

Broken Branches

"Take courage! God has healing in store for you; so take courage" (Tb. 5:10)

Issue 100. Aug/Sept. 2014

Dear friends,

We remember with great sorrow the disaster and deaths which occurred as a result of the shooting down and mysterious loss of two Malaysian airlines and their staff and passengers in the last four months. We remember with sorrow all the families suffering, and we suffer with them. It seems that evil has sway at the moment but we need to hold fast. Difficult though this seems.

As someone who travels a lot for conferences and indeed have flown Malaysian airlines and stopped off at Kuala Lumpur airport, I can say that they are one of the more beautiful airlines to fly with. The staff is always so accommodating and so pleasant and to think of the losses that this airline has endured is unspeakable.

Dear friends we need to pray more because it is getting harder and harder to see the value of working hard. For me who gets up 3 mornings a week at 4.45 am to be in office to start at 7.30 even whilst battling cancer and epilepsy and other health issues I am feeling almost defeated. Please pray that I can continue and don't want to give up. I am really sad.

R I P Baby Nicholas.

Dedicated to Loving memory of Baby Nicholas James Waechter returned to God Trinity Sunday. Like a warrior he fought well and when he had loved all he blew kisses to his loved ones and left. Would that all babies diagnosed with life ending illnesses (for him Trisomy 18) be so loved and honoured as baby Nicholas was.

During the hour of Mercy today, Trinity Sunday, Nicholas James Waechter went to Heaven. He was nearly 3 months old, all of which time he spent in the Neo-natal intensive care ward of the Mercy Hospital in Heidelberg. On this day his mother suspected that he didn't have long to go but together with all his family and some friends around him he quietly left.

I have so often written and spoken about the difference between allowing a baby with disabilities to be born and then to go when he/she needs to go and having left a legacy of love behind. This honours the infant into whom was breathed the breath of God. Rather than hear a diagnosis and listen to the first option (abortion) for the child's life.

Throughout his time in intensive care his Mum and dad and sister were able to be with him but not hold him in their arms but now they could. A treasure soft and beautiful looking and reflecting that divine image. Tears of pain yes, regrets because he cannot be with them for life, yes. But guilt over cutting his life short...No.

There were so many moments of grace and little miracles along the way in his short life and as someone commented "He was blessed to be so loved by devoted, courageous, Godly parents. He will have a good story to tell when we finally all meet together."

And as others who prayed for him wrote, "The dear little

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boy did more in his little life to imitate the life of Christ than most would in a life time. A sure little Saint."

Some comments I received when I sent out an email about baby Nicholas and his passing away and funeral. You see comments from around the world. (Anne)

"I feel so sad for his poor parents. Just looking at his photo brings tears to my eyes. But I am so pleased that he was loved and known, and I pray for them in their grief. Thank you for passing this on. May God bless them Janet & Greg."

"So moving I'm going to see if I can come". Lea Rose

"Dear Anne, dear parents and family of Nicholas, thank you for the chance to share the news about Nicholas. I will pray for you during the funeral."

"Dear Anne, dear parents and family of Nicholas, Thank you for the chance to share the news about Nicholas. I will pray for you during the funeral. Nicholas lives in God and sees his beauty and glory for eternity. He can pray for us and will do so especially for all who accompanied and helped him during his short time of life which is fulfilled in God's Love. Our dear mother in God, Mary, will carry him and all children who died born or unborn in her immaculate heart. A child died on earth, an angel was born in heaven. God bless you all and take your tears to change them to mercy for our world in sin." Your friend Dr. Angelika in Münster, Germany.

"Dear Anne, I wept as I looked at the beautiful little one's face and for his family may God bless them during this time of sorrow." Karen and family.

"Dear Anne, Nicholas looked so perfect, just like someone who had fallen asleep and I suppose he had fallen asleep in the arms of Jesus" Joanne. (UK)

"Dear Anne looking at Nicholas it was difficult to see any imperfections, would that all babies diagnosed with disabilities be treated the same, we would have a more compassionate society and world." Sonia

Issue 100!!!! We made it at least to now.

