

Broken Branches

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

Issue103 – Feb/Mar 2015

Welcome Dear Friends to 2015

I hope that your Christmas and New Year have been happy and slowly we will all get back into the swing of things. I must admit that I got used to sleeping in! Had forgotten what that felt like.

We did go to Perth to see family and grandies and it was beautiful, however, I realised how old I am! Not used to such energy! Anyway, I am happy to be back and sharing life and work with you for another year, if God wills of course.

Dear friends before I went away towards end of year I asked a beautiful priest friend Fr. Hillary would he write a short piece for me for my newsletter and being the marvellous person he is, he wrote two. I may not be able to print both of them this time, so if I can I will bring the second in the next issue of newsletter.

Abortion: The fight against evil.

From the study of the history of the fight between good and evil and the community temptations of the devil of the last 150 years, there is no doubt that the truth - God's Truth - goes on to win. But then the evil one turns up with other lies. So the lies of apartheid, the Third Reich of Nazi Germany, communism, slavery and racism with their specious half-truths or less, have come and gone.

Some time the message runs on: “this is necessary sad to say. This is the way it has to be” Or, is it the excitement of being one of the chosen ones - the winning team. We can look back with sad amazement: how could anybody give their lives for such a wrong cause and for such an evil thing for their lives and the lives of others?

So it will be with the evil of abortion: being encouraged by sick and evil laws to have your own baby killed. Proponents of abortion say “It is not a baby or a person with rights,” so by the millions and all around the world babies are being killed through abortion. That evil craziness we know is running out of puff. But meanwhile many things have to be done by us to make God's way to win.

Well one of the things we can do is to call down God's blessings on the ultra sound screens as people are viewing what is happening exactly here within this womb before me.

People like Abby Johnson, recently in Australia, and others before her over the last forty years have said: “God one day used an ultrasound image to bring about their conversion to the truth from out of the morass of lies from the culture of death to the Gospel of life.”

People, so sad afterwards; have been telling their history after years of sorrow, sadness, and shame. We were told lies that were constantly being spread: “It is not a baby. It is just a blob of tissue.” “There is no one there to feel anything,” or, “this termination of pregnancy is a simple one- day surgery procedure. Not much more than going to the dentist really.”

“Most people don't have and ongoing repercussions or consequences afterwards. You shouldn't have much trouble going back to your University class after lunch, or your job tomorrow morning.” “Sad to say: this is the best and most necessary way of dealing with your problem, an unplanned pregnancy, and it is very brave really. Not many young women your age have the courage to go through with this.” “Everything is going to be alright.”

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These and other lies gently reassuring, from the pit of hell. So what is the truth? The truth is: this is a baby, bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.

This baby - my baby - will look a lot like me. In the photo album of my life, if ultra sounds were available back then, I could have had a picture in my album of me at this stage of my development looking just like the image on the screen before me. This baby is a person to be, and he/she is alive and has basic human rights, even if invisible to the eyes under mother's skin.

And "that" – what is being proposed here? It is the killing: killing of my baby. It is murder. It is not fashionable to use these rough words on gentle young ladies, but that is the truth. It is horror, one-sided violence against someone who cannot protect themselves. It is being the terrorist that I condemn in others. It can be the worst choice and decision that I will ever make in my whole life, totally irreversible, like suicide. It is destroying the most helpless and trusting person on the planet, with my meant to be closest of kin.

Every baby brings a cloud burst of love as it is born. I am being the most anti God here if I choose to abort my baby. I am changing sides to let the most anti God, anti-love, anti me person in the universe have a win out of my fears.

Well that is how it is before I sin – if I sin.

Afterwards, when I come to God with the truth of my sin, I meet welcome, mercy, forgiveness, love, acceptance, and God's open hands – a new chapter for my life.

I believe that when the Bishop at my ordination ceremony proclaimed about me as Priest: "whatever you bless will be blessed, whoever you bless will be blessed" it was given to me the power to rock the universe, and so with total faith and obedient knowing, I bless the ultrasound screens of planet earth this day which depict the images of the unborn child within.

As I bless, I know that something has changed in the Spirit world- the world of the invisible –where truth and lies and murder come from.

I do that priestly blessing many times, day and night. The lies of the devil are really like fragile balloons or soap bubbles that burst by the graces of the crown of thorns.

