



# HLI MISSION REPORT

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By Emil Hagamu and  
Raymond de Souza

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Dear HLI Friends and Supporters,

As an educational apostolate, Human Life International battles against the culture of death with the weapons of truth. There is much information being distributed contrary to truth, which is why HLI seeks to educate and inform as many people as possible with the Gospel of Life. And then they, in turn, can spread that message to all they come into contact with until it reaches the entire world.

The following reports from our pro-life missionaries highlight this zeal to spread the truth, as they share stories behind their meetings with bishops, priests, seminarians and lay people, as well as their radio and newspaper interviews. Emil Hagamu, HLI's regional coordinator for English-speaking (Eastern) Africa, broke new ground for HLI in Lesotho, and Raymond de Souza, our regional coordinator for Portuguese-speaking nations, traveled to East Timor.

**MISSIONARY TRIP TO LESOTHO**—*Reported by Emil Hagamu, June 21-29, 2009.*

Landlocked within South Africa, Lesotho, "The Mountain Kingdom," is a constitutional monarchy. The vast majority of people speak Sesotho, while English, the secondary language, is widely used in government and commerce. Most inhabitants live in rural areas with scattered, picturesque villages and clusters of



huts. Lesotho has a population of 1.8 million, **68 percent of which is Roman Catholic**. However, the influence of the Church is seldom seen in the daily lives of the people.

Lesotho is where I set off **to break new ground for HLI** and plant the first seeds of a pro-life movement in this country **to protect its children from the impending culture of death** that threatens to follow after the Maputo Protocol.

In the capital city of Maseru, I met with the Archbishop, the Most Reverend Bernard Mohlalisi, who was very welcoming and cooperative. After reading my letter of introduction from Fr. Euteneuer, he opened the conversation by giving a brief description of the Church in Lesotho, which, as he described, has four Catholic dioceses and one major seminary.



The Archbishop was very impressed by HLI's mission. He promised to arrange a speaking engagement for me with the Rector of St. Augustine's Major Seminary and the Christian faithful during my visit to the country, and he requested that I return in November for another, even more thorough visit. For the November trip, he promised to arrange visits to other dioceses and, if possible, an audience with the Bishops' Conference. He particularly emphasized his desire that I meet with major seminarians for pro-life training.

## **EDUCATING THE FAITHFUL**

A major part of HLI's mission is educating the faithful on life issues. We do this by 1) reaching out through mass media communication; 2) working with parishes; and 3) working with seminarians through our Seminar-ians for Life program, which trains future priests to faithfully shepherd their flocks.

**Radio is an extremely effective means of communication in Africa because of its wide availability**, especially compared to that of television. I visited the Catholic Radio Station and met with the director, a consecrated religious sister, who expressed her determination to combat the culture of death in Lesotho. She assured me that **she would use the airwaves to educate people about the dangers of the Maputo Protocol**, especially pointing out how it leads to legalized abortion wherever it is ratified. She asked me why I thought the government would ratify the Maputo Protocol without the knowledge and consent of its citizens, and I told her that evil programs are never revealed to the citizens of a country, and those carrying out the programs are

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generously compensated by those who promote them. **HLI's timely intervention has been effective in stopping the governments of Mozambique and Tanzania from legalizing abortion, and we can do the same in Lesotho.**

I met with a parish priest in Maseru and told him of the Archbishop's wish that I speak to his congregation at Mass about my pro-life mission in Lesotho. Of course, he agreed, but he wondered how the congregation would understand, since many of them do not speak English. So, I gave him my talk, and he said he would translate it and present it in their native language, Sesotho, at all the Masses he would be celebrating that Sunday and the next. I also left him some pro-life material to assist him.

