

Broken Branches

Issue 59
Aug/Sep 2007

John 15

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

Early Induction of Labour

In recent weeks I have met a young woman who has been referred to me for counselling following a late term abortion, for foetal abnormality 18 months ago.

I was told that following tests and results showing severe abnormalities, the obvious first choice offered was abortion. This is not what angered me as I am accustomed to this response to foetal abnormality. However what did distress me was the manner and the wording that was offered to this young woman and her husband who until this day had expected to take their infant home.

What angered me so much is the wording used to encourage the abortion, the words implying that early induction of labour and delivery of child who cannot possibly survive is NOT ABORTION. Julie was told that early induction of labour, and allowing the baby to die during birth or as it is born is not abortion. That it is allowing "nature to take its course".

What a load of rubbish. Early induction of labour at 20 weeks will surely ensure that the child dies. It cannot hope to survive at 20 weeks. Its lungs and other vital organs are insufficiently mature and unable to sustain life. Again this is the deceitfulness of the abortion industry, and the doctors who perform this abomination.

Whether by chemical or surgical methods, an induction at 20 weeks ensures that the infant cannot possibly survive. **It's an abortion and nothing else but an abortion. It is a procedure carried out to ensure the death of the in utero child.** There is no other possibility at this gestational age.

What further upset me was the saccharine compassion offered to the parents for the acceptance of such a procedure. That it's best for the baby. That it saves the baby from pain! (Rubbish) and that it's absolutely **not** an abortion. This is inducing labour, just like any other induction of labour and the delivery of the baby.

Rot and more rot. When a labour is induced at term it means that the pregnancy has gone to term if not past. The child needs to be encouraged and helped to be born. It is not an induction with the knowledge that it is going to die, not necessarily because of its abnormalities but because of its prematurity.

I have spoken many times over the years of writing this newsletter about the complicated type of grief which follows all abortions, but most especially abortion for foetal abnormality.

Abortion for foetal abnormality is usually carried out at much later stage of development (than the first trimester) and usually there has been a deep bond established between mother,

A newsletter of Victims of Abortion

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father and child, siblings, family.

An abortion sought at such a late stage usually means that the pregnancy has been a wanted baby and many thoughts and ideas and hopes and plans for the future been made, and to have to make a decision to terminate the life of their baby is a devastating experience, one from which it will be difficult to recover. **Because they are called to make the decision exactly when their child dies.**

I think that the reason I was distressed as I listened to the story was because I was hearing a mockery being made of all that is good. The types of lies which surround abortion.

This young lady and her husband were encouraged to participate in a so called "farewell service" for her child. She could speak the words she wanted to say to the child, and name the child, and sing a song (sick!) and comfort the child before it was taken in to be induced for early birth and certain death.

I had heard that these sorts of services were being offered by abortion facilities in America but I thought that they hadn't reached Australia yet. Sadly I was mistaken.

Imagine early induction of labour at a time where it is known that the child cannot possibly live, and this is not abortion? Well someone needs to explain to me how it is not an abortion,

but the delivery of a child to give it its best shot life. To give it every chance at living.

It's an abortion and nothing else.

Perhaps more and more as I hear different stories I realise how far down the slippery slope, has abortion taken humanity. How far from the "truth" of who we are, we have travelled. And it's frightening.

And I suppose that the thing which upset me most is the seductive and saccharine (bitter/sweet) language used to achieve the results of death of an in utero child.

Language has been manipulated and changed so that it no longer conveys "truth." And language, that beautiful tool for communication has been distorted in order to further demean and reduce human life to utilitarianism.

Abuse of Language

The experience I had of listening to Julie tell her story led me to think about another experience I had recently which made it very clear to me why we have so much abortion. Why our mentality has changed to one which is destructive.

Of recent times I was privy to several conversations where the two very different couples were speaking about the same thing but

"Language has been manipulated and changed so that it no longer conveys truth"

each using vastly different language.

