



# Mission Report

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- \* **HLI Tanzania** Goes Head to Head with Abortion Provider Marie Stopes International
- \* **Malta** Stays the Pro-Life Course...For Now
- \* **This Month's Gift to Donors: *Mary, My Jewish Mother* by Dr. Bernard Nathanson**

*Left: Bjorn Formosa, a Maltese man suffering from ALS, received a pro-life award for creating ALS Malta — an association to support and treat patients with ALS, multiple sclerosis, and other neurodegenerative diseases.*

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

During the month of March the Church celebrates the Feasts of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, and St. Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland. Both apt saints are apt to whom to pray as the global assault on Life and Family continues – including the Irish referendum in May on whether to allow the legalization of abortion.

In this issue of Mission Report, we bring you news of Human Life International's active campaign to evict Marie Stopes International (MSI) from Tanzania. MSI flaunts Tanzanian law, which only permits abortion when the mother's life is "in danger," even bragging in its annual report that it aborted 169,427 Tanzanian babies in 2016 alone. To make matters worse, for the first time, MSI has joined hands with the Ministry of Health, to target youth for contraception. Please pray for HLI's Anglophone African Director, Emil Hagamu, who is leading this effort.

Meanwhile Dr. Joseph Meaney, our Director of International Expansion and Outreach, traveled to Malta, where there is an ever increasing pressure to legalize abortion. Due in part to Dr. Meaney's pro-life lecture and media interviews, the Prime Minister's office not only issued a statement that there were no plans to legalize abortion, but that the Maltese do not favor such a move. For more on Malta, read on.

We thank you for all you do in support of this global mission, whose efforts would be impossible without your prayers and generosity. The violence against the dignity of human life will not be exorcised until we make use of the most powerful weapons at our disposal. Holy Scripture makes clear these are prayer and fasting. Through these means, please consider joining HLI's global family this Lenten season, as we seek the conversion of cultures and societies and the end to the assault against human life at all stages.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet  
President, Human Life International



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet  
President

## MISSIONARY TRIP TO TANZANIA

*By Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of Anglophone Africa, December 2017*

During a recent Mission visit to the Tanzanian Southern Dioceses of Iringa, Songea, and Mbinga I learned with disbelief at the Catholic University of Ruaha Iringa (RUCU) that abortion giant Marie Stopes International (MSI) has joined forces with the Health Ministry. Finding an ally in present Ministry of Health Minister, Ummi Mwalimu, the government is collaborating with like-minded local anti-life organizations, such as “The Medical Women’s Association of Tanzania” (MEWATA), to carry out a nationwide contraceptive and abortion campaign aimed at 15-24-year-old high school and university students. Surprisingly and sadly MEWATA, which is known for its good screening and treatment of early cervical and breast cancer, has been drawn into MSI’s anti-life agenda.

Fr. Amani Nyoni, OSB, chaplain to universities in Iringa, provided evidence in the form of two documents. These were first, a copy of the Health Ministry’s “sexual and reproductive health policy,” and the other a letter by MEWATA, requesting the RUCU administration to allow them to implement a project titled, “Youth Empowerment of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights,” and funded by the French Embassy in Dar es Salaam.



On reading the Health Ministry’s “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights,” I recognized the document as one authored by MSI in 2004 but rejected by previous Ministry of Health Ministers for obscene content. Youth “rights” written into the document are those adopted and promoted by International Planned



Rickshaw tricycle, used by Marie Stopes International for village population control programs.



Erasto Kimonge, Rosemary Msofe, and Emil Hagamu during a Radio Tumaini pro-life presentation.

Parenthood Federation (IPPF) since 2000.

