



# Mission Report

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*Pictured left: Father Boquet poses with several students and sisters from the Camaldoles Benedictine School, south of Dar es Salaam.*

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

In this issue of *Mission Report*, we remember Paul Hockman, who passed away in June. Paul has volunteered for HLI since 1994, and is remembered fondly by HLI staff for his generosity and his teasing nature. He was a great joy to all who knew him, and he will be sorely missed.

Also in this issue, Dr. Brian Clowes reports from Tanzania, Africa, where he and I met with leaders Anglophone (English-Speaking) Africa to discuss the challenges facing the pro-life movement in Africa. By far the biggest threat to Africa's population and development is Western influence, in the form of evils such as contraception and abortion. Abortion is so against the African way of life that there is no word for it in the native tongues. Our trip showed us that, thankfully, leaders are recognizing this threat and taking measures against Western imperialism.

Finally, in this issue we follow up on a June report of Fr. Jonathan Opio's fight against the abortion policy being drafted in Uganda. This policy, which would give children as young as ten-years-old access to contraception and abortion without parental consent, has been stopped, thanks to the hard work of Dr. Clowes and Fr. Opio. The Minister of Health in Uganda has declared the policy to be against the law.

My dear friends, our efforts in standing for Life and defending the family would not be possible without your dedicated support. On behalf of the HLI family, I thank you and wish you every blessing of Almighty God.

Yours in Christ and in Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet

President, Human Life International



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet  
President



Dear friends,

I'd like to introduce you to a longtime friend, volunteer and supporter of HLI. Cletus (Paul) Hockman was a great blessing to HLI, as he was to his family and friends. I say "was" because Paul passed away in June, and he is very much missed here, though we remember him with great joy.

Paul would drive over an hour almost every Wednesday from Sheperdstown, West Virginia, to help however he could around the office. He lifted everyone up, always stopping to ask how we were, and how our families were, and sometimes to share stories about his boys and their families, of whom he was obviously very proud. He played in softball competitively until just a few years ago, into his early 80s, when his doctor asked him to slow down a bit due to health issues.

If you got to talk to Paul beyond the pleasantries, you'd learn that he worked for GM until his retirement. He might tell you about his beloved wife, who died young, and the two sons and daughter who preceded him in death. Not given to emotional displays, Paul would be sure to let you know how grateful he was for his own long life, and wouldn't accept praise for raising five boys from a young age. That's just how things were done, you see—it's what any loving father would do.

Like the humble and strong men of Paul's generation, he wouldn't tell you about his heroic service in Korea with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne "Screaming Eagles," except perhaps in passing.

He would bring peaches from a relative's farm with him every Wednesday in mid-summer, then apples until the Fall. They were amazing! He had volunteered with HLI since 1994, when the office was still in Gaithersburg, Maryland. One of the things he did was collect cancelled stamps from mail, knowing well before we did that if sent to mission churches abroad they are often used as currency to buy basic needed goods.

And for just a small taste of Paul's sense of humor, he would at times joke with Denise Grutter, our finance manager, if he stayed as late as two in the afternoon. This would be "overtime," and Paul's twinkling smile as he brought this to Denise's attention will not be forgotten.

Unfortunately, I was away from HLI when Paul died, and unable to join Denise and our staff who were able to go to Paul's Funeral Mass and burial at St. James Parish in Sheperdstown. They were blessed to meet some of Paul's relatives, and share with them our heartfelt gratitude for Paul's many years of dedicated service to HLI. In a very simple and humble way, Paul made a great impact on us and on our mission, a fact for which I thanked God during a votive Mass celebrated for his soul soon after his passing.

I spoke with Paul a few days before he died. We talked about his many years of service with HLI and the many people he met along the way. He asked about the staff, how I was doing, and about my missionary trips. At the time, we had not seen each other in a few months, and he was excited to hear about our work in Africa and Asia. Before giving him a blessing, I expressed to Paul on behalf of HLI's global family our gratitude for his witness to life and family. Typical Paul, he quickly said thank you and then stressed how grateful his was to HLI for giving him the opportunity to serve.