One young couple recently married and actively pro life, and pro family, spoke of “we make love.” Whilst another couple who live together spoke of “having sex.” And whilst it has been said to me that the terms mean the same thing, indeed I reject that understanding and that notion. There is a vast world of difference in meaning and understanding.

The young couple, who are married, pro life, pro family, and faithful to their faith, and to each other, speak a language of “love” with each other and about each other.

Even in their language the words used are words of love. They “make” love and within that very meaning they speak of a willingness and readiness for a child if and when it comes.

This couple speak a language of thoughtfulness and wellbeing for the other, rather than self. The “other” is not to be used and abused. The “other” is to be held in the highest esteem,→

higher indeed, than self. A giving wholly of self to the other so that together their love can become enfleshed, either in their responses to one another, or indeed in the conception of a baby.

They spoke in a manner which will protect from falsehood their covenant of marriage. They spoke of “Agape” type of love and the Truth of their love is joy, peace, unity, with no hindrance or obstruction to the receptivity of new life. They spoke of a deep understanding of the conjugal act being the fullness of life and truth. In fact, it is the cornerstone of their marital covenant.

The words used are not filled with “self ness” but “other ness”. Indeed they view their marriage and their intimacy with one another as a deep mystery, which they, through their life time, will slowly unfold for each other and with each other.

For this couple the idea of intimacy, sexuality, conception is mysterious, is love enfleshed, and

“she quietly wept into her tissues, a lonely and desolate figure...”

love given visible expression, first to themselves and those around them, and then in the fullness of “making love” a baby.

The other couple I was listening to (re a recent abortion) made reference to “having sex” and “we did it” and “she should have been on the pill and been more responsible.” “It’s not my fault that she got pregnant,” “and anyway we weren’t ready to have a kid in our lives” (John).

As I sat silently and quietly observing the young woman in front me, I realised that she knew→

and heard what he was saying, and also what I was thinking, and somehow I think she thought the same. As she quietly wept into her tissues, a lonely and desolate figure, she listened to his comment “it’s her fault she got pregnant.” This young woman knew deep in her innermost being that the man she thought she loved and whom she believed to have loved her, was in fact using her. For him she was an object to be used and in difficulties to be blamed.

Whilst this young couple “live together” I cannot see this continuing. I believe that Sara

has seen what this young man, whom she thought she loved, is really like, and that there is no love there, least of all for her, but only “use” of her for his convenience and for a time and not a lifelong commitment.

The definite end of their relationship (which I can see happening in the nearest of future) is indeed what studies clearly show, that abortions destroys relationships, especially and more so non marital relationships.

When I think about this situation it becomes possible to see why abortions can happen so easily. I think in my 12 years of doing this work, I have encountered maybe about half dozen couples who spoke of “love” all of the others speak of “doing it” or “having sex” or even more colourful expressions.

Those who “make love” create for themselves and their spouse a place of safety, security, love, generosity and peace. A place which welcomes love and life.

Those who “did it” or “do it” or “after some drinks we had sex” had no “love” to make. They just responded to, and acted on instincts, and if this encounter resulted in a conception, then it wasn’t considered “love” that they made, or created, but an “it” or a “bunch of cells” or a “product of conception” or “tissue” or “conceptus”. It was a response to a mixture of hormonal activity and drink and the conception wasn’t wanted, expected and therefore easily disposable, or “not ready to have a kid in our lives”

This of course does not surprise me. With children being sexualised and introduced to the notion of sexuality, at younger and younger ages, it becomes more and more difficult to help them understand that these instincts, normal as they are, should be controlled and protected until they understood the meaning of the

emotions and the relationship between certain emotions and sexuality, and lifelong covenant commitment.

When 13, 14, 15, 16 etc year olds engage in sexual activity (or go to the next stage in the relationship as they say on some shows which the young ones then emulate) the language that the body speaks is not understood, because the hardwiring is still not in place for processing the information the very adult information about emotions.