HLI is uniquely positioned to combat such changes. We have people like myself on the ground, with many connections to everyone from bishops to journalists to grassroots pro-lifers. On my return to Dar es Salaam in December, I immediately launched a campaign to evict MSI from Tanzania. First holding a press conference before pro-life friendly journalists, I made the HLI case exposing the truth behind MSI and MEWATA. Those journalists in attendance were:

- Kiongozi Newspaper, owned by Bishops Conference of Tanzania
- Habari Leo Newspaper, owned by the Government of Tanzania
- Wapo Media, owned by Pentecostal Churches of Tanzania
- BBC Swahili, international media owned by the British Government
- Tumaini Media, owned by the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam

- Agape Centre Mission, Tanzania National Charismatic Renewal
- Radio Maria, internationally owned by Radio Maria, Italy
- Tanzania Daima, private newspaper
- Upendo Radio/Newspaper, owned by Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania

The campaign bore immediate fruit and if it can be said of the press, the story “went viral.” Kiongozi and Haribo Leo Newspapers ran feature articles, and Tumaine Letu did a three-month, in-depth installment article through February. *As I stated, the campaign calls on the government to cancel the non-governmental status of MSI and evict its workers from the country.* MSI has been flaunting the law by illegally performing abortions in Tanzania for some time.

Four hours a week we do radio coverage, two hours live and two pre-taped, on both Radio Maria and Radio Tumaini. The former is international and can be heard worldwide via [www.radiomaria.co.tz](http://www.radiomaria.co.tz)

in Kiswahili. It alone reaches 25 of Tanzania's 33 regions. I am also heard on Radio Tumaini, which is accessible in seven of Tanzania's regions. Finally, we have launched a CitizenGo campaign. This may be accessed at: <http://citizengo.org/en-af/lf/90618-stop-marie-stopes-advertising-abortion>. We encourage signers.

Important to emphasize is that in targeting students, the Ministry of Health has gone beyond its mandate and illegally intruded into the Ministry of Education's territory. The Ministry of Education governs all educational issues and this includes forbidding contraceptive distribution to its students, yet the Ministry of Health is doing it. The Ministry of Health says pregnant students are expelled and not allowed to resume education even after delivery. The Ministry of Health "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" shamelessly states students are as entitled as adults with regard to choosing methods of contraception (including abortifacients) and the right to give birth; in other words, they have a right to become pregnant and also rights to abortion. The goal? The same as always:

limit population growth and to create barrenness in the future generation of the Tanzanian people.

Two-rod Norplant (Levonorgestrel) is the most marketed abortifacient device in Tanzania. As we reported in the previous Mission Report, Norplant was removed from the United States after thousands of women complained of side effects. Further research shows that in the experimental stages, *Norplant was actually promoted along racial lines in the United States*. Of 355 students who used it during this stage in Baltimore, only 5 were not blacks. In other words, Norplant is being targeted intentionally at blacks.

*MSI openly defies Tanzanian law and performed 169, 427 abortions illegally in 2016 alone* (cf. Marie Stopes' 2016 report). The law states abortion is *only* permitted to save the life of the mother, and even in that case, three medical experts must approve such a procedure.

*MSI runs oppressive fertility control programs, which indirectly coerces women into using contraception immediately after delivery. Some women are sterilized without their knowledge after having caesarean*



Journalists who attended a press conference at the National Hotel on December 11, 2017 in Dar es Salaam.

**births. The organization alleges its contraception covers 33% of Tanzania.** It boasted in its 2016 report that 1,456,361 women used its contraception. This is to say perhaps as many as 1.5 million Tanzanian souls were prevented from being born by MSI contraceptive devices. They even get to women in remote areas using 35 mobile outreach teams employing “Bajaj,” auto-rickshaws which deliver population control services.

MSI’s launch of a “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights” program targeting high school and university students is particularly upsetting; in targeting youth in their prime reproductive age, this will cause untold suffering from side effects associated with contraceptive use and has potential to ruin students’ fertility (cf. HLI’s February’s Mission Report). Contraception use also encourages STDs in promoting risky behavior, and all forms are shown to raise breast cancer risk (cf. New England Journal of Medicine study of 1.8 million Danish women, Dec. 2017).

