



# Mission Report

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- \* **Thousands in India** are Trained by HLI Missionaries
- \* **Malawi March for Life** Held in Six Cities
- \* **The Message of Life is Broadcast over Radio and Television**
- \* **This Month's Pro-Life Resource: "Human Dignity and Appropriate End-of-Life Care: Waiting for Jesus to Come."**

*Left: Little girls at St. Joseph's school adjoining Respect for Life in India.*

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

In this issue of *Mission Report*, we have a two-part report from India. Part one is by Dr. Ligaya Acosta, HLI Regional Director for Asia and Oceania; and part two is by Dr. Brian Clowes, HLI Director of Education and Research. I accompanied Dr. Acosta and Dr. Clowes on this mission trip, where we brought the message of life to thousands of souls, some friendly and some hostile. It is always an honor to travel with these great missionaries, and it renews my appreciation for what a grueling schedule they endure on these trips. I think you'll appreciate this too as you read about the number of talks given and the little sleep they are able to get between events.

Next, Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director of Anglophone Africa, reports from Malawi, where he has begun to make great inroads by using both radio and television to teach and inform the people of this nation. Emil also reports on the amazing March for Life in Malawi, which occurred simultaneously in six cities.

I hope these reports from the field inspire you to keep up the fight for life together with our HLI missionaries. You are truly part of the HLI family, and we thank you for standing with us and for providing your continued support.

Yours in Christ and in Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet  
President, Human Life International



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet  
President

## MISSIONARY TRIP TO INDIA

*By Dr. Ligaya A. Acosta, HLI Regional Director for Asia and Oceania, and Dr. Brian Clowes, HLI Director of Education and Research, November 2016*

### PART 1: BY DR. LIGAYA ACOSTA

I began my long journey on a three-state mission trip to India early in the morning of November 27, in Manila. From there it was to Hong Kong and then to Mumbai, and finally to the first city of my journey, Goa, where I arrived at 3:30 in the morning. Despite the awful hour, Milagres Pereira, Founder and President of Artists for Life, HLI's affiliate in Goa, was waiting to meet me.

After three hours of sleep at the hotel, I got to work. I had lunch with Milagres and his wife Violet, along with all of their children. The entire family is involved in pro-life work, and all of the children are homeschooled. The family lives in a house near a large rice field, which is cultivated to feed the poor. Next to their home is a small two-story building where Artists for Life does its very important pro-life work.

Unfortunately, HLI President Father Boquet and Dr. Brian Clowes were not in Goa because they missed their flight from the U. S. to Mumbai due to connection delays. This meant that I had to give all of the talks myself. But by God's amazing grace, everything went very well. Each day I would arise before 5:00 in the morning, attend 6:30 Mass, have a full day of delivering talks, and be back to my hotel at midnight.

**The three-day conference organized by Milagres was entitled, "Conference on Marriage and Family Life,"** and its theme was "Strengthen the Family, Safeguard the Society." The activities never ceased. Between the nine talks I gave, there were many pro-life songs and messages, a poster contest, and meeting with dignitaries, in addition to many private



meetings with people who wanted to talk to me about personal issues. I was constantly impressed by the organizational abilities of Milagres Pereira and his staff of Artists for Life. They are a very dynamic group.

The airports in India run all night long, unlike in most other places. Milagres and I departed Goa and arrived in Kerala at 2:00 AM. We met Father Boquet and Dr. Brian at the Sahrdaya ("Sacred Heart") Science and Engineering School and prepared for the three-day Pro-Life Training and "La Vita" conference, which we conducted from December 2-4.

### PART 2: BY DR. BRIAN CLOWES

India is a land of constant bright lights, noise and frenetic movement. It is virtually impossible to rest there; the energy surrounding you is irresistible. It wrings energy from you, and when you get back to a quiet place, you seem temporarily disoriented. Truly, India is a marvel, a beehive of activity that is driving this giant nation towards inevitable greatness on the world stage.

I'm always amazed that modern jet aircraft can travel a third of the way around the world in one jump, as the one Father Boquet and I rode



**Dr. Ligaya Acosta, Sister Annunciata, and Father Shenan Boquet.**



Assembled delegates and speakers at the end of the Kerala conference.

from Newark, New Jersey to Mumbai. After a short stay at the Mumbai airport hotel, we arose at 3:30 AM to fly to Kerala to meet Dr. Ligaya and Milagres, to reconstitute our “ABC Team” — Acosta, Boquet, and Clowes. We traveled to the beautiful campus of the Sahrdaya (“Sacred Heart”) College of Engineering and Technology, where we would help conduct the three-day “La Vita” conference for an audience that mostly consisted of doctors, nurses, university students, and priests and religious.