My visit to St. Augustine's Major Seminary was very quiet since the seminarians were still on summer vacation. I met with a professor of moral theology for an hour, exchanging ideas on life issues. We discussed arranging a Seminarian Institute. Father asserted that "pro-life training would empower seminarians to be able to teach 'sound Church doctrine' during their priestly ministry." He was very impressed with HLI's mission, and I left him pro-life material, including HLI's Seminarians for Life newsletter, which he said would assist him in his teaching. He promised prayers for our mission and asked for HLI's prayers for his priestly ministry, as well.



*Emil Hagamu (left), HLI's regional coordinator for English speaking (Eastern) Africa, giving pro-life training in June 2009.*

## **THE MISSING CHILDREN AND POPULATION CONTROL**

During my eight-day stay in Lesotho, I noticed that I did not see groups of children playing barefooted on muddy grounds, as I have in other countries. **This was a clear result of the relentless war on fertility that is being waged by the government and development partners with their message that too many children are an economic burden to the family.** A combined

campaign of contraceptive family planning and condom distribution promoted by the government, as well as by population control organizations like USAID, UNESCO, UNFPA, and UNICEF, **has resulted in the childless population that now exists in Lesotho.** The message is always the same: development will follow after limiting the number of children per family. It will not be long before we see Lesotho experiencing the problems that come with an aging population and a declining fertility rate.



*Lesotho radio station, where Emil had a one-hour, live radio talk.*

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is also working in Lesotho under the name of the Lesotho Planned Parenthood Association. It works particularly with young women on cervical and breast cancer.

However, the organization does not reveal that cervical and breast cancer are the direct results of contraceptives and abortion, which this organization promotes widely – and which are also to blame for the missing children in Lesotho.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continues to support government efforts to "improve" lives in the areas of reproductive health, population and development, and gender issues. But it seems that

the government is not aware of the hidden agenda behind these activities, which includes abortion, abortifacients, and radical feminism opposed to traditional family, traditional marriage, and child bearing.

### COMBATING AIDS WITH THE TRUTH

I had an interview with the “health and gender” editor of the government newspaper, the *Public Eye*. The interview touched on three key areas: HLI’s mission, abortion as the major threat to human life —along with the Maputo Protocol as a means to carry out that threat in Africa—and the condom controversy. Through her questions, I realized that the editor, like other members of the mainstream media, has been totally influenced by the culture of death. My task, therefore, would be to prove to her that she had embraced the culture of death and to show her that this was not only foreign but also contradictory to her Catholic faith and the African way of life.



*Emil Hagamu spreads the Gospel of Life throughout the eastern (English-speaking) regions of Africa.*

HIV/AIDS has had a huge impact on Lesotho’s population, especially on the women and youth. According to UNAIDS figures, **the country’s HIV prevalence rate rose from just 4 percent in 1993 to 23.2 percent in 2008**, the third highest in the world. Recent statistics estimate that there are 62 new infections and about 50 deaths due to AIDS-related illnesses everyday. Condom distribution has become the one and only strategy for the prevention of HIV transmission. I was told by some ladies in Maseru that the government is so determined to distribute condoms that they are found in many public places. Washington-based Population Services International (PSI) has saturated the media with condom information. Condom advertisements can be seen in stores and on streets posts.

HLI’s opposition to condoms is based on scientific and moral reasons, following the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. When the editor of the *Public Eye* asked me my opinion of them, she brought up the argument used by many condom promoters: condom use would prevent pregnancy and thus reduce abortions. So, remembering how Fr. Euteneuer would respond to this type of argument, I asked her if she would board a plane from Maseru airport to Nairobi if the pilot announced that the probability of landing safely was 80 percent? She strongly answered, “NO.” I pointed out that this is how condoms perform; whether used for prevention of pregnancy or HIV, **the condom failure rate is between 10 and 20 percent, sometimes 25 percent.** I then asked her why we don’t give people the truth about what will assure them 100 percent “protection” from pregnancy and/or HIV infection? That is, abstinence before marriage and fidelity in marriage. I gave her HLI’s booklet, *The Case Against Condoms*, and emphasized that **our fight against HIV/AIDS should be total risk elimination, as in abstinence, and not risk reduction, as in condom use.**

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

In the final analysis, it really doesn’t matter to pro-abortionists whether contraceptives prevent or precipitate more abortions. What matters is that “unwanted” children be averted or exterminated by any means available. And so they have set up a gauntlet that very few “unwanted” babies can survive.



