



# HLI MISSION REPORT

Pro-Life Missionaries to the World®

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By Emil Hagamu  
and Dr. Ligaya Acosta

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- \* **Population Growth Rate Rapidly Decreasing in Lesotho**
- \* **Lesotho Bishops' Conference Defends Life**
- \* **NEW Seminarians for Life Group**
- \* **Dispelling the Myths about Church Teaching**
- \* **HLI Speaks to TWENTY-ONE Bishops of Papua New Guinea!**
- \* **A Conversion for Life**
- \* **Government Officials Enlightened at HLI Talks!**
- \* **Fr. Paul Marx Explains *Feminism and the Different Psychology of Men and Women***



Dear HLI Friends and Supporters,

HLI has seen many good bishops stand with us in defending human life in all its stages and proclaiming the Truth of the Catholic Church. The two missionary trip reports that follow mention some of those very bishops and archbishops, who are learning from and collaborating with our pro-life missionaries as they seek to spread the Gospel of Life around the world. HLI Regional Coordinator Dr. Ligaya Acosta takes you on her trip to Papua New Guinea, a country in the region of Oceania. But first, Emil Hagamu gives an overview of his second mission trip to the small nation of Lesotho in southern Africa.

**MISSIONARY TRIP TO LESOTHO—Reported by Emil Hagamu, February 17-25, 2010.**

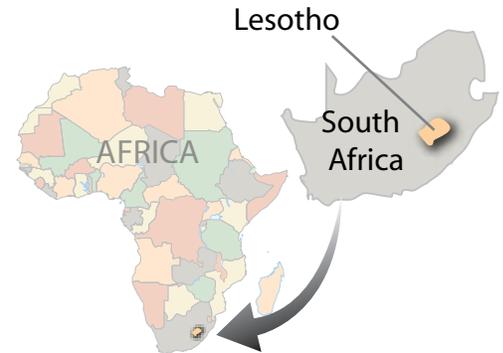
On Ash Wednesday, February 17, I left Dar es Salaam, capital of my home country of Tanzania, for a nine-day pro-life training session in Lesotho. This was my second visit to the small Kingdom. The first one I made was in June of 2009 to plant the seeds of pro-life activism. On this trip, I was able to help those seeds grow and develop to establish a strong foundation for the pro-life movement in this country.



## NEW SEMINARIANS FOR LIFE GROUP AT ST. AUGUSTINE’S MAJOR SEMINARY

I spent four days at St. Augustine’s Major Seminary, the only major seminary in the country of Lesotho. There are four priests teaching and 39 seminarians studying there.

During the two-day training, I presented talks about life issues. **Topics of particular interest to the trainees were the development of human life, abortion, and condoms.** It was difficult for some of them to comprehend the Church’s wisdom regarding its teachings on the issues. It seemed that the majority of the seminarians held the opinion that it was alright to use condoms in certain cases, such as by discordant couples (when one person is HIV-positive and the other is not) and for family planning purposes. On abortion, the general attitude was that abortion should be allowed in certain circumstances; for example, if the pregnancy is a result of rape. For HIV-positive parents, the contention was that it would be proper to abort the baby in order to avoid the risk of infecting him or her. It took me a while to explain why that position was unacceptable. **The seminarians had never had the opportunity to learn the truth of the Church’s teaching on those issues.**



At the end of my presentation, a few seminarians volunteered to start a pro-life group. The advisor to the group will be Fr. Tobias Mariti, a strong pro-life priest who uses every occasion during his homilies to deliver the pro-life message. He promised to work with me to strengthen the pro-life movement in

the seminary. I gave the seminarians some pro-life materials, including the Pro-Life CD Library, *The Facts of Life* book, brochures and Precious Feet pins.

During my presentation on abortion, the students revealed to me that the Prime Minister had signed “something” on the Maputo Protocol (a dangerous piece of legislation that can lead to the legalization of abortion). They resolved to determine exactly what the Prime Minister had signed. If they learn that he had signed a law legalizing abortion, they said they will launch a strong campaign against it.

### AUDIENCE WITH THE ARCHBISHOP

On Tuesday morning, armed with HLI material, I confidently walked into the office of His Excellency, Tlali Gerard Lesotholi, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Maseru. He was very welcoming, and I briefed him on the mission of Human Life International. Fortunately, I did not need to explain much, as he already had ample information about the mission of the pro-life movement. I shared with him the abortion agenda contained in the Maputo Protocol. The archbishop said he knew the abor-

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



Fr. Paul Marx

Many priests miss the point that because God’s law against contraception is made in Heaven no pope can change it. They naively expect that the next pope will permit contraception. Some priests reach the devilish conclusion — tragically dangerous for the eternal welfare of souls — that “what the next pope will allow, we can permit in anticipation.” ... But truth isn’t determined by the ballot. When “Aaron had let the people get out of control” (Exodus 32:25), God didn’t change the Ten Commandments.