Our hosts worked us like rented mules at the conference. Not only did Father Boquet, **Dr. Ligaya, and I give a total of seventeen talks to more than 500 people, but we had a combined total of 18 hours of recorded talks for Shalom Television as well.** We worked from a thick script book with complex questions that we had to think about in the tiny amount of free time we had. One particular difficulty for me was that my luggage had disappeared, and the airport said that they *might* be able to deliver it in two weeks if we were lucky. By that time I would definitely be smelling like a rented mule! Fortunately, the priests who run the College had some influence, and the luggage was delivered by taxi that same evening.

Another wonderful aspect of India is that the bishops are strongly supportive of pro-life and pro-family issues. The Metropolitan Archbishop of Tiruvalla, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Koorilos, lit the ceremonial candle that

began the conference. His Grace, Most Rev. Mar Pauly Kaanookadan, Bishop of Irinjalakuda, celebrated for us the beautiful Syro-Malabar rite of the Holy Mass in the Sahrdaya chapel.

One happy anomaly at the conference was that a number of large families were present, some with as many as six and seven children. One female physician spoke about the persistence and frequent cruelty of the opposition she received for her large family, even from other Catholic doctors. One religious sister who is qualified as a medical doctor spoke about the thousands of babies she has delivered and the thousands of sterilizations she has reversed in her decades of service. She noted that, in Kerala’s Catholic hospitals, all third or subsequent deliveries — even those that are complicated — are performed free of charge.

Not only did we meet many faithful bishops and clergy in India faithful, but the churches there are absolutely gorgeous. Some of the atrocities in so-called “developed nations” are all bare concrete. But the startling and ethereal beauty of many of the Catholic churches in India grab the attention and wrest the soul to great heights, especially in darkness of night, where their alabaster structures stand out like beacons of hope. The loveliest church we saw was Kerala’s Holy Child Catholic Church, which glowed brightly in contrast to the night’s gloom around it. One of

the distinctive features of the church dedicated to the Holy Child is a wooden crib placed before the altar. The pastor explained that couples having difficulty conceiving come before the image of the Holy Child seeking His help. After having their prayers answered with the gift of a child, the couples return to the Church and place their newborn baby in the crib as an act of thanksgiving.

### ARRIVING IN THE GARDEN CITY

The third stop on this trip was beautiful Bangalore. We arrived in Bangalore at 3:00 AM and checked in to the Catholic Club.

Our slate of activities was not quite as intensive as that in Kerala. However, **during our four days in this city, we spoke to a total of more than 2,000 people at three seminars and three schools.** We were accompanied by Sister Annunciata, RGS, who celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her religious vows this past January. Sister Annunciata likes to say that she is “an 83-year-old trapped in a 16-year-old’s body.” Well, she might not move like a 16-year-old these days, but she had plenty enough energy to accompany us on all of our visits and talks, and her constant presence was both encouraging and calming.

We were warmly received at all of our talks with one notable exception. On our second day, we traveled to St. Joseph’s College of Arts & Sciences, a Jesuit high school in Bangalore, to speak to about 500 students. We knew we were in for a rough time when we saw student posters celebrating the United



Dr. Ligaya Acosta holding the Kerala conference’s youngest delegate at 55 days old!

Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) plastered all over the campus, along with lots of drawings about tolerance and nonjudgmentalism. Sure enough, my talk on overpopulation seemed to receive a rather indifferent welcome, but things really heated up when Dr. Ligaya gave a basic talk on homosexuality. The students began to mutter and then to protest, and one young man, who was visibly shaken, stood up and tried clumsily to refute the plain and basic science that Ligaya had presented. We have seen this many times, and it is so sad — these teenagers have been so propagandized that they have never heard an alternative view, and are positively shocked and outraged when they hear one. Their arguments are based entirely on emotion. After our talks, as always, a number of students approached Dr. Ligaya and privately told her that they agreed with her but were afraid to speak their minds on campus. This is one of the sad results of liberal totalitarianism: It proclaims tolerance, but *only* for those views it agrees with.

One day, we found an article in *The Hindu* that was a great source of ironic amusement to us. It seems that Indian scientists have developed a male birth control injection, and subsequently conducted a field test on 320 men. Twenty of these men suffered “serious” side effects of “depression, muscle pain, mood swings, acne, and changes to the libido.” The study managers decided that these were “intolerable” side effects and called off the trial. This is ironic because all of the hormonal methods of birth control have these and about sixty other side effects — but nobody really seems to care, since “only” women are affected.

