

# A newsletter of *Victims of Abortion*

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

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*Issue No 44 – Feb/Mar 2005*

## Welcome

Hello and welcome to 2005. Even though it has not begun really positively (Tsunami) and much suffering has been seen and experienced, we have also seen a side of humanity which is heart-warming. And as I watched the daily reports of rising figures of death and destruction, we also saw a worldwide community mobilise to bring help to the devastated area and its peoples.

I also thought that perhaps this is why God's arm is restrained because deep down the human person is flawed...yes... but innately good and not beyond redemption. More and more we have been able to see that the response to the pain of the other was magnificent, and we Australians with our laid back culture and a laissez faire attitude can mount impressive rescue missions and help quite unlike anything seen in our life times. Yes what we have seen is devastating but also it has been possible to see that when we want to then we can bind together. There is something in the human person quite unlike any other created species and when this "something" is called into action then the results are magnificent. How sad it is that the same humanity who is shocked and mobilised to help another cannot do the same when it comes to abortion! How is it that we cannot convince another that abortion is also killing and death but this not through natural disaster but manmade disaster?

Over these weeks since the Tsunami and the response of Australian people and the rest of the world, I have wondered, pondered, mused about the events and why it is that anti life activities (abortion, euthanasia, aberrant and rampant sexuality, drug addiction, pornography, etc) do not find the same response. Why is it that we can stand by and watch over 100,000 children die per year (abortion-Australia) up to 50 million children die per year world wide (abortion). We can watch euthanasia slowly worming its way into the ethos of society. We can watch drug lords and their pushers destroy millions of young lives and yet do very little in response to these. Why is it that we cannot mount the same rescue missions that we have been witness to in these past few weeks? My answer to this, (and perhaps there are many answers-I offer only this) is because the **media chose** to bring into our lounge rooms the devastation as it occurred. We **saw** and **heard** the devastation. We were able to empathise with those caught in the maelstrom which was the Asia region for a few devastating minutes. We got caught up in the Tsunami story and we made their story our story. This Tsunami disaster was not happening behind closed doors in sterile rooms with hushed words spoken. This Tsunami was televised, photographed, radioed and **communicated** to the whole world. We had to get involved because the human person is generally empathetic to another in difficulties and pain. We wept for them and felt their pain. This is why we have been able to

BROKEN  
BRANCHES



John 15

respond so magnificently because we could see their suffering. **The media chose to bring the disaster home.** It made unprecedented record breaking news for nearly three weeks.

**Now**, imagine if the same media had not bothered to bring to the viewer, to the listener, this news with its graphic imagery, day in and day out. If it did not highlight the plight of those caught in the midst of it all. If it did not interview relatives. If it did not show the body bags lined up. If it did not show the mass graves. If it did not use the emotive language to encourage donations. If none of these things happened and we somehow heard that somewhere in the world a Tsunami had hit and a number of people had drowned, it would not have had the same impact and the response to the call for help would not have been anywhere as magnificent as we have seen. You see, the media **chose to show the enormity of the event and we saw and made it a part of our own lives.** The event moved us to tears. We hurt because we saw others broken, wounded, dead, displaced, and abandoned. We saw children's bodies dead or broken. We saw children lost. We saw parents in agony over lost children. We saw the stunned and uncomprehending looks of survivors. We saw the reality of a tsunami and responded.

Why then can we not do the same about the abortion issue? Again, because the **media chooses** to remain silent or biased towards "women's rights" voices. Not "rights" per se because the most basic and irreducible "right" of any human is the right to live, but "rights" without love or responsibility. It is not true that the "right" of women is to be able to decide whether to or not to have an abortion. This does not constitute determination over one's body but indeed quite the opposite because the body, the mind and the heart of the woman was designed to do just that, accept the child and protect it from all danger. **Abortion is the contradiction of the woman. This is why the suffering.** Further, neither men nor women have that "right" to this contradiction, it is a fabrication of the media and the feminist lobby groups and other interest groups, but in reality it is not the right of any human to kill another. The **media chooses** to ignore the killing of millions of children, going so far as to set in place denial strategies and choosing to ignore the truth. It is "tissue" It is "product of conceptus" It is "a bunch of cells" even the notion that it is a "parasite" and an intruder in the woman's life. This language is the language of denial, demonic and darkness. This language helps to remove the humanity from the one being killed, because if the humanity is removed then whatever is done is acceptable because it is not a human.

