



HUMAN LIFE INTERNATIONAL'S

SPECIAL REPORT

Pro-Life Missionaries to the World®

Special Report No. 284

ISSN 0899-420x

August 2008

By Joseph Meaney

Board of Directors

Patricia Pitkus Bainbridge, MA, *Chairman*
Richard J. Clair, Esq.
William F. Colliton, Jr., M.D.
Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer, STL
Rev. Barnabas Laubach, OSB, STM
Kelly S. McGinn, Esq.
B. Larry Jenkins
Stuart W. Nolan Jr. Esq.

Officers

Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer, *President*
Michael Mueller, *Executive Vice President*
Lori R. Hunt, *Secretary*
Amy Shenk, *Treasurer*

Chaplain

Rev. Frank Papa, S.O.L.T.

HLI Rome Office

Rev. Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro, JD, STD
Executive Director

HLI Miami-Hispanic Division

Magaly Llaguno
Executive Director

International Advisors

Jose Cardinal Freire Falcao, Brazil
Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Philippines
Archbishop John Onaiyekan, Nigeria
Rev. Karol Meissner, OSB, MD, Poland
Rev. Msgr. Michel Schooyans, PhD, Belgium
Deacon John Poirier, Canada
Rudolf Ehmman, MD, Switzerland
Babette Francis, Australia
Peggy Norris, MD, England
Josef Roetzer, MD, Austria

USA Advisors

Judie Brown
Rev. Johnny Hunter
Rabbi Yehuda Levin
Vincent McGrath
Joseph Scheidler
Debi Vinnege

HLI Affiliates and Associates

Argentina	Germany	Portugal
Australia	Grenada	Puerto Rico
Austria	Guatemala	Republic of
Barbados	Honduras	Congo
Belarus	Hong Kong	Romania
Belgium	Hungary	Russia (2)
Belize	India (3)	Serbia
Benin	Indonesia	Singapore
Bolivia	Ireland	Slovakia South
Brazil	Jamaica	Africa
Burkina Faso	Japan	South Korea
Cameroon	Kenya	Spain
Chile	Latvia	Sri Lanka
Colombia	Lithuania	St. Lucia
Costa Rica	Malawi	St. Vincent
Croatia	Malaysia	Switzerland
Cuba	Malta	Tanzania
Curacao	Mexico	Taiwan
Czech Republic	Mozambique	Thailand
Democratic	Mynamar	Trinidad
Republic of	Nicaragua	Uganda
Congo	Nigeria	Ukraine
Dominican	Panama (2)	Uruguay (2)
Republic	Paraguay	Venezuela
East Timor	Peru	Vietnam
Ecuador	Philippines (3)	Zimbabwe (2)
El Salvador	Poland	

- * Pro-life Message Reaches **120 Seminarians** from 11 African Countries
- * Teaching the Future of **African Healthcare**
- * Pre-Born Baby Models Open Eyes in **Africa**
- * Launching **Internet Blog** for Pro-life Seminarians
- * Planting Pro-life Seeds in **Equatorial Guinea**
- * **NEW Seminarians for Life International Branch Established**



Dear HLI Friends and Supporters,

The life-loving continent of Africa is being flooded with attacks from the anti-life coalition of population controllers and abortion-rights advocates. This is why we have been constantly expanding our outreach to these nations, especially through our Seminarians for Life International program. These seminarians are extremely eager to receive more information on the Church's teaching on life issues; they just need someone to provide it for them, which is where HLI comes in. The following report by Joseph Meaney follows his trips to Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea as we work to strengthen the Church on life in Africa.

**MISSIONARY TRIP TO CAMEROON AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA—
Reported by Joseph, April 21-May 3, 2008.**

Africa is the fastest-growing region for Human Life International. It is impressive to note that among the French-speaking countries, we are now strongly present in 11 nations, when we were only present in Cameroon just a few years ago. George Wirnkar and I are constantly on-the-go with African missionary trips that are immensely rewarding. We are received with open arms by the seminary rectors, bishops, and newly activated pro-life leaders. Along with these trips to specific countries, we host one big conference every year in Francophone Africa. The



third annual HLI Seminarian Institute was a big success once again. We decided to hold it in Bamenda, Cameroon, from April 24-27. The two previous institutes in Benin and the Republic of the Congo required George Wirnkar to coordinate them from a distance. This time we brought seminarians from throughout Francophone Africa to George's beloved home of Cameroon.