We are all better off when we remember what real and simple love looks like. This is Paul's greatest gift to HLI, and undoubtedly to all who knew and loved him as well.

Rest in peace, Paul.



**Cletus (Paul) Hockman, center.**



## MISSIONARY TRIP TO TANZANIA

By Dr. Brian Clowes, HLI Director of Education and Research, July 2016

“We are a life-loving people. We love children. We love life. We are all out to protect life and our families. ... Africans need assistance with infrastructure. We need to have good roads. We need to have good hospitals and medicines. We need to have good schools. We don't need condoms. We don't need contraception. We don't need abortion.”

— Mr. Emil Hagamu.



Father Shenan Boquet, President of Human Life International, and I traveled to Dar es Salaam in mid-July to meet our Regional Director for Anglophone Africa, Mr. Emil Hagamu. The mission had four purposes: (1) to meet with the Anglophone Africa country directors to discuss current challenges and successes as well as goals and strategies; (2) to educate and equip priests, seminarians and lay leaders currently engaged in life and family apostolates from a dozen African nations; (3) to meet with the Archbishop of Dar es Salaam, Polycarp Cardinal Pengo; and (4) to conduct the first Dar es Salaam March for Life.

We traveled to the Camaldoles Benedictine Monastery, about 15 miles South of Dar es Salaam. This beautiful complex is located in a quiet neighborhood. The Sisters made us feel very welcome and took good very care of us during our nine days there. Father Boquet and several other priests prayed Mass every day in the chapel.

Our primary focus was four days of intense training on the fundamental principles of activism and theology. Seven speakers covered *The Theology of the Body*, the encyclicals *Humanae Vitae* and *Evangelium Vitae*, and the

concepts of conscience and freedom. We also spoke on the specifics of the Culture of Death movements that are oppressing Africa today, including gender ideology, population control, abortion and homosexuality. The common theme that wound its way through all of these presentations was the grave threat posed by “neo-colonialism,” or contraceptive imperialism, which is motivated by Western interests eager to pillage the resources of the continent.

We asked the conference participants to rank the five worst threats to their communities and to their nations. They replied (1) Western interference in their nation's affairs; (2) political crises and corruption; (3) poverty; (4) disease; and (5) forced marriages. **Fully 80 percent ranked Western interference as the worst threat to their nations and communities.** It is fascinating that corruption, which is crippling African development and modernization, was ranked a *very* distant second. It is very heartening to know that these priests, seminarians and community leaders are aware of the true nature of the threat, which is not always the case in Africa.

### HOW AN AFRICAN VIEWS LIFE

In his book *African Religions and Philosophy*, Kenyan philosopher John Mbiti writes that Africans are “notoriously religious,” and that they “see the sacred in everything that touches life.” An African is constantly aware that life in all of its forms exists all around him in nature. In fact, he is always conscious of being literally *immersed* in life. Unfortunately, the African connection between nature and belief



Father Boquet and Emil Hagamu conduct an evening strategy meeting with the HLI country leaders from Anglophone Africa.



in God has been misrepresented and mythologized in the West for so long that it has led to a deep-seated prejudice in the minds of many, a kind of stereotype of Africans being almost like the mythical Navi in the movie *Avatar*.

One of the speakers at our conference was Father Josephat Muhoza, SDS, who spoke on “The Value of Human Life from the Mouth of a True African.” He described why Western sexual “ethics” are repugnant to Africans. For example, **not one of the many African languages has a word for “abortion” because such abominable acts are considered taboo to even mention — while we Americans have a proliferation of words for it**, most designed to cover up its bloody evil and violence (“freedom of choice,” “reproductive freedom,” etc.). Instead, Africans use a descriptive phrase. A woman who has had an abortion is referred to as a “walking graveyard.” By contrast, in Kiswahili, a pregnant woman possesses *ana mwili mbarikiwa*, or a “blessed body.” So **Africans see abortion as a gross attack on a pregnant women’s body, an authentic act of sacrilege**, which the *Catechism* describes as the grave sin of abusing sacred persons, places or things [¶2120].