As I continued to muse over these things (and I spend a lot of time musing and reflecting about abortion and its effects) I came to the conclusion that the abortion industry is so successful because it managed to hijack not only our language but also our traditions and our known accepted norms and our accepted notions of goodness. This industry and its leaders were able to

change our language to accommodate their plans. They changed the word “baby” to “foetus” and yes, this means “young one” but this **used** to be a medical term and not a term used by mothers and fathers. No woman ever said to her husband: “darling we are having a foetus” it was always “we are having a baby” and it still is “we are having a baby” when the baby is wanted!! So it’s a baby when it’s wanted and a foetus when it is not and it’s to be aborted!! The slow removal of the imagery of baby, accompanied by the sterile language, and calling into question known moral laws, ensured that public acceptance of abortion was guaranteed. **Nobody would like or accept the idea that about 100,000 – 150,000 Australian children are intentionally killed every year because we basically think we are good people and good people do not stand by and watch this amount of children die intentionally.** This is too hard to even consider or imagine. But it is acceptable that 100,000 - 150.000 TOPs (termination of pregnancies) are carried out.

When several months ago we were shown an abortion being performed on television, it was thought at the time that it was a “good thing” so that it could be seen what abortion was. Well, true to form (of the abortion industry) it showed the viewing public that it was such a small procedure and not worth the commotion that is made by proliferers. It showed the sterile imageless “tissue” “bunch of cells” that it had been saying all along. Sadly even some pro lifers fell for the ploy and thought that the showing opened opportunities for dialogue. Rot and more rot because all it did was advertise and increase the number of that facility’s (Marie Stopes International) clinics, and it further served to desensitise the viewer to the notion that abortion is heinous. Some people were upset by the images of disfigured, bloated bodies, (after the tsunami) but not at the dismembering of a child in its earliest stages. This can be understood because the body (after the tsunami) had physical appearance, whilst the abortion facility carried out an abortion on what it said was a pregnancy in its earliest days (4 weeks). It didn’t have the courage to show a true image of the most often carried out abortion in the range of 10-14 weeks where arms and legs and torso would have been identifiable. I imagine there would be a horrendous outcry if this size and all the other stages of development (including late term and partial birth abortion procedure) would be shown world wide, day and night for a protracted length of time, thus allowing all to see that an abortion means the killing of a child in its various stages of development.

We need, as a society, to be confounded and confronted by those very images that have been surreptitiously removed from our language and our vision, but not in sterile, hushed, hidden clinics but on the most modern form of communication and dissemination of information and news. **Television.** We have been able to see (after the tsunami) what people’s response to trauma is. We have been able to see that generally people are compassionate and caring and suffering evokes an immediate response. It is the visible which brings to mind empathy. Perhaps a vision of what 100,000 aborted babies (of all gestational stages) look like may awaken this

slumbering society to some empathy and compassion and help to bring to an end this holocaust called abortion.

## **A New Programme for Life**

### **A new programme for life is required.**

A programme which not only sets out to protect all future life but incorporates those whose past has included anti life. A programme which sets out to reclaim our language from the idiotic and robotic to the human. This programme does not need band aid solutions, there are enough bandaid solutions, but it does need courage. This programme would need men and women of enormous integrity and stamina. It would need funds. Lots of funds like the pro abortion movement has lots of funds. It would need the removal of funds (**Government**) which are allocated for the killing of children. It would need renewal of the minds of young and old. It would need a desire to see the human person elevated to its original design. It would need the removal of sex education programmes which are nothing but lessons in “how to have sex” and replace these (if there has to be anything-what did humans do before sex ed. programmes?) with programmes which speak of the body with awe, reverence, holiness, sacredness, mystery. This programme would seek the strengthening of Marriage because in faithful covenant marriage children are safe and welcome. This programme seeks to bring to mind a memory of the God of our lives, all our lives including the pre born ones and those on the other end of the scale. This programme would most emphatically deal with contraception which in the prophetic words of Pope Paul VI does nothing more than alienate the male and the female. This alienation then makes them opponents and at odds with one another, rather than be complimentary to one another and the children a burden rather than a blessing. This programme would seek the common good of men, women children and society. We need a programme where human persons again become connected to one another, and the common bond is their humanity rather than their inhumanity to one another. We need a programme that slowly, slowly leads us all to turning our steps towards “home” together rather than separated by our difficulties and differences. We need a programme that teaches us love in the dimension of the Cross and the dimension of Holiness. A programme like this (not pie in the sky) makes possible a retreat from where we are heading.

## **Rome, Perth, PNG**

In my last issue of the newsletter I said that I was heading to Rome in late November/early December for talks with some individuals there. I did attend, however, it was not as satisfactory as I would have liked. Those that I spoke to were helpful and insightful and I learned a lot, however, the one individual whom I did really wish to speak to did not speak to me, even though there was an appointment made long before I left. It's a pity because

he would have learned much about post abortion trauma and sexual abuse trauma and its effects on life and marriage. Perhaps another time!!