*Fr. Paul Marx*

—*The Death Peddlers*, 197.

I strongly believe that HLI's presence in this country will make a huge impact for good. Let me end by thanking HLI and all its donors for so generously providing the financial support for this first HLI missionary trip to Lesotho, which has opened the doors to further pro-life work. A follow-up visit, as recommended by the Archbishop, will see the birth of a strong pro-life movement capable of building the culture of life. ㅍ

### **MISSIONARY TRIP TO EAST TIMOR—Reported by Raymond de Souza, July 2009.**

East Timor is a tiny country in Southeast Asia and consists of half of the island of Timor. I arrived at the Dili International airport from Darwin, Australia—just a short flight across the Timor Sea—on Monday July 6th at 7:15 am. I was pleasantly surprised to read billboards in my native language, Portuguese. Although most Timorese speak the main local language, Tetun, Portuguese is still the official language of the country and is spoken by the most educated classes. Indonesian is also spoken (the country was dominated by Indonesia for about three decades), but most young people seem to prefer English today. (Interesting Note: The Tetun word for “woman” is *fetu*, but the word for “pregnant woman” is *isin rua*, which literally means “two bodies.” There is no other way of saying it. If a woman wants to say that she is pregnant, she says, “I am two bodies”... remarkable!) The local currency is the US dollar, which was put there by the United Nations, whose jeeps and vans can be seen in the streets all the time.



*Raymond de Souza (right) with Bishop Ricardo da Silva.*

Speaking of streets, there are hardly any traffic lights in the capital city. Traffic in crossroads is managed by feeling, and drivers from each side of the crossroads assert themselves or allow others to drive first. This system is bit nerve-wracking for those like me who are unaccustomed to it, but it is remarkable nonetheless.

### **A VISIT WITH THE BISHOP**

At the airport, Mr. Anthony Rodriguez, a Philippine Catholic resident in Timor and active member of the movement Couples for Christ, was awaiting me. He took me to the House of the priests of the Society of the Divine Word, where I was lodged during the few days I stayed in Dili. Fr. Alan Bondoc, a young Philippine priest who teaches at the local university, kindly chauffeured me to wherever I needed to go.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Dili, Dom Ricardo da Silva, received me, along with Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Joel Hodges, a young Australian very fluent in the Tetun language. (These two men were responsible for organizing my trip.) Bishop Ricardo da Silva was delighted with the visit and opened the diocese to the work of HLI. **He was particularly interested in the St. Michael prayer campaign** for the conversion of abortionists and couldn't suppress his smile at the choice of the prayer! He asked if HLI could send large posters of the prayer cards to be pinned at the entrance of every church and school in the Diocese of Dili. He also expressed concern about the work of some NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) in the country and was grateful for any type of assistance HLI might provide the diocese to counter their harmful influence,



which is especially strong among the younger generations. His insistence on the importance of evangelization was second to none, and he sincerely hoped that HLI might be able to assist him in that fundamental task. I volunteered to send him talks in Portuguese and English to be distributed around the parishes. These talks discuss evangelization issues in general and pro-life ones in particular.

Fr. Bondoc was also very supportive of HLI's St. Michael campaign, and he took a large number of English prayer cards to distribute at the university. Soon, he will receive other informative material from HLI to promote among the students.

## PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

I gave a pro-life seminar to the heads of the Dili Diocese Pro-Life and Family Commissions, representatives from the Justice and Peace Commission, *Caritas* Dili and Ministry of Health, and various religious and clergy who were invited for the occasion. About 25 people attended. After the presentation, we had a session of questions and answers that lasted as long as the talk itself. This seemed to be a common feature in East Timor. The people love to interact with the speaker by presenting questions, making statements and expecting comments, and asking for suggestions to solve difficult problems. I spoke in English, and the Bishop's secretary, a diocesan priest, translated everything into Tetun. The seminar lasted about three hours.

In the evening, a meeting was held at the Aimutin parish for members of the Couples for Christ movement and local parishioners. Again, the talk was followed by a long session of questions and answers. I was very impressed with the interest of the people on pro-life issues. About 60 people attended.

At the local *Seminario Propedeutico Becora*, I addressed about 40 seminarians in Portuguese. Again, the session of questions and answers lasted longer than the talk itself. **Nearly all the seminarians showed great interest in the work of HLI, and almost all of them wanted to be part of the Seminarians for Life network.** The Rector welcomed any educational material, both in English and in Portuguese, to assist in the formation of seminarians.



*The East Timor Couples for Christ organization listen to a lecture by Raymond.*



*While in Dili, Raymond was interviewed by the Catholic Radio Mensagem.*

Taking advantage of a radio broadcasting opportunity, I gave a 45-minute interview in Portuguese to the Catholic *Radio Mensagem* of the Diocese of Dili. The reporter asked HLI to provide programs in Portuguese and in English to be broadcast throughout the nation.

## ASSISTING PARLIAMENT IN EDUCATION

East Timor was officially recognized as an independent nation as recently as 2002 and is still occupied by foreign officials. The police force is trained by New Zealanders, and the army by Australians. But there was peace in the streets, and life went on normally while I was there.

The system of government is a parliamentary republic, led by a president, prime minister, and a unicameral

legislature, called the National Parliament. I met with various members of Parliament, beginning with Mrs. Fernanda Mesquita Borges, President of the National Unity Party (PUN). **She emphasized the importance of education on moral and social values among the youth and welcomed HLI to the country.**

The vice-president of the House of Parliament, Mrs. Maria Paixão da Costa, received me and Mr. Hodges at her office in the Parliament House. **She expressed great concern about the harmful influence of some Western groups in the country, especially NGOs, and welcomed the cooperation of HLI to educate the people.** She invited me to address some members of Parliament on the following day to present to them the work of HLI as well as what we could do to assist the country in their education efforts, especially in teaching the young about chastity.



*Above: Raymond addresses members of Parliament. Right: Raymond speaks with the vice-president of Parliament, Mrs. Mardia Paixao da Costa.*



My talk, which was given in Portuguese to 11 Parliamentarians of all political parties at the House of Parliament, lasted a little more than one hour; but, as usual, the question and answer session lasted longer. There were a couple of leftist members who listened and made no comment. **But all of**

**the others were very keen to share their concerns and to ask questions, even to the point of asking my suggestions regarding future legislation to prevent the moral corruption of the youth in the country.** In the end, they welcomed the presence and work of HLI in the country, especially by way of printed materials and CDs for distribution in schools and churches.

### **COVERING THE ISLAND IN THE CULTURE OF LIFE**

Immediately after the meeting at the House of Parliament, I left for the second largest city on the island, Baucau, accompanied by Mr. Hodges and his young sister. Mr. Hodges showed himself to be an invaluable helper to HLI's work in the country. After a three-hour trip on the most tortuous road I have ever seen in my life, we arrived at the Cathedral Hall, where a large group of people patiently awaited our arrival. I spoke in Portuguese, and a parishioner translated into Tetun. The older people understood Portuguese better than English, and the younger understood English better than Portuguese. An endless session of questions and answers followed the talk, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. East Timorese are a very communicative people and make conversation a great means of learning new ideas. The evening finished with a lavish meal of typical Timorese food, and they honored me by giving me a Timorese sash.