Such are the adventures of Human Life International missionaries. Our visit to India ended all too soon, and, as we said goodbye to Sister Annunciata and the girls she and the other Good Shepherd Sisters have rescued from the streets, we knew that we would be returning to colorful India once again — and soon.

## MISSIONARY TRIP TO MALAWI

By Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director of Anglophone Africa, December 2016

My visit to Malawi in December 2016 was prompted by the looming threat of the abortion bill that was being planned by the Ministry of Health and was ready to be submitted to Parliament for debate. It was also a follow-up of the March for Life that took place in December 6, which involved almost all Christian churches and some members of the Islamic faith. But above all it was a mission aimed at consolidating the Culture of Life in Malawi.



## THE MARCH FOR LIFE AND FAMILY

Although my visit to Malawi was made seven days after the March for Life and Family, people were still talking about it. Most praised it for its organization and for the huge turn out of participants. **The mainstream media completely ignored this great event, despite it covering all major towns of Malawi: the Capital City, Lilongwe, Mzuzu, Blantyre, Balaka and Zomba.** While in Lilongwe I was informed that the March was a great success. Fr. Alpheus Zikomankhani and the entire Pro-Life Malawi team took part and told me that not only Catholics and Anglicans marched, but there were also Evangelicals, Muslims, and a large number of Parliamentarians. Among the Catholic faithful there was a noticeable presence of priests and nuns. Unfortunately, no bishop attended.

Speakers at the March for Life and Family condemned foreign ideologies that intrude on their culture and dismantle their customs that are based on respect for life and family. Marriage and the family are highly respected institutions here. A newly married couple is expected to begin a family as soon as possible, and, together with families of other members of their clan, to form what is called in the West, 'extended families'. One speaker condemned the government for trying to pass a law that would wipe away the next generation of Malawians, asking government representatives who were present, "How would you have a country without people?"

The Health Minister, Patricia Kaliyati, responded to various speeches made by religious leaders, assuring them that there was no bill to legalize

abortion (*however, we knew that the bill was at hand awaiting submission to parliament*). The truth was that the government had been defeated, and the bill was silently withdrawn. The March for Life and Family rally was a great success for the Culture of Life. As HLI Regional Director of Anglophone Africa, it would have been my great pleasure to attend and to witness this great March for Life and Family event. I thank Almighty God for its great success.

## PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF LIFE THROUGH THE MEDIA

I have been concerned that Pro-Life Malawi has not had the same success in spreading the pro-life message across the country that pro-lifers in

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or another HLI expert  
to speak at your parish!

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Host a weekend mission on how to rebuild  
a Culture of Life, featuring an HLI speaker!



Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director of Anglophone Africa, giving radio interviews.

other places have had, like Tanzania and Uganda. I wanted to discover the problems behind their difficulties and solve them by bringing new strategies that can have a great impact even with a small budget. So I undertook a media approach to promote the pro-life mission.

As I had already asked Fr. Zikomankhani to prepare visits to media centers, so, in the morning of the second day of my visit, December 14, he drove me to an interview with Dziko 104.3 FM radio, which is located in Mungo House, Lilongwe. When the media staff heard I came to speak about pro-life issues, they had many questions, like “what is pro-life,” “why are you opposed to contraception when the population in Malawi is bursting,” “do you think your efforts to stop the government from legalizing abortion will succeed?”, “what is your opinion on homosexuality and same sex

marriages?” In a one-hour interview I answered all of their questions and I gave them some pro-life materials, including HLI’s educational series and the “Pro-Life Pastoral Handbook.” Then, I arranged with them to continue similar programs on weekly basis. Fr. Zikomankhani and his team will make themselves available for those interviews.

In the afternoon of the following day, we drove 203 km (126 miles) south to a small town called Balaka. This town is famous for its beautiful parish church and is home to LUNTHA television. Arriving there late in the evening, we were welcomed by Fr. Calisto Balua of Montfort Fathers and spent the night at the Catholic Women League hotel. At 10:00 am Fr. Zikomankhani, Mr. Brighton Kalulu, and I were at LUTHA television studio ready for an interview. The interview lasted one hour and touched on a wide range of topics: HLI’s mission around the world; why are we concerned with life and family; why not climate change?