— *The Warehouse Priest*, pages 170 and 171.

tion agenda behind the *Maputo Protocol* and had said something about it during the second African Synod in Rome, which took place in October 2009. I also shared HLI's experience in preventing abortion laws in Mozambique and Tanzania over the past few years. **He very much appreciated the work of HLI and expressed readiness to start a pro-life program in his diocese.** Then, he directed me to meet with the Secretary General of the Bishops' Conference so we could plan how to jumpstart the pro-life movement and begin pro-life programs in the Archdiocese of Maseru.

The Archbishop expressed concern that a law legalizing abortion might be coming soon to Lesotho, not through the parliament but through a court case involving the rape of a young girl. Although Lesotho's Parliament ratified the *Maputo Protocol* in 2004, and the Prime Minister acceded to the *Protocol* in the same year, abortion is still illegal, and any person involved in abortion is punished by law. The Archbishop's concern lies in the fact that, if the court decides in favor of allowing the girl to have an abortion, it would set precedent for legalizing abortion in the country, just in the same way the US legalized abortion in 1973. **Therefore, he asked if HLI could step in and help to stop the Lesotho Parliament from legalizing abortion.** The Archbishop wants to set up a strong pro-life program, which will involve educating the people of Lesotho on the evils of abortion and the sanctity of every human life regardless of how it was conceived.



*Emil Hagamu (far left) with some Secretariat Staff in Maseru, Lesotho.*

## **EXPANDING THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT**

On Wednesday, I had the privilege of talking to two groups at the Catholic Secretariat of the Lesotho Catholic Bishops' Conference. In the morning, I talked to 29 employees of the Catholic Secretariat (at the request of the archbishop) about the sacredness of human life and the divine origin of marriage and the family. I also discussed abortion, contraception, condoms, and sterilization.

They admitted that much of what I talked about was new to them and that it would be very helpful in their lives. I could tell that they had been affected by the propaganda of anti-life positions, like the acceptance of abortion in hard cases, such as rape, the use of condoms in discordant couples, and contraception for child spacing. My presentation changed them completely. They asked many questions, but, steadily and with God's grace, I challenged their assumptions. **In the end, after having been convinced, they expressed a great and immediate need to start a program against abortion.**

When discussing abortion, we considered whether the practice was ever part of the tradition of our African cultures by determining if there are words for it in our native languages. There are no words that mean "abortion" in any native African language, indicating it was never a part of the culture. They told me that traditionally there was no word for abortion in Sisotho (the local language of Lesotho), but recently they have invented one, a reflection of the current situation.