Having just returned from Hobart in Tasmania where I attended Emily's Voice Conference I want to say how heartened I am with those who work for life. I attended as speaker but there were three other speakers (Paul O'Rourke, CEO of Emily's Voice, Bernadette Black CEO Brave Foundation and Gaye counsellor) whose passion for women and preborn babies is as deep and enduring as mine. I think as we continue to work together to form a cohort for the Lord we will be able to see that a difference can be made.

Post abortion grief and trauma exists. Today this really cannot be denied. Abuse of children exists. This also cannot be denied and a huge drug culture which seems to have overcome our children also cannot be denied.

I shudder when I think that it seems that those children who escaped the abortion facility in the last twenty years are now being lost to the drug "ice." Satan indeed hates our children.

Paul O'Rourke has written a fabulous book called "Why Satan Hates our Children" which can be purchased from www.emilysvoice.com and is really worth buying because it's important to know and to be informed. It's pointless saying "we didn't know" because we do know and we need to battle for the children and our culture. Not doing so means an outcome of a whole generation lost to a "war" on children and against children.

Thank you Paul for the invitation to speak at the conference. Thank you to those who gave hospitality and I plead with my readers please get involved for the children's sake.

Queensland Talks June 23-28th

After returning from Hobart and working in my office

for 4 weeks I fulfilled commitment to speak at the invitation of Cherish Life Qld. I spoke in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Gladstone and Rockhampton. I spoke on the issue of abortion and its after effects but also had the opportunity to speak about sexual abuse of children within family and its effects in the life of the child and later adult.

What I found interesting was that when I spoke about the sexual abuse issue there was always tears in the audience. Indeed a couple came to me and the husband said “congratulations Anne you made a hardened grown man cry” and his wife next to him cried also. I want to say dear friends that the sexual abuse “monster” has not even been woken from its sleep and when it is there will be so much fall out.

Recently in our daily newspaper there was a report that children in government care facility have been caught in sex acts. Children (boy) as young as 12 years of age raping a nine year old girl. The report also said that a child (girl) of 10 years of age had been raped and children in care display sexualised behaviours. This report further stated that in one incident children between 9-12 years of age were caught taking part in sex romp and 13 year old girl penetrated. Now I need to ask where are children as young as 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 etc., learning the “how to” of sex acts? What is happening? And who showed them? Or was it done to them? How do they know?

Dear friends I have written and spoken to you about abortion for 17 years now, and at times tried to speak about sexual abuse of children (not always by strangers which is what we want to believe) and every time I try to broach the subject I am punished with cancellations of newsletters and withdrawal of financial support and so I back away, but I want to say that abuse of children is as far reaching as abortion and just as damaging.

It is my hope that when my book is ready for launching you will buy it and read and see and help the child who is being abused because turning one’s eyes away is like the “Levites” who turned away and others who should know better and turn away. I need you to be the “Samaritan” who stops and looks and when there is a need helps the child because remaining silent helps no one. Just like priests, rabbis, pastors etc who remain silent for fear of upsetting women who have had abortions, the suffering continues anyway and help is not available because of the deafening silence. Sexual abuse of children wounds the life principle, it’s a soul

rape, which then leads to all sorts of wounds both for the victim and for the perpetrator and families and society.

The media have had a field day with clergy abuse and even clergy themselves have attacked the church but neither clergy nor media have stopped to think what causes this type of behaviour in adults? Well from the report in our daily it begins with distortion of childhood innocence and then continues into adult distortion of sexuality.

As I said I hope you will consider buying the book when it comes out, I have put much thought and effort and I don’t imagine I will make much money out of it but it’s an important book. By next issue of newsletter I hope to announce its printing and costs once I know what these will be.

I also want to say thank you to Teresa, Jade, Colina and Michael, Fiona, and Noelle and Noel for hospitality during my trip to Qld. I have appreciated your care for me.



Stem Cell Use

Again in my erstwhile daily newspaper was reported an article which sent shivers down my spine. The article reported on a family’s trip to china to seek medical help for their ill child. The child reported has up to 80

seizures per day and these parents who I know will want to do everything they can for their child (I know what seizures are like) are willing to try anything to help their little one **but** the help they are seeking will be via lumbar punctures to lower spine using “neural and mesenchymal stem cells from **aborted foetuses.**” And therein lies my difficulty. The term “**aborted foetuses**” is used so blithely. Imagine the world we have managed to create where we can say without thought “aborted foetuses” used to repair. Just like using superglue to fix something. This is the by industry or secondary industry which has grown as a result of abortion. Not only the death of child/children, crushing pain of women and men and society. Doctors no longer honouring their Hippocratic Oath to do “no harm” but more grotesquely to use the aborted child for spare parts. For experimentation. It is heartbreaking.

