and Sudanese people was a key factor of the mission's success. I want also to thank my wife and children for their understanding and patience during my times of missionary work, when they miss my presence as husband and father of the family. I pray that the Almighty God will continue to shower His blessings on all that we do for His glory. ■

MISSIONARY TRIP TO THE PHILIPPINES—*Reported by Dr. Ligaya A. Acosta, November 3-5, 2010.*

More than 600 people, among them two cardinals and 10 archbishops and bishops from 15 countries, attended this year's 17th Asia-Pacific Congress (ASPAC) on Faith, Life and Family, held November 6-8 in Manila, Philippines. Just prior to this event, more than 300 attended the pre-congress International Pro-Life Training for Clergy, Religious, and Lay Leaders of Asia and Oceania, held in the same venue from November 3-5. **The number of participants at these events far exceeded expectations.** Attendees included all the elites in the pro-life field, including legislators. The full-time attendance of the cardinal, archbishops and bishops was unprecedented! We had to transfer to the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel the second day of the pre-congress training, as the function room I had reserved could no longer hold the overflowing number of participants!



Held at the beautiful Dusit Thani Manila Hotel right in the heart of the Philippines' commercial and business district, the Congress proper revolved around the theme: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the Nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). The pre-congress training, on the other hand, had the sub-theme: "For if I preach the Gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel" (1Cor 9:16).

Each day started with lively songs of praise and worship, rosary, and Mass, and ended with an hour of Eucharistic Adoration, during which participants would join in a touching prayer of reparation led by His Excellency Bishop Anthony Lee Kok Hin of Miri, Malaysia – a past HLI Cardinal Von Galen Award recipient. Buganda dancers and drum beaters provided color and pomp for both the opening and closing program,

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IRA distributions to HLI will be excluded from federal taxable income.

For information on how to make the transfer, contact Bill Williams at 540-622-5285 or at wwilliams@hli.org

The ASPAC Panel of Speakers Included:

- His Eminence Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of the Philippines who gave a powerful Keynote Speech during the opening program;
- His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales also of the Philippines, who gave a moving homily during the Closing Mass;
- His Excellency Bishop Nerio Odchimar, President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP);
- His Excellency Archbishop Jose Palma, Vice-President of the CBCP;
- His Excellency Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, Chair of the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life of the CBCP;
- His Excellency Archbishop Jess Mercado, Chair of the Episcopal Commission on the Laity also of the CBCP;
- His Excellency Archbishop Francesco Panfilo, President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands;
- His Excellency Archbishop Tomash Peta, President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Kazakhstan;
- Rev. Fr. Rolando Santos, Father Superior of the Vincentians in the Philippines;
- Mr. Terrence Kopp and Mr. Edwin Lopez both of EWTN;
- Atty. Jo Aurea Imbong, Professor of the University of Asia and the Pacific and Legal Officer of the CBCP;
- Dr. Angelita Miguel Aguirre, Professor and Chair, Committee on Ethics, Department of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Sto. Tomas;
- Dr. Brian Clowes, Director for Research and Training of Human Life International;
- Mr. Raymond de Souza, International Catholic Apologist and HLI Regional Coordinator for Portuguese-speaking countries;
- Dr. Rene Bullecer of HLI-Philippines;
- Dr. Ligaya A. Acosta of HLI-ASIA/Oceania.



Speakers and participants at the International Pro-Life Training for Clergy, Religious and Pro-Life Leaders of Asia and Oceania.

which left the participants spellbound. With all the participants proudly wearing their respective country's colourful traditional costumes on opening day, it was a sight to behold. The entrance of colors, enhanced by the beat of drums and the play of lights, was met with thunderous applause, as each country's representative proudly waved his or her flag and planted it on stage, signifying their unity with Human Life International in the mission to defend Faith, life, and family all over Asia, Oceania, and the world.

MEDIA AND OPPOSITION

The six-day event made the headlines and prominent spaces in national dailies, as well as primetime news on TV and radio, both before and after the event! The event threatened death peddlers and pro-“reproductive health” legislators in the Philippines, who were put on the defensive – especially as the participants, led by no less than Cardinal Vidal himself, fearlessly declared that they will continue to fight against the onslaught of the culture of death, particularly the reproductive health bill again being massively pushed in Catholic Philippines, to the extent of willingly going to jail if, God forbid, it becomes a law. **The sight of all the participants defiantly standing and raising their fists saying “Hands Off the Philippines” several times was overwhelming and was caught by media.**

Before the opening of the Congress, I received news that there were some ill-intentioned infiltrators among the audience, and so I gladly greeted them

in my welcoming remarks, saying that I hoped they would stay until the end of the Congress so that they would know the truth and hopefully change their lives for good. I was also informed that some of them would make a scene during the event, but they must have been overwhelmed by the large number of people and the spirit of faith and commitment pervading all throughout the Congress.