The lies, like smoke and smog surrounding man in a mist of confusion and fear are blown away by the Breath of the Holy Spirit so that truth and trust are awakened.

You may say: "Well, that is OK for the Priest to do that – he has the power to bless. Well dear reader, you too can bring blessings to the ultra sound screens of this day.

The Vatican II documents and the Catholic Catechism constantly repeat the Church's teaching: Christ shares His Priesthood in two ways: The universal priesthood of all the baptised followers and the ministerial priesthood of Deacons, Priest and Bishops.

Our Lord shares his priestly power, the power of bringing God to the world and the world to God with all the Baptised.

As a Baptised follower I am His priest in the new creation level of my Baptism, confirmation and Marriage Vows. Because I am Baptised He is calling me to fight the evil in my time – part of which is the widespread culture of death in our time and place.

We can follow the story in Mark's Gospel Chapter 1:29-31. Simon's mother in law was sick with a fever and they told Him about her. Later in the day they brought to Him those in need of healing.

So if God is calling me to join in the pro-life battle against the evil one, I talk to Jesus about that. I can bring to Him for His Daily Blessings the ultra sound machines that portray the sight of life within the womb.

May the Holy Spirit be strong there – The Spirit of Truth, the Life Giver. May Our Lady of the nine months pregnancy share her graces with the young mother if she is being pressured by the culture of death – her boyfriend, her parents etc. “Go on, you have to do it. It’s the only way out.”

May the Angel, who brought solace to Jesus in His time of horror in the Garden of Gethsemane, and His Angelic companions, whisper to the young Mum and her loved ones whatever truth – God’s Truth – is needed here “Thou shalt not kill.” “He/she who lives by the sword, dies by the sword.” “God will provide.” His promises from His Holy Word are the antidote to fearing and focusing on only the worst that “must happen” in the nearby future.

As I make the sign of the Cross many times a day I ask for the truth graces of Calvary to be applied to someone where the ultra sound imaging is happening.

When I look at the Chalice elevated at Mass I can ask Our Lord for His precious blood to wash the ultra sound screens of today around the world, and the hearts and minds and thinking of those involved.

I know these are ways for praying for one aspect of the Gospel of Life story God entrusts you with.

Fr Hilary 2014.

A Sample of Praying the Pro Life Gospel

This week I read that a thousand million - one billion - babies have been murdered, killed, slaughtered, aborted all around the world during the past thirty years. All murdered in the womb - because “they are not there – it is not a person. Etc.” In St John’s Gospel chapter 8 Jesus named satan, the devil, the invisible one, the great fallen angel, “the murderer from the beginning, the father of lies.” So that is where these evils and killings come from.

This evil is so vast so pervasive - How can I as one individual fight back? Well, he/she just has to grow out of being merely one individual. “I am with Jesus.” I am with a multitude of praying spirits in heaven, purgatory and earth. We are this century’s warfare army; we are the winning team - with God. Just who can I pray for?

Where can I start? It seems overwhelming. Well, I have to get past these distractions into praying with faith for God’s success to happen.

For two reasons (and more) I get totally involved with the Mother of Jesus and she is with me in my prayers. I ask Our Lady to choose, select, pick out who (this day and onwards) I am praying for – from various classes of people. I ask her to bring them into the Sacred Heart of her son Jesus, May she have them put there to be washed and cleansed in the Heart of Jesus all through this day. There might be half a dozen, there might be thousands – up to her. There, they are being washed in the blood of the Lamb to be healed and opened up for His Holy Spirit to fill.

I look to her under various titles, Mother of Graces, New Eve, Undoer of Knots, Untier of ties etc., I know that Mary is choosing those who have been deeply in God’s

