



Mission Report

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- ✳ **This Month's Gift to Donors: **A 4 DVD Set from EWTN's Program "Women of Grace"** Featuring Guest Fr. Shenan J. Boquet**

Left: Studious youth taking notes at Emil Hagamu's talk on life and family in Dar es Salaam.

Dear Friends in Christ,

You made it possible for Dr. Brian Clowes and me to lead a three-day pro-life leadership training seminar at the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL) European Conference, held in Prague. During the seminar, we were able to assist CFC-FFL pro-life and family leaders from across the European continent to understand the crucial issues affecting their countries. Our objectives were simple: to promote greater awareness of the assaults on human life and the family, to enable people to see the urgency of the crisis, to unite people in a focused ethical effort, and to provide the appropriate tools necessary to encourage pro-life work in their local governments and communities.

The response to our contribution to the conference was overwhelmingly favorable. Gladilyn Rivera, a CFC-FFL leader from Italy, said, "This training has broadened my knowledge about the pro-life movement. It gave me more inspiration to teach and share with others the important information that I learned in this conference. Thank you very much!" Emilia Unay from Norway, who was attending HLI pro-life and family training for the first time, was also impressed by the depth and quality of the training. "This symposium made a large impact on me, especially on issues which I have not heard about or seen discussed in media. Thank you for giving us knowledge of the unknown." Her husband Rene Unay described the seminar as, "A huge educational experience that makes me want to work in this movement."

Many admitted that they had never heard Church teaching explained so thoroughly on the issues of marriage, chastity, and human sexuality. Neither their governments nor their local church leaders had encouraged a world view that focused on the inherent value of human dignity and life. Contraception, abortion, euthanasia, gender

Over, please



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President



Fr. Boquet in Prague, Czech Republic giving a presentation to European leaders of CFC-FFL during its annual European conference.

theory, and homosexuality had largely been approached from a very secular viewpoint, without any consideration for the teachings of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Many expressed a desire to learn more about these issues, especially their effect on life and the family.

Many of the participants were disturbed by the impact of the global population control agenda and its supporters. “It is so shocking to know what is happening in our world,” said Eva Hertenberger from Austria.

For the majority who were experiencing this level of formation and education for the first time, it was enlightening. “I learned a lot about issues regarding contraception and abortion,” said Kristina Bernadas, a medical professional from Iceland. Wilfredo Dayo from Germany added that, “This

conference opened my mind to the great importance of the dignity of the human person.”

A sentiment expressed by many of those participating in the CFC-FFL seminar was grave concern over what they are experiencing in their families, work environments, and countries, especially as more communities succumb to the influence of the Culture of Death. Lacking a proper knowledge of Church teaching on issues of life and the family, the Catholic faithful of Europe are incapable of adequately responding to the growing trend of secularization and its aggressive militant approach.

Most of the conference attendees grasped this harsh and sobering reality and expressed a fervent desire to make a difference!

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Father Boquet'.

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International

There is an urgent call of utmost importance to combat the daunting situation confronting our families, societies, and cultures, especially as we face the growing decline and influence of Christianity. HLI answers this call with our community of trained and informed missionaries. We provide parishes, communities and individuals with the information and training necessary to combat the Culture of Death’s deceptive and illusory language. Our programs, conferences and seminars carry life-saving information, and our goal is to make them available to everyone who wants them.

Thanks to your faithful support, commitment, and prayers, we will continue to *fight the good fight*, empowering many more to join in the Great Campaign for Life. We shall continue to equip and mentor pro-life and family leaders around the world with the confidence that our work will foster a tidal wave of global change. May the Lord bless you for your generosity and all you do in support of this mission.

TRAINING IN TANZANIA

By Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa, July 2019

ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO THE HLI NFP CONFERENCE 2019 IN TANZANIA!

In July, with your help, I was able to conduct a Natural Family Planning (NFP) conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Fifty-five participants—including lay faithful, seminarians, religious women and men, and priests from 19 dioceses attended the conference. Our goal was to provide attendees with the knowledge necessary to practice and/or teach NFP in accordance with Church teaching, in order to promote strong marriages, strong family relationships, and responsible parenthood. The conference was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the Holy



Emil Hagamu talks to participants attending HLI's NFP conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Below: A group discussion on NFP methods in Dar es Salaam.



