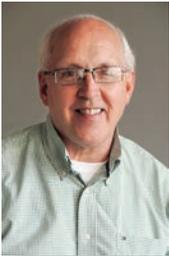


# Biblical Pro-Life Ministries that Change Lives

## Life Matters WORLDWIDE

### 2015 MID-YEAR REPORT

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Tom Lothamer  
President

AS I READ SCRIPTURE, I see the pro-life ethic everywhere. I don't think it's a "hobby horse," but because it is constantly on my mind, God has opened my eyes to see familiar passages in a fresh way.

For instance, Titus 3:1-2 states the principle both positively and negatively:

*Remind the people . . . to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.*

Paul wanted Christians to know how to live in the world. Verse 1 says we're to submit to secular rulers and, therefore, the "everyone" of verse 2 encompasses them too. It doesn't say we're only expected to submit to morally

upright government leaders, or refrain from slandering the ones with whom we agree. Recall that the authorities of Paul's day were anything but godly.

"Slander no one" is an echo of James 3:8-10, which urges us to tame our tongues and not be guilty of praising God out of one side of our mouths while cursing men out of the other. James uses the strongest language: "This should not be!" Such behavior is unseemly because human beings have been made in God's likeness. If you curse a man, you curse his Maker, as it says in Proverbs 17:5.

"Be gentle toward everyone" is the positive restatement of "slander no one." The ESV renders it, "show perfect courtesy toward all people." If we're to treat people decently because they bear God's image, "everyone" includes all our neighbors, all our brothers and sisters, the political opposition, the lovely and the unlovely,

the sinner as well as the saint.

In Galatians 6:10, Paul specifies that the aim of Christian ministries of mercy is to first help the family of God, but he prefaced that with the instruction: "let us do good to all people." And the kind of help people can be given, it says in Titus 3:1, is widely varied: "Whatever is good."

Paul goes on in Titus 3:3-8 to remind us we were once the objects of God's mercy – as foolish and disobedient and deceived and enslaved as could be. We were spending all our time thinking about ourselves and hating other people, but then "the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared." Hallelujah!

As peaceable and considerate and gentle as Jesus has been toward us, let us so be to all men. And, as much time as we formerly spent serving "all kinds of passions and pleasures" we can now expend on the good of others.

## PCCs: Doing good to all

Pregnancy care centers are one example of the good that can be done for others in Jesus' name. They demonstrate that human life is sacred in God's eyes at all stages by meeting the needs of women at a vulnerable point of life.

The people who serve their communities through a local PCC often grow weary. The work can be discouraging. The pressures to stay afloat financially are at times overwhelming. A PCC director can feel very alone. In order to refresh themselves, they gather in conferences for fellowship and skill-enhancement.

Throughout our history, Life Matters has hosted an annual Summit as one way to serve the servers and help them sustain their centers as effective outlets for the Gospel. This past May 14-15 we hosted a record number of representa-



tives (170) from 43 PCCs in seven states at Maranatha Bible & Missionary Conference. It was good to hear from them what God is doing and to be able to encourage them by offering a beautiful environment, delicious food, and stimulating sessions.

Participants met in large and small groups to worship and pray, as well as learn and discuss. Pictured at left is Kirk Walden of Heartbeat International speaking during Friday morning's plenary session; above Tom Lothamer leads a Thursday afternoon focus group on the pro-life ethic and race relations.

Because of the generosity of our donors, we were able to offer discounts to centers who were unable to afford the full registration. One of our partner centers wrote: "Thank you so very much for the scholarship that made it possible for us to attend the Summit! We learned so much in the workshops, and from others! This was a priceless gift and we are grateful! Also the spiritual blessings were deep and rich. As a director, I have been uplifted and empowered to carry on in this ministry."



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## ATCmag.com

Another way Life Matters will serve pregnancy care centers is through its new acquisition – *At the Center* magazine, an online publication suited to the needs of PCCs.

*At the Center* was formerly published by our friends at Right Ideas. When it looked like they would have to shut it down, they offered us their archive of over 500 articles and a database with email addresses for 2400+ PCCs across the country. After much prayer and consideration, our board agreed to take it on.

The good folk at K-Data Systems redesigned the website for us, and our first collection of new articles was published in June.

## Grants totaling \$20k

Thanks to a generous donation earlier this year, we were able to help fund special projects for three of our international partners.

- \$10,000 was divided between several projects in **Togo, West Africa** – including start-up funds for the first-ever pregnancy care center in the country, and team travel for an August trip (read more below).
- \$7,000 went to Centro Prenatal Vida Nueva in **Lima, Peru**, to replace ultrasound equipment for their seven centers. By God's grace and the help of a Christian Peruvian doctor, they were able to purchase a machine with 4D (3D plus real-time) capabilities!
- \$3,000 will help missionaries Pedro and Stephanie Garcia purchase computer and phone equipment, paint, furniture, and literature for the opening of a pregnancy care and family counseling center – the first of its kind in **Iquique, Chile**.

Read more about these and other “pro-life partners around the world” on our website (Missions tab), including a new venture in Honduras.

## August trip to Togo

Life Matters has partnered with missionaries and nationals in Togo since 2009. We've traveled there, and hosted representatives here, for training and consultation. This August, a team will make a return visit for follow-up work. The team includes Tom Lothamer, former director Ray Paget, abstinence educator Tonya Delnay, and Bob Gillespie from Answers in Genesis. The agenda is four-fold:

1. **Pastors' Training Conference.** We'll spend two days with up to 100 pastors teaching them how to articulate the biblical pro-life message.



2. **National Parent Conference.** As many as 2,000 parents from 120 churches are expected to attend this 3-day meeting. Joseph Akakpo (PICTURED CENTER) is organizing the first-time event and expresses high hopes: *“Seeing unhappy homes in this broken world has revived us to teach Christian parents and married couples the biblical principles of good homes as the light in the world. We are going to use this opportunity to share the Gospel where unsaved friends are invited to be part of this great gathering.”*
3. **Board governance training for the new PCC.** Esther Akakpo, missionary with Beautiful Feet International (PICTURED RIGHT), is directing this venture that should open in October after they complete training and government paperwork.
4. **LIFT consultation.** Missionary Brenda Mastin (PICTURED LEFT) and her Togolese team direct an HIV/AIDS outreach through local churches. We'll give them copies of the new LIFT manual and review it with them.

## Upcoming calendar

- **July 13-15** – national pregnancy care center leaders meeting in Grand Rapids
- **July 31-August 1** – Tom Lothamer conducting board training for the Compassion Pregnancy Centers in LaGrange and Angola, Indiana
- **August 10** – The Classic at Pilgrim's Run Golf Club. Bring your clubs and three friends to support pro-life ministry around the world. Register for the event through our website or at [store.lifemattersww.org](http://store.lifemattersww.org).
- **August 29** – Tom Lothamer meeting with Students for Life of Michigan for board training
- **September 24** – Tom Lothamer leading a workshop on LIFT at the Right to Life of Michigan annual conference
- **October 13** – Tom Lothamer speaking at a banquet for the Moms & Tots Center in Ellsworth, MI
- **March 10, 2016** – Life Matters Worldwide's annual banquet at Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan