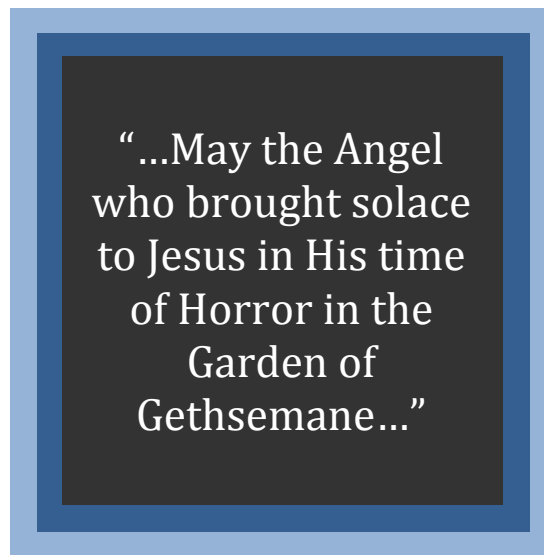
grace over recent times, For each of them: “This is the day the Lord has made:” they are “the good soil” the “ones made ready” prepared, by the praying of the Communion of Saints or the long suffering prayer of some individual, group, somewhere, sometime. For these in the heart of Jesus, this is the Kairos time when Jesus of Nazareth is passing by to them - when the actual grace of conversion can be given to them, when their Guardian Angel has been enabled to bring them to the place where they will meet Jesus. I call down the prayers of the great Saints in the past who

have had their own dramatic conversions in their day: St Peter, St Paul, and St Francis of Assisi, St Ignatius Loyola, and Edit Stein etc.

To move on to various groups of people. The ones God is choosing to be His front line fighters: “Make them passionate day by day Lord” His modern prophets. Some of them might be martyrs. They may be quietly killed as they try to get legislation changed- like Martin Luther King- or as they are threats to people getting very rich through the abortion. These are the modern Wilberforce’s, John the Baptists.

We must pray for these young ones now growing up who will live and breathe: “abortion no more, I refuse to live in world where babies may be legally murdered by the millions. I will fight for the God of Calvary, the God who gave up His Son to die for all persons, the God of the Ten Commandments, the promise, “The God who says I shall provide and Thou Shalt Not kill.”

I will get legislation changed, I will get culture changed, I



will get the lies of the devil blasted away.

These modern prophets, politicians, and passionate ones-whatever age level they are, whatever country they live in, whatever religion they may or may not have- this day Satan hates each one of them and is out to destroy. They drastically need to be put into the Heart of Jesus day by day. They need our prayer covering-to be dedicated to the Holy Spirit and to the prayer power of Mary their Mother-prayed for by people like us, day by day.

In this same vein, prayers are needed that internet door will be opened, that like-minded God people link up with others to become a friendship/internet army for this cause for God. Abortion will be shot down by the pro-life people on Facebook, Twitter with their blogs, and meeting with each other coming into unity. This is one area, a vital one for God's Kingdom to come about, so that the wombs of pregnant mothers become safe places again. Much praying is needed-however one prays - Masses, and Rosaries and Litanies and personal praying.

Another group of people I invite Our Lady to look after day by day is the Heart of Jesus her Son are those who work in the abortion industry. They make money by their job, they call it prochoice, working for women's health. They live in their personal deceits and hurts and fighting spirits helping women (by killing their babies) to be set free from an unplanned pregnancy, helping women to be "modern" to walk tall-set free from old fashioned rules made largely by men or Church etc. non enlightened thinking.

We need to pray that these ones in the Heart of Jesus, day by day are able to receive and to accept the truth about their mindset and actions, healthy and wholesome guilt and repentance - that they may come to Jesus to be set free with personal sorrow and conversion to become a Holy Ghost ricochet to join the right side - Gods.

The Christians nearest to the abortion workers-whom God can use to bring these graces - are often of pro-life movement who visit and pray on the footpath at these places of death. These are Holy people who often for decades have been constantly joining Our Lady of Sorrows as she watches her children in the womb die.

The persevering ones need the Holy Spirit graces to work through the natural emotions of giving up, being angry, maybe hating, revenge, choosing to do something physical to save this baby right now. Stories have been told how God has got to the heart of these abortion workers through the ongoing love of Christ's witnesses. These pro-life people who have been God's fighters for years need to be put into the Heart of Jesus by others constantly.

We who are praying fighters need to use the prayer

"now and at the hour of our death." May each baby being killed each day go to God by Mary's embrace so that they may have more power to pray for and in some mysterious "communion of Saints" way remain ever closely in the life of their mothers who did this. May sings and wonders abound and messages and coincidences happen to those on earth from those who went to heaven via Mother Mary's love and sorrow and welcome.

