



Newsletter 21

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1. Goodbye and Hello



Goodbye Nicky Burns - After serving on the Board of Africa Cares for Life and on our leadership team for several years, Nicky has finally decided that her time to retire from us has arrived. Nicky has been our Treasurer for years and her expertise and financial knowledge will be greatly missed. Her friendly face and helpfulness will be especially missed at our conferences as she has been such an asset doing what she does best - serving.

Hello Roxanne Verhoef - Roxanne will be replacing Nicky on our Board as the Treasurer. She currently works for an accounting company who has supported us for years and her knowledge will come in very useful to our team. She recently married Rico and they are both very committed to their local church. Welcome Roxanne, we are looking forward to working with you.

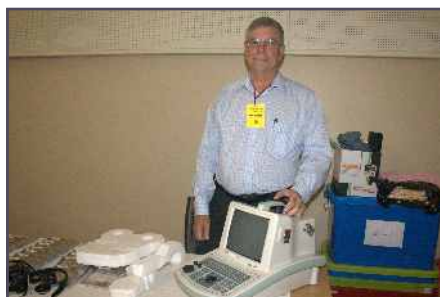
2. What's new in Training with Africa Cares for Life?

Sexual Integrity:

The Sexual Integrity Program (SIP) is designed to help you continue building the relationship with your clients, especially the Negative Test Client. It includes a variety of resources to be used from the very first meeting through additional interactions. The materials have all been designed, produced or chosen to comply with the foundational biblical pillars for the program: A focus on Relationships, Marriage, Fertility and Wholeness.

This is training that we at ACfL consider a must for all centres.

Now that we have several trainers - look out for this amazing training opportunity for your centre in your region. 📌



3. Ultrasounds for Life

We were blessed by a very generous donation from Ultrasounds for Life at our annual conference in August as John McCastle presented these to 2 of our affiliated centres - Neobirth Rustenburg and Options George. Ultrasound training was also presented to these centres during the conference and we now look forward to seeing how these machines are going to make a positive life changing effect on pregnant women as they connect with their unborn baby.

Ps 139: 13-14
I am fearfully and
wonderfully made



4. Africa Cares for Life “Celebration of Life” Conference

What an amazing conference we had yet again! The opening of conference began as we burst forth with a praise party. Drew Land and his group led us and the joy of the Lord was so evident as we witnessed everyone waving their colourful flags; a little gift from ACfL to each delegate. Exuberant dancing and celebration was so contagious! When the “party” came to an end nobody wanted to leave, but all good things must come to an end.

Every morning we opened the conference with devotions and praise and worship Alan Symons and Edward Mwansa spoke directly into our hearts as we prepared ourselves to receive more from God.



We learned so much from brilliant speakers such as **Peggy Hartshorn**, president of Heartbeat International, speak about our centre a major influence for producing a culture for life. It was encouraging hearing again that a Pregnancy Crisis Centre is the most life affirming organisation in our communities. She encouraged us as leaders to be attached to “The Vine”, not to run our ministries like businesses, that our organisations should look like Christ, to partner with other organisations and to be a leader with leadership vision; God will bring the fruit. The most important thing for us is to have the capacity for moral outrage against abortion.



Steve van Rhyn encouraged us with his sessions on 'the Joy of the Lord is your strength' based on Phil 1 :1-6 and that we need to rejoice in the Lord in all things - joy in my salvation, joy in my identity, joy in freedom from religion and joy in Jesus. Jesus is the ultimate 'thing' in our lives. In his second session the following day he urged us to apply Isaiah 44:1-5 to ourselves before we do so to anyone else. He furthermore stressed that Hollywood and the media is putting pressure on us regarding beauty and that we need a biblical definition of what really matters. We need to pray Ps 139 13-16 over ourselves until we believe it!



It was **Grace Ojiambo's** turn to talk to us about “how to continue when we feel like giving up”, a session full of motivation and encouragement. She outlined that we often want to give up due to physical, emotional or spiritual issues and that we need to know what is making us feel down. Her 6 points of how to get up and go on viz take our eyes off the mountain or obstacles, take one step at a time, deal with unresolved issues, pray in faith, accept help from those close to us and continue developing intimacy with God so that we remain attached to The Vine.

Marie van Schalkwyk gave us valuable reason to consider taking the ministry to under-resourced areas and not to only focus our ministry in developed areas.



Sam Schreiner gave us an overview of the confusing messages our government and media sends out to the youth such as that teens are allowed to abort at age 13 without parental consent but an 18 year old cannot make an adoption choice without her parents' consent. 16 year old teens are not allowed to kiss in public but preteens are allowed access to contraception. Sam felt that people her age had lost the concept of value for life and that they were too quick to judge and gossip instead of bringing encouragement, love and support.





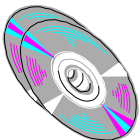
Gareth Bowley talked on Fatherlessness and the crisis our society is in, that if left unchecked will develop into a catastrophe. The crisis is that many fathers are absent, because they've died, or because mom and dad are divorced, or separated, or

because dad's off somewhere working or because we just don't have a functional relationship with him... In application Gareth encouraged us to have programmes in our centres/churches as a response to the existing and growing orphan crisis which prioritises the gospel & discipleship/fathering of children and bringing them into the healing arms of their Heavenly Father.