As I said, I understand that the parents of the sick child would want to do everything possible to heal their little one but not to even think that another child was disposed of and used for experimentation? Lord have mercy on all of us.

Post Abortion Grief: A Response

Dear friends in a recent alternative newsletter/magazine there was an article speaking about post abortion grief. It was a fairly good article and indeed what it did was help to spread the message further to a field I would not have reached.

However, there were some “little” issues which I did not like and decided to write my own response in the hope that it would be published. So far it hasn't. I had to change it to accommodate the publisher (which left me a little disturbed) but I wanted to get it out there and with the promise “I may use it” I rewrote this. The author of the original article is called “Cate” See what you think of my response and you will be able to make out what “Cate” was saying.

In the June issue of Nova, 2014 appeared an article “Healing a Pregnancy Loss” by Cate Kodo Juno where she shared her experience of how ritual can help with pregnancy loss. Cate speaks about the Japanese Ritual of the “mizuko” which means “water babies” carried out for babies who are lost in the womb whether by miscarriage or abortion. The meaning of “water babies” comes from reference from the waters of mother's womb to the ebb and flow of life.

I enjoyed reading Cate's article and the different perspective she brings to the topic of especially post abortion grief and the necessity of ritual to complete a mother's relationship and journey with her baby. Ritual is not for the one who has gone but for the one who is left behind in order to be able to cope with the loss. Further I would like to share with Cate my own experience and learning and putting into practice both counselling and ritual and have done so for about 17 years.

I have dealt with post abortion grief and peri natal loss for a long time and have even spoken about the “mizuko kuyo” rituals in relation to abortion, writing about abortion grief, and counselling on abortion and infant loss for many years. I have, like Cate, also set up three different types of “Saying goodbye ceremonies” A Catholic one, A Baptist one and a non-religious one. All beautiful in their own right.

As a post abortive woman I do not judge, I care for and nurture those who come to me and take care to help them let go of their child to live where the child is now located and for her to continue living the life and mission that she is continuing to live.

I agree with Cate that there is a deep divide between the

support received by those who miscarry and those who abort. And the reason for this being that those who miscarry have social support and recognition, whereas those who choose to abort still find that there is a taboo about the procedure even though it is now legal.

Cate says that there is “judgement” and I would entirely agree with the comment. But most often it is the woman herself who judges her own action and she believes that all others do the same. This is not always the case but in her pain of loss feels that all who see her see “what she has done.” (Donna).

I have dealt with over 1500 women and several hundred males in my time as a post abortion grief counsellor and I do see the shame, guilt, pain, but with God's grace in time they leave me having surrendered their child to God, this time lovingly and without pain and making a choice to live fully the life that she has been given, with the hope that in the future there will be an encounter and rejoicing.

Cate speaks that the “usual ways of finding grief care for her are closed” that is for the post abortive woman in Australia, I would have to disagree on this point, sorry Cate, today that cannot be said.

Thirty years ago, even 20 years ago maybe, but today there are many charisms dealing with this particular pain. Either Church backed or even like myself a fully qualified, level (3) Counsellor, Member of ACA College of Loss and Grief (level3) and Member of Counsellors Victoria and Member of Singapore Psychotherapists and Counsellors Assoc. I have set up a private practice where I practice pro bono. Not because I am very holy (maybe a little I hope) but because post abortion grief takes long term counselling and to stop when the money runs out would be disastrous. I manage financially through newsletter *Broken Branches* and its readership and donors who have journeyed with me.

Cate also speaks about offering memorial rituals for healing of pregnancy loss in Australia and I want to say that there are many and different memorial gardens, chapels, located in various places, Sydney, Victoria and QLD that I know of and indeed as Cate says every woman's experience is different and unique. There is a beautiful memorial garden wall with plaques with the children's names on them and which I helped (here in Victoria) set up and keep up with names as we complete our time together. Each woman after completion of counselling brings to her ritual the love and creativity of her desire which indeed does help her in her need to see the conclusion to her infant's story.