In his book *African Religion: The Traditions of Abundant Life*, Laurenti Magesa writes that the foundation of African ethics is life in its fullness, which is why the message of Christianity strongly appeals to Africans [John 10:10]. If an event promotes life, it is good, ethical, and even divine. But if it diminishes life in any way, it is considered unethical



**Polycarp Cardinal Pengo, Archbishop of Dar es Salaam, Father Shenan J. Boquet, and Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director for Anglophone Africa.**

and detestable. Thus, Africans see abortion, sterilization and contraception as intrinsic evils precisely because they attack life at its very beginning, and those who engage in these practices are seen as enemies of society. Many times, such people are actually exiled from the community.

It is no coincidence that our mission was to teach the people to embrace the overall mission of all pro-lifers: To respect life, to protect life, to love life, and to serve life.

It is impossible to understand why Africans value human life so much without being aware of their deep-seated love and respect for God, Who provides literally everything to them. Africans instinctively avoid unnatural acts like contraception, abortion and homosexuality, because they have been taught — and have personally witnessed — that such activities always lead to bad health in soul, in mind and in body, and that they always result in disruptive impacts on human relationships. Africans strongly believe in the dictum that



**Father Boquet and the other priests who spoke and assisted at the conference pose outside the monastery chapel with seminarians after morning Mass.**

“God always forgives, man sometimes forgives, but nature *never* forgives.” In the West, we have lavish social “safety nets” that insulate people from the unhealthy effects of their activities, but there are no such backups in Africa. So those who engage in unhealthy and unnatural sexual practices in Africa must shoulder the consequences of their actions themselves.

### **THE SPREADING ANTI-LIFE CANCER**

We must ask: If African culture is so life-loving, why are contraception, sterilization and abortion spreading so quickly?

Therein lies the true tragedy. **These evil practices would not be increasing without the baleful and powerful influence of the Western so-called “developed” nations.**

Africans from each nation are being paid huge salaries to deceive their own people. Hundreds of Western-funded non-governmental organizations with an African veneer have been established all over sub-Saharan Africa for the purpose of pushing population control programs. Tanzania, which ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the world in fertility with an average of 4.95 children per woman, and which has a median age of only 17, is a favorite target of these groups, which are supported by about fifty foreign population NGOs ranging from ADVANCE Family Planning to the Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights.

All of these groups are given an “African face” by hiring local people to staff them. These people are paid lavishly compared to the average African, and they are formally trained to use deception and subterfuge. One

primary example is their passing long-acting reversible “contraceptives” (LARCs) off as harmless, not informing women of their severe side effects, not telling them that they act for months or years, and not informing them that they sometimes work as abortifacients.

Informal village education is also being overwhelmed by the systematic dismissal and denigration of African values in formal higher education. People and organizations from the West are seen as trustworthy. When youth from the smaller towns travel to larger cities for education or for jobs, they become submerged in Western values and lose sight of the traditional virtues they were taught at home. **Many younger people see Westerners as experts simply because we live a lifestyle they envy, a lifestyle that is constantly on parade on television.**

Then there is direct and visible corruption, such as when **Kenya legalized abortion in its Constitution in 2010 after being promised by Vice-President Biden that “the money will flow” if they did so.** There is no doubt that a significant portion of the \$65 billion that has been poured into Africa by the “developed” nations since 1996 specifically for population control and related programs has been used to corrupt and bribe many governments to repudiate their pro-life laws.