Eucharist. The conference opened with a special Mass dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, celebrated by the parish priest of Mbagala, Fr. Prosper Kessy, OFM Cap. In his homily, he thanked HLI for its important missionary work defending human life, marriage, and the family — work that wouldn't have been possible without your support and prayers. He noted that, **in our modern world, which is characterized by the philosophies and activities of the Culture of Death, HLI's work has become crucially important.** He challenged participants to be attentive to the conference sessions **and to apply their new knowledge to their daily lives.**

The conference was divided into four parts: Part one was a presentation on the theological foundations of NFP. In part two, the content of the NFP program was presented. Part three consisted of instructions on how to execute the program itself. And part four was the launching of the HLI NFP program nationally. We were graced by Archbishop Jude Thadei Ruwalchi, co-adjutor of Dar es Salaam, in a Mass that marked the closing of the conference.

OUTPOURING OF TESTIMONIES

Many who attended shared numerous

testimonies. Many people shared their experiences of falling victim to the contraceptive mentality. Some health workers testified that they had ignorantly participated in dispensing contraceptives. Salbega Ngonyani, a nurse at Cardinal Rugambwa Hospital in Dar es Salaam, said: “Being a health worker, I have attended many workshops in my life. But this workshop has been very different, as it made me realize how I have caused harm to many women who received contraceptives from my

“I am so happy to receive knowledge about Natural Family Planning. It has changed my way of thinking and I am confident it will bring happiness in my family. I promise I won’t stay quiet with the knowledge I am having. I will use it to educate many couples so that they too will appreciate how good this method is and hence, enable them to improve their family life and live happy marriages.”

— Mary Matiku, Projects’ CEO in the Diocese of Moshi

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own hand. **I remember hearing those who used contraception complain about missed menses, irregular menstrual flow, libido, and a feeling of guilt that led to frequent quarrels and a loss of peace in the family.**

Some participants shared bitterly how contraception has had a negative impact on their marriages. Rose Msofe of Dar es Salaam is one of those who regrets having used contraception as a safeguard against unexpected pregnancies.

We were overjoyed to hear from **many of the participants who happily credited HLI with saving their preborn children.** Joyce Angelo of Dar es Salaam admits that, without receiving pro-life education, she would have succumbed to family and social pressure to abort her baby. She is now a pro-life ambassador who advocates for every life as a gift from God.

BE DEFENDERS OF LIFE

Archbishop Jude Thadei Ruwalchi, coadjutor of Dar es Salaam, closed the conference by celebrating the Holy Mass. In his homily, he invited participants to become true defenders of life and family. He praised the missionary work done by HLI in supporting the pro-life

message throughout the world. “You have chosen the better part, cooperating with God the Creator in supporting and defending human life.” He ended the homily by encouraging the participants themselves: “As long as you promote NFP according to Church teachings, you are doing Church work and therefore you are the Church. . . . Your obligation as a Catholic is to spread the good news of the Gospel of Life.”

GOING FORWARD

The NFP conference, that you made possible, was a time of learning, positive interaction, testimony, and commitment to action. The HLI mission in Tanzania has never been more practical or more enthusiastic. I am confident that the number of participants will increase as we further engage in this life-saving mission. I thank and commend our donors for the critical funding they have provided to this program. As Sister Judith Kapinga of the African Benedictine Sisters of Our Lady Help of Christians said, “Your financial help is very important to counteract the false teaching and propaganda spread by those promoting contraception.”



A group photo with Archbishop Jude Thadei Ruwalchi, coadjutor of Dar es Salaam, with seminarians and religious sisters after the closing Mass for HLI's NFP conference.

CARING FOR A PREGNANT WOMAN IN NEED

As director of HLI Tanzania, I have often given out my number so that those facing difficult life situations can call me for help. Flavia Mtitu called me back in 2018. She was a student of the Iringa Region who realized that she was pregnant just before she was to begin her university education. **Her father was so angry that he drove Flavia out of his house, forcing her to live with her poor mother in the Morogoro Region.** There was no way Flavia could afford to continue her schooling or get a good job while pregnant or providing for her child. When we spoke, I invited her to attend HLI's *Humanae Vitae* conference later that month. We paid for her travel costs and her stay at the Camaldolese Sisters Retreat Center in Dar es Salaam. The conference restored her peace of mind, and she returned to her mother confident and hopeful, committed to living a chaste life.