A big reason for our choice of location for the institute was the blessing of receiving the high patronage of Archbishop Cornelius Esua of Bamenda, Cameroon. He celebrated our opening mass with a great deal of enthusiasm and made it possible for HLI to train the seminarians at the beautiful Paul VI Memorial



Archbishop Cornelius Esua (2nd from the left), Joseph Meaney (back), George Wirnkar (far right) and other clergy in Bamenda, Cameroon, April 2008.

Centre in his archdiocese. We reflected that this facility was most appropriately named, since our training focused on the teachings of *Humanae vitae* in this 40th anniversary year of Pope Paul VI's prophetic encyclical letter on contraception. Archbishop Esua is a great friend of HLI. He is a profoundly humble and gentle person who believes that preaching the Gospel of Life is a high priority for the Church.

Most of the 120 seminarians attending the HLI institute came from several Cameroonian seminaries, but **a total of 11 French-speaking nations were represented.** We were especially happy to have a seminarian from Senegal, which is a new country for HLI. We set a new record for international participation, and everything points to the 2009 HLI Seminarian Institute being even larger. **Our pro-life expansion encompasses more and more countries in the region all the time.**

HLI CAMEROON UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUP SAVES LIVES

Something new this year at the seminarian institute was a large contingent of university students. Over the years, George Wirnkar has fostered HLI groups at several Cameroonian universities. The young people show pro-life films and host lectures and activities. I was very moved by the testimony of a student leader who shared the story of two young mothers who decided not to have abortions after seeing a presentation of the HLI group on their campus. Some of the pro-life groups in Cameroon are in medical and nursing schools. It is vital that we reach the future healthcare professionals in Africa, because they are heavily targeted by population control and pro-abortion propaganda.



Another improvement to the institute this year was expanding the quantity and range of materials distributed to the participants. In 2007 we focused on supplying pro-life films and our book *The Case Against Condoms*. For 2008 we continued to give away films and expanded the amount of free literature. We gave out many copies of a French translation of Fr. Paul Marx's excellent pamphlet, "From Contraception to Abortion." They also appreciated an excellent publication against contraception by Msgr. Cormac Burke, "Life and Love in the Conjugal Act." We also gave out prayercards for women wounded by abortion, as well as "I am a responsible boy" & "I am a responsible girl" cards for young people.

For several years seminarians have asked us to provide them with "study editions" of the great magisterial documents on the life issues. George put together a book with *Humanae vitae*, *Evangelium vitae*, *Veritatis splendor*, and *Donum vitae*. The seminarians eagerly snapped up the hundreds of copies we had on-hand. It is

our goal to get copies of all these Church documents into the hands of every seminarian in Africa. If our supporters continue their generous help, this goal will be possible. As it was, **our seminarians for life returned home to their various countries with literally a metric ton of pro-life publications and materials.**

PREBORN BABY MODELS SAVING LIVES IN AFRICA

I am very proud that HLI's international treasury of pro-life knowledge is being used to save lives all over the world. HLI Austria and several other HLI affiliates have for several years now used the small medical models of the preborn child at 10 weeks of pregnancy as a tangible way to illustrate the humanity of the fetus. Most surgical abortions take place when the young baby is about this old and roughly 2 inches long. Pregnant mothers who see a realistic model of the infant they are carrying often reconsider having an abortion. They are quite cute, with the preborn child sucking his thumb as babies do at that age.

Now, Human Life International has brought these models to Africa. Mr. Ernest Kanjam demonstrated to the seminarians and other participants at the institute how he makes these little sculptures using special molds and plaster. They are incredibly inexpensive to produce. HLI provides the molds to make them, and then our local pro-life leaders make and distribute them. We handed out copies to the attendees and gave them molds to be brought back to their seminaries and countries. HLI will be increasing our production of these simple baby molds until there is no corner in Africa where these great resources are not being produced and disseminated. They are an excellent teaching aid in schools and for pro-life instruction. I have seen classrooms full of teenage girls and boys with eyes open wide in wonder at the sight of these sculptures. ***They will never accept the propaganda that the preborn child is a "blob of tissue" that the anti-lifers present.***



Mr. Ernest Kanjam demonstrates how fetal models are made.

Two couples presenting at the HLI institute received their formation at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family in Cotonou, Benin. All these Catholic JP II Institutes provide marvelous pro-life formation, and there are now 11 of them spread around the world on all continents. The JP II Institute for French-speaking nations located in Benin is producing wonderful results. Jean-Emmanuel & Thérèse Ngamo



ROLLERCOASTER RIDES ARE FOR AMUSEMENT PARKS NOT YOUR STOCK PORTFOLIO

In these uncertain economic times, consider an HLI Charitable Gift Annuity. It will provide you steady income for life at an exceptional interest rate AND you will be helping HLI advance our pro-life mission to the world.

