



Mission Report

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- * **HLI Pro-Life Media Campaign Tackles Imminent Abortion Bill In **Malawi****
- * **"The Way of Consolation" in Lourdes Brings Healing to Parents Who Have Lost a Child**
- * **This Month's Gift to Donors: *Transforming Your Life Through the Holy Eucharist***

Left: "The Way of Consolation" is a spiritual walk with stations and reflections one may take at Lourdes, France. Its aim is healing after losing a child, whether through natural means or abortion. Here, Mass is offered at the shrine by Bishop Nicolas Jean René Brouwet.

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

February is here and soon Lent will be upon us! Now Catholics and other Christians take upon themselves extra devotions and penances, mortifying the body and renewing the spirit in preparation for the celebration of Easter. If you happen to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes, and have lost a child, you might consider visiting "The Way of Consolation." Dr. Joseph Meaney, HLI Director of International Outreach and Expansion, reports on the moving initiative by Lourdes Bishop, Nicolas Brouwet, in this issue of **Mission Report**.

But first, we begin with Anglophone Africa's Regional Director, Emil Hagamu. When news recently broke that the Malawi government will attempt to legalize abortion, Emil led the HLI charge in confronting the issue head-on. As you'll read, he launched a tremendous media campaign in opposition, educating the people on the government's plans and instructing them on how to fight back. The Malawi people do not want abortion!

We conclude with Emil sharing a very personal story that also reminds us how blessed we are to have many protections that do not exist in places like Africa. Norplant contraception has been banned in the U.S. because of its horrific side effects. Nevertheless, it is being imposed on African women on an enormous scale! Please pray for HLI's efforts to help women like Emil's poor nieces (see page 7), victims of the Culture of Death.

In Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

MISSIONARY TRIP TO MALAWI

*By Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of Anglophone Africa,
December 2017*

In Mid-December I staged a pro-life media campaign in Malawi. The objective: Oppose the Ministry of Health’s “Termination of Pregnancy Bill” about to be presented to Parliament for debate and possible passage. If well mobilized, Malawians will overwhelmingly say no to the abortion bill. HLI must lead the cause to win the battle.

Late November the African Organization of Families hosted an international conference in the capital of Lilongwe, attended by HLI Uganda’s Fr. Jonathan Opio and HLI Malawi’s Fr. Alpheus Zikomankhani. However, grassroots follow-up was required.

The government has made similar attempts before. Roughly a year ago the Catholic Church, the Evangelical Churches, the Moslem Supreme Council and pro-life organizations of Malawi organized a huge “march for life” rally in all major towns against the Ministry of Health’s 2016 attempted abortion bill. The reaction caused the Ministry to start denying having proposed any abortion bill!

THE MEDIA MISSION BEGINS

Arriving December 14, I began with a 30-minute interview on Dziko FM Radio with interviewer Mr. Clement Kanthiti. This was followed by another 30-minute interview on Luso TV Station. Before the interview I briefed



the presenter, Mr. Antonio Manda, on which key issues to tackle. This was important, as I wanted to counter the anti-life mindset. Not only was the interview very fruitful, it shocked those sitting around us, ***an indication the abortion bill is still unknown among many people in Malawi. Some mistakenly feel the situation is not bad enough yet to call for alarm.***

The next day we left for Lilongwe – HLI Malawi Director, Fr. Alpheus Zikomankhan, HLI Executive Assistant to the Director, Brighton Kalulu, and I – travelled to Balaka Montfort Parish for a 1-hour program on Luntha TV with Ms. Rashida Matandika. Despite being the moderator, she became so involved in the topic she was angered at the horror of abortion being brought into Malawi by foreign anti-life organizations.

On day three we travelled to Mangochi for a fourth program, this time with Radio Maria. Rev. Fr. and Director Joseph Kimu warmly welcomed me back. For a topic so vital to the Malawian people, he allotted two hours for this live interview. Despite the length, time flew by as



HLI Affiliate Directors for Uganda, Fr. Opio (left), and Malawi, Fr. Zikomankhani.