Much praying has already been happening over the past 40 years for women of this day who are being pressured into choosing the way of aborting their child. We must cry out "Do something please God." The invisible God, Our Heavenly Father has a million ways to rescue some on in danger of death. We should certainly, more emotionally and constantly pray to the Guardian Angels of their mothers. "Lead your charges to God's miracle and the way of Life-natural-and supernatural life later."

Many prayers have been happening over years for the healing of the women who have had abortion/s. We need to beg God for the grace that they may ask God to forgive them. Then also there are their emotions regarding those who push them to this horrible thing of having their baby killed. They need to ask for and receive forgiveness from their precious baby still alive with God. We need to ask God to give them the grace to forgive themselves for what they have done. They need the grace of real and healthy guilt and contrition and sorrow and conversion as well as false guilt and self-loathing and self-punishment etc., to be dealt with so that they may move into a deeper chapter with God in their lives.

Lots of these hurting ones will never hear the Gospel of forgiveness from people on earth, from glossy magazines, or TV or from the church which they never bump into- so we must pray for constant miracles. May they received this day - or as an ongoing process of grace from a friend, the situation, the story, the TV show or from anywhere the Gospel of forgiveness is asked for and received.

For those of us who have been led by God into praying for the Pro Life ministry we need greater skills in Reparation prayers using similar ideas and petitions from prayers in the Old Testament. For example Nehemiah 1:5-11, the two prayers from the Book of Esther 4: and Daniels inspiring example Dn 3:26-45. And thank God that we do this in the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayer.

We need to work and to pray that people hear about and take notice with much emotion of the silent holocaust-the abortion evil of our town, country and time. We need to pray that the church, teachers, and politicians take up this fight for the Gospel of Life more and more and more.

The second reason I snuggle close to Mother Mary as I pray for the success of the Gospel of Life is that the more I pray in quality and quantity for God's miracles, the more I am a threat to the evil one; and I need to be close to my Mother Mary always to stay safe.

Fr Hilary 2014

Dear Fr Hilary

Thank you for the two pieces of writing. I have read these pieces a few times and have been moved to tears. I have imagined thousands of ultrasounds around and in each abortion facility, medical facility, anywhere where a child can be seen and acknowledged as a living being created in the image and likeness of God. Perhaps we can all join with you in asking God to bless the equipment and those who work with them and send invisible blessings to fill the room so that it is filled with the light of heaven.

Also with the second piece thank you for the reflection of how to pray the Gospel of Life. I love the image of the child's angel taking their charge back to heaven and I personally never encourage one of my girls to try and forget their child. Always to remember but without pain. That is my work with them.

I hope my readers of newsletters love these two pieces as much as I have. Blessings on your life.

Thank you, love and warm wishes....Anne

Dear Friends, this poem was written by a 15 year old girl and I have permission for it to be printed in newsletter. I think it's so appropriate following Fr Hilary's two pieces.

Voiceless

Lying in this soft warm bed
I lay resting my tiny head
It's the only place I've ever known
The only place that I call home.

I sense your pain, I feel your fear,
And somehow I realize,
It's because I'm hear.

Slowly growing in your womb,
Please don't send me to the tomb,
Days go by, longer and longer
I start to grow stronger and stronger.

You *really* don't want me here
You wish that I would disappear,
So you decide abortion is the key
To *somehow* get rid of me.

Confused, what did I do wrong?
Why don't I get to live for long?
Mummy *please* take care of me
After all I'm not that strong.

Soon I've got a little heartbeat,
And I've grown a tiny brain
I'm *depending* on you mummy
God already knows my name.

Some people argue that I don't exist
That I'm not yet formed or have a purpose to live,
But mummy *please* don't believe those lies
I'm a *human being* don't let me die.

I was made for a certain purpose
A purpose God only knows
I cannot be replaced
Mummy *please* let me grow.

The pain starts to grow *very* strong,
Someone please help me!
I feel life beginning to fade away
I can't hold on for long.....

Out of pain and ear we killed him.
We let the world tell us it's okay,
To take that innocent life
So that our problems will go away.

But really don't we see now?
All the problems we have made
For ourselves and our family
For ending the life that God gave.

Mummy up from heaven I can see you,
I love you *ever* so much,
But I wish that you could hear my voice
And feel my baby touch.

So even though you took my life
I still do love you
And I hope with all my tiny heart
That mummy, you still love me too.

Grace Hempel,
Age 15, 2014.

