What does it mean to ‘articulate’?

Life Matters Worldwide helps the Body of Christ articulate the biblical pro-life message in word and deed.

That’s been our mission statement since 1998. It’s simple and to the point, but sometimes people get hung up on the word in the middle.

According to Dictionary.com, ‘articulate’ is a verb meaning
• to utter clearly and distinctly; pronounce with clarity
• to give clarity or distinction to
• to reveal or make distinct

God clearly articulated His message about humanity at the moment of our creation. He said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.” (Genesis 1:27) He didn’t utter those words about any other form of life.

And with this declaration, it was so. Mankind was created just as He’d said. Earlier He had said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Now He wanted to make us after His own likeness, and that’s exactly what He did.

We accept similar mysteries – “You are in Christ,” “God has chosen you,” “you have been saved,” “the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” – so it’s not out of the ordinary that we are also called upon to believe that all mankind is “made in His image.”

As ones who also bear the image of Christ, we proclaim this message, and the biblical pro-life ethic that stems from it. A lot of people think the sanctity of human life is inconvenient, that it gets in the way of ‘progress’ – stem cell research, three-parent embryos, ‘death with dignity,’ and other such ‘advances.’

Being made in God’s image means we can have a relationship with God, communicate with Him, steward the earth in His stead, and much more. But it’s very important for us to say that bearing God’s image is not dependent on any of those functions.

We're grateful for each of you who partner with us prayerfully, financially, and by taking part in pro-life ministries such as LIFT and pregnancy care centers.

MISSION: Life Matters Worldwide helps the Body of Christ articulate the biblical pro-life message in word and deed.

VISION: To see local churches all over the world engaged in compassionate sanctity of human life ministry as they fulfill the Great Commission.

NEW INSERT FOR SOHLS 2017

One way we articulate the biblical pro-life message each year is through a brand new bulletin insert for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. This year’s focus is on why we say human life is sacred. Other materials for churches – sermon outlines, Bible studies, slideshows, brochures, and flyers – also make the message clear and distinct.

Be sure your church has what it needs to spread the message! Visit store.lifemattersww.org.

PRO-LIFE WORDS AND DEEDS IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

Life Matters Worldwide has been privileged to work alongside mission agencies on the formation of pro-life ministries such as pregnancy care centers, medical centers, end-of-life ministries, and leadership training conferences. These partnerships have taken us to Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

This past September Tom worked with Kelly Fath, ABWE’s Regional Director for missionaries in Central and Eastern Europe. We traveled to the small country of Slovenia to participate in their annual conference.

The work these missionary families do is vital to the spread
of the Gospel – church planting, medical ministry, camp ministry, evangelism, and education. It can be very difficult, and they really look forward to this time of spiritual refreshment, respite, worship, fellowship, and learning.

During the week, there were workshops, plenary sessions, and wonderful opportunities for encouragement. While his wife Nancy worked with the team that taught and cared for mission kids, Tom cast the vision for pro-life ministry on the mission field in a series of workshops and through consultation with individual missionaries. As a result, Life Matters is positioned for expanded ministry in Eastern Europe.

VOICES FOR LIFE MATTERS

We thought you might like to hear what others say about Life Matters Worldwide. We chose a representative from our board, a pregnancy care center, a missionary, a pastor, and a prayer partner.

Ben Kuncaitis is new to our board this year but a long-time partner with us through his family-owned business. Ben says, “When [K-Data Systems] looks for a ministry to partner with, the first thing we ask is, ‘Are they following God? Is God in the lead of this ministry, or do they have their own agenda?’ And it’s very obvious that this is a God-led ministry. They run with complete transparency and accountability, and they just understand partnerships and relationships.”

Jane Ford directs the Beginnings Care for Life Center in Coldwater, Michigan. She says, “From even before our ministry started, Life Matters has given us practical support and constant encouragement. It began with a document called ‘How to Start a Pregnancy Care Center,’ and has continued through our 20 years. I’m so grateful to be able to bring staff and board members to annual Summits, where we gain insights, ideas, and excitement about our work.”

Holly Friesen is a missionary in Odessa, Ukraine. She says, “Our ministry has been greatly blessed by our partnership with Life Matters. We appreciate the personal encouragement we have received from staff members and their faithful prayers for us. They have also helped us practically by raising funds to furnish our center, sending trainers to work with our board and then to do our first volunteer training, and connecting us with other resources to assist us in our ministry.”

Jeffrey Halsted is the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He says, “I’ve been personally blessed through partnering with the staff and ministry of Life Matters. Biblical pro-life counsel and materials are constantly available to help equip our church family to meaningfully engage our culture with the character of Christ. Life Matters has enriched both the minds and hearts of Christ’s followers as we seek to value and broadly promote life.”

Ray Ditch is a delightful octogenarian living in Middletown, Illinois. A retired pastor, he’s one of our most faithful prayer warriors. His goal in life is to “end well.” Ray says, “After I had this stroke, it took me a long time before I accepted that I couldn’t do anything but pray. Life Matters is on my prayer request list, which is now 32+ pages long! I met Tom when he ‘just happened’ to stop by my church on his way home from a speaking engagement. I can sit in my chair and travel all over the world praying for my family and friends, pastors and ministries. I just talk to the Lord all day!”

BANQUET 2017

We’d love to have you join us for our banquet at Meijer Gardens on March 16. It’s an opportunity for you to learn more of what’s going on at Life Matters, and to hear John Ensor of PassionLife. He’ll be talking about how the biblical pro-life message is being articulated in word and deed in countries that are hostile to open presentation of the Gospel.

Call us at 1-800-968-6086 or (616) 257-6800 for details and to register for your place at the table!