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Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director of Anglophone Africa (left), and Fr. Alpheus Zikomankhani, HLI's Affiliate in Malawi, speak on Radio Maria against the abortion bill.

people contributed questions and comments. The audience response reached as far away as Mzuzu in the north, Lilongwe in the central part, Blantyre in the south and Nchingi in east. *Most listeners expressed disgust at the foreign origin of the abortion bill and called it barbaric and evil; they wanted every Malawian to condemn it.*

On Saturday we drove to Ntakataka Parish in the Dedza Diocese, where I was scheduled to speak in church the following day on Sunday. After the Mass with Fr. Alpheus Zikomankhani ended, but before the concluding blessing, I spoke to 325 faithful about 20 minutes. I exposed the evils in the proposed abortion bill, challenging parishioners to reject it through their member of parliament, appealing to them to condemn abortion practices in Malawi. Afterwards many were thankful and others raised the subject of Depo-Provera abortifacients being imposed by population controllers in Malawi.

Following an intense five days, I returned to Lilongwe, on the evening of Tuesday, December 19. I convened a meeting with Fr. Zikomankhani, HLI Malawi Director, Mr. Brighton Kalulu, Executive Assistant to the Director, Mr. Joseph Chikuni, former HLI Director and Ms. Lilian Msowoya, former HLI Malawi Secretary. The goal was to increase our grassroots efforts by having each involved in field work at least twice a week, increase activities with four bishops and ten priests, and issue monthly reports. Furthermore, we will prepare an eight-day program comprised of four days of training for the 10 priests mentioned above; then four more days of seminarian training at Katsina Seminary. The trained priests will then be entrusted to work on pro-life/family commissions in their respective dioceses.

MALAWI AT ITS HEART IS PRO-LIFE

People in Malawi are profoundly pro-life; they hate barrenness caused by contraception (injections are even commonly given to school children). Rural poverty and ignorance in the face of anti-life propaganda are the

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Fr. Alpheus Zikomankhani, Lilian Msowoya, Emil Hagamu, and Joseph Chikuni, discussing the future of HLI Malawi and the abortion bill.

cause of increasing contraceptive use. But here people recognize the family unit binds people together; each person belongs and depends on the other. Those who understand the big picture worry contraception will cause a decline in population and religious vocations.

During the whole of the media tour, I cautioned that ***the solution to poverty is not eliminating the poor.*** Required are visionary government leadership and infrastructure development, such as providing good roads, constant and sufficient power supply, medical care and supplies, quality schools, and safe, clean and affordable water. Instead of promoting contraception, combat corruption and wasteful government expenditures!

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If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Stan Kuta at 540-622-5272 or email Stan at skuta@hli.org.

Healing from Abortion at the Shrine of Lourdes

By Dr. Joseph Meaney, HLI Director of International Outreach and Expansion

Millions have flocked to venerate the place in Lourdes in Southern France where Saint Bernadette Soubirous affirmed that Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, appeared to her in 1858. The Blessed Mother asked for penance and prayers for the conversion of sinners and promised healing for the pilgrims who drink and bathe in the water from a spring. What could be more appropriate then that the shrine of Lourdes should become a place of spiritual healing for those suffering from abortion or the death of a child from miscarriage?

At the end of 2016, in order to continue the graces from the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, the bishop of Lourdes, His Excellency Nicolas Brouwet, inaugurated a *Chemin de Consolation* (Path of Consolation). This penitential and healing way for those who have lost a child starts at the foot of the

basilica and proceeds through different stations to the hill above and the cavern of the two Marys: Saint Mary of Nazareth in her title as the *Pietà*, mourning her son taken down from the cross, and Saint Mary Magdalene.

Meditations in French and other languages provided along the way help pilgrims examine their lives and seek God's mercy. Those on the Path of Consolation learn that at the base of the hill priests are waiting to offer the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and help them confess their sins and become spiritually cleansed for a new beginning. They are also invited to write the names of their deceased children in a book of life along with any thoughts they wish to express. *Mère de Miséricorde* (Mother of Mercy), a French pro-life group dating back to the 1980s and very involved in post-abortion healing ministry, designed this spiritual path at the request of the bishop. The hope is to help brokenhearted mothers and



Mass celebrated by Bishop Nicolas Jean René Brouwet, Diocese of Tarbes and Lourdes.

fathers to find consolation after the violence of abortion, the tragedy of miscarriage, or the death of a child after birth.

Bishop Brouwet is a young (55) and dynamic shepherd who studied at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and the Family in Rome and encouraged the very first Rachel's Vineyard post-abortion retreats in France. It was an honor to be invited, along with my wife Marie and daughter Thérèse, to a special pro-life event with Bishop Brouwet at the one-year anniversary of the inauguration of the Path of Consolation. He celebrated Mass for us in the cavern of the two Marys and reminded us that caves have many symbolic meanings. They are places of darkness and refuge but also recall the wombs of our mothers. The sun never shines all the way into the deepest recesses of the Grotto of Massabielle, but that is where Our Lady of Lourdes directed Bernadette to dig in the mud to discover the life-giving and healing spring of water.

It is beautiful to witness the shrine of Lourdes developing a pro-life outreach. The first recognized miracle in fact happened to a pregnant mother with a paralyzed hand, Catherine Latapie, who was cured in 1858. Bishop Brouwet announced a special day of prayer to honor preborn human life on May 31, the Feast of the Visitation, when the preborn infant St. John the Baptist leapt with joy within St. Elizabeth at the arrival of the newly conceived Jesus in Mary's womb. HLI will be wholeheartedly supporting this initiative.

Contraception and the Population Control Menace in Tanzania

By Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of Anglophone Africa

As the Anglophone Director for HLI Africa, I wish to share some personal family history with you to show how the issues of Life, Faith and Family touch us all, even as far away from the United States as Tanzania. I was blessed to be born into a large family of nine, seven of whom survived to adulthood. My parents are Carlo and Osmunda Hagamu. My family resides at Ng'ombo village on the Tanzanian part of the shore of Lake Malawi, about 9 miles from the border of Mozambique.



Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of Anglophone Africa (right), with his mother, Osmunda Ndimbo Hagamu.

I have a brother, Menas, the eighth child, and among his children are two daughters. Seen on the next page, Celina is 22 years of age, and Maria is 26. Both have fallen victim to the ravages of the contraception industry.

Celina, a mother of two, divorced two years ago but has since remarried. Celina is fighting possible infertility caused by a five-year Norplant “family planning” device, which was immediately implanted in her arm after giving birth to her second child. Women who are infertile are often looked down upon by African men. While many women reportedly conceive post-Norplant, not all of them can. In fact, Norplant was banned from use in the United States due to its side effects after many thousands of women filed suit. A newer version of Norplant, renamed Jadelle, has never been marketed in the United States under its brand name. ***Despite its history, Norplant and Jadelle have been heavily used in the developing world by the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation.*** It is an abortifacient, meaning the drug can cause failure of the fertilized egg to implant in the uterus.

Celina received her Norplant insertion from Ng'ombo Dispensary,



L to R: Celina and Maria, victims of the contraception industry.

owned and managed by the Anglican Church. She suffered so much from side effects following the implant, she was forced to return to the medical facility for removal. She told me:

*“I received a free, two-rod Norplant insertion. The medical attendant promised me the device was safe and that I could enjoy my marital intimacy as frequently as I wanted and be able to space childbirth. But shortly after I received the insert, I experienced very heavy and prolonged menstrual periods, accompanied by such severe abdominal pain that I could no longer enjoy relations with my husband. He complained about being forced to ‘abstain.’ At length, he even threw me out of the bedroom and I was forced to spend nights in the living room. Sensing my marriage was endangered, I returned to the medical facility to seek removal of the contraceptive device. I did that a year ago and I was asked to pay US \$10 for the removal. As I tell this story, **my marriage is in real jeopardy because I still have not been able to conceive and my new husband wants children.**”*



Celina showing her arm scar after Norplant was surgically removed.

Removal is risky and requires surgery. You see, the rod “migrates” and in Celina’s case, it took workers 8 hours to locate and remove it. The hunt-and-see operation left a dramatic, permanent scar on Celina’s upper body. It is large enough to be easily seen from a distance.

Maria’s sad story is similar to her sister Celina’s ordeal. Maria’s educational aspirations ended at 14 and in the sixth grade, when she found she was pregnant by a young man from a neighboring village. Maria’s father forced her into marriage. By 18, Maria had two children. After her first child, Maria was registered for “family planning” services. In her case the workers used the injectable, Depo-Provera. (As it states on our HLI.org website, Depo-Provera, too, can act as an abortifacient. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has also relied heavily on the implementation of the drug, again despite its side effects.) Asked about her own experience, Maria experienced breathing discomfort and irregular menses.

Unfortunately, her husband passed away when their second child was only two. So, Maria became a 20-year-old widow. To support her children, impossible as a single mother in Tanzania, she critically needed extra income, which she procured from relations with other men. Afraid of pregnancy, she regrettably decided to go for a two-rod, five-year Norplant insertion. Since then, Maria has undergone a dramatic loss of weight (from 65 kg to 40 kg – or a loss of 55 pounds). After two years on the drug, she now looks skinny and worn out. Since

the implantation occurred, she has only menstruated once and is also terribly afraid she might not be able to conceive again. In the interview she revealed to me that she is now in deep trouble, trying to find a man to marry her. She told me the basis of her poor decision was, “I used a contraceptive because I was unsure if the man I am having sexual relations with would marry me.” Her sexual relations are not based on love, but rather on cash-on-demand basis, and she sadly prays a partner will be willing enough later to marry her.

Maria and Celina are not alone. They merely represent the pain and suffering endured by *millions of poor women* in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, where Bill and Melinda Gates have pumped \$4 billion into population control programs.

The Tanzanian Health Ministry has even designed a “family planning” program that allows population control agents to make village visits to meet “clients” in their homes. Marie Stopes (Tanzania) and UMATI (IPPF Tanzania), in collaboration with local non-governmental organizations and government backing, are seen in all villages, schools and colleges. Easily fooled by the

people’s trust that whatever the government tells them is true, Tanzanian nationals are easily exploited by the population control agenda.

Talking to the parish priest of Ng'ombo in the Catholic Diocese of Mbinga, Fr. Canut Ngunuwe, he told me after a speech I gave that contraception is causing such spiritual bankruptcy among the Catholic faithful that there are very few, if any, sacramental marriages remaining in the parish. ***In the past three years, only one local couple saw their marriage blessed by the Church.*** Men and women simply co-habitate, live together outside of marriage, having children and grandchildren.

Yet we must not despair. As Christians we cultivate faith, hope and charity. Faith in God’s message, hope as nothing happens without God’s permissive will and charity towards one’s neighbor. David told Goliath: “Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: ***but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, which thou hast defied***” (17:45). Thereupon, they clashed, and David slew Goliath with a stone aimed with his slingshot. Remember with God, all things are possible.

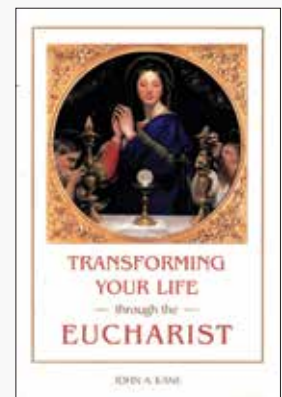
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