In early January I also went to Perth to see Mum. as you know dad died about 8 months ago and mum is not well so I looked after mum (for 12 days) while my sisters had a break. After a week back in Melbourne, I left together with Gail Instance (FLI – Australia) and Steve and Vera Mosher ((PRI -USA) for a *Family Life International Symposium* in Vanimo (PNG).

The conference was magnificent and so well attended. Both days of the conference the very big hall was filled to the brim and the people were enthusiastic and showed much respect and love and appreciation for their Bishop and his attempts to bring to the attention of the people the anti life efforts being made in PNG by population control organizations and anti fertility efforts also by external organizations who tie aid to the country with population control demands.

For the two days of the symposium, we had with us His Excellency Bishop Bonivento, PIME, Bishop of Vanimo in the Sandaun Province. His Excellency Bishop Austin Crapp OFM Bishop of neighbouring Province Aitape. The deputy Governor of Vanimo, 10 priests, (including seminary Rectors) 24 seminarians, 10 Sisters of Charity (Mother Teresa's order) OLSH sisters, Sisters of St Therese, and other sisters of other orders with their various habits. Apart from the Religious, the lay numbers were astonishing.

The conference itself was really exciting and both speakers and audience were enthralled at what was said. Bishop Bonivento opened the symposium with a talk on the topic "Is poverty a result of Population Growth" He spoke about the lies and myths about overpopulation being the cause of poverty. Indeed it is the opposite. Under population spells profound poverty. Steve Mosher (President of Population Research Institute, USA) spoke about population control and his encounter with this many years earlier in China, and his efforts to expose to the Western world his research and findings of the damage to men, women and pre born children of forced and coerced abortions. Gail spoke on the effects of contraception, sex education on children and families. Gail leads the listener on a journey from the beginning of these issues to the now abortifacient mentality which has developed and contributes to the destruction of children and families.

I was to speak on the nature of post abortion trauma and grief on families and young ones and the cycle of abuse which abortion and or sexual abuse begins. And my second talk on God's Infinite Mercy and the Need for Spiritual Healing. There was also a Panel of excellent local speakers who spoke on Christian Family as a Domestic Church, Secular Education in the New Curriculum of the Catholic Education Agency (my goodness a fantastic curriculum developed with the teachings of the Catholic Church as a basis). Respect for the Dignity of the human person in health care in the Catholic Healthcare Agency and the Catholic Church's Policy towards HIV/Aids Apostolate.

The Aids issues is of an enormous concern to the people of PNG however, the way it is handled cannot but continue to escalate in numbers. HIV/Aids will not be contained with condoms. This is fallacy. It's a lie which is having disastrous consequences. Condoms actually encourage the spread of HIV/Aids because it encourages continuity in same lifestyle rather than containment through change of lifestyle. **Chastity before marriage and fidelity after marriage.** I know these concepts are old hat and the modern mind is irked and repelled by these concepts, but this is the only way that this horrible disease will be firstly contained and then eliminated. No amount of condoms or herbal remedies or as in parts of Africa, witchdoctors encouraging sexual encounters with infant girl babies, will ameliorate the situation. HIV/Aids can be eradicated but only via the slow, old fashioned way, through chastity and fidelity. This also then would return to all of us our sense of holiness. Of being made in the image of God.

Fr Alex Molina IVE (Rector and lecturer St Charles Borromeo Major Seminary) presented an excellent paper on **Relativism: A Philosophy against Life in Papua New Guinea.** Indeed if this is the calibre of philosophy being taught in PNG then the Church in that country is indeed blessed.

The symposium concluded each day with The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. After the Sunday evening Mass I was able to see the true character of a shepherd who tends his sheep. Knowing that many of the conference attendees would have travelled long distances by foot and by the end of the day would have had to travel back, this shepherd (Bishop Bonivento) organised a meal for all of them. To my reckoning between 150-200. This, I would say is the Gospel in action. The Shepherd fed his sheep. Apart from the talks this event moved me to tears. The whole generosity of both the Bishop and the people of PNG is magnificent.