Consider a charitable gift annuity

- Avoid most capital gains taxes
- Guaranteed fixed income for life
- Quarterly or semi-annual payments
- Increase your income over the annual stock yield
- Charitable income tax deduction
- Lower estate tax burden

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL BILL WILLIAMS
(540) 622-5285**



Joseph Meaney with Jean-Emmanuel and Thérèse Ngamo at HLI's Institute Bamenda in Cameroon.

and Irénée & Aicha Kola enriched our presentations by sharing with us their experiences in promoting strong prayerful families, the correct pastoral approach to fighting AIDS, and teaching Natural Family Planning (NFP). **They really enhanced our discussions of how important it is for parish priests to minister to the pro-life needs of the families in their care.** Clear and persuasive preaching and programs on the fundamental issues of respect for life and conjugal morality are fundamental requirements in the modern world if a parish is to really serve the needs of its members.

Sr. Sheila McElroy, a missionary from Ireland, emphasized the importance of reaching young

people and convincing them to change their behavior. Sadly, anti-life attitudes and Western sexual immorality is influencing the youth of Africa through the mass media. **A particularly worrying trend is young female university students exchanging sexual favors for money to pay their tuition and fees, as well as living expenses.** Fr. Ernest Tubuo addressed the increasingly necessary ministry of post-abortion healing and reconciliation. Even if abortion is generally illegal and culturally unacceptable, some people still obtain them. He did a great job of describing the incredible suffering of African mothers who obtained abortions and bitterly regretted this soul-destroying choice afterwards.



Irénée and Aicha Kola share their experiences in promoting strong prayerful families, the teaching of Natural Family Planning, and the correct pastoral approach to fighting AIDS.



George Wirnkar with Sister Shiela McElroy.

The 2008 HLI Francophone Africa Seminarian Institute concluded with a rousing standing ovation to thank our HLI Francophone Africa coordinator, Mr. George Wirnkar for all his labor in organizing this conference. He worked for months to get permission from seminary rectors and bishops to have their young men attend and then to organize their travel documents. We had to make sure the institute did not conflict with exams or other key formation events.

At our institute, we unveiled a new resource for the Francophone section of Seminarians for Life International. **George Wirnkar created and is administering an Internet blog dedicated to pro-life seminarians.** Now, all the French-speaking seminarians in SFLI can communicate with each other as a group. We can also post announcements and important documents for them to

read. Hopefully, this technological instrument will greatly increase our ability to exchange information. The fact that it costs very little is an extra bonus.

NEXT SFLI INSTITUTE IN TOGO 2009

As we move across the West African region with the HLI Seminarian Institutes, the host countries are enriched in a special way. We hope that Togo will be specially blessed in the summer of 2009, when we do our training conference there. Shortly after ratifying the infamous Maputo Protocol of the African Union, Togo's national legislature rushed through a law legalizing abortion. The Togolese people are very pro-life and indignant about

this crime. The bishops and priests have all received pro-life materials from HLI and are leading a strong campaign to reverse this unjust law. Sadly, democratic institutions are weak in Togo, and it will take a great deal of societal pressure to reverse the government's position.

We took advantage of being in Cameroon to visit the HLI Seminarians for Life International group at St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary in Bambui. We attended Sunday Mass with the 178 seminarians there—most impressive in their immaculate white cassocks. George Wirnkar spent several years in formation at St. Thomas Aquinas before discerning his vocation to married life. The full student assembly came together in their auditorium to hear us speak. **We began by noting all the excellent pro-life activities taking place in their pro-life group.** The SFLI members assemble to pray the rosary for the defense of life. They also get together for small group discussions and debates, as well as pro-life presentations. Their seminary newsletter is a model of scholarship and zeal for the respect due to every innocent human life. The defense of human life is also carried out into the community by seminarians, as they work in parishes during holidays in the academic year.



Seminarians for life group at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Bambui, Cameroon.

I had the impression that a professional group was performing when George and I heard a brief concert by the SFLI choir at St. Thomas Aquinas. **These talented seminarians have composed some remarkable and moving pro-life songs.** They even have marching tunes for use in walks for life, while others could be appropriate for liturgical use. George and I are exploring the possibility of recording and distributing a CD with the best pro-life songs in their repertoire. It is interesting that Brian Clowes and I have found that pro-lifers in many countries have composed some wonderful music. A possible future pro-life project will be to assemble an international medley of songs in several languages.



AIDS signpost in Northwest Cameroon.