I spoke with a Marie Stopes International worker in Zanzibar, Mwajuma Mtumwa, a woman in her mid-40s. Posing the question, “What do you benefit by killing other peoples’ unborn children? Being Christian



**Marie Stopes International hired this vehicle for advertising the use of contraceptives for fertility control. This house-to-house approach is currently being used in Njombe.**

or Moslem, are you not haunted by your faith, which says thou shalt not kill?” She ignored the first question, answering the second only with these words: “Regarding heaven or hell, let me do my work to earn a good income now. When Judgment day comes, God will decide.”

## IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can make a tax-free gift from your individual retirement account (IRA) directly to our organization.

### How It Works

- You must be 70½ or older at the time of your gift.
- You may transfer any amount up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to Human Life International.
- The transfer is not considered to be taxable income, and therefore does not generate an income tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
- If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.



If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Stan Kuta at 540-622-5272 or email Stan at [skuta@hli.org](mailto:skuta@hli.org).

## MISSIONARY TRIP TO MALTA

*By Dr. Joseph Meaney, HLI Director of International Outreach and Expansion, January 2018*

Malta is special: on the borders of Christendom and historically committed to Catholicism and the Church's moral teachings. No legal abortions are permitted on Malta, and legalization of divorce was successfully resisted until 2011 (at the time, the only other countries without legal civil divorce were the Philippines and the Vatican City State). After years of debate, *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) was only legally permitted in Malta by the Embryo Protection Act of 2012, which specified: no human embryos may be willfully killed by IVF, they may be frozen, only heterosexual couples are eligible for the procedure, along with many other ethical safeguards such as a ban on gamete (sperm & egg) donation.

In fact, the Embryo Protection Act, and the current debate swirling about it was one of the reasons for my latest mission trip. Malta is in an uncomfortable position in the modern world. Heir to a long, fervent Catholic tradition as well as a full member state in the European Union (EU), it faces strong liberal pressure particularly from the EU and United Nations. The bulwark of almost universal Catholicism among native Maltese is weakening.

## PRO-LIFE BUT WITH THREATS ON THE HORIZON

Nevertheless, it is refreshing to go to a country where, after I gave several radio interviews and a public lecture on "pro-life answers to pro-abortion questions", the prime minister's office felt compelled to put out a statement that there are no plans to legalize abortion. It further added Maltese public opinion does not favor abortion, nor was there an electoral mandate to change abortion. Malta's current government is on the left of the political spectrum and passed a same-sex "marriage" bill in 2017, so people are understandably concerned about the country's legislative plans.

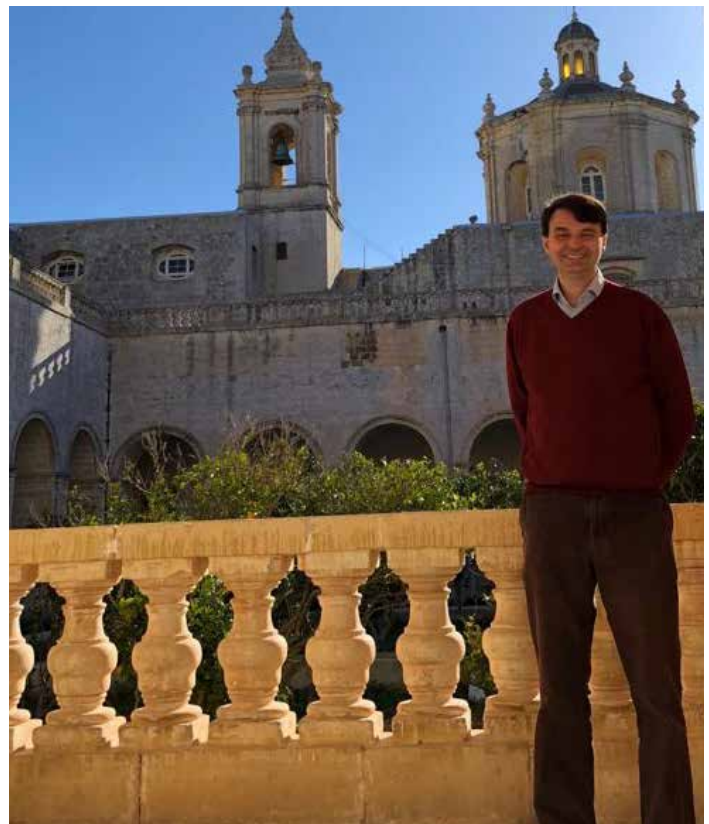
Owning a lifelong passion for history, I cannot resist mentioning a few remarkable events that marked Maltese history. Saint Paul shipwrecked off the main island and so spent some time there on his journey to Rome for judgement and eventual martyrdom. A quick glance on a map will show the Maltese islands are directly across from Tunisia