When I visited the Cathedral, I witnessed the beautiful simplicity and piety of the Timorese people. Almost all of the girls dressed in a very modest fashion, having none of the immodesty we find in Western countries. In the afternoon there was a gathering of young people at the Cathedral Hall to celebrate the first anniversary of World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia. After a variety of activities, which included a talk by the Bishop, Dom Basilio Nascimento, **I attended a talk by three people from UNICEF, whose oily presentation was aimed to encourage young people to use contraception.** Aware of the conservatism of the people,

they started by affirming their support of sexual abstinence as the best way to avoid AIDS and STDs, but immediately moved on to say that since people will not abstain, it is better to use contraception. They invited the young folks to attend their seminars on AIDS prevention, but they did not explain the contents of the classes. **I knew what they were up to, and when my chance to speak came, I wasted no time in undoing their contraceptive propaganda. It was a real pleasure to refute their assertions and assumptions in front of them.**

The day ended with a visit to the local Bishop, Dom Basilio Nascimento, who also welcomed HLI into his diocese. There, as everywhere on this fruitful trip to this little Asian country, it seems that our missionary work will find fertile ground, and, God willing, we will be able to contribute to the education of the younger generations in a very meaningful way. I will send them educational material both in English and Portuguese and keep in touch with them on a regular basis. On the day of my departure back to Sydney, Australia, I could not help but experience a feeling of joy in realizing how much good can be done in a country whose bishops are open to receiving assistance from Catholic organizations. ✠

This battle we are in for the culture of life is ultimately a spiritual one. That is why we always seek to strengthen the spiritual foundation of our work through Mass, Adoration, and Rosary weekdays at our world headquarters. Your prayers and intentions are remembered everyday during those Masses and at all the Masses offered by the priests of Human Life International. Please keep Emil, Raymond and all of HLI's pro-life missionaries in your prayers, as well.

God bless you always!

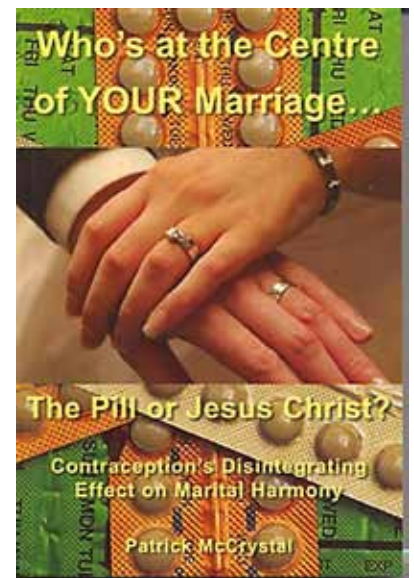
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Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer  
President

**P.S.**—This month, to thank you for your contribution of \$49 or more to HLI's life-saving work, I would like to send you a copy of a book written by a longtime HLI affiliate leader from Ireland. The book is entitled, **“Who's at the Centre of Your Marriage...The Pill or Jesus Christ? Contraception's Disintegrating Effect on Marital Harmony”** by Patrick McCrystal.

Patrick McCrystal was a pharmacist who distributed contraception before turning away from that practice and leaving his job because of his changed views on the subject in 1993. Patrick served as the Director of Human Life International's Ireland branch from 1997 to 2004. This book is an excellent resource that explains why Catholics, Protestants and all married couples **should not use contraception.**

Citing the real examples of married couples, medical facts, scientific evidence, history, qualified opinion and Church documents, **this book reveals the truth of the sanctity of marriage and its true meaning.** It also gives remarkable advice on how married couples can improve and strengthen their relationship by stopping the use of contraception and beginning Natural Family Planning. I encourage you read this book to expand your understanding of contraception's effects on marriage in order to help your own marriage or those of your family and friends. Please share the information contained in this book with others who need it. **And please send your contribution of \$49 or more to HLI this month!**



**The book, “Who's at the Centre of Your Marriage... The Pill or Jesus Christ?” by Patrick McCrystal is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$49 or more!**