On Monday morning Gail and myself spoke again to the seminarians (24) at the Major Seminary (there are two seminaries in that province-Major and Minor), whilst Steve and Vera Mosher taped an interview with Catholic Radio Network (Fr Zdzislaw Mlak). Gail and I also had the pleasure of speaking by phone to the Apostolic Nuncio in Papua New Guinea, His Excellency The Most Reverend Adolfo Tito Illano. He had heard the radio interview Steve, Gail and I had done when we arrived in Port Moresby on Thursday evening and had heard the conference which was relayed live through the Catholic Radio Network (Fr Mlak). He spoke some beautiful words to us and thanked us for coming to PNG. There were many many incidences which contributed to a really successful symposium, but for me as I believe for the others and our host His Excellency Bishop Bonivento was the letter from the Holy Father received and read at the closing ceremony. Herewith,

## **Letter from Holy Father**

*Message and Blessing of the Holy Father to  
H.E. Most Reverend Cesare Bonivento, PIME, Bishop of Vanimo  
On the Occasion of the Biennial National Symposium on  
“Life and Family: Blessing of the Lord”*

*The Most Reverence Cesare Bonivento, PIME  
Bishop of Vanimo*

*The Holy Father was pleased to learn of the biennial national symposium taking place in the Diocese of Vanimo from 29-30 January 2005, under the auspices of Papua New Guinea Family Life International, with the theme “Life and Family: Blessing of the Lord” He commends this initiative to promote the Gospel of Life and sends warm greetings to all those taking part.*

*In the face of trends which seek to undermine the integrity and sacredness of marriage and family life, His holiness had repeatedly called upon men and women to uphold the civilization of love through religious and civic structures. With great confidence, he now turns to the priests, religious and faithful of Papua New Guinea to respond to this challenge: to present Christian marriage anew as a life-long covenant in Christ, based on generous self-giving and unconditional love” (Ecclesia in Oceania, 45) This inspiring vision of matrimony and stable family life will strengthen Papuan society through and uplifting of the human, moral and spiritual dimensions of home life.*

*With these sentiments the Holy Father entrusts the gathering to the protection of the Holy Family, icon and model of every human family. He cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing to all present and to their loved ones at home.*

*Cardinal Angelo Sodano  
Secretary of state*

*Vatican City, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2005.*

All of us left the conference and PNG with a sense that the Lord had been glorified. That there was much goodwill amongst all present and much is possible

After Vanimo we went to Madang, again for meetings with various leaders and more talks in parishes. Here we also spoke to Fr Jan Czuba, President of Divine Word University, His Grace Archbishop W. Kurtz, Archbishop of Madang,. Mr. John Hickey (politician PNG) We also spoke to students, teachers and pro life group members of the University itself. Good response. Wherever we went we were received well and with graciousness. Thank you enormously also to Max for accommodation and chauffeuring and hospitality. Max is so wonderful. He is a living replica of what I think Moses might have looked like. A marvellous lay missionary.

After PNG we returned to Cairns and also did some talks there, thank you to Tim and Anne for arranging these. Thanks also to Tim and Anne and Theresa for hospitality. From Cairns to Brisbane, again talks and a meeting with several politicians regarding the present debate over abortion. A day off and then home. Thank you Dennis and Norma MacDonald for hospitality and chauffeuring and thank you to Felix and especially William

MacMahon for side splitting humour! We pro lifers need to laugh sometimes and William catered for that. Phew!!! I just got exhausted

Overall I think that for me the most exciting thing about the whole conference was that the words were so well received. We from Australia and America are so used to being jeered and heckled when we speak pro life that to be with people who welcome pro life knowledge and who welcome any help offered is like being amidst friends. These are people who really love their church. This was amazing. Not one complaint from the people that the church was doing wrong.

Whilst warnings are sounded about going to PNG, what I and the others found were a gentle people who are appreciative and welcoming. However, I do have to say that people who live and work there from the western world (especially missionaries who have been there hundreds of years) have earned their place in heaven. NO Questions asked! I wilted from morning till night (heat) whilst the locals seemed to take it all in "Oh today is a cool day!" No body told my body that it was a cool day!

More great news in next newsletter. Your support of me is always appreciated.

As I come to the end of the newsletter, thank you to those who responded to the call for funds at the end of last year. It helped to pay all the bills and start the new year without anxiety. Please continue to support this work I give 100% of myself to those who come for help whether for abortion, sexual abuse, and several cases of addiction (abortion also). Also this year I hope to begin to teach others to do what I do (if I can of course) .Your care for me and the needs of this charism ensures that my focus is on the work rather than the expenses. Please continue to pray for Melissa, Jodie, Darren, Victoria, Evan (new) Maree, Margaret, Susan, Sally (1) Sally (2) Toni, Michelle, Marc, Hamish (lots please) Luc, Catherine, Andrea (1) Liza (new) Andrea (2) (new lots and lots please).

God Bless



Anne Lastman

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