



TRICKS WITHOUT TREATS

UNICEF Continues To Use Innocent Children To Raise Money

As usual, the pro-abortion United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is asking children to raise money to support its ungodly activities. Longtime readers of *The Caleb Report* are well aware of UNICEF’s deadly side. UNICEF describes the ongoing project:

For more than 60 years, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has served as the original Kids Helping Kids campaign. In 1950, children across America were inspired to collect coins for UNICEF to aid children abroad enduring the after-effects of World War II. It was not just a charity effort—it was a call to end the needless suffering of their more vulnerable peers around the globe. Since then, for generations of Americans, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has been a powerful way to make a difference in the lives of the world’s children. Today, that mission is as urgent as ever, and the campaign is just as vibrant. Established as one of the longest-running youth initiatives in America, with more than \$164 million raised to-date, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF remains an inspiration to the young (and the young at heart) to further the cause of children everywhere.

What’s new for 2011? The Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Costume Party! What’s so special about a costume party? These days a party does not have to involve a lot of work. This is especially true when it is an “online party.”



Participants in the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Costume Party create “virtual costumes.” A child uploads a photograph and uses online tools to make it look as though he/she is in costume. The child is asked to email the altered photo to friends and family and post it on social media websites. The child is also urged to host an actual Halloween fundraising party. Instructions, including a sanitized sample welcoming speech, are provided:

Thank you for attending my Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Halloween Party! It is wonderful to see everyone in their costumes celebrating Halloween while also raising funds to help kids in need around the world. I would like to take a few minutes to share with you why I decided to turn this Halloween Party into a fundraiser for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

Every day, 21,000 children die from totally preventable causes. They die because they lack simple things that we take for granted. Things like clean drinking water, basic health care, immunizations against deadly diseases, and proper nutrition. I believe that number should be Zero.

UNICEF’s mission is simple: do whatever it takes to save children’s lives. Only UNICEF has the global experience, resources, and reach to give children the best hope for survival.

Since 1950, millions of adults and children have participated in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF—perhaps you were one of them! Over the years, going to door-to-door on sHalloween [sic] night, Americans have helped raise over \$164 million for Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF to improve the lives of children all over the world.

As you consider the amount of your personal Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF donation, be assured that every gift—whether large or small—can provide lifesaving support to vulnerable children. For example, just:

- 48¢ can provide an exercise book and pencil for a child to use in the classroom.
- \$18.18 can provide 3 insecticide-treated bed nets to protect families from mosquitoes carrying malaria.
- \$500 can buy a hand pump to provide clean, safe water to an entire community.

The U.S. Fund for UNICEF has earned 6 consecutive 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator. Only 3% of charities evaluated by this trusted organization have received its highest ranking for at least 6 straight years. It also meets all 20 of the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability. Every single donation goes a long way to help children.

I thank you for being here and for your support and generosity. If you would like to find out more about UNICEF, please see me, or visit unicefusa.org...



“It’s easy to turn your frightening funfest into a fundraiser to help kids in need around the world!” UNICEF urged. “Start by setting an easy goal like \$61 in honor of 61 years of Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF...” Supermodel Heidi Klum is the spokesman for the online costume party.

Special emphasis is being given to “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Online.” Children are invited to create their own Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF fundraising webpage. “Then invite your friends and family to help you raise funds to help kids all over the world survive and grow,” the invitation reads.

In 2010 iPhone software was introduced to support the Trick-or-Treat campaign. UNICEF continues its effective use of technology.

“Like Planned Parenthood, public ignorance has served UNICEF well,” said LDI President Douglas R. Scott, Jr.

Information about UNICEF may be found in the July-August 2009 edition of *The Caleb Report* (check our website).

BLACK EYES CAN HURT

The Pro-Life Movement has been dealt a painful and very public beating over the past several months. Two large pro-life organizations have faced accusations of having highly questionable governance systems and employing substandard financial practices. Several other groups may be on the brink of facing similar accusations.



Fr. Pavone

On September 6, 2011, the leader of Staten Island, N.Y.-based Priests for Life (PL), Fr. Frank A. Pavone, was called to his home diocese (Amarillo, Tex.) by Bishop Patrick J. Zurek. In a letter to colleagues, the Bishop referred to “persistent questions and concerns” about the stewardship of the millions of dollars that have been donated to PL. The “questions and concerns” applied to both the clergy and laity at PL. Pavone complied with the Bishop’s request, but less than a week after returning to Amarillo the popular priest showed a sign of obedience to by sending a letter of rebuttal to Zurek’s colleagues.

