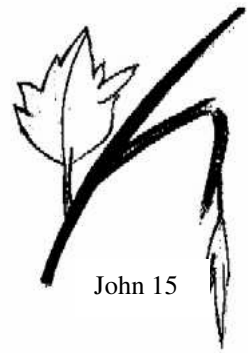


# BROKEN BRANCHES



John 15

A newsletter of *Victims of Abortion*

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Issue 8

May 2000

As I sit down to write this newsletter I do so with such a heavy heart. There are many reasons for this heaviness but uppermost has been this past week leading to Mother's Day and also some news from home -Perth

I have now worked in this area of post abortion trauma for the fourth Mother's day and every year it seems to get worse and worse. During the week leading to Mother's day and all the sales hype associated with it, acts as trigger for post abortion suffering. During this week I have seen 4 new ladies and have heard from at least half a dozen more from local to as far away as New South Wales.

I know that this time of the year, together with Christmas and anniversaries of the abortion itself or what would have been the child's birth, are times which, for someone who has had an abortion, are times of great sadness and difficulties. The memories of the abortion come flooding back but now they are memories filled with guilt and regret. The difficulties, which seemed insurmountable at the time, now appear like a mockery. The difficulties, which lead to the abortion in the first place, now appear so insignificant.

The saddest story that heard this week was from someone that I will call Deborah. Deborah is 31 years of age and has had two abortions, oddly enough both on the Saturday before mother's day. Her marriage has since broken down and she does not have any other children. For her, Mother's Day, every year is a nightmare. Her sufferings begin the previous month (April) and continue through to Mother's Day and a little time after and then abate for a while. We know this to mean that Deborah suffers the anniversary symptoms however, for her these symptoms seem to intensify the more the time passes. Rather than "time will heal all" with post abortion grief and suffering time does not heal all but rather intensifies all. With Deborah I wept this week because she told me that every year she buys for herself some flowers for Mother's Day and these are from her aborted children. There is such a sense of loneliness, which surrounds this lady it is almost as if she is slowly distancing herself from life in preparation for "something."

With these stories in mind, last Saturday morning I went to pray (with others) outside an abortion clinic here in Melbourne. As I prayed and watched the constant stream of women and men entering into the clinic to abort their child, I could not help but feel a sense that this is all too difficult. Just a straggly small number of prayers/counsellors and a large number of babies dying every Saturday morning. During the week I had seen those for whom Mother's day is a living nightmare, yet here were these, blithely entering to terminate the life of their child. At times verbally abusive to those who were offering help and prayers, and I did wonder, "how long will it be before they come to me or to someone like me?"

Post Abortion grief does not have to wait for thirty or forty years to manifest. Indeed last week I saw for the first time another young lady (24 yrs) who had had her abortion on Friday morning, rang me on the mobile on Sunday night (because for two nights she had had nightmares about hearing her baby crying) and was sitting in front of me on Tuesday morning regretting her decision. As I listened to her story and the reasons why she aborted I was reminded how satan really does magnify difficulties before the abortion and diminishes and trivializes them after the abortion. Four days after her abortion, all the hardships that this pregnancy would have created for her seemed to melt into mere inconveniences. It is amazing how the perception changes once the deed is done and there is no going back. For this young lady, perhaps the regret coming as soon as it did after the abortion may be a blessing. Someone has loved and prayed for her because she has responded to her decision with regret rather than with excuses. In this area of work, regret is not to be seen as something negative or destructive but it can be seen as a blessing, because it is the regret which can the moment of grace.

During my years listening to stories about the grief associated with abortion an evolving theory about "regret" has emerged for me and that is that regret at the violent loss of their baby and their part in the death is the "forget-me-not" of their child. After many counselling sessions and when the tears are

all spent, and it is possible to speak about the child, then the possibility of viewing regret with different coloured glasses becomes possible.

I remember very clearly asking a client if she remembered her living children every day and what reminded her of them when they weren't in her presence and she related a litany of things about her children which constantly acted as a reminder of their presence in her life. Then I asked her about her aborted child and what she regretted most about the abortion and her reply was, "I regret that I never met my daughter and held her and bought her clothes and took her to school and loved her." Then I reminded her that as long as she regretted the loss of her daughter and what she had not done for her, her daughter would live in her heart and mind and presence. As soon as she no longer regretted then she would no longer remember her daughter. I have used this explanation quite a number of times in relation to "regret" and always there appears a new light in the eyes of the mother. It is *OK TO REGRET THE DEATH OF HER CHILD-IT IS OK TO REGRET THIS DEATH FOR ALL OF ONES LIFE – HOWEVER IT IS NOT OK TO BE PARALYZED BY IT*. My work is to help to bring the individual to a stage of regret and move them from the state of paralysis. It is like having a scar where surgery has been needed. The scar reminds us that at this site there once was great pain but now the pain is gone, however, the scar will always remain.

Today as I counsel more and more post aborted women and women with other grief issues, I encounter the word "regret" many times and indeed it is word spoken many times before we can come to a resolution,. However, today I no longer encourage a flight from "regret" because to flee from this is to flee from the problem and most of my women (and men) have been fleeing from the memories and the regrets for so long that the running has made them very ill. To encourage someone to flee from regret is to encourage them to return to suppression of their most painful story.

