



HLI MISSION REPORT

Pro-Life Missionaries to the World®

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By Dr. Ligaya A. Acosta
and Emil Hagamu

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- * Many Learn the Truth of Abortion for the First Time!
- * HLI's Message Welcomed by Different Faiths
- * 25 Speaking Events and over 1,000 People Reached in **Uzbekistan**
- * Russian Parish Horrified to Learn Effects of IUDs
- * Condoms Infiltrate HIV-Ridden **Botswana**
- * Below-Replacement Fertility Level: Botswana Faces Demographic Catastrophe
- * Where Have the Children of **Botswana** Gone?



Dear HLI friends and supporters,

This past September, HLI's Dr. Ligaya Acosta embarked on her most challenging and, in her own words, miraculous mission ever, to the Turkic country of Uzbekistan. Read on to see how she traveled far and wide proclaiming the Gospel to a people caught in the throes of the population control regime. Also in September, Emil visited the African country of Botswana. His report tells how he brought the pro-life message to this nation in which rampant HIV and AIDS have made the people especially vulnerable to anti-life propaganda.

MISSIONARY TRIP TO UZBEKISTAN—Reported by Dr. Ligaya A. Acosta, September 15-29, 2010

I first heard about Uzbekistan when I went to Kazakhstan last year. Frankly, I didn't even know then that such a country existed! When I started gathering facts about Uzbekistan, my heart leapt with the desire to go. **Abortion is legal, promiscuity and divorce are rampant, and the government is enforcing a**



mandated sterilization program. Not surprisingly, international death peddlers, including USAID, have been pouring in a lot of money for massive population control.

Thankfully, His Excellency Bishop Jerzy Maculewicz, OFM, Apostolic Administrator, readily approved my visit – **the most challenging mission that I have embarked on so far, but I would also say the most miraculous!**

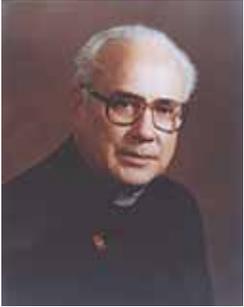
From the beginning, the mission seemed impossible! Not only is there no embassy of Uzbekistan in my home-country, the Philippines, but also the cost of travel was prohibitive. But the more I prayed, the more my desire to bring the Gospel of Life there grew. After many difficulties, and with the full support of HLI Central and the Catholic Church in Uzbekistan, I was able to get my visa in China. **God indeed always makes a way – where there seems to be no way!**



SPEAKING TO THE PEOPLE

At the airport, I was met by a smiling Fr. Lucjan Szymanski, whom the Bishop designated to coordinate with me on his behalf. Just as I thought I could rest from the long journey and give in to my drowsiness, Fr. Lucjan said he would give me ten minutes to freshen up, as I was to address a women’s group meeting. I could not complain but only obey with all my heart.

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



To me it was as plain as the day in 1972 that the Church’s greatest enemy was the well financed, anti-life, anti-family, anti-Church, and anti-God IPPF, the collaborating UN, the Pathfinder Fund, USAID, and the many financing foundations and governments. These organized anti lifers were spreading their poison everywhere, above all into the only Catholic continent on earth. Pitifully, the Church seemingly could never summon the resources, financial and otherwise, or the leadership to meet these powerful enemies head on and early on. —*Faithful for Life*, p. 76-77.

Fr. Paul Marx

It was a small but great group of six female professionals, who meet at the church every Thursday. They began sharing the sad situation in their country. One of them, a nurse, was a former abortionist who had decided to give up performing abortions when she became active in the church - to the consternation of her family, who had enjoyed the big income from abortion. She was comforted by my talk, as it confirmed her in her decision for Life. She came back for my other talks as well.

Father Lucjan called the Missionary of Charity (MC) Sisters — the only group of nuns in Uzbekistan — to ask if they would be interested in having me, and they readily accepted. A talk was thus arranged for me the next day with the Sisters (numbering nine – including their Regional Superior who was in town for a visit). Surprisingly, they already knew my name. The MCs in Kazakhstan, to whom I had become very close, had been telling them of me and of HLI’s mission. After my talk, **the Sisters decided that my message was urgent and should be heard by many. Thus, they became great missionary partners, intentionally praying for and arranging many talks for me** – three with their community, one with the English-speaking group held after the English Mass, one with

their youth wards, and another one with their poor constituents. They wanted to have more, but very soon my days were filled! The Sister Superior even called the MCs in Kyrgyztan (one of the six independent Turkic states, like Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan) to tell them about me and HLI, and they want me to come as well.