**I told listeners that the March for Life and Family was very symbolic of our mission. It was an affirmation of our unconditional love for life and family, and a rejection of the Western imported abortion agenda.** I also talked about the threats to life and family: contraception, abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, and same-sex unions. The director of the studio said he would divide the talk according to themes and present it on different days. As I had done at Dziko radio, I gave the LUNTHA TV director HLI educational materials for further reading. The director wanted to continue the program in the future.



Dziko FM radio station in Lilongwe, where Emil broadcast the message of life.

## Legacy Gift Giving

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If you have questions or would like more information, please contact HLI at 540-635-7884, ext. 225.



In the afternoon we drove to Mulangeni Beach Resort for our comfortable stay as we waited for an engagement with Radio Maria the following day. In the morning, we visited a nearby “Yesu Ndi Ambuye” (Christ the King) Catholic parish church for Holy Mass. We had a brief talk with the parish priest and his two assistants on life and family issues. We gave them pro-life materials and some prayer cards. At 10:30 we were at Radio Maria studio, which is located in the Mangochi diocese. The director, Fr. Nchinji, gave us a very warm welcome. The interview, the longest ever given by the media station, took one and a half hours. I began with a definition – what is human life. Very often people define pro-life from the negative side by saying what is not pro-life. **Pro-life, I said, is a vocation to defend, protect and promote human life from conception until natural death.** Human life comes

from a matrimonial covenant in which husband and wife cooperate with God in transmitting new life. The family is the best place to raise and educate children in chastity and holiness. Another important component of pro-life is prayer because God is the author of our life. I also discussed the threats to human life: abortion, contraception, euthanasia, homosexuality, and same sex unions. Since this was a live program, I received immediate feedback through phone calls from listeners. I realized that Radio Maria is highly respected and has many listeners. For example, one call came from Mzuzu, a town in the northern part of Malawi; another came from a person who lives in Lilongwe, which is situated in the central part of the country;



Emil's TV interview at Balaka in the Mangochi diocese.

another came from Blantyre, which is situated in the extreme south of the country. One caller was from Mangochi itself and another from Zomba.

From Mangochi we drove back to Lilongwe on Friday, and on Saturday I give an interview to Radio Alinafe, which is owned by the Archdiocese of Lilongwe. The interview was conducted along the same topics, and the presenter said he would air it for two consecutive weeks.

On Monday, December 19, we drove to Salima, and on Tuesday I trained Fr. Alpheus Zikomankhani and Mr. Brighton Kalulu on good report writing.

The impact of our media program was great. According to Fr. Zikomankhani, many listeners and viewers were calling him to either congratulate him or to ask him some questions for clarification, and a good number of people wanted to know how they could register as pro-life members. Fr. Zikomankhani called me a day after I returned to Dar es Salaam and said he was watching my one-hour interview on LUNTHA television.

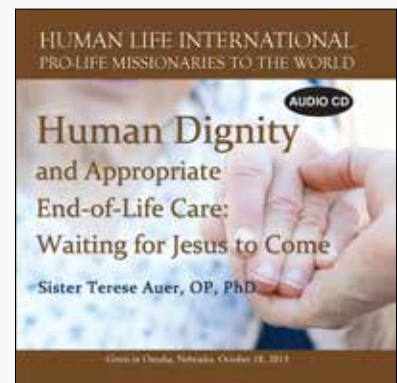
From this experience, I could clearly see the advantage of the media for disseminating information. Meetings, workshops, and seminars would take much longer to reach the audience that was reached in those few days through the media. That is why I highly recommended Pro-Life Malawi to adapt this new strategy in promoting the Culture of Life in Malawi.

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

**P.S.—This month, in appreciation for your gift of \$53 or more, I'd like to send you an audio CD by Sr. Terese Auer, OP, PhD called "Human Dignity and Appropriate End-of-Life Care: Waiting for Jesus to Come."**

In this presentation, Sister Terese Auer discusses our moral responsibility to safeguard our dignity at the end of life and how we can evaluate which types of care are appropriate or inappropriate to truly die with dignity.

Sister Terese Auer serves as a Board Member of Human Life International. She is a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation, whose Motherhouse is located in Nashville, TN. She received her Masters and Doctoral Degrees in philosophy from the Center for Thomistic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas. For the past 30 years, Sister Terese has been teaching philosophy and theology at the high school and college levels in schools located in Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska, California, Ohio, and Tennessee. She is currently teaching bioethics at Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School in northern Virginia.



**The audio CD by Sr. Terese Auer, OP, PhD called "Human Dignity and Appropriate End-of-Life Care: Waiting for Jesus to Come" is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$53 or more!**

**Please send your gift of \$53 or more to HLI this month, and let us rush this wonderful CD talk out to you!**