It is heartbreaking to consider how much good that \$65 billion could have done if it instead had been spent on authentic economic development. It could have provided health care, schooling, clean water, good housing and roads, electrification and modern farming equipment for 25 million people. **Instead, it has not improved living conditions at all — it has simply made millions of large poor families into small poor families.**

### **THE MARCH FOR LIFE**

The highlight for the conference attendees was the colorful March for Life, which was the first ever conducted in the city of Dar es Salaam. Led by the 40-piece City Police brass band, we walked down Sokoine Drive, one of the main waterfront streets of the city, which runs into (sigh) Barack Obama Drive.



**The forty-member Dar es Salaam Police Band led the March for Life along the main road to St. Joseph’s Cathedral for the Saturday Mass.**



## A Victory for Life in Uganda

HLI reported in June on Fr. Jonathan Opio's fight against the new abortion bill being drafted in Uganda. This bill would give girls as young as 10 years old access to contraception and abortion without their parent's knowledge or consent.

Parents in Uganda were very concerned about how this bill would affect their daughters, and their country. Catholics at Jinja Karoli Catholic parish, where Fr. Opio often celebrates Mass, were particularly keen to find out how they could shut down the bill. Fr. Opio assured them that HLI Uganda was doing everything possible to defeat it, and in early August we received news that his efforts have been successful. Another victory for life has been won!

### MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS SUSPENDED THE BILL

The efforts of HLI Uganda have been successful. The Minister of Health has shut down the bill, at least for the time being.

Dr. Jane Aceng was still the Director General of Health Services when she told the organizations promoting the bill, including Ipas, Center for Reproductive Rights, and Center for Health, Human Rights, and Development, that it could not go into effect because of issues that needed discussion. **She says the bill, and the new policy entitled *Reducing Maternal Morbidity and Mortality from Unsafe Abortions in Uganda: Statements and Guidelines*, will not be put into practice, because they are against the law and will promote abortion.**

### HLI UGANDA'S OBJECTIONS TO STATEMENTS AND GUIDELINES

Fr. Opio and HLI's Dr. Brian Clowes began organizing a response to *Statements and Guidelines* shortly after it was launched in April 2015, including developing a detailed analysis of the policy, which the pro-abortion

People had obviously never seen anything like the March for Life before, because almost all rallies and parades are banned in Tanzania. We had the express permission of John Magufili, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, to do this March. Many people ran up side streets to see what was going on, most taking photos with their phones.

Many of our marchers carried photos of aborted preborn babies, and some of the onlookers could be heard saying that it was certainly sinful to kill unborn children. We found out later that three television and seven radio stations covered the event that evening.

The March, and our mission trip, concluded with an absolutely beautiful Mass in St. Joseph's Cathedral, celebrated by a dozen priests, most of whom had participated in the conference. The following day, as Father Boquet and I began our 30-hour trek home, we were encouraged by the strength of the love for God and family that Tanzanians still possess. And we vow to fight to the last of our strength to help Africa resist the West's Culture of Death.



Father Boquet and other priests offering Holy Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, following the March for Life.



### CONTRACEPTION DOES NOT PREVENT ABORTION

Second, *Statements and Guidelines* claims that accessible contraception will reduce the number of abortions performed each year. But there is no scientific basis for this claim. In fact, because of its failure rate, contraception tends to increase the number of abortions.

### ABORTION IS AGAINST UGANDAN CULTURE

A third problem with the document is that it is totally against African culture. Fr. Opio and HLI's other African directors have reported many times how precious life is to Africans, who have a great love for family and children. Ugandan parents, parishes, and cultural institutions are vehemently opposed to *Statements and Guidelines*. They are very eager to shut down the policy, participating in Fr. Opio's rallies and signing his petitions. **Fr. Opio and Dr. Clowes point out in their analysis of *Statements and Guidelines*** that it was not signed by a single pro-life or pro-family organization, and that religious and cultural institutions are not represented by the document. *Statements and Guidelines* was created by rich Western companies like Ipas, Marie Stopes, and Center for Reproductive Rights, who care nothing for the opinions of Ugandans.

non-governmental organizations launched without following the proper procedures. Fr. Opio presented this analysis to the Minister of Health.