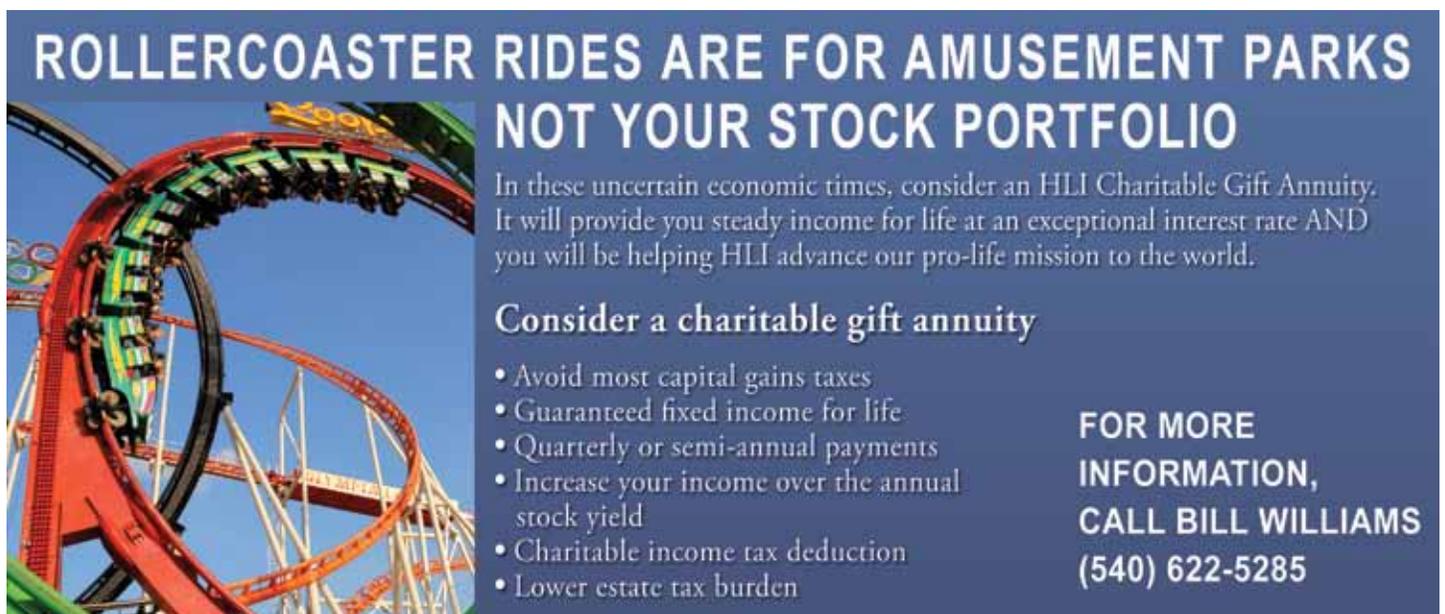
The population growth rate is rapidly decreasing in Lesotho. According to the Lesotho Bureau of Statistics, the annual population growth rate between 1996 and 2006 was 0.08%, down significantly from an annual population growth rate of 1.5% between 1986 and 1996. There are many factors contributing to this phenomenon. First, many people are dying from AIDS. “The situation of AIDS in Lesotho is very bad, it is killing many people,” said one of the participants. Secondly, many people are using contraceptives for fertility control. Despite its failure rate, condom promotion is very high in Lesotho. Natural family planning is little known to the people. Thirdly, the Sotho people have engaged themselves in a life of consumerism, which is reflected in their regarding child birth as a menace and child rearing as a burden. Fourthly, though still illegal, abortion is widely practiced. And now there is a strong move to legalize it. Pro-abortion groups are promoting it in the name of protecting women’s reproductive rights. *It is ironic that they attempt to legalize abortion in a nation where the population is already heading towards disaster!*

That evening, I met Catholic professionals and challenged them to use their professional achievement to build the culture of life. Medical doctors can be very instrumental in decreasing abortion if they use their skills to save innocent human lives instead of take them. Lawyers were challenged to promote laws that defend human life instead of oppose it. Nurses, instead of dispensing contraceptives to their clients, could use their profession to educate people on the beauty of natural family planning and the ill effects of contraceptives.

This was A DAY OF JOY because:

- The Pro-Life Association of Lesotho was born, with the support of the Secretary General of the Bishops’ Conference.
- A program to challenge the government move to legalize abortion will be started soon.
- For the first time in all the pro-life missionary visits I have made, an Archbishop has taken the time to discuss pro-life issues with me at length and become personally involved in the pro-life situation in his country.
- For the first time, the Secretary General of a Bishops’ Conference has attended two meetings in one day and has taken his time to participate in the live discussions.
- For the first time, a pro-life movement is started at the Bishops’ Conference level.

**Thus, my second pro-life missionary visit to Lesotho was very fruitful, especially regarding the**



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**active participation of the groups, the formation of two new pro-life groups, and the involvement of the clergy.**

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Archbishop of Maseru and the Secretary General of the Bishops' Conference for their readiness to support the efforts of Human Life International, as well as to all the other people who helped make this trip so productive. The sacrifice HLI supporters make for the cause of human life is bearing fruit. Thank you all, and God bless. ✚

**MISSIONARY TRIP TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA—Reported by Dr. Ligaya A. Acosta, February 13-27, 2010.**

From the shivering cold United States, where I was in January for the March for Life, I travelled to scorching hot Papua New Guinea. It was hot for me, who comes from a tropical country, the Philippines, so I imagine it was doubly hard for my mission partner, the walking pro-life encyclopedia, Dr. Brian Clowes, who left the US under two feet of snow.



But, the very gracious reception we received from the members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea, who all came for the three-day Bishops' training we conducted at the scenic Don Bosco Emmaus House in Port Moresby, was more than enough to fan the heat away. An offshoot of my first visit in March 2009, the training was personally requested by Italian Missionary Bishop Francesco Panfilo, President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, who attended my talks during that trip in his Diocese of Alotau. **After hearing my talks, he said, "All the Bishops should hear this. Can you come again to conduct training for all the Bishops?"** Of course, I was more than happy to oblige.