FR. LUCJAN’S PARISH ... AND BEYOND

The next day we set off on the long difficult route to Fr. Lucjan’s parish, which took about seven hours. The good priest had no car of his own, and thus we undertook a series of long endless walks under the scorching heat of the Uzbek sun. As we walked and waited for public busses and walked again to transfer to other busses, passing through markets and walkways, I imagined how difficult it was at the time of the twelve disciples. At least there were buses for us, even if we had to walk far to go to the terminals.

Upon reaching his parish, we dropped by a small market to buy vegetables and instant noodles to go with the bagful of bread that Father had brought for the parishioners. On arrival we busied ourselves preparing the late lunch we were to share with them after Mass – a routine Father does every Saturday to encourage them to come.



Ligaya Acosta (center) with Rev. Fr. Lucjan Szymanski and the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, September 2010.



Immediately upon her arrival, Ligaya meets with professional women of Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

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At 3:00 p.m., Father celebrated Mass, after which I delivered my talk, which he translated into Russian. ***It was the first time they had ever heard the reality and evils of abortion and contraception.*** They were horrified at learning the effects of IUDs; ***they told me IUDs are very commonly used among the women, often being inserted by health workers without the women's full knowledge and consent.*** Condoms, the young people also said, are freely distributed in schools. As we broke bread at the dining table, they shared how rampant contraception and abortion are in their community, and that they didn't know it was harmful. They appreciated my talk, especially with the colored slides. A person of German descent even begged me to also go to his home country of Germany, as they too, he said, need to hear the message.

My talk also touched a local priest, Father Yarek Jaroslaw Wisniewski, who started calling and sending messages to his contacts to have me speak in their institutions. ***As I had done with Fr. Lucjan, Fr. Yarek and I also walked and travelled near and far, knocking on doors of possible audiences, including universities. It was definitely hard work.*** Since Father walked fast and was used to a lot of walking, I would often be left behind or run to keep pace with him. At times, I purposely walked behind Father to get some shade from his shadow. The noonday sun was so hot for me that I would often cover myself with the winter jacket I had to bring because of unpredictable temperatures. My shoes peeled off from walking on rugged terrain, and my feet were sore and wounded. But I had no reason to complain. My heart was full, and since there was so much to do, there was no time to brood nor even get tired!

Our hard work and perseverance paid off. ***Ultimately, I was given the opportunity for 25 speaking engagements, reaching out to around 1,103 people – Catholics, Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Muslims, and university students in two big schools in Tashkent.*** I was also able to speak at the Tashkent Presbyterian Seminary, where classes were suspended to enable all 21 seminarians and faculty to listen to my whole-day talk, which they also opened to their parishioners. One talk led to another and another. As soon as one group heard the message, word spread and the invitations kept coming, and thus we had to run from one appointment to the other. Just before my departure, I had to rush to another two-hour talk with physicians and medical professors from the nearby hospital and medical school, after speaking at a university. One of them, an Uzbek Doctor of Korean descent, Dr. Valentina Kim, who attended many of my sessions, helped us immensely in organizing the talks at the universities. ***As always, there is power in the Gospel of Life and joy in the splendour of truth!*** Everyone clamoured for more. University Administrators asked me to come again when I return to Uzbekistan, and non-Catholic denominations promised to organize bigger audiences if HLI would come again. ***Young people, to the joyful surprise of parents and teachers, took the vow of chastity after my talk – unusual in a country where promiscuity is considered normal!***



Meeting with parishioners of Angren, Uzbekistan.



The youth of Angren, Uzbekistan.



Youth leaders of Tashkent take the vow of chastity.

WORKING WITH THE BISHOP

The Bishop, whom I often had lunch with, was amazed at what we accomplished, considering that in Uzbekistan, which is a Muslim country, evangelization is strictly prohibited, and one has to receive a government permit to be able to speak in public. Defense of life and family is truly a unifying factor for all religions – including the Muslims. ***Indeed while HLI is a Catholic organization, our message transcends religions!***

Aside from Tashkent and nearby areas, the Bishop also sent me to Urgench, 1,000 kilometers away. Although I stayed there only for one night and one and a half days, the great parish priest, Fr. Edward, arranged three talks for me: one for women in the community, another for his parishioners, and another for the youth.

As I left for home on the evening of November 29, sent off at the airport by no less than the good Bishop of Uzbekistan himself, I felt immense joy in my heart at being able to carry forth this mission for HLI - which Pope John Paul II described as the greatest work on earth!