Only one week ago I met with a young man who told me the story of the loss of two babies through miscarriage five and seven years earlier and as he spoke the tears welled in his eyes and flowed down his face. This after

such a long time the pain was raw and so was his wife's. It's my hope that we have begun a journey to let the children rest in their hearts and not on their shoulders. This young man knew that there should have been two more children in their family but who were not there and whilst they did go on to have two other children the loss of the first two had not been processed and no amount of well-meaning friends reminding them that they did have two children "and should be grateful" did the gratefulness appear because no parent can let go of a child and not remember.

Professor Salvatore Mancuso of the University of Rome says that a mother carries cells in her brain stem from all of the children she has carried and so it makes sense that she remembers the lost ones even the intentionally lost ones.

My "saying goodbye" rituals can include tangible objects, (ribbons, dolls, cars, etc) prayers, Masses (for Catholics/Anglicans) prayer services, and flowers on the water (with appropriate song) for non-religious, planting of tree deep in forest to grow forever, a rose, anything that is special to the mother and other father when possible. Naming of the child, and a place to put name plaques (like a roll of honour).

Remembering the child and not the manner of the dying is my charism. It's what I do and have done for many years. Remembering and honouring that individual who has passed by for a short time and left behind a legacy of love. Restoring honour to his/her mother who no longer believes that she deserves to be honoured. That is my work.

Post abortion grief is different because there is the intentionality involved in the act and the sense that I "killed my son/daughter" "I should have fought more" "I should not have listened." There is the sense that "I am wicked" "I am a bad person."

Post abortion grief may not even be acknowledged until a much later time



REDEEMING GRIEF

ABORTION AND ITS PAIN

ANNE R. LASTMAN

REVISED EDITION

FOREWORD BY HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP BARRY J. HICKEY

NEW REVISED EDITION!

REDEEMING GRIEF is a reflection of over 17 years of counselling and study of abortion grief, which is experienced by some women who choose to undergo this elective procedure. These reflections are the result of listening to over 1500 personal stories and listening to the expressions used by the women as they speak about their decision to abort the life of their child. These reflections then attempt to reconstruct the meaning that this procedure has had for the aborting woman and how this one procedure has been the catalyst for life changes.

REDEEMING GRIEF looks at abortion trauma and grief from the spiritual and the psychological perspective, and its influences on the individuals involved and society. It is hoped that the language used is reader friendly and the concepts (both spiritual and psychological) are also reader friendly.

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when a trauma occurs and the woman finds herself saying “I don’t deserve my granddaughter I killed the baby” or even an 85 year old preparing to die being afraid because “my daughter will hate me.” This is the work of mercy which needs doing. Which counsellors need to be prepared to do. Counsellors need to be trained in this special work of grief, however....

With over 100,000 abortions (not counting miscarriages) in Australia every year there is much grief amongst our sisters and much work needs doing.

Multiple abortions (often as a reparation for first one or as a sign of some other deep seated issue) can also lead to infertility and again the self-blame “I don’t deserve a baby I killed the other one.”

When multiple abortions are found in the life of the woman then other difficulties need to be investigated because there could be possibility of other abuse including sexual abuse and this needs dealing with before the abortions can be dealt with one by one. Naming, claiming, loving and letting go. One by one.

As Cate says so rightly in the ongoing debate between pro-abortion and anti-abortion the voices of those who hurt are muffled. I have spoken around Australia, international conferences in 17 countries around the world, have written a book called *Redeeming Grief*, Abortion and its Pain, and completing a second one, and so hope that with time we can learn that abortion wounds, if not immediately then at some time in the future..

Cate says that she sees mainly women and encourages and welcomes fathers. I have been seeing post abortive fathers for 17 years though they are not as forthcoming. Society has ascribed to them a certain behaviour that is to be stoic and that it’s a “woman’s body” and therefore her decision and so he feels impotent to do much and all eventually he can say is “he was my son, my only child and I didn’t fight for him” (Nate) there is much pathos in such a comment and much healing required. Congratulations to Cate for having the courage to speak out about it. Another worker in this difficult vineyard.”