Throughout Flavia's pregnancy, we regularly provided her with money for food, clothing, and necessities, **as well as counseling for her future and for her family relationships.** She was eventually able to reconnect with her father, who regretted his harsh actions and was overjoyed to meet his strong grandson.

As this year's NFP program gathered momentum, **a need for more educators arose.** I decided to sponsor six women for a two-week training on the Billings Ovulation Method at an institute in Ndanda. I encouraged Flavia to join the team and was able to raise funds to help her



The Archbishop, coadjutor of Dar es Salaam baptizing Bonaventure Goodluck.

“Throughout Flavia’s pregnancy, HLI regularly provided her money for food, clothing and necessities, as well as counseling for her future and her family relationships.”



The newly baptized Bonaventure Goodluck.

with childcare as she studied. She proved her worth by providing critical aid during the NFP conference. **Her ability to train participants who had never heard of NFP was stunning.** Archbishop Jude Thadeus Ruwaichi baptized her son Bonaventure Goodluck at the close of the conference.

After the conference, we hired Flavia as an NFP educator. Her job with us provides the support she needs and assures her of a safe and stable life in the years to come. She now lives happily in Morogoro with young Bonaventure, whose birth and baptism mark a glorious celebration of our 25 years of pro-life work in Tanzania. We thank all of our donors who have made victories like this possible!

THE LIE OF CONTRACEPTION: A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

My name is Evodia Ng'ande of Ilangamoto Parish in Njombe Diocese. I am 37 years old and married to Altho Adriano Mavika. God has blessed us with three children: Augustine, Christa, and Elenesta.

I did not use any form of contraception until I was married and had delivered my firstborn child. **Neither our parish priest nor the Church leadership ever mentioned anything regarding the Church's teachings on contraception, so I was under the impression that the Church permitted the common use of contraception for family planning.** Despite using the Pill, I became pregnant, and found myself enduring a very difficult pregnancy. My marriage began to suffer under the strain of poor health. I went to the Marie Stopes Clinic in Makambako Township for an abortion, which was so poorly performed that I nearly died. My life was only saved by an emergency surgery at the local hospital.

After recovering my health, I again conceived and gave birth to my daughter Christa. After her birth I went back to using contraception regularly, however, I soon found that I was pregnant again. This pregnancy was as difficult as my second had been. Due to my prior experience, I was too frightened to have another abortion, so I gave birth to our third child, Elenesta. After her birth, I received a Depo Provera injection, hoping that I would not have the same experiences that I had on the birth control pills. I immediately experienced continuous, heavy, and prolonged bleeding, along with extreme weight loss, pain, and lack of appetite. When the first three months were over, I discontinued this method and began using Norplant, which only exacerbated my problems. **My poor health also added more stress to my relationship with my husband, and we often quarreled, sometimes going weeks at a time without speaking to each other.**

One day in 2013, I heard a talk show on Radio Maria by Pro-Life Tanzania on the evils of abortion and contraception. When the talk show ended, I was in tears, regretful for my abortion and for my extended use of contraception. However, I felt comforted by the promise of God's forgiveness and mercy, and I continued to listen to Radio Maria over the next few months. I also went to a health center to remove the Norplant. **During the next several months, I not only experienced more strain on my marriage, but physical problems as well, including uneven menstrual cycles, shaky health, and—most severely—miscarriages that occurred between 18 and 28 weeks every time I conceived.**



Evodia Ngande from Ilangamoto Parish.

When I was younger, I had heard college students discuss NFP. Early in my marriage, I tried to convince my husband to use it, but he didn't understand how it worked and supported contraception instead. However, after watching me experience the terrible effects of contraception and knowing its effects on our marriage, he encouraged me to consult other women who were more knowledgeable regarding the method. Workers at Pro-Life Tanzania trained my husband and me on how to use the Billings Ovulation Method, which we have followed faithfully for the past six years.