Priests for Life and some of the groups it has financially supported over the years have engaged in a very public campaign designed to pressure Zurek to “free” Pavone from what some compared to “house arrest without charge.” One group even picketed the diocesan headquarters. Pavone also let it be known that he had appealed to the Vatican to overturn his bishop.

One pro-life leader compared Bishop Zurek’s decision to call Pavone to Amarillo to the priest sex abuse scandal:

For decades, senior Catholic clerics have hindered efforts to protect the safety of school children. Apparently learning nothing from this appalling lapse, a senior Catholic cleric is now hindering efforts to protect the safety of unborn children. This indiscretion is no less scandalous.

A low blow. And just as ridiculous as it is low.

“Many pro-life activists are disturbed that Bishop Zurek has chosen to convert a routine personnel conflict into a proxy for the wider ideological war being fought over the Church’s response to abortion,” wrote one pro-life leader. (How many is “many”?) The point of the statement is almost as absurd as the one comparing the Bishop’s decision to the sex abuse scandal. It was alleged that Bishop Zurek was motivated by a desire to see Catholic Church activism on life issues significantly decrease. What evidence exists to support such an accusation? There is none. Probably because it is not true.

One pro-life leader referred to Bishop Zurek as a “bully.” But this can only be true if one accepts the argument that Zurek was simply trying to push his weight around—to show who’s boss—and the decisions had nothing to do with the issues addressed in his letter to fellow bishops.

A pro-life leader said he would “expect this kind of slanderous attack [against Fr. Pavone] from someone at Planned Parenthood or NARAL, but not from a bishop in the Church. This is a very sad day for the innocent unborn.” Alleging that the actions of a person are even remotely similar to those that would be employed by the enemy is a common rhetorical tactic but it says nothing about the legitimacy or illegitimacy of the action itself. This is only a sad day for preborn children if we let it be.

One pro-life leader said Bishop Zurek had charged Fr. Pavone with “mishandling” Priests for Life funds—an allegation he dismissed as an “unwarranted” attack. How does he know it is “unwarranted”? Someone from within Pavone’s inner circle told him so, which proves nothing. (This is a case of personal friendship and extreme loyalty drowning out common sense.)

It was stated that if Pavone was prevented from doing pro-life work, preborn babies would die. Moreover, anyone who would even consider keeping Pavone from doing pro-life work was essentially acting like a pro-abortion activist. The commitment of the Catholic Church to the pro-life cause was questioned. Bishop Zurek’s commitment was especially questioned.

With the possible exception of a sizeable loan to a PL employee (\$170,149 to Anthony DeStefano, PL’s executive director, who had a salary of more than \$192,000 in the same year; see *The Caleb Report*, May-June 2010, pp. 3-5), LDI is unaware of financial impropriety at PL. But we are aware of a problem with governance.



Bishop Zurek

We had heard that PL’s board of directors is loosely formulated and is made up of employees. A look at tax documents filed with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) indicates this is true, but wanting to give PL a chance to correct the possible error, LDI asked for a list of board members. Our repeated requests were ignored. The use of alternate channels led to our receiving a call from a high-ranking PL official, but he flatly refused our request. His said the people at PL wanted to let everything “settle down” and every time the group releases information to the media, things get worse. We reminded PL that LDI is hardly the media and, more importantly, we are friends. We were still refused the information, even though PL is required by law to provide it. Rightly or wrongly, this kind of response simply gives credence to the allegation that PL’s governance structure is unethical, if not unlawful.

LDI did not release a public statement on the controversy, but upset over what he saw as inappropriate meddling, LDI President Douglas R. Scott, Jr. spoke about the way in which some people were responding:

I suspect that many pro-life leaders are getting the same questions from their supporters. “What do you think of the Fr. Pavone situation? Do you think he’s guilty? Do you think Bishop Zurek is being too harsh? What do you think will happen?” My answer is always the same. “I don’t know.”

I can tell people what I think of Fr. Pavone, but that opinion is of no more value than that of anyone else who does not work with him on a daily basis. I can tell people I like Fr. Pavone, he’s a kind man, he’s a talented man, and I would be very surprised if he knowingly engaged in financial or any other kind of serious wrongdoing.