THE FUTURE, PARTICIPANTS, AND CONTRIBUTORS

When Kazakhstan, who will host the 18th ASPAC in September 2011, was called onstage for the traditional presentation of the upcoming Congress host, there was a thunderous applause, as everyone looks forward to another Spirit-filled event.

Indeed, this year's ASPAC once more strengthened and inspired everyone to vow to continue defending the Faith, life, and family at whatever cost. It bore many fruits, among them the formation of the "Doctors for Life" and "Tea Party for Life" organizations in the Philippines. The event quadrupled my speaking engagements, as it roused many "sleeping giants," and inspired the many participating countries to do the same. **Certainly every penny required to put on the Congress was worth it, as the impact was greater than imagined, multiplying money spent by more than a hundredfold.**

Some other intended participants from other countries, particularly Nepal and China, were not able to make it due to visa problems.

The event was held in cooperation with the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines; the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL); the Knights of Columbus; and the Family Media Advocacy Foundation, who selflessly helped in all the activities. Priests and nuns and many intercessory groups continuously offered Masses and prayers for the success of the Congress – the prayers were definitely heard. Truly God is good and God is great! When we totally surrender and offer our plans to Him, He definitely blesses us and makes the impossible possible.



His Eminence Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of the Philippines delivering his keynote speech.



Archbishop Francesco Panfilo, President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.



His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, delivering a powerful homily at the closing Mass of the 17th Asia-Pacific Congress.

I especially thank HLI-Central for their never-failing inspiring support, and of course, the many generous benefactors of Human Life International, without whom this six-day, biggest pro-life event of the year in Asia and Oceania would not have been possible. I pray unceasingly that Our Lord and Our Lady keep you all under their loving care. May He continue to bless you and your kind hearts abundantly, and protect you and your families. ■

Dear friends, we at HLI, and the unborn throughout the world, are indebted to you for your generous prayer and financial support, which ever equips us against the “international conspiracy against life” (John Paul II). May the Lord richly bless you in your love for and commitment to Life!

God bless you always!



Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro-Carámbula
Interim President

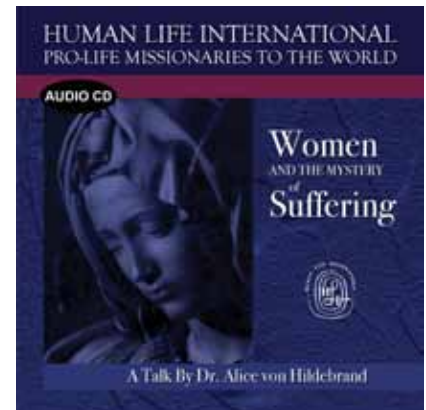
P.S.—This month, to thank you for your contribution of \$49 or more to HLI, I would like to send you a CD talk by Alice von Hildebrand, *Women and the Mystery of Suffering*.

Men and women alike will relate to this talk, the major portion of which deals generally with the mystery of suffering for all humanity. Hildebrand explains that Christianity’s first principle in helping us practice what she terms “the Art of Suffering” is to eliminate *illegitimate* sufferings. She cries, “Let us not add an ounce to the amount of suffering God has put on our shoulder, or we will collapse!” She expounds on examples of hyper-sensitivity, the feminist rejection of “service,” self-will, revolt, envy and pride.

She then explains that God Himself chose and revealed through His Son a uniquely Christian meaning of suffering: its link with love. This is something women understand intuitively, for the maternal heart is imbued with openness to others and willingness to suffer for them. Thus we see the diabolical forces’ most abominable attacks on femininity are radical feminism and especially abortion – destroying mankind’s understanding of the connection between love and suffering for the sake of others.

God’s gift of hope and faith is that Christ has conquered the world – in Him, the last word will be joy.

Please send HLI \$49 or more so I can share with you this helpful exploration of suffering – a factor of earthly life inescapable to any of us and forever a mystery, but also, in Christ, rich in meaning and beauty.



“Women and the Mystery of Suffering” is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$49 or more!