Dear Fr Tom (who sent poem in) and Grace, thank you for sending in the above poem, it is so heartfelt. So deep the feeling and sentiment for one so young.

Letters

Dear Anne,

Enjoy reading every single issue Broken Branches! You're talking about reality, a voice in the wilderness!. Issues that are majority ignored, what a broken world we live in! Thank you for bringing it to our attention~! It makes me aware of the real issues that exist and to pray for them and for you of course.

I have a prayer group every week and often read out stories of your newsletters we have to be aware of our world and cry out "come Lord Jesus and renew the face of the earth."

Thank you, thank you ad God Bless you in your wonderful work. May. Christmas joy light up your way and lead you into a new year that shines with God's wonderful blessings.

Love and prayers
Trudy.

Thank you Trudy Lots of prayers definitely needed.

Dear Anne,
Keep up the good work. You are amazing.
We all need to do our part.
Love to you

Ruth and Jim.

Thank you Ruth and Jim

Dear Anne,

Please find enclosed a small donation to help you in your wonderful work. Keep going dear even though it must be very emotionally tiring and draining for you. It's an important work and you should not even be worrying about support you should be fully supported by the churches. It's a pity that you even have to worry about paying the bills.

Happy Christmas and brighter and happy and healthy New Year.

Sara K.

Dear Sara thank you for your kind words. I hope to keep going but it's getting harder and harder.

Dear Anne,

Regarding the comments on the Australian research into breast cancer. Earlier this year (I think it was this year, but maybe late last year) I received a letter from someone at our major cancer Hospital who was looking for women to participate in a large scale research project into causes of breast cancer. I was delighted. However when the questionnaire came, one of the questions asked was -how many children did you have, including miscarriages, but specifically stated that this should NOT include any abortion that might have taken place! I was really shocked and annoyed and saddened. Why would this major hospital specifically eliminate abortions!! I wrote back to her to say that it was pointless for me to be a part of this Survey as I believed that abortion was one of the causes of breast cancer etc. etc. Needless to say I didn't hear from them again.

Could this be the same project that found no connection between abortions and breast cancer? Sorry I cannot remember the name of the Professor in question.

Take care and God bless,
Love
Margaret

Dear Margaret I'm not sure if this is the study in question but I'm not surprised. This is the way the abortion after effects and link to breast cancer are debunked or simply do not exist. Or in plain language they say the numbers don't stack up.

If the study was to take into account all pregnancies and ending of pregnancy then surely an elective termination is also an ending of a pregnancy and the manner of the ending of the pregnancy should be of interest to the researchers. Not what was the woman's "right" but the response of her body to an ending of a pregnancy. Just as the response of her body to miscarriage, completed birth, etc.

Noelle.

Dear friends further on this theme of blessing and forgiveness, during the Christmas break I had an opportunity to see a really beautiful movie called "Noelle." I originally bought it not knowing the theme and thinking it was about Christmas but slowly the theme emerged about a father's sorrow and regret over forcing his past girlfriend to have an abortion and how the decision changed his life. The decisions he made to feel worthy and finally "seeing" his daughter at the age she would have been and her forgiving him, and letting go so he could begin repairing his life.

Noelle began for me as a DVD bought because it looked good and I have now seen it several times. I would encourage anyone who can to try and see it. I bought mine from Koorong Books and I know they had more. Koorong Books stocks my book *Redeeming Grief* and I hope that they will also stock *Hidden Pain. An Insight Into Childhood Sexual Abuse*.

Hidden Pain:

An Insight Into Childhood Sexual Abuse.

Dear friends, at long last my second book is ready for sale and I hope distribution by other book sellers. I am very proud of it. It has taken several years and a lot of listening to pain and helping to ease the pain of abuse.

It has been suggested that it's not a pleasant topic and this I understand but covering it up doesn't help the child who is being abuse. My aim has not been anything but to raise awareness of something which is endemic in society.

It is a topic reported daily in our newspapers but still spoken in hushed tones. It reminds me of abortion 30 years ago. Everyone knew someone who'd had an abortion but it was only spoken in hushed tones.

I decided to write this book because it seemed to me that media was only interested when a Catholic priest or

Pastor or Rabbi was involved. However, what I found was that those who came to me experienced abuse by someone known and close to them. This made the pain so much more difficult because it was a family member and someone who should have been trusted.