The road back to Douala goes through beautiful countryside, literally bursting with agricultural plenty. Banana and tea plantations go on for miles. More ominous are the enormous rubber tree plantations from which, among other things, latex condoms are produced. We were forced to stop a few times on the main road by police officers who clearly wanted bribes, but, thank the Lord, we made it through without paying anything.

CONTRADICTIONARY MESSAGE ON AIDS IN CAMEROON

Almost all the villages we saw driving through Cameroon featured a strange kind of “signpost” along their main road. On its three arms the sign featured the following messages:

“100% Abstinence **or** 100% Condom”

“100% HIV Testing Before Marriage”

“100% HIV Testing With Each Pregnancy”

The last two parts of the message are fine, but the first part is completely illogical. It advocates both abstinence and condoms—as if one was a back-up plan for the other. Some villages had signs in

French and others were in English. The likely explanation for the confused message is the requirement from the US government that some of the US money for AIDS prevention be used for the abstinence message. Cameroonians may be excused if they reach the conclusion that math skills are truly declining in the West. **USAID and others seem to think that 100% of two mutually contradictory things, abstinence and condoms, will add up to 100% safety from AIDS.** In fact, the 100% condom message was largely responsible for the incredible increase in AIDS that took place in the 1980s and 1990s through much of Sub-Saharan Africa and in other parts of the world, such as Thailand.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA WELCOMES HLI FOR THE FIRST TIME



Interior of the Cathedral in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

large off-shore oil fields were discovered. Equatorial Guinea is now Sub-Saharan Africa's third largest oil-exporter, which has greatly increased the importance of this little tropical nation. Their average per capita income is very high for Africa, but unfortunately, the financial blessings from the black gold are not divided very equitably.

On landing at the international airport in the capital city of Malabo, located on the island of Bioko, it was immediately clear that Guineans are better-off than most of their African neighbors. As in natural resources-rich Gabon, there was no crowd of persons trying to earn a tip by carrying your bag out to the parking lot. I was happy that US citizens do not require a visa for travel to Equatorial Guinea, but the many foreign oil-industry workers have inflated the cost of lodging. It took some searching to find a hotel with reasonable prices.

HLI'S PRO-LIFE REPUTATION PRECEDES US

My first stop the next morning was to call on Archbishop Ildelfonso Obama Obono. *Imagine my surprise to learn that "Obama" is a fairly common name in Equatorial Guinea!* I came well-introduced with a letter from Archbishop Esua of Bamenda, Cameroon, who knows Archbishop Obama well. It was a very warm welcome. As I began to describe HLI's work to the archbishop, he informed me that he knew all about Human Life International, even though no representative had yet gone to his country. It seems that HLI's pro-life reputation now precedes us before we arrive. Arch-

Frequently, George and I travel together as a team in Africa. This time, however, we parted ways to cover more territory. He flew to Senegal, and I went to Equatorial Guinea. *In both cases we were undertaking the very first HLI pro-life missionary journeys to these countries.* Another reason for me to go alone to Equatorial Guinea is that George is not fluent in Spanish, the main language there. They are, in fact, the only Spanish-speaking nation in West Africa.

Spain created a small trading post there in the late 18th century, but they were much more interested in developing their colonies in the Americas and the Philippines. During the tide of decolonization, in 1968, they were granted independence. Within a few decades, very



Exterior view of the Cathedral in Equatorial Guinea.

bishop Obama has read our publications in Spanish and has heard about the good work we are doing through his brother bishops. This was an auspicious beginning to our meeting!

Equatorial Guinea needs HLI's help, Archbishop Obama insisted. **Although about 90% of Guineans are baptized Catholics and abortion is illegal, the cultural drift there is going in an anti-life direction.** They have only 108 priests to minister to 548,000 faithful.¹ They have many young vocations to the priesthood, but the Church is still critically low on clergy. I was invited to address the priests in the capital city and found out there were only 12!

Equatorial Guinea still has a healthy birthrate of just over five children per family, but the situation is changing fast. Several priests who came from large families themselves told me that their married siblings are generally only having two children. In the cities, the decline in fertility is dramatic. Despite this worrying trend, the ministry of health has family planning as its top priority as well as fighting AIDS through a program that relies heavily on condoms.

I saw a local television program featuring an AIDS prevention program in a small town. Although they began by saying "ABC"—Abstinence, Be Faithful and Condoms—they spent the vast majority of their time promoting condom use and neglecting to mention the terrible failure rates of this method. Guinean priests told me that the Church was usually invited to these AIDS prevention meetings at first, but since they refused to endorse condom use, they are no longer welcome at these sessions.