Truly, I always thank God for the many benefactors of HLI, without whom we can never accomplish the mission. Many hours each day, I pray (and ask others to do the same) that God will continue to bless them and their families and multiply their resources, and that they will continue to give to HLI and we can continue to carry out our mission. ***Many more countries need to hear the message, and in many of these countries, HLI is the first and lone voice defending the family and promoting the culture of life.***

MISSIONARY TRIP TO BOTSWANA—Reported by Emil Hagamu, September 5 – 11, 2010

During my first visit to Botswana, from August 16 to 22, 2009, I realized there is a very great need for HLI to extend the Gospel of Life throughout the country. This mission report details my second trip in September, 2010. Evangelical churches and the Methodist Church of Southern Africa had invited me to return and provide them with pro-life training.

PRO-LIFE TRAINING

Members from various Evangelical Churches in Gaborone participated in a three-day pro-life training I conducted. As ***this was the first time for the participants to hear the pro-life message***, I prioritized participant interaction and discussion. In the introduction session, participants came to understand how critical the pro-life message is; ignorance of this message cripples the Church and makes room for anti-life mentalities to infiltrate, even among pastors and evangelists. Then, a session on the origin and development of human life drew attention to the inalienable right to life of every human being, and how God has ordered mankind “to be fruitful and to multiply.” With the aid of the video *Baby Steps*, participants were presented with how human life develops in the womb and why we need to protect that life.



In the last talk on threats to human life, I discussed abortion, show-



HLI trainees in Gaborone, Botswana.

ing three videos which we promote and distribute from HLI headquarters – *The Silent Scream*, *The Hard Truth* and *Slaughter of the Innocents*. **After watching these, men and women in the training room were left speechless. For the first time, they understood the evils of abortion and the impact it has on the child and mother.** In the middle of our ensuing discussion, one lady shouted, “Do those medical doctors performing abortions have a heart?” **The message was clear: abortion is barbaric, and no rational human being would decide to perform or support it.** When concluding my presentations, participants recommended there be further and deeper instruction for trainers next year; I heartily support this proposal.

HIV/AIDS CRISIS

According to Rev. Samuel Makgaola, the Administrator at the Assemblies of God Church in Botswana, the HIV infection rate is high and going up. In 1997, churches united under the umbrella of the “Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Program,” which works together with the government in fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic. He said that although, in general, churches advocate the principles of **abstinence and faithfulness** as ideal and effective methods for preventing HIV infection, **there are some Christian churches which tolerate condom use**, especially in situations of married couples wherein one partner is HIV positive. They argue that it is not practical to tell these couples to abstain, as they still need to fulfill their matrimonial obligation through sexual intimacy. The AIDS situation in this country is very serious, as I learned from television advertisements and the many condoms that are seen in all shops, supermarkets and liquor stores.

ABORTION

On September 10, 2010 a local Botswana newspaper, *The Voice*, carried a front-page article. The headline of the story was: “This is Barbaric.” It reported a case of a young girl who had undergone an abortion using a sharp stick. The story read that the girl was 4 months pregnant. Fearing her family members, and realizing her boyfriend was not interested in marriage, she asked her friend to assist her in performing the abortion. Using a sharp stick, her friend managed to pierce the unborn child’s body, and the child died, and her body was pulled out. And because abortion is not allowed in Botswana, the girl was reprimanded and taken to court to answer charges of intentionally killing an unborn baby.



Pastors of Assemblies of God Church in Gaborone, Botswana.

Despite this highly publicized scandal, many women and girls still seek out abortions in secret. A young lady who works as a cleaner at the hotel where I was staying revealed to me some astonishing information. She said **some women who want abortions travel to South Africa, where abortion-on-demand is legal throughout the nine months of pregnancy thanks to 1996’s most inhumane law on African soil.** The reason given by most Tswana women who seek abortions in South Africa is “a difficult life.” The young woman explained, “Many people are poor; they cannot afford a day’s meal.” When I asked how they manage to pay the high costs

for travel and for the abortion while they claim to be poor, she said “it is better to spend that sum of money once, instead of keeping a baby whose life will eventually become miserable after it is born.”

Abortion has become an “easy way” out for young women in Botswana. It is no wonder that the population of this big country is still below two million. Abortion and contraception are leading this nation into a demographic catastrophe.

QUALITY OF LIFE

I visited a Methodist church for a pro-life talk with the pastor, Rev. O.S. Mere. Unfortunately he was engaged in outside duties the whole day. By God’s grace, though,

I crossed paths with an elderly English lady, Muriel Sanderson, who works at this church as a consultant on ecumenical matters. She confronted me and told me that in HLI’s striving to protect human life, we must take into consideration the “quality of life” of the human being. She challenged that poor, young, impregnated girls should be advised to have abortions, rather than face a whole life of misery. **I answered that life is God’s precious gift to mankind, and in His divine love, He cannot abandon us even in our most difficult moments.**

She turned to euthanasia. Taking herself as an example, she said her mind was still working, but her physical body was failing her. She argued that she would love to end her life immediately because she is not living a “quality life.” **I told her that in His divine plan for her life, God still wants to use her to fulfill His mission. So He would not take her life until what He has assigned her has been accomplished.** Ours is a loving God, I told her.

