

# BROKEN BRANCHES



John 15

A newsletter of *Victims of Abortion*

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## **32 WEEK BABY DIES BECAUSE IT WAS “IMPERFECT”.**

The recent news regarding the abortion of a 32 week baby has again prompted another round of public discussion over the issue of abortion. Both sides of the debate have come out airing their opinion and each side contending that their belief is right.

We must be careful that the debate does not degenerate into a war of words thus clouding the whole issue. The issue is ultimately that a child died because it was considered “imperfect.” Unwanted” Abortion has this character as its seal, that is, it is about rejection of life. Violence against life (child) and ultimate violence against those involved and society. Abortion is violence.

Abortion, like war, is organized, premeditated and horrific. It is systematic violence against the “future.” There is a campaign being waged against children and indeed life in the future. Children are the future. The future cannot exist without them. Past and present generations must cease, and future generations are dependent upon children. Whoever accommodates abortion into their psyche whether personal or societal accommodates a self-destructive mechanism, annihilation.

*A terror seems to have overcome humanity and it is a terror of children.*

We are all acquainted with the term “throw away society” this term was used to refer to the less than strong materials made so that they no longer lasted for any period of time but were so flimsily made that they had to be thrown away almost after use. They are perishable and not solid and strong and durable. Our society has slowly accepted and modified consumables to become disposable and when this was achieved to satisfaction then the next disposable was to be the human person. Society’s love affair with the disposables ultimately has caught up with it and demanded a more satisfying form of disposable

sacrifice.

Recent news about the late term abortion of a “disposable” child combined with those that do not make the headlines, that is, those in various gestational range, and the justification for the ease with which the procedure was carried out, should leave all of us in sheer terror. What has caused such a clouding of the heart and mind that it is possible to intentionally kill a viable child. What really has clouded the ability of all of us to see abortion for what it really is? What has caused so much darkness of mind that the Holy Spirit cannot even penetrate to infuse His clear guidance. What has caused such self-absorption, such self obsession that the corrosive nature of selfism is clearly visible yet not captured? What has merged us all onto the freeway of self-hate leading more and more to the darkening of intellect? These questions need to be asked and answered honestly. No other response will suffice.

During the week that the news regarding the late term abortion broke out and the ensuing week I was inundated with calls (especially after my name appeared in an article in the Herald Sun) and the calls varied from enquiries, to some angry ones. The angry ones were from those that do not accept that abortion trauma exists and would rather believe that I do what I do for money. Indeed the accusation was that “*you are in this business to exploit women*” (nobody believed that I do not charge for what I do and I struggle, and at times can barely pay the monthly bills associated with this office). I must admit that there were moments when it would have been really easy to say NO MORE ITS ALL TOO HARD. Then I remembered that on my “thank you” wall there are many cards and letters from those who have completed with me and have moved on. Also I remembered that I have some girls at the moment who really depend on me-so I continued.

One of the things that I learned over the late term abortion and its ensuing times was that abortion creates a climate of rage. There is no compassion for voices, which are different. Indeed during this

CHES

time I received a call from a young woman (24 yrs) in response to the said article. She wanted to come and see me because she believed that she had some issues to resolve regarding her abortion. She wanted to come and see me because the counsellor she had previously gone to, referred to her pregnancy as a baby and as far she was concerned at 9 weeks it was still in the cell stage and she did not appreciate the counsellor telling her otherwise. A call of this nature presents a difficulty because already the denial factor is quite strong. This lady clearly needs to see and believe that her baby was simply disposable matter (cells). For me it was important to hear her speak as she vacillated from “cells” to “it” to “I feel bad” yet notwithstanding this, the self-protection was strong. After much phone contact I suggested that perhaps she would be better served going elsewhere because I also am pro life and it was important for her well being to go where she felt comfortable.

It is my contention that this young person is definitely not ready to deal with her abortion. Also it is important to try and understand (and I attempted to say this to her but she would not listen) that her own need to call her baby “cells” stems from her desire to remove the baby’s humanity thus making “it ” an acceptable item for disposal. However, her own inability to rationalize the abortion is brought about by something within her which will not allow her to dispose of her baby and move on as if nothing has happened. This young person is a prime example of post abortion syndrome candidate because she has not been able to move on (7 mths from abortion), it has affected her quality of life, (always sad and cries a lot) yet she remains insistent that her baby was not a baby but “cells” Whilst I have not taken her on board because she does not want someone who is pro life (and I am rabidly pro life) I have given her all my details and spoken at length with her and I do believe that in due course she will call back. It is important she makes the first step because this will also indicate that she makes the step towards seeing her baby as a baby. Accompanied then she can grieve for her child and not her “cells.”