Dear friends I responded to this article in Nova because there was an implying that in Australia there is nothing to cater for this type of trauma and grief and I felt that my nearly 18 years of tireless work for post abortive woman passed unnoticed. Not only mine, (Victims of Abortion) but others working in the field. Others like Emily’s Voice, Cherish Life, Rachel’s Vineyard, Babes Foundation, etc. Family Life International, Human Life International. There are many charisms who respond to this work each bringing their own strengths.

As I have said in the past what is needed is cohesion and support of each other’s charism and we will win. I remember Jesus saying something like “He who is for me

is not against me” so all of us doing the same work need to respect each other. With 100,000 abortions in Australia every year there is enough work to keep us all busy for whole lifetimes. The only thing stopping us from winning is the backbiting. We need to remember that the pro abortion lobby sat down and worked out a plan to slowly, methodically put into place individuals who would bring about their desired results, that is, full and open abortion to full term and guess what? It has been achieved with great success.

The pro life lobby (us) and those of us who work for life and freedom to love children and life must do the same. Again I am reminded of a biblical quote Mt 10:16.

We, especially women of life, must return to our stories which explore and evaluate relationships with body, mind, self and society. We must begin again to retell the moral narratives about what the losses have meant to us and especially what the loss through abortion has meant to our femininity, and how these losses have changed us (or me) and review the core narratives so that the feminine may be reclaimed.

The feminine does not take her child to die, which is anti-feminine. That is all against what we know. We need to return to meaning, purpose, stories and how our life is entwined with these stories and begin again to review the spiritual character of “her” who has always been able to take forward the future.

Relationships have always been important to “her” She has always known how to bring peace by being able to listen and hear and create a place where all difficulties can be heard and solved. She has embodied the feminine who visibly loves. Has created places and spaces for healing and loving, nurturing and finding, and she has never in past been able to call her infant “it” because she intuitively understood that “it” meant something lower than its meant to be.

We women of life have a need to gather together and sit and talk about the children, our life and their life, and what it means. The very meaning of life and the gift which has been entrusted into our care.

Recently one of “my girls” told me that she named her little baby girl “Elizabeth” because she liked the sound of Elizabeth, but when I told her that Elizabeth meant Eli Shevar (Oath of my God) she cried because she loved the name even more now. This is the feminine being touched deeply.

Closure of Abortion Facility

Dear friends in a week which brought great tragedy and sadness (plane disaster) there was a moment of pure joy

Letters

Dear Anne

Still touch with you in prayer, here in France in our dear Lourdes. I come quickly to tell you a good news for pro life. Our gooo Bishop Mgs Nicolas Brouwet chose the Feast of the Visitation f our Holy Mother Mary to her cousin Elizabeth as our Diocesan day (for this year) of prayer for life, human life. In Lourdes the Marian moment of prayer will be on this very day of 31st of May , 2014, the torchlight procession at 21pm, that you know since you have come to Lourdes a few times some years ago. The Rosary will be prayed, that very evening for the respect of all human life from its conception to its natural death. And Mgr Brouwt will also pray the prayer for life to our dear Lady that our Pope St John Paul II wrote at the end of his important document "Evangelium Vitae" (1995).

I shall then pray to your and our world's pro life intentions. God be blessed for all His marvels
With all my friendship,
Marie-Odille (Lourdes France)

Dear Anne

Thanks for your tribute to those great friends of mine yours in particular Brian Harradine and Fr Des Byrne. O know of the magnificent service they gave to society in the promotion of the Gospel as representatives of Christ in our time.

God Bless you always. Regards Jim. H, (Melb)

Dear Anne

Thank you for the latest newsletter.
I was very sad about Charlotte Dawson. I did not know her at all.
Obviously I live in a different realm!
So I checked on Google and found about her.
What a tragedy! Some men are so callous!
I will try and get the book.

Thank you for your good work.
God bless
Elizabeth

Dear Anne,

Your last issue of Broken Branches issue 99 was very beautiful. What inestimable patience you have with those who come to you. You are a most generous person to give of yourself so deeply to help heal the wounds of abortion. Thank you. May God bless you abundantly with his richest

blessings to you and family. With love and warm regards Prue.

Thank you dear Prue I appreciate your care. I needed to read your letter today. Not a good one.

Dear Anne,

Your latest Broken Branches I found it fascinating. The bonding and changing of the brain of mothers with their unborn babies. The whole newsletter was a great read. Enclosed a small donation.