But there is one thing I will not do. I will not stand on a mountaintop and proclaim that Fr. Pavone is right and Bishop Zurek is wrong. Nor will I stand on a mountaintop and proclaim that Bishop Zurek is right and Fr. Pavone is wrong. I simply do not have enough information to make such a statement. What’s more, the information I have received has not come from flawless sources; it has come from human beings, many of whom are emotionally involved. And you know what? The same is true of 99 percent of the people who have taken a clear side in this ongoing and unfortunate situation. Yet they still stand atop the highest peak they can find and scream at the top of their lungs.

Scott said that for as long as he can remember, Catholics have pointed out that, thankfully, the Roman Catholic Church is not a democracy. But in this case some people have been behaving as though the Bishop should be subjected to the kind of pressure and tactics one would use if trying to influence a politician. “Some people seem to think everyone should vote or protest or criticize or pick a side. I just pray that truth and justice win,” he said.



Brown

The second organization on the hot seat is the American Life League (ALL) of Stafford, Virg. On September 26, 2011, *National Catholic Reporter* published an article titled, “Charity watchdogs flag major Catholic pro-life league.” The piece began by noting that ALL “has been flagged by several nonprofit watchdogs for questionable financial practices, including compensating board members and doing hundreds of thousands of dollars in business with a firm owned by the spouse of the organization’s leader.” It was also noted that ALL is under investigation by the IRS.

“While Fr. Frank Pavone’s Priests for Life organization is under the spotlight for how it has handled its finances, questions have been raised for *several years* about American Life League’s finances...(emphasis added),” the newspaper reported. One critical group is the Better Business Bureau, which has unsuccessfully attempted to get the league to answer questions.

According to its IRS 990, a form that all nonprofits must file annually, ALL’s revenue in 2008 was \$5.7 million; \$6.5 million in 2009; and \$5.8 million for 2010. In 2008 ALL President Judie Brown was paid \$116,344, plus \$13,088 from an ALL-related group. She made \$72,335 in 2009 and \$92,216 in 2010, respectively.

National Catholic Reporter summarized the key issues:

- Three of the seven board members listed on the 2010 IRS 990 form received substantial compensation and, in 2009, four of seven board members listed were also paid, with three being paid more than \$50,000 and a fourth receiving \$49,398. In 2008, the numbers were even larger. Four directors that year received in excess of \$100,000. According to experts interviewed, compensating members of a nonprofit board is largely frowned upon.
- ALL engages in another practice that is generally avoided in the nonprofit world—paying large sums to friends and relatives of insiders. According to its 2008 IRS Form 990, ALL paid more than \$1.2 million to AKA Printing, a firm in which Paul Brown, husband of Judie Brown, is a primary shareholder. The Company received \$500,000 in 2009 and \$826,782 in 2010. (ALL allegedly paid the going rate for printing and other services; it did not get a discount.)

The newspaper focused on the 990s submitted by ALL:

One independent audit, performed by an accountant in Illinois, points out: “The league rents office space from the president of the league under an agreement started in 1991. The agreement has been updated over the years and in 2009, the league paid \$78,000 in rent to Paul Brown.” The note also said that Judie Brown rented her personal residence to the league, at a cost of \$36,000 per year, in 2008 and 2009. The arrangement, and the lease costs, remained the same, according to the 2010 audit. Both the personal residence and the office space are located in Stafford, Va.

The auditor who filed the 2010 Form 990 included a note. “During the year ended December 31, 2008 the IRS commenced an examination of the League,” he wrote. “The ultimate outcome of this examination cannot be determined as of December 31, 2010. The IRS has raised significant issues during this process. Many of the issues have been resolved as of May 2010, but since no Internal Revenue final reports have been issued, all issues are considered to be still outstanding.” ALL refused to comment.



Bennett Weiner, chief operating officer of Wise Giving Alliance, raised several concerns about the IRS 990s filed by ALL. “In general, boards are volunteer, although there may be a single person who is paid, such as the executive director, who may be an ex officio member of the board,” he told *National Catholic Reporter*. “As a matter of practice, compensated boards are not done.” Weiner also said that business ties with relatives are greatly frowned upon in the nonprofit community.

A legal expert on nonprofit groups was also critical of ALL. “You never do that. You put people on your board so they can bring money into the organization. You don’t pay your friends.”