## **ABORTION FOR FETAL ABNORMALITIES**

Apart from the 32-week baby aborted for fetal abnormality, I have of recent times spoken to another young couple who decided to abort their 22 week baby because of genetic indications. Again I spent a lot of time speaking to them about the possibility of allowing the baby to live even if their son (they knew the gender) was destined to die soon after birth. This

would allow the parents to nurture and love their child for all its life, irrespective of the length of his life. Further, by allowing the pregnancy to proceed to its own natural conclusion, they, the parents could hold and name and get to know their child before bidding him goodbye. “No greater love hath he that a man lay down his life for his friend.” (Jn 15:13) To have allowed the child to live and to die according to God’s own timing, the parents would have laid down their life for their child. Similarly this is for every aborted child, be it a new conception or late term baby. To have and to hold and to love until death is the response of love. Because this love loves without condition. It loves whether for an instant or until eternity. This type of love assents to love at whatever the price.

Studies into abortion for genetic indications very clearly show that those who abort for these reasons are more severely affected. This of course should not surprise us because abortion for fetal abnormality usually occurs when the pregnancy has been a “wanted” pregnancy and is usually in the advanced stage. Therefore because it is in the advanced stages, bonding has occurred. Dreams have been woven in connection with this coming child. Names have been spoken of and maybe selected. Infant clothing and layettes have been looked at if not bought. Room in the home has been allocated to accommodate this new member of the family. Parents, friends, relatives have been told and the reality of motherhood and fatherhood accepted.

In all of this, it is perhaps the dream weaving that is most vulnerable and most affected when a finding of genetic indication is revealed. The dreams of a pregnant woman and her husband, for their child, are often filled with golden outcomes. There are no clouds that spoil the future. To every couple their child is the most *perfectly beautiful* creation ever conceived. There are no imperfections ever entertained. We affirm this every time we ask an expectant mother “what would you like to have?” and unconsciously her reply is “I don’t mind *so long as it is healthy*.” Already in this answer there is both a hope, but also a possibility, of non-acceptance if all things are not as expected. Perhaps past society did accept whatever condition the child was in however, present and recent past society has accommodated the non-acceptance of the perceived imperfect. However, whilst it has tried to accommodate this new reality it has not yet found a way to change the design of the dream weavers who, after aborting that which was not perfect, according to the dream, continue to long for, mourn and look for the child of that dream.

As I listened to several women who aborted for fetal abnormalities, I heard the same story, the same loss of hope, the same clouded memory, the same anguished regret both at the loss of the dream *BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY* at the loss of, without ever having met that child. I have been told that the abortion decision was the worst mistake that they had ever made. There is no anger or disappointment directed towards the baby but there is much anger, dismay, sadness and guilt directed towards themselves and those who encouraged and supported the decision to abort. In three of the situations where I have spoken to the women, the relationship with partner or husband had terminated within a year. This again is not surprising because most often as one of the women said, *“he should have wanted our child even if I panicked. I don’t see him as my strong support anymore.”* (Tracey, 32 years) One young woman said *“I don’t want him as the father of any other baby because he couldn’t protect this one. He should have taken control.”* (Andrea, 26)

What Tracey and Andrea have said time and again is that the decision to abort their baby was made too quickly. Their partner, parents, medical backup, friends immediately assumed that the baby should go and that it was *“better off dead”*

I have concentrated mainly on late term abortion in this issue, because of the public reaction to this KNOWN abortion for fetal abnormality and whilst there have been the usual strident, tiresome voices which attempt to justify abortion for any reason, simply to have something to say, I have heard a collective gasp at the reality that it did happen. Perhaps the reporting of this abortion (because the infant was suspected of having mild dwarfism and the mother is alleged to have been “suicidal”) really speaks volumes. Perhaps we are seeing *in print* how deep the culture of death has become entrenched. Hitler’s attempts in this area were condemned by all and sundry and society was horrified to learn of his attempts to eliminate all who did not fit his “perfect” ideal. His eugenic euthanasia (because this is what it is) was soundly condemned and yet in the space of fifty years we have moved from seeing eugenic euthanasia as a crime to viewing this as compassion, *“it’s better off dead.”* Again what has dulled the heart and mind of humanity to such an extent that it cannot feel for the life of another?