*Dr. Ligaya Acosta with His Excellency, Italian Missionary Bishop Francesco Panfilo, President, Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.*

**SPEAKING WITH THE SHEPHERDS OF THE CHURCH**

Thirty-nine participants came for the training: 21 Bishops and Archbishops and 18 leaders of national commissions under the Bishops' Conference. We came at the perfect time: one week before our arrival, there was a divisive condom issue all over the papers. Like in the rest of the third world, especially, international death peddlers have spent much money on the massive promotion of condoms to all sectors, as usual under the guise of AIDS prevention and control! Even a nun leading one of the commissions under the Bishops' Conference, who also sits on the government-led National AIDS Council, had been trying to influence the Bishops to endorse condom use! Also, the government had been asking the Bishops' Conference to support its population control program! **The training thus opened the eyes of everyone to the global anti-life agenda and its subtle deceptive tactics.** The Bishops asked many questions and participated actively in the discussions. Surprisingly, the German pro-condom nun did not ask any questions or give any comments, but walked out just before Brian gave his talk on "The Condom Conundrum!"

Meal times also served as a venue for further discussions. Those discussions confirmed the fact that international death peddlers are subtly extending their tentacles into the Catholic Church through many grants, visits, and seminars. ***This has made some clergy and religious dangerously silent on essential basic Church teachings, and some have even been cooperating in the promotion of evil, like the use of condoms.*** For poor countries like Papua New Guinea, the offers of mind-boggling financial assistance from anti-life organizations, especially for the construction of much needed infrastructures (even in the church) are too tempting to refuse. Some of the Bishops even initially defended the chairman of the National AIDS Council, who is massively promoting condoms, as a “good person” who sits on the board of a popular “catholic” college!



*HLI pro-life training held in the Diocese of Vanimo, Papua New Guinea. Participants increased each session, forcing many to just sit outside.*

The openness of the Bishops, their simplicity and their humility in attending the full-time three-day pro-life training, was very touching. In the written comments they gave to us at the end of the sessions,



*Ligaya speaks at the Symposium on the Sacredness of Human Life, Diocese of Vanimo, Papua New Guinea, February 2010.*

they said they enjoyed and “learned a great deal” from our “excellent presentations and materials” and loved our “enthusiasm and commitment.” They also said they appreciated our personal testimonies. However, one questioned whether the “conspiracy and racial theories” still hold true today and didn’t like the term “death peddlers.” ***Indeed the strategy of the death peddlers in appointing local representatives who are friends and “respected” members of the community appears to be working.***

Overall, the training was a big success, and many more invitations came for us to speak in the other dioceses in the country. Many expressed their profuse thanks to Human Life International for our coming and for our generous sharing

of materials, for which they have a great need. Even the Papal Nuncio, His Grace, Francisco Padilla, who celebrated the closing Mass, expressed his thanks and appreciation to us, saying that the Bishops gave him good responses regarding the training. He asked us if we could also go to the Solomon Islands, another country in Oceania under his jurisdiction, to conduct the same training, which we happily accepted.

### **A CONVERSION TO THE TRUTH**

Aside from the Bishops’ Training, Brian and I also spoke at four other venues. We gave two talks in the

Archdiocese of Port Moresby: one at an Archdiocesan Congress and another at a pro-life rally with a total of about 500 people in attendance. We spoke to about 200 people at the Catholic Theological Institute (CTI), a seminary and formation house for various religious orders. We were invited by Couples for Christ to give a talk at the Chapel of Don Bosco, which was attended by about 150 people – filled to overflowing! **At all the venues, everyone was touched by the message of life.** One very moving comment came from a feminist who shared that she flew to Port Moresby to attend the National AIDS Council Meeting, but nobody met her at the airport, and so, providentially, she found herself at our talk. She was almost crying as she spoke and said that the session changed her completely when she realized the many anti-life and anti-family things being done. She expressed the wish that we come to her province.

Another young lady also spoke from her heart, crying, “You parents, you have not been a good example to us.” She was referring to the widespread practice of promiscuity, abortion, and wife-beating in the country, accepted as “part of the culture!” She challenged her fellow young people to start a much needed change in their generation. The youth, to the delight of parents, took the vow of chastity after our talks, promising, among other things, that they would abstain from relations until marriage.