Seaside drive in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

Looming over Equatorial Guinea, as in much of resource-rich West Africa, is the presence of the Communist People's Republic of China. Thirty percent of their oil is exported to China. There is a large and growing Chinese colony in Equatorial Guinea. As HLI readers know well, the anti-life ideas of China, particularly with regards to training doctors and policy-makers, are a big problem. They are quite eager to export their "success" in family planning and abortion to countries around the world.

We will be establishing a branch of Seminarians for Life International in Equatorial Guinea and will send them our many excellent materials in Spanish. Training sessions for the priests are another high priority. **I believe that this small nation is a perfect place for HLI to assist the Church in creating a pro-life stronghold that will successfully resist the assaults of the culture of death.** The remarkable Spanish-language pro-life website HLI maintains, www.vidahumana.org, is something that the Guineans are very happy to have at their disposal. They are also looking forward to receiving

THE PRO-LIFE WISDOM of *Fr. Paul Marx* THE APOSTLE OF LIFE

The foolproof contraceptive does not exist, and sociological studies have shown, almost without exception, that intensive contraceptive programs, by emphasizing the prevention of unwanted pregnancies, also reinforce an intention not to bear an unwanted child under any circumstances; that is, there is a greater likelihood that women experiencing contraceptive failures will resort to abortion. —*The Death Peddlers*, page 179.



Fr. Paul Marx

¹ I highly recommend a website with a wealth of information about the Church obtained through the official *Annuario Pontificio* published by the Holy See. www.catholic-hierarchy.org

pro-life films that can be shown in parishes and schools. Once again, HLI is fulfilling its mission of reaching the far-flung regions of the earth with the Gospel of Life. **받**

Dear friends, the people of Africa need to be given a clear understanding regarding the truth behind God's beautiful and pure design for love and marriage; and the Church in Africa needs to lead the way. Thank you for your sacrificial and generous support of HLI, which allows Joseph, myself, and others to spread the good news of the Gospel of Life to people all over the world—people who are happy to receive this message but thirsty for someone to teach them.

God bless you always!



Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer
President

P.S.—To show my appreciation for your sacrificial support of \$49 or more to HLI this month, ***I would like to send you a talk given by Dr. John Bruchalski, called THE HEALING PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.***

Dr. Bruchalski explains, line by line, part of a speech given by Pope Benedict XVI to US bishops during his April 2008 visit to the United States, and he applies it to the problem, as well as the solution, of the “crisis of the laity in medicine.”

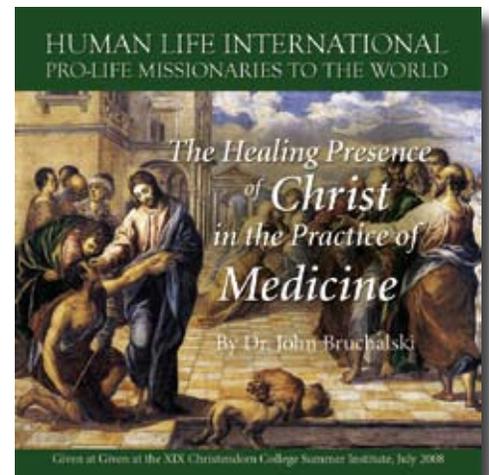
You will be amazed as he describes this crisis, which has been, in large part, caused by Catholics in medicine dissenting from the Magisterium:

- ✓ In 1993, only 8% of new doctors swore not to perform abortions
- ✓ 28% of insurance companies covered contraception in 1993, while 86% covered it in 2004!
- ✓ Of the 80,000 doctors in the US, only 69 of them are obstetricians who only preach NFP without artificial contraception

Yet, among all this opposition, **there is hope!** There are more and more lay Catholics, especially among the young people, yearning for doctors who follow Church teaching. ***People all over the US contact Dr. Bruchalski to learn how he remains faithful to Church teaching on abortion and contraception within the medical profession—and they want to follow his lead.*** Dr. Bruchalski sees the answer in the Holy Father's illuminating words, “only...when their faith permeates every aspect of their lives, do Christians become truly open to the transforming power of the Gospel.”

Dr. John Bruchalski is the founder of the Tepeyac Family Center and Divine Mercy Care. The Tepeyac Family Center opened in 1994 in Fairfax, VA, as the Diocese of Arlington's first Catholic healthcare facility.

By sending your gift of \$49 or more, **you'll help HLI to defend authentic Church teaching around the world,** plus, you can educate yourself on the problems within the US medical field and learn how you can live out your faith and be a part of the solution! ***Please send your gift today!***



“The Healing Presence of Christ in the Practice of Medicine” by Dr. John Bruchalski is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$49 or more!