Many women in my country would like to give up contraception, but they have no knowledge of NFP. In addition, they are falsely assured by health professionals that contraception has no harmful side effects and is easily reversible. **The greatest desire of my life has been to save as**

“Many women in my country would like to give up contraception, but they have no knowledge of NFP. In addition, they are falsely assured by health professionals that contraception has no harmful side effects and is easily reversible.”

many women as I possibly can from these lies about contraception. I was delighted to hear that our priest, Fr. Arnold Likiliwike, had invited Mr. Emil Hagamu to provide a four-day program on life and family issues. Not only did I learn new knowledge about life, marriage, and family, I was also able to learn in detail the Billings Ovulation Method of NFP. During the program, Mr. Hagamu invited me to attend NFP training in Ndanda. This course will give me the knowledge I need to teach

NFP to my fellow parishioners and to other people around my area. I feel confident that the NFP program that HLI has initiated will be a life-saving project in my parish and for all the suffering women of Tanzania. I would like to thank you, the generous donors, for providing the knowledge and training that has helped me break out of the crippling cycle of contraception! I pray that this knowledge will soon benefit all of my Tanzanian sisters!

October 2019 Events

Please Pray for HLI's Mission Work in October:

- October 14-23: HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet accompanies Latin American Regional Director, Mario Rojas, on a mission to Ecuador for our “REDESSVIDA” or pro-life training for seminarians, priests and laity.
- October 22-November 7: Latin American Advisor, Nancy Tosi, travels to the Diocese of Oruro, Bolivia, for a mission among students, families, seminarians, and priests. She is joined by Elisa Lanza of ANE Bolivia.
- October 25-November 1: Emil Hagamu, Regional Director Anglophone Africa, pairs up with Dr. Brian Clowes, HLI Director for Education and Research, to work on pro-life formation among seminarians in Zambia.
- October 30-November 12: Fr. Boquet heads to Hawaii where he will be educating and training priests, religious and laity (including young adults), as well as leaders in marriage, family, and post-abortive ministries.

Watch for details of these events in future issues of HLI's *Mission Report*.

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IMPACTING STRUCTURES OF INFLUENCE

By Marlene Gillette-Ibern – HLI OAS Program Coordinator, August 2019

The Culture of Death has infiltrated and subverted the laws of more than one hundred nations that were previously pro-life and pro-family. Pro-abortionists, LGBTQ groups, and population controllers experimented with this process for decades before hitting upon a sequence that is extremely effective, and which now follows exactly the same blueprint in every targeted nation. Their process seeks to corrupt all the sources of influence in a nation following a very specific sequence.

The highest level is comprised of *internationally focused organizations*. This is where very large multinational entities exert pressure on multiple countries, and sometimes on all the nations of the world. Two of the organizations are the **United Nations (UN)** and the **Organization of American States (OAS)**.

At the UN we partner with other pro-life and family groups and member states that advocate for pro-life and family policies. At the OAS we work with pro-life and family groups from all over Latin America. Many of them we helped to establish many years ago due to the work of Fr. Paul Marx OSB, founder of HLI, and Magaly Llaguno, founding executive director of HLI's Spanish Division.

The OAS holds annual General Assemblies which we have participated



in since 2012 along with our partner organizations from across the region. The 49th General Assembly was held in Medellin, Colombia this past summer. There was a two-part theme:

- *Together Forever: OAS calls for closer ties to reach UN goals*
- *Innovating to Strengthen Hemispheric Multilateralism*

Those present at the OAS included: the ambassadors of the member states, OAS officials, national and international media correspondents and representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) like HLI. Along with our Latin American partners, we participated as a strong and vocal group led by Mario Rojas HLI Regional Director for Latin America, Gladys Amaya Director of Foundation Culture of Human Life (our affiliate in Colombia) and Luis Martinez an attorney from Mexico and very good friend of HLI. Our aim was to advocate for life and family, in accordance with principles of Catholic-oriented natural law. Your generous support makes it possible for us to be the voice for life and



Gladys Amaya of the Foundation Culture of Human Life at the Organization of American States (OAS) in Colombia, reading the pro-life coalition statement to the OAS ambassadors.