Dear Frances, thank you. I appreciate your care for me.

Dear Anne,

Your last issue of newsletter was so really good. I look so forward to receiving it. When I receive it I make myself a cuppa and sit down and read it from cover to cover and really get to understand what is happening in the world. You have an amazing mind dear and you write so well I feel like you are writing to me personally. Thank you and I hope you health holds out so that you can keep going.
God Bless
Mary K. (Vic).

Dear Anne

I just want to say how much I enjoy receiving your bulletin each month and the amount of news you give to us. You seem to always have something new to say and you have been writing for such a long time.

I also want to thank you for your articles in AD 2000 I enjoy them so much they are so good especially those where you speak about woman. I am so grateful that we have a woman who writes beautifully for us and about us women. It shouldn't surprise me though because doing your work you must have gained such knowledge of women and their hearts.

Thank you dear Anne and I hope your health improves so that you can keep going.
I enclose a small donation I wish it could be thousands but as a pensioner it's hard,
God Bless
Marie M...

Dear Marie, thank you for your beautiful words and your word about my other articles in ad2000 I enjoy writing them very much and I have to thank editors for publishing them.

when we pro lifers were told by one of our friends in Tasmania that the abortion facility there which has seen the death of thousands upon thousands of babies had shut down. The building now has a "for lease" sign. The abortionist who has serviced the place, Kathy Lewis, used to regularly fly to Tasmania from Melbourne to do her worst and she is also the one who travels to the same at the abortion facility in Albury. The following explanation appeared in the July 2014, Medicare Local General Practice Matters page 2-

"Closure of Fertility Control Clinic

Dr Kathy Lewis has advised that the Fertility Control Clinic at 9 Main Road, Moonah is now closed. She thanks all the GPs who have supported the clinic over the past 10 years.

Please note records of existing patients will be held at the main office in Melbourne (118 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 phone: 9419 2922)"

Please continue to pray for Kathy Lewis that like Dr Nathanson she will one day see the truth of what she does.

Pray that all baby death chambers will close and that there will be a restoration of honour given to all pregnant mothers so much so that these facilities, like the holocaust death chambers of WWII will be relegated to an inglorious time in history. Thank you Peter for passing on news and thank you for your strong and faithful service for life. And with the hope of hearing "welcome good and faithful servant...." When all seems lost the miracle of this magnitude happens. It's very encouraging news. Who could have seen this coming?

As I come to the end of this special 100th anniversary edition of the newsletter I want to thank all of you who have supported me, accompanied me in this dark but important work. Without you I could not have done it. I know that people have many priorities which call on their resources so especially to those who have hung in there with me...thank you that's all I can say, I have nothing else to offer. I assure you I work very hard to earn your support. I have my labourer father's Italian words always ringing in my ears "Anna you work hard

or you get sack" (meaning fired) so I work hard not to get "sack" though mind you I don't know who would "sack" me? If anyone wants my thankless, payless job maybe they should ask me for it.

Thank you to those who financially help me I depend entirely on you. I am moving to a new place that is cheaper because the one I have been in for nine years has risen to about \$850pm so it's too expensive. The new one is \$550 pm but I have no car spot which means train travel at 6am, however it means saving a bit more.

Anyway thank you again, please continue to pray for my health it has its really awful moments especially at times of stress and pray for my people we need prayers, and Please, pleased, pray for peace in the world, at the moment I feel really "watery" over the world situation. It seems like evil is having its day.

Pray for me, Chris, Christine, Susan, Marlene, Marilyn Chloe, Greg, Tendi, Barry, Tina, Joy, Daniel, Jess, Kerrie, Amy, Leeane. Please also pray for Winnie who is no longer with me but needs prayers. Also for an Yvonne lots and lots of prayers please, not abortion but serious grief and loss. Am worried for her.

Thank you dear friends who joined me at life dinner we made up two tables. Maybe next year three tables? Imagine how wonderful! I wouldn't have time to eat gadding about! And congratulations to Fr Ward for receiving the Charles Francis Pro Life Award. So worthy a recipient.....Anne

Till we meet again I love you all.



Anne Lastman

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Broken Branches – By email!

Dear Friends,

Please email me at anne@victimsofabortion.com.au to be added to the email list.