I hope dear friends that you will support this endeavour and purchase a copy or 10, or even 100 ☺ and I would love to know your thoughts. I've been told the first few chapters are challenging but then it's good and the stories are very good; this from someone who has read it.

You can find order details on the back page of this newsletter.

As I come to the end of another newsletter, I want to thank those of you who sent me cards, gifts for Christmas and who responded to my Christmas Appeal. I have appreciated your care.

My health issues continue but I hope that this year will be better than last.

Please continue to pray for me and my girls. Please pray for Mel, Kerrie, Lee, Roger, Marlene, Stacy, Vanessa, Michelle, Anna, Theresa, Melita, Barry, Amy, Greg, "Charlie", Sue Marilyn, Yvonne, and Anne (new). Please, please, pray for my girl "Christine" a very young girl who has just been diagnosed with breast cancer. Every prayer possible please. She is so afraid.

Please continue to support this work as I continually not only speak wherever I can and to whomever will listen but also to counsel and to help other counsellors who are interested in learning.



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.



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NEW REVISED EDITION!

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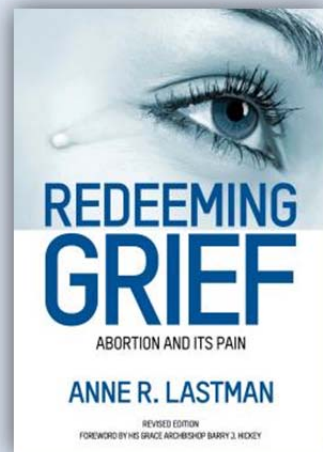
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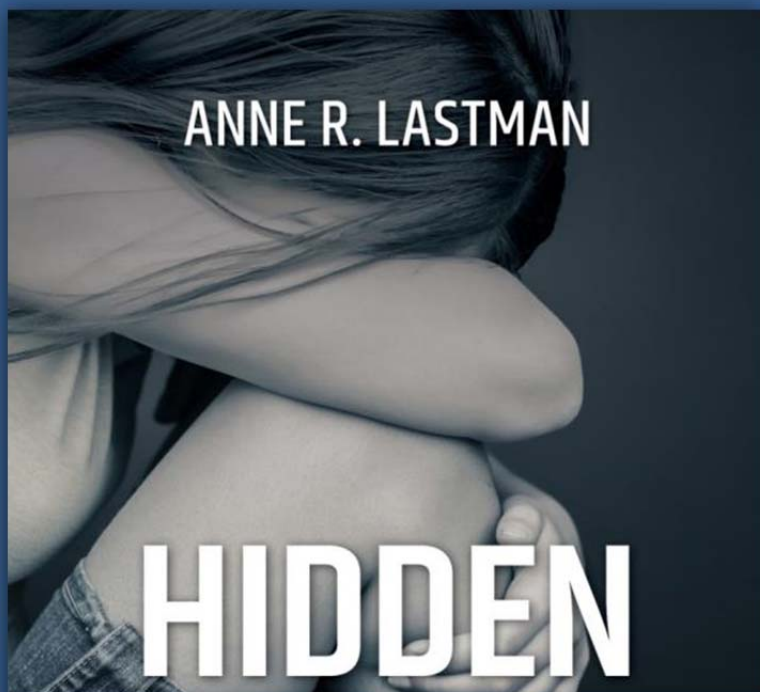
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NEW BOOK – HIDDEN PAIN



HIDDEN PAIN

AN INSIGHT INTO CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE

HIDDEN PAIN is written about memories which are hidden and cannot be spoken out loud. It is a book about shame, pain, sorrow and lives which have gone wrong both for victims, families, and perpetrators. Sexual abuse of children is common in all communities, in all societies, and yet it's still one of the last remaining taboos. It is something which cannot be spoken about because it's so awful, so inappropriate that it cannot be discussed. Yet discussed it must be, because the children are crying and pleading to be helped.

This is not a step by step guide to dealing with abuse. It is the result of my engagement with those who have come to me originally for post abortion counselling and on further investigation it was found that abuse (especially in cases of multiple abortions) existed in their history. It is my hope that *HIDDEN PAIN* can be of help to those who read it and more so be vigilant and not to turn away when a child is suffering.

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