Mario Rojas, HLI Regional Director of Latin America, with Dr. Gladys de Amaya of the Foundation Culture of Human Life.

family; and your prayers give us the courage to persevere.

Our friends in Colombia had developed a strong network of collaborators and affiliates from countries all over the region in order to form a strong coalition. We called ourselves, ‘HLI CSO Coalition for Human Development’. In representing you, we argued for the dignity of the human person at the center and reason for all government endeavors.

It is our goal to ensure that when OAS Member States fully participate in the UN’s directives, they take the necessary steps to ensure that those directives honor the dignity of life and family. Toward this end, Gladys Amaya read the following HLI coalition statement before the General Assembly:

“Good morning. We extend to the OAS our sincere gratitude in allowing us to submit our comments during this forum for civil society organizations.

My name is Dr. Gladys Buitrago de Amaya, President of the Foundation Culture for Human Life in Colombia, which represents Human Life International in this country.

Daily, the OAS seeks agreements between Member States on matters on common interest and common impact, through multilateralism, in the American continent.

Yet, to seek consensus between persons who have radically opposed ideas will not lead to institutional perfection, nor to economic development, nor to social progress in the country. Consensus always ends in failure for all sides.

This is because an agreement must begin with a basic understanding on what defines authentic human rights, which can only be found in natural law.

“It is HLI’s goal to ensure that OAS Member States can fully participate in the UN’s directives, while taking steps to ensure that those directives honor the dignity of life and family worldwide.”

Natural law is grounded in human nature, and rationally defines and governs what is best for the human condition.

Human rights offer a solid foundation for a productive and successful dialogue.

Given that fundamental human rights are inherent and immutable to the human person, these must be respected and valued, beginning with the right to life from conception to natural death. Starting with that primary human right, one discovers all

other rational human rights, such as those rights related to marriage, family, food, clothing, housing, education, and work, among others.

Therefore, there can be no consensus about laws in favor of abortion, nor laws in favor of alleged same-sex marriages or same-sex families, nor even with the imposition of these or similar measures upon faith-based institutions, contrary to their values.

We are aware that this dialogue has, as its

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goal, the true welfare of the human person. Yet an honest dialogue requires being open to the truth.

When the truth about the human person is acknowledged, human welfare will be obtained.

Thank you.”

We are deeply grateful to God, and to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, for the success of our work at the OAS in Colombia. We pray that our efforts here, as well as at the UN, will continue to create positive impact and help to build a Culture of Life around the world. The only way we can carry out this work is with your generous support and prayers.

P.S. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to collaborate with CFC-FFL on their leadership training programs. As global pro-life and family apostolates, we both strive to foster the holiness of life, the renewal of the temporal order through formation and catechesis, and the service and defense of life and the family.

At the recent mission in Prague, we found the same situation HLI encounters all over the world. People are thirsting for the Truth presented in a very clear and concise fashion. People are willing to share the Gospel of Life but are lacking in knowledge. It would be easy for me to go on about the causes, but I prefer to focus on the solution. And that solution requires your complete and dedicated participation. By praying for HLI’s global mission ... by offering up in your Holy Hour the thousands of pro-life warriors we work with around the world ... by remembering the clerical and lay leaders who receive HLI training when praying your daily rosary ... you are preparing the field for the harvest. Then and only then, your financial contributions make it possible for HLI educators to go out and “make disciples of all nations.” Please send back the enclosed Reply Card with the best contribution you can make today!

In gratitude for your fidelity and support, I would like to offer this very special gift. HLI’s education programs take many forms and venues. One that I particularly enjoy, because of the global reach, is participating on EWTN programs. I have known Johnette Benkovic Williams for many years, so I was thrilled when she asked me to do a four-part series on Women of Grace. For a contribution of \$53 or more, I will send you the 4-DVD set. If you already purchased it from EWTN, get a second copy to give to a friend or family member that you know needs to hear this message. Send your gift today!

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International



A 4-DVD set from EWTN’s program “Women of Grace” featuring guest Fr. Shenan J. Boquet is this month’s pro-life educational resource when you give \$53 or more!