and Libya. After Arab Muslims conquered North Africa, Malta lay in their expansionistic path to Europe. Muslims took Malta on their way to Sicily in the 9<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Fortunately for persevering Christians suffering under persecution,



the Normans reconquered southern Italy, Sicily and Malta in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The fight against Islamic expansion continued under the crusader Knights Hospitaller who were given the Maltese islands in 1530 after being driven out of the eastern Mediterranean by the Turks.<sup>1</sup> Just to highlight the dangers at that time, in 1550 the entire population of the island of Gozo (5,000+ people) was brutally murdered or enslaved by pirates based in

<sup>1</sup> Today the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta are commonly referred to as the Knights of Malta.



**Dr. Joseph Meaney, HLI Director of International Outreach and Expansion, in Malta.**

North Africa. In 1565 Ottoman Turks sent a large fleet and army to conquer Malta. After a heroic siege, the Knights prevailed, and this proved to be the high watermark of the Turks in the Mediterranean.

This background highlights some important national traits. The Maltese are thankfully stubborn and faithful. They did not abandon their Faith under Islamic occupation for two centuries, even if the Maltese language took on many Arabic influences. The Maltese word for God is “*Alla*.” Malta endured a terrible aerial siege with massive bombardments during World War II but, just as during the Great Siege of 1565 against the Turks, the entire population was steadfast in refusing to give in to aggressors. Malta and the Maltese are unique, a real pearl in the Mediterranean.

### **HLI HELPS PRO-LIFERS FROM THE START IN MALTA**

Human Life International (HLI), since 2005, has supported the work of Gift of Life Malta, a pro-life group founded and led by Paul Vincenti. He clearly foresaw the blessed period in Malta, when abortion was not only illegal but also unthinkable, was coming to an end. Some mothers with crisis pregnancies started to go abroad to have abortions (similar to the situation in Ireland). Feminists started raising the abortion issue and Dr. Rebecca Gomperts, infamous for her “Women on Waves” abortion ship, went to Malta in 2007 to give a speech and press conference.

Gift of Life has shown great foresight. One of their first initiatives was to set up Hope, a counseling service for women with crisis pregnancies or who need healing after abortion. Paul Vincenti knew critics would accuse the group of doing nothing compassionate for women or “forcing” them to have children if such a service was not part of their action. Starting before any organized pro-abortion group existed, this also allowed them to set the terms of the debate and not merely react to attempts made to change the law or propaganda campaigns in favor of abortion. It is unfortunate that a similar group was not initiated in time to counter the LBGT agenda in Malta.

On this quick trip to Malta I had the chance to experience mild weather on a green island since summers are brown and the rains come mainly in the fall and winter months - a tip for travelers and pilgrims. I



**Eleanor Borg, Paul Vincenti, and Dr. Joseph Meaney at RTK Radio in Malta, Jan 2018.**

enjoyed going to both RTK Radio and Radio Maria for interviews along with Paul Vincenti and Eleanor Borg, who runs Hope Malta. We raised the pro-life flag and discussed what goes on around the world and answered callers’ questions.