When people “have sex” this is an instinct. All created creatures are nuptial it’s written in our essence. This was supposed to be safeguarded until marriage and hence the security which marriage brought with it, and into this safe and secure milieu husband and wife were designed to always “make love” and never to “do it” or “have sex.”

It is this dimension of permanency which makes the intimacy of marriage very safe, free to be fruitful, faithful, whole, and hence when you “make love” you are open to love in the form of a new creation, being created.

The reason there are so many abortions is because couples and younger and younger children are “having sex”. Very very young people “have sex” For them its not “make love”. It is satisfying an instinct, and the consequences, where there are some, (conception, STD’s) are simply a side issue.

Today we have rampant sexuality by the very very young, and this, together with the contraceptive devices and mentality, we have sexually transmitted diseases in epidemic proportions, open slather abortions, and from this open slather abortions and use and abuse of men and women, we have women/men left to nurse broken hearts (over their abortions) for the rest of their lives.

Conclusion to Rome story...

Bruna continues.....

Yesterday I was so happy to have lunch with Antoinette and Cessa (the other colleague that aborted twice and now is pregnant, remember they argued and i was always telling Antoinette to forgive her). It was the three of us eating a kebabs and they couldn't stop talking, and were now friends and nobody was speaking to me, they sort of made peace.

I wasn't upset that they didn't speak to me about my forthcoming wedding because it was more important that the spoke and be friends again. And God made that possible.

Then Antoinette asked me where to buy a bible like the red Jerusalem one I gave her, and I told her. It was for a friend of hers. Now I have a more complete vision about everything. I can see the story better.

God is leading our lives. Thanks to the mission in Estonia and the family who went there, it was possible for me to live alone in their home, and clear up my mind and heart. It was also possible that you could come to Rome and speak about your work and mission and for you to stay with me. It was possible for me to know you and you to fill my heart with peace. It was possible for Antoinette to meet you so she and her husband could be at peace. This happened because I was unemployed, went there to help her at work with her and through that for you and Antoinette to meet.

From that it was possible that Antoinette solved a problem in her life, and felt herself forgiven, and she then to be able to forgive Cessa. Further, it became possible for her to have a bible in her home and to appreciate that gift that I gave her, so that she wants some other people to have it too. So how can people say that this is just by chance!! It's impressive how God leads the story through our humble hands.

My husband and I want to come to Australia for the World Youth Day pilgrimage, and I hope to see you.

Kisses

Bruna

Women are guinea pigs

I have become aware of the hidden truths of many things to do with the health and well-being of women. Things like the truth behind Abortion, Contraception, sexually transmitted Diseases, and Pornography for example.

I am educating myself with the knowledge of proven facts and statistics and with my own research these 'issues' for instance are for the benefit of the male population when it is said that three of these 'issues' are for the 'good' and 'benefit' of women. I question that.

Women have become too gullible and kept in the dark in the name of 'sexual freedom'. Women have been fed the continuous lies for decades.

Abortion and certain contraceptives kill the innocent and make our 'sexual freedom' more important.

STIs devalue our personal well-being and make us susceptible to life-long pain.

Pornography degrades and makes us and men lose respect for ourselves.

All of these for the sake of our 'sexual freedom', but we are sexually exploited for lust and profit.

Women's eyes have been closed long enough. We need to educate ourselves and fight back to regain our sisterhood, our dignity and our health and well-being.

I am an Atheist. I followed certain feminist values until my education led me to the path of truth and foresight. From what I have researched I have found that it has been through religious groups who have their eyes wide open about the facts, who have the guts to open our eyes.

Women must stop being guinea pigs in the name of science, progress and 'sexual freedom'.

Progress for what I ask. Progress to maim, defraud and even kill us? To kill off generations of babies? What progress is that?

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Thanks Di I wanted to add this small article because it is written unsolicited and because Di speaks as an "atheist" and its good to see her perspective and how her ideas and beliefs are changing as she continues to learn.