### *The Deceit of the Abortion Industry.*

Two weeks ago one of my new clients (has been with me for 4 weeks) brought in a brochure which was given to her when she went in for her abortion. This particular "clinic" is known for its aggressive marketing of its facility and its false compassion for the women who are its clients.

My client (Jenny-not her real name) who had her abortion 2 months ago was given this tome to consume as she waited to abort her child. A staff member of the clinic wrote this literary masterpiece. Indeed if one did not know any better one would imagine that this staff member had real compassion

for women and their predicament and was wholly motivated by her concern for them. However, close reading of this "brochure from hell" would suggest otherwise. Every line in this "brochure from hell" drips with counterfeit compassion and saccharine sympathy. It is designed to suggest empathy and understanding. This is far from the truth. I am unable to write much about this brochure because of the legal aspect and I must remain vague about the whole thing, however, I would ask you please please please pray for the closure of this abominable place from hell. This brochure calmly tells the one aborting her baby how to relax, how to go on a short break how to see that the "unplanned pregnancy" whilst validated, need not be a major interruption to their life but just a minor hiccup. Then this so-called "professional" member of the staff enumerates the don't feel so bad others are doing it all the time so it must be ok reasons. Amongst the reasons will be found **if you are** over a certain age and have completed your family its OK to have an abortion others your age are doing them also. **If you** are very young, immature, don't worry others like you are having them also. **If your are Roman Catholic** its OK because a third of all our abortions are done on Catholic women. In fact **women from mainline Churches** make up over 50% of our clientele. **If you are** having second, third, fourth, or multiple abortion its OK others are having multiple abortions too. **If you** are taking contraceptives understand that nothing is 100% reliable therefore we understand that. **If you** are experiencing difficulty coming to decision to abort, **go to a movie or even be nice to your self**. Think about yourself only and what you want. **Make sure** you eat the right food because the right food is good for you (*this is one of the things, which will comfort the post-aborted woman sometime in the future*). There is even a suggestion that physical exertion will be enjoyable so that stress and tension will be released and of course a walk will increase the oxygen to the brain. Indeed a prospective abortee is even encouraged to breathe deeply and to relax.

Having thus advised on what do to ameliorate the situation, then this smooth voice of satan continues with more comforting advice. **If you** are afraid, its Ok discuss everything with your "doctor" the one aborting your child or even other members of the staff will go in and hold your hand. Nothing is too much for you. After the procedure know that the decision you have made is the right one. Also use this time of the abortion to clean out your life including relationships and what it is that is important in your life. And finally having made this decision and going through with **it will surely lead to a new growth and life happiness**.

This is the information and advice given to women presenting for an abortion. Not once in the 2 sheet piece of paper does the word "BABY" ever appear.

Not once is the possibility of post abortion grief or syndrome ever even intimated. Not once is the very real possibility of breast cancer ever suggested. Not once is the possibility of deep lifelong regret, loneliness, sadness, sorrow ever intimated. This facility enumerates the various categories of individuals who have undergone the procedure but it does not enumerate those who have lived a life of regret and anguish. Or those who have committed suicide as a result of the procedure. Or those who have become addicted to substances because of the procedure. Or those who have abandoned families and other children because of the procedure and the list is endless.. Please pray that the Lord God will change peoples hearts. That these death camps which act as symbols of the dehumanisation of humanity will, like those in Europe, be demolished.

This newsletter is perhaps heavy and maybe not pleasant reading, but then I would say this. What happens to the babies is not pleasant either and what happens to their mothers and fathers is not happy or pleasant and what happens to society is definitely not pleasant. This is not a pleasant business. It is a business where over 100,000 (annually) babies die violently and their parents die slowly but equally violently whilst others make millions of dollars based on this maliciousness and violence. Abortion is our answer to a problem called “dehumanisation” “animalism” “secularism” and “nihilism.” It is a problem that has slowly wormed its way into the human psyche and refuses to go away. It’s a problem that perhaps only God can now fix because like Saturday morning outside the abortion facility only 5 prayers could manage to turn up and pray whilst over 15 babies went in silently to die(1 abortion facility only).

As I conclude this newsletter I apologize if it is a harsh one but I think it is important to know what really does happen. What really is out there. I can

write really pleasant articles about an unpleasant issue but this is also falling into the trap of hiding behind the facts. The facts are that more and more babies are dying. More and more parents of the same babies are dying and more and more society is dying. Please pray and do whatever you can. For if anything demands God’s wrath on all of us is the death of these innocents infants. I would also ask my priest friends to please offer Holy Sacrifice of the Mass this month for Grace, Tracy, Jeanine, Samantha, Gary, and I ask all my readers please pray for my very good friend and the mother of my godson Caterina who has battled cancer over the last 5 years and it appears that it has returned with a vengeance. Caterina and her husband have 7 children under 16years of age. She is not a post-aborted woman she is my long time friend and I love her and am too far to be able to help her (she lives in Perth). To my priest friends I know that I ask a lot of you but please pray and offer a Mass for Caterina and her family. I would really appreciate this. And may I ask that you would let me know if you do this, then I can let her husband know. Thank you in anticipation.

Finally I really need to ask for your financial help again as the tin has all but nearly dried up. The biggest expenses are the three phone lines, newsletters, and office expenses. Parking for the days that I am in the office is also quite expensive. Again thank you in anticipation.

May the Lord Bless and Keep you.



Anne Lastman  
Founder-Victims of Abortion.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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