In the face of her resistance and mounting anger, I gave her my business card so we could communicate further at a later time. As I was leaving, I could not believe that the Methodist Church of Southern Africa could employ such a strong anti-lifer in their midst. Muriel Sanderson openly advocates for abortion and euthanasia right in the church, and yet they respect her as a “consultant.” **How frightful and dangerous that this church employs a person who works against her own mission, attacking the roots of Church teachings!**

SEX EDUCATION

Sex education is being widely taught in all secondary schools in Botswana. The textbooks were supposedly written to teach moral values. I read some of these books, and what I discovered was that adolescents are taught to engage in “safe sex” for three reasons: to avoid pregnancy, to avoid infection from STD’s, and particularly to avoid HIV. “Safe sex” means using condoms and contraceptives. **Abortion, also, is highly encouraged to schoolchildren** because it enables girls to continue with their schooling and to avoid parental rebukes. In Botswana, the virtue of chastity is deeply embedded in traditional culture, so much so that when a girl becomes pregnant before marriage, she may be driven away from home by her parents. Abortion has been upheld as the logical solution. Sex education organizations are working fervently to inculcate their anti-life agendas, and society is increasingly embracing their propaganda: the Ministry of Education and Culture has now authorized these textbooks to be used throughout the country.

MISSING SCHOOL CHILDREN

Gaborone is a unique African town, in the sense that it is missing school children. When I travel to other cit-



Emil Hagamu with Muriel Sanderson.

ies of Africa, one feature I am proud of is the presence of so many children and students in different uniforms walking along the streets. The situation is different here. Over all of the six days I spent in Gaborone, I saw an alarmingly low number of students. This was like a nightmare to me; I could not believe that it was true.

Where have the children gone? One participant, during the training session, shared what the president lamented some years back. **The president was worried about the low birth rate in his country, and in fact he announced that their population was growing at a “zero rate.” He called for a national campaign to boost the birth rate.** But his warning seems to have fallen on deaf ears. As mentioned, even some churches are encouraging their faithful to use contraceptives – pills, *depo provera*, norplant, IUDs and condoms. Adoption of Western lifestyles is further aggravating the situation. We can predict the inevitable death of this nation, unless the people listen to their president’s urgent appeal and accept the message of the Gospel of Life.

Dear friends, thank you for enabling HLI to continue to bring the Gospel to people in desperate need, especially, as you have read in these reports, to many who have never before known the truth about abortion and contraception. Thank you for your prayers and financial assistance!

God bless you always!



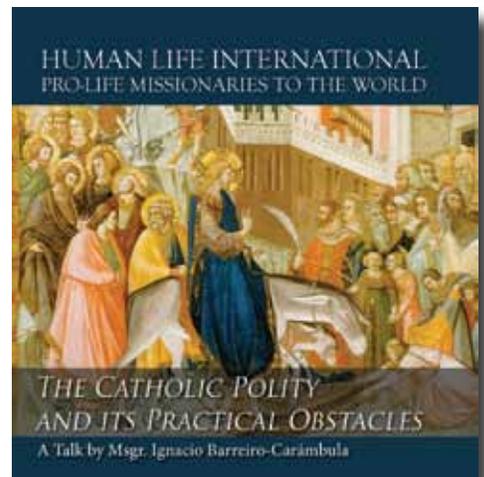
Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro-Carámbula
Interim President

P.S.—This month, in thanksgiving for your contribution of \$49 or more, **I will send you a copy of a CD talk I gave entitled, “The Catholic Polity and its Practical Obstacles.”** In this talk, I explore the idea of the ideal Catholic society, which can be achieved, even in today’s environment.

What is the ideal Catholic society and how can we reach this? Unfortunately, the world today is dominated by secular humanism and Marxism, which believes not in freedom, but in self-indulgence. Society must be organized according to the natural law; only that kind of society will last—a society that enhances a person’s search for God through community in freedom.

We are called to transform society. We cannot and should not expect to make it perfect, but we should work to change it by combating moral relativism, which can lead a democratic society that is not based on natural law toward totalitarianism. This is part of our mission as the Church Militant.

Please send your life-saving gift of \$49 or more to HLI this month, and let me rush out to you this CD talk!



“The Catholic Polity and its Practical Obstacles” is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$49 or more!