Together, the participants vowed to organize Pro-Life Papua New Guinea, and the Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Rodrigo Campilan (who attended all the sessions), said that the diocese will invite us again.

### **TRAINING THE GOVERNMENT?**

As Brian left for home in the early morning of February 21, I left the same day for the highland province of Vanimo on an earlier invitation by Italian Missionary Bishop, His Excellency, Cesare Bonivento, PIME. The good Bishop, who has been at the forefront of the battle for life and family in Papua New Guinea, organized a two-day Archdiocesan Congress, held at the St. John Vianney Seminary, where I was the lone speaker. Classes for the seminarians were suspended to allow them, along with the priests and teachers, to attend the entire two days of my talks. Government officials, led by the “Lord Mayor” and his deputy, also attended, as well as nurses, diocesan and parish leaders, parishioners, priests, and religious, totaling about 500 people. Media covered the event. **Every session saw an increase in participants, indicating great interest in the topics.** The next day, the Lord Mayor proudly told me that he brought all his children so they could hear the talks.

The time for the open forum was not enough to accommodate everyone who wanted to share their stories, which were remorseful confessions of abortions and promiscuity. The Bishop attended all the sessions. He also celebrated the closing Mass with all the priests from the Diocese concelebrating. **He found the sessions so touching and important that he instantly organized another forum for the youth.** About 1,000 students and teachers from four schools came for my last talk, held at Don Bosco School, which was also endorsed by the Lord Mayor. The majority of these students took the Vow of Chastity at the end of my session, which made the Bishop very happy.

At the airport on my way back to Port Moresby, I met the government’s Secretary of Women Af-



*Ligaya with Brian Clowes and the Papal Nuncio, His Grace Francisco Padilla, who celebrated closing Mass at the training for Bishops of Papua New Guinea.*

fairs, who told me how sorry she was that she was not able to attend and that my talks were the hot topic in the office that morning. She asked me if they could invite me again for a much bigger audience, this time organized by the provincial government of Vanimo!

Once again, the Papua New Guinea mission proved, in no small measure, the power of the Gospel of Life and that there is joy in the splendor of truth. Even as I give back all the glory to GOD, I thank and remember you in prayer; you, the many generous benefactors of HLI, without whom we can do nothing. 卍

Thank you, once again, for your support of Human Life International. It is true that you play a vital role in our mission to create effective opposition to the culture of death around the world. With God's grace, your contributions allow us to spread the light of Truth throughout the world. Please continue also to support HLI with your prayers and know that you are remembered in ours.

God bless you always!



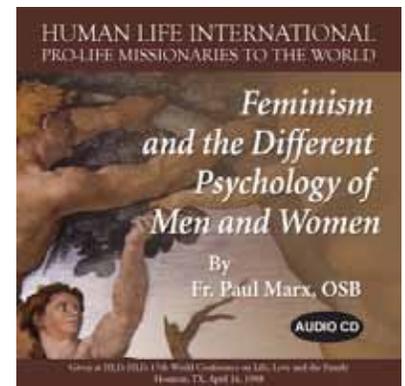
Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer  
President

**P.S.**—This month, to thank you for your contribution of \$49 or more to Human Life International, **I will send you a copy of a CD talk by HLI founder and pro-life pioneer, Fr. Paul Marx, OSB: *Feminism and the Different Psychology of Men and Women***. Given at HLI's 17<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Life, Love and the Family, this talk explains the natural and innate psychological differences between men and women.

Men and women are equal but different. God took a rib from Adam's side, and not something from his head or his feet, to create Eve, which shows that Eve was to be Adam's partner and completion, not his slave. The differences between men and women must be respected. Fr. Marx explains many of them, including the fact women should be submissive to their husbands, who should love their wives like Christ loves the Church. Women want to be loved and their biggest weakness is loneliness, while men want respect and their biggest weakness is discouragement. ***An understanding of these differences will make much more contented couples.***

This fascinating talk will enlighten you with the truth about what makes each gender unique. The RADICAL feminists (as opposed to the innocent, rational feminists – such as the early ones, a majority of who were pro-life!) threaten the women of today and of future generations when they equate equality with sameness and do not respect what makes them unique creations in God's eyes.

**Please send HLI \$49 or more today and I'll send you the CD talk, *Feminism and the Different Psychology of Men and Women*.**



**The audio CD, “Feminism and the Different Psychology of Men and Women” by Fr. Paul Marx. is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$49 or more!**