The analysis pointed out several flaws in *Statements and Guidelines*. First, the document's statistics are inconsistent. For instance, the executive summary states that 1,200 women die from complications of unsafe abortions each year in Uganda, but the introduction claims that the number is actually 1,500. In the executive summary, *Statements and Guidelines* claims that there are about 85,000 complications a year that require medical attention, while the introduction claims 90,000. The oddest inconsistency is that unsafe abortions cost Uganda about 7.5 billion shillings each year, while the introduction claims 35 billion shillings. Even the statistics in the executive summary are questionable, as they are taken from a Guttmacher Institute report from ten years ago.



**Pictured on the left is Emil Hagamu, HLI Director for Anglophone Africa, with Fr. Jonathan Opio sitting in the center, and other pro-lifers from Tanzania.**

### BILL WILL ENABLE CHILD MOLESTERS

HLI Uganda is very concerned that the guidelines will allow young girls to be sexually molested. The guidelines state that young people, defined as "All persons aged 10-24," do not need parental consent before getting an

abortion or taking contraception. They reason that, “The best interests of the child shall be paramount in all matters concerning them.” But it makes no sense that it would ever be in the best interests of a little girl to give her an abortion without telling her parents. Planned Parenthood has been shown to cover up cases of child sexual abuse in order to profit from abortion. **These guidelines would make it very easy for an older man to molest a little girl without her parents ever finding out.**

### **HLI UGANDA IS STILL AT WAR WITH ANTI-LIFE GROUPS**

The battle is not over yet. The policy has been stopped temporarily, but the pro-abortion movement is already making a comeback. In late July, the Center for Reproductive Rights and the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development released a new report entitled “*Facing Uganda’s Law on Abortion: Experiences from Women and Service Providers.*” The report attempts to prove to legislators that abortion should be legal, but it is a combination of dramatic stories and, again, highly questionable statistics.

Center for Reproductive Rights is a New York-based company known for promoting abortion for minors without parental consent. **In 2003, they even went so far as to submit a secret document to Congress in which they sought, among other offensive ideas, to change the laws so that “non-abusive” sex with children would not need to be reported.** Center for Reproductive Rights is a perfect example of a rich company imposing Western corruption on an African country where life is precious and abortion is unwanted.

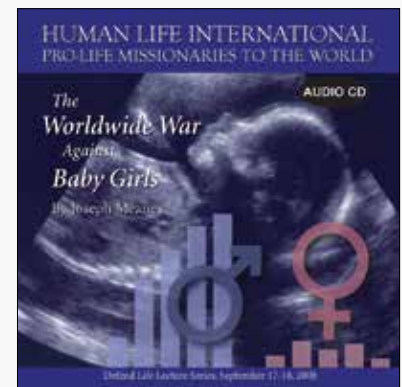
Fr. Opio and Dr. Clowes are challenging this latest report as well. They will keep fighting these anti-life policies for as long as it takes to keep abortion out of Uganda.

## **DONATE \$53 OR MORE TO HLI THIS MONTH AND GET OUR LATEST PRO-LIFE RESOURCE!**

This month, when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI’s life-saving mission, you’ll receive the audio CD, *The Worldwide War Against Baby Girls*, a talk by Dr. Joseph Meaney.

*The Worldwide War on Baby Girls* will educate you on the problem of sex-selective abortion around the world and the consequences of this global disparity between the numbers of boys and girls. You will learn of the various reasons for this and how the pro-abortion movement has turned a blind eye to it. Finally, some nations are beginning to see the cost of losing a huge part of their society, but until they believe in the worth of every human being, the defenders of life still have work to do.

**Please send your gift of \$53 or more to HLI,** and we’ll ship this audio CD out to you today!



***The Worldwide War Against Baby Girls*, a talk by Dr. Joseph Meaney, is this month’s pro-life educational resource.**