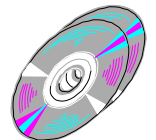
Bongiwe Mlatsha from International Organisation for Migration IOM spoke to us on Human Trafficking and how people often get trapped into the system after promises were made to them of better opportunities often in another country. When they get to this foreign land, their passports and money get confiscated. Many women who are trafficked are forced into prostitution against their will where they then also get beaten, raped and abused.

Naledi Mahlobogoane spoke very eloquently on different cultural issues and the lack of understanding of one another.

Gail Schreiner and Drew Land together did a session on how you could increase your centre's visibility and at the same time campaign for the unborn through your church. (See Sanctity of Human Life)



Apart from these keynote speakers, we also had brilliant workshops offering people real tools for the job. All these sessions are available on CD by order - contact the ACfL office.



5. Sanctity of Human Life pack

Those of you whom attended the Africa Cares for Life annual conference would have received The Sanctity of Human Life pack with which we aim to increase our visibility and our voice around "life issues" in the churches on 31 January 2010.

If you represent a different church than anyone else at your centre and if you have not received a SOHL pack this year then please contact our office immediately. The purpose of this is to reach your church leadership on the anniversary of the legalisation of our Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1996.

 For more info visit our website: www.africacaresforlife.org.za 

Dr's For Life

Thank you so much Japie and Archie from Doctors for Life for serving us so wonderfully at our annual conference. Your willingness and servant leadership blessed us tremendously!



6. Our recent trip to 3 nations on the African Continent

After the conference a team set off on a trip into neighbouring countries. This team comprised Peggy Hartshorn, President of Heartbeat International, USA (HBI); Paula Grimsley, HBI's International Program Coordinator; Gail Schreiner, National Director of Africa Cares for Life, and Melanie O'Brien, ACFL's African Countries Coordinator.

The purpose of the journey was for both HBI and ACFL to strengthen relationships with centres in other countries. As ACFL is expanding their operations to practically embrace the continent of Africa in their vision, it is vital that centres are visited and empowered.



The journey consisted of 2 days each in Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The time in Lesotho was spent building relationships with the Board Members and Centre Director of Options, Lesotho (based in Maseru), and understanding their needs as a centre and then speaking into their lives and into the needs of the centre. The ACfL/HBI team was impressed with the knowledge and commitment of the Lesotho Options team. It is our belief that they can build a really successful centre there, on the edge of the Mountain Kingdom!

Zambia was an entirely different experience. The time there was all about seeing the various projects in and around Kitwe. We visited Advocates for Life International, run by Rev Oliver Mulenga, and several projects under the Sarah Rose Foundation banner, directed by Edward and Barbra Mwansa: an orphanage, a feeding scheme for orphaned children in an informal settlement, a maternity home, a pregnancy centre and a boys' ranch for street boys. It was amazing to see how much can be accomplished with few resources at hand. It was testimony to the leading, call and provision of God.



The time in Zimbabwe was also unique. It had been arranged that those who run centres in outlying towns would travel to Harare for a one-day 'mini conference'. On the first evening the team met with all these leaders for a bit of fellowship. Delays in flights did not permit too much fellowship but our time together was used to the maximum. The next day was a full day of training, focusing on the role and responsibility of a board, volunteerism, health & hygiene issues as well as a question-and-answer time. We even managed to pray for individuals on a one-on-one basis which was awesome. With the country restabilising the staff in the centres feel they are right at the beginning again and needed advice on how to restart! The team was really blessed by the warm-hearted hospitality in Zimbabwe!

After 6 days of intensive work it was time to head back home.

by Mel O'Brien



7. Another benefit to our Affiliates

Being an Africa Cares for Life affiliate now also means that you automatically become an affiliate of Heartbeat International. Africa Cares for Life is in partnership with Heartbeat International. Since we entered this relationship, we have enjoyed numerous benefits such as access to their resources, guest speakers at our conferences, training material, newsletters and a whole host of other benefits. It also means that your centres' details will be published in their worldwide directory, which will give you amazing exposure. So why not affiliate with Africa Cares for Life? You will win all the way!



For more information please visit -

www.heartbeatinternational.org & www.africacaresforlife.org.za



A note to our affiliates - please remember to publish the Africa Cares for Life logo on all your stationery. To obtain the template enquire at the office.

8. Resources available from ACfL

- **Sexual Integrity Programme**
- **Focus on the Family** benevolent resources. Order online but get registration form from ACfL office.
- **Equipped to Serve** - for trainers, unless permission is granted to you by Cyndi Philkill, all the material is to be ordered from ACfL office.
- Other HBI resources will also soon available also from ACfL office.

9. Do you have any news?

If you have anything newsworthy and would like to share your story with others, please do not hesitate to forward these to our national office at:

office@africacaresforlife.org.za

and mark clearly "for newsletter".