## **FETOCIDE:**

This is a new word isn’t it? What does it mean. Simply the murder/death of foetus or in plainer language the death of an in utero child.

It is very interesting that in the space of two weeks into my hands has been put two independent writings which speak of rampant fetal reduction in pregnancies which have been artificially assisted and which have produced multiple embryos. It is further interesting that on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July, through Zenit news a similar topic was reported. This report stated that the Pontifical Council for the Family had recently (13/7/2000) issued a statement “affirming that the technique to reduce multiple embryos in a pregnancy is a form of procured abortion” (ZE00071603). Another paper handed to me related the possible ways of terminating and reducing multiple pregnancies. Amongst ways to commit fetocide is suction, abdominal and vaginal needling of heart and air injection. However the most common method appears to be an injection of potassium chloride into the heart of the infant and it dies. Terminations for fetal reduction are not necessarily carried out in the earliest stages of pregnancies as sometimes reported but in the 9-13 weeks gestational stage and a smaller number in the more advanced 18-24 week gestation (fetal abnormality).

As I read the papers handed to me I shuddered at the goings on around us. I shuddered at the “god” called automation and technology. I shuddered at the lifelessness, the lack of compassion, the lack of integrity and respect that life is treated with. I shuddered at the malaise and spiritual blindness with which society has been blinded and I shuddered at our accountability before God, the author of Life. I shudder with fear at our attempt to wrest from God His primacy over our lives and the life of every creature in whom He has breathed His Spirit.

The overt abortion industry is horrific enough. We know what happens there. We know that into those clinics go those who want to abort their child. We know that certain hospitals if not all accommodate abortion. Yet little is known about the IVF programs, the artificial reproduction technologies which hum busily away (well funded) generating and disposing human embryos (read babies) willy nilly. The public is little aware of the cruel methods used to dispose of the unwanted infants. Potassium Chloride injected into the heart of an infant? Yes indeed it happens and it happens in our very midst as we go on our daily business. *We do not learn.*

In the Jewish Talmud is written: he who saves one life rescues humanity, just as a murderer destroys the principle of life itself.” Daily in our midst and with our collective approval and compliance, murderers destroy the principle of life. They destroy and deface

the image of God. Become involved. Do whatever is possible to become involved. It is not someone else's business or even someone else's private matter. None of us would walk past a newborn baby being battered to death and do nothing about it. Yet this is exactly what is happening and very few are doing anything about it. I would also say this, there is no compassion shown for the woman who is encouraged to abort. Indeed what is shown to her is hatred towards her and her gender. Is it any wonder that we have lost the sense of the sacred? Is it any wonder that the young cannot really see God or believe in Him? Especially when as a society we exhibit steel cold hearts that cannot feel for the death of children. For women who then must live with the knowledge and for fathers who have abandoned their fatherhood. Is it any wonder that that the awe that children once possessed and still have for a time is quickly lost when all around us is "death to children unless it suits us"

All has not been ugly this month although for the most part I don't think it was so good. However, there were some successes. Two of my women have completed with me and hopefully moved on happily and I have taken on two new girls. If God wills these will also come to a happy resolution.

Also I experienced a moment of sheer pleasure when I gave a little card (she asked for it) to one of my women and on it was the Lords Prayer. She, who is not Christian or has any religious belief at all has promised to read this every day for the duration of our

time together. I hope that this is the start of her journey to God and I hope and pray that her angel will guide her to her Father's house. Please pray especially for Grace, Casey, Angela, Sophia, Michelle, Sammie, Melissa, and Torie. I again need to ask for some help from you, please forgive me but I have Yellow Pages for next year to pay for, three fairly hefty phone bills, and next amount of \$500 for rates, electricity, amenities for my offices (this is for 6 months) This is all I pay for my premises which His Grace Archbishop Pell has allowed me use to carry out this work Your kindness has kept everything going. Please help me to continue. It really is a work worth doing. Thank you to my "brother in Christ" from Qld. whose prayers and support is always appreciated. Thank you also to those people who since the last newsletter rang with words of encouragement especially as criticism about my comments on the injecting rooms also came. Thank you also to Richard and Kate for the few days of rest on their property, indeed it is this side of heaven.

May the Lord bless and keep you.



Anne Lastman.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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