My main public talk was given in the archdiocesan curia building in the wing that houses *Caritas*, the charitable outreach of the Catholic Church, and filmed by True Light Catholic Media. I spoke half the time and took questions the rest of the evening. Paul felt it was important to bring out the tactics and slogans used by the pro-abortion and radical feminist side and how to answer them. ***I pointed out that one of the main abortion slogans is “Pro-choice” and yet when women are surveyed as to why they had an abortion, the most common response is: “I felt that I had no other choice”.*** In addition, these abortion campaigning “Pro-Choicers” are almost universally against recognizing the right of medical personnel to “choose” not to perform abortions. This slogan is merely a semantic ploy to distract people from the ugly reality of abortion, the killing of preborn babies.

### **PRO-LIFE AWARD**

***A very moving event on this HLI mission trip was conferring a pro-life award on Bjorn Formosa, a Maltese man suffering from ALS.<sup>2</sup>*** There was an attempt to turn

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<sup>2</sup> Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis is a rare neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord that is almost 100% fatal just a few years after diagnosis. It is commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease in the USA after a famous baseball player.

Bjorn Formosa into a kind of “poster child” for euthanasia, which is naturally illegal in Malta. He refused to permit his deadly diagnosis to become a manipulative appeal for mercy killing.

Mr. Formosa instead created ALS Malta<sup>3</sup> — an association to support and treat patients with ALS, multiple sclerosis, and other neurodegenerative diseases. There is now a medical home, *Dar Bjorn*, which provides full-time care to these patients, along with raising public awareness and funds. Determined to live what little time remains to the full, he is an inspiration. Gift of Life Malta and HLI honored Bjorn Formosa with a smaller-scale statue of a pregnant woman and child that stands prominently near the town of Mosta as a pro-life monument. Two television stations covered the event.

As my flight took off, I saw the many large churches that dominate the towns of the Maltese islands recede quickly as the airplane gained altitude and sped towards Paris. I will be keeping Malta in my prayer intentions and invite you to do so as well. Even if there is no immediate threat to legalize abortion, the Embryo Protection Act is under attack. There are calls to permit sperm donation, IVF for single persons or homosexual couples, eugenic killing of human embryos suspected of having genetic handicaps, etc. *The pro-life struggle never really ends but, as Saint Paul reminded Timothy, it is important to fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith in order to enter heaven.*



Dr. Joseph Meaney with Bjorn Formosa.

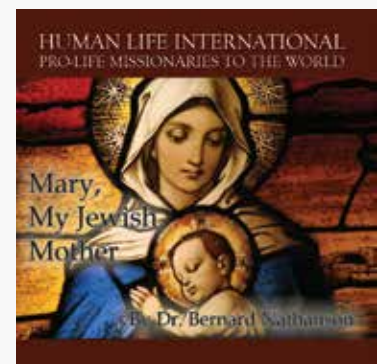
<sup>3</sup> <http://www.alsmalta.org/>

## DONATE \$53 OR MORE TO HLI THIS MONTH AND GET OUR LATEST PRO-LIFE RESOURCE!

This month, when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI’s life-saving mission, you’ll receive the book, *Mary, My Jewish Mother* by Dr. Bernard Nathanson.

In this talk Dr. Nathanson, at the time a recent convert from Judaism to Catholicism, reflects on Mary, the Mother of God. He mentions his own experience coming from a difficult family situation, with the lack of a mother figure, and how this impacted his failed marriages. One thing that attracted him to the Church was Our Lady – the mother he was looking for. He remarks that there is no parallel figure in other religions. Our Lady has been called “The Aqueduct for God’s grace,” a title that stayed with Dr. Nathanson. He describes Her as both the sharer of the pain and sufferings of humans, and a signal of that pain and suffering – as well as of hope and joy.

**Please send your gift of \$53 or more to HLI today,** and we’ll ship this wonder pro-life resource today!



***Mary, My Jewish Mother* is this month’s pro-life educational resource.**