Essential Rules for Christian-Based Nonprofit Organizations

- A Board of Directors must establish and strictly enforce policies relating to issues, strategy, and fiduciary accountability. It must not serve merely as a “rubber stamp.” Members must be active participants and overseers. They must ensure that the organization employs only the highest ethical standards. Board members are legally and morally responsible for what happens under their watch.
- The Board and staff must embrace the principle that accountability is biblically and legally mandated. Organizations must use high standards of ethics in all operations—even greater than that expected of the rest of world.
- No paid employee may serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors. Board members may not be paid for their service, but may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred. The Board must approve a written Reimbursement Policy before any request for reimbursement is submitted.
- The Board must establish a policy for electing new members. No individual Board member should be allowed to nominate more than one other member. Employees must play no role whatsoever in the composition of the Board of Directors.
- Fundraising should employ only the most ethical practices.
- The organization must not do business with a profit-making entity with which an employee or member of the Board has ties.
- IRS 990s for the past three fiscal years, a list of Board members, and all policies relating to financial matters must be made available upon request and/or made accessible on the website.

Recommended Rules for Christian-Based Nonprofit Organizations

- The Board should adopt and make known to supporters a Donor Privacy Policy and make it known to supporters. The Board should keep in mind that such data is the property of the donor and should not be used in a manner other than was intended by the donor. All funds should be spent in the most prudent manner possible.
- Fundraising tactics that are mere gimmicks and/or involve half-truths or untruths should be rejected. Information gathered as a result of a petition drive should be used strictly for the stated purpose and not for fundraising unless such potential use was made known to the signatory *before* he/she signed the petition.
- The organization should not accept money from a political party, candidate, or any other entity that could compromise judgment.
- The Board should establish a Nepotism Policy.
- The Board should be careful not to micromanage employees as this can cripple the organization. Only the chairman or his/her designee should serve as the primary contact with the director.

Donors should insist that these rules be adopted and enforced.

“Abstain from all appearance of evil.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:22

The aforementioned issues were addressed in the May-June 2010 edition of *The Caleb Report* in an article titled, “Planned Parenthood Gets Four Stars.” Several pro-life and pro-abortion groups were rated by Charity Navigator, the largest evaluator of nonprofits in the United States. The following notes were included in regard to ALL:

In 2008, ALL paid \$75,145 to Director R. Sassone, \$103,544 to Director S. Clark, \$77,933 to Director J. Pavlik, \$118,815 to Executive Director S. Kenney, & \$100,097 to Director of Accounting C. Priola. In addition, ALL paid \$1,275,232 to AKA Printing & Mailing Inc., a company in which P. Brown owns a controlling interest. In 2005, the Board of Directors gave property valued at \$600,000 to

the group’s President “in recognition of the President’s past years of service when the position was underpaid.” Consequently, the 2005 financial report lists the President’s compensation at nearly \$700,000. The same financial report indicates that ALL “incurred fees totaling \$1,408,782 from Anthony, Kane & Associates, a firm in which Mr. Brown has a controlling interest.” ALL paid Anthony, Kane & Associates nearly \$1.34 million in both 2006 & 2007, & almost \$1.3 million in 2008. ALL has paid to lease office space from P. Brown since 1991 (\$78,000 in 2006, 2007 & 2008). ALL also leased “the personal residence of the President & Executive Vice President on a month-to-month basis” (\$36,000 in 2008). The IRS has said ALL “engaged in excess benefits in the years prior to 2008,” but the group disputes this statement.

The Caleb Report article also noted that ALL:

- does not have a donor privacy policy;
- allows paid staff members to simultaneously serve as voting members of its Board of Directors;
- allows the hiring of family members by the staff or Board; and
- does business with profit-making entities with which a member of the staff or Board is associated.

We do not know if any allegation against PL and ALL is true because we are not intimately involved in the groups. Neither we nor any other organization unrelated to PL and ALL know the whole story. We must say, however, that we would be surprised if any pro-life leader would intentionally engage in unethical, inadvisable, or criminal behavior. But we are all too human and Satan surely spends extra time and energy trying to make us fall. We must be bathed in prayer and spiritual grace.

There is a way pro-life organizations can avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Scott urges the adoption and strict adherence to policies similar to those utilized by LDI when it was founded (see boxed text in left column).

The article in the May-June 2010 edition of *The Caleb Report* (pp. 3-5), which was mentioned several times above, also includes notations about LDI: The newsletter may be viewed on our website.

THE PRAYER PROJECT

Please join us in daily prayer for the people who are active in the Pro-Abortion Movement and those who have not been strong in their claimed pro-life convictions:

September: **Jimmy Donal Wales**, founder of Wikipedia (the online “encyclopedia”), which has repeatedly deleted the page set up for LDI; and *October*: United Nations Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** of South Korea.

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