Quick Trip to Sydney

Thank you to Gail Instance (Family Life International) for her invitation for me to go to Sydney and speak for about an hour and half on Maronite Radio (Voice of Charity) about the work that I do. Thank you to Buddy and Ghadi from Voice of Charity for making the experience really good. It is a wider audience (Lebanese Catholic Community) with whom I was able to share my work. Thank you Gail,→

Buddy, Ghadi.

“Redeeming Grief”

Dear readers and friends, I would like to let you know that the book which I have been writing for several years has at last been finished. It has undergone many changes, editings, cover changes, conclusions, so much so that in the end I had to stop because I was getting tired of it myself.

The book is not a book about personal stories of post abortion suffering but reflections and my ideas on what causes post abortion issues.

It has taken quite a long time to write and I am finally happy with it. It has been granted a *Nihil Obstat* and *Imprimatur* by my Church. For my non catholic dear friends this simply means that there are no doctrinal errors.

I am quietly proud of the nearly 200 pages and it is my hope that you will like it also.

“Women must stop being guinea pigs in the name of science...”

I enclose an insert detailing the book and if you would like to read it how to go about getting it. There are so far 1500 copies printed.

It is also my hope that I could slowly get this book into catholic school libraries and other places where the young have access to books.

I hope I have written it in a reader friendly style.

Your feed back (be gentle with me please!) would also be appreciated.

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I have actually started a second book and this time on the effects on sexual abuse and especially sexual abuse in early life, the life of a young person. I hope to show how destructive is sexual abuse and how destructive is its negative imprinting, for the future of that victim.

As I continue to counsel abortion grief and sexual abuse grief victims, I am amazed at how similar are the responses of the victims and even the types of losses which both types of victims experience.

Letters

Dear Anne,

Please forgive my tardy reply to your newsletter and to your wonderful work. Having worked with parents of aborted children I realise the importance and disappointments of this area of human relationships.

May you be encouraged to continue this Christian work and may the loving God embrace these victims and reward your generosity.

Regards

Br. Eric.

Dear Anne,

Each time we receive your "Broken Branches" I feel your deep profound love of God and I am in awe.

May we all delight in Him in heaven together and may the babies you help to save, and their mothers, give you their personal love and gratitude there.

Among my prayers said each morning there I pray the pray for the spiritual adoption of infants in danger o death.

May our sweet Jesus and Mary continue to bless you and your inspired ministry.

Loving prayers,

Michael L.

Thank you Michael I will send your grand daughter newsletter too. And I can continue to send yours by normal mail. Its OK.

I appreciate your love and support.

Anne

Dear Anne,

Thank you for your recent copy of "Broken Branches". We are always glad to receive it and read of your efforts regarding babies who die before being born. Thank you for all you have done to help mothers to cope.

We keep you and your work in our prayers. You are working very hard and it must be tiring at times (or all the time!) We pray God to give you the strength you need to keep going for it must help people a lot. We wish you every grace and blessing dear Anne and much love from God.

The Carmelite Nuns.

Dear Anne,

Thank you for the many years you have sent me your newsletter Broken Branches, I have enjoyed reading it and I eagerly await its arrival.

I have to admit that I have learned much about the topic of abortion and its after effects and now whenever I hear the "A" word, I tend to stick around and not run for fear of not being able to comment. I have become quite pro life and even my friends are beginning to remember not to mention the "A" word because its will start me off.

Enclosed please find a small donation, I wish it could be more but with kids still at school it makes it hard to find spare cash.

Thank you and may God bless you and your very valuable work.

I love the way you write your newsletter, its so different from other newsletters because as I read it, it feels like you are speaking directly to me. It feels like we are talking together.

Joy, K.

Vic.

Dear Anne,

Hi, I hope all is going well for you with your clients and your family. I hope you make some time to enjoy your family and at times just be still with God to be renewed.

This I must put into practice myself much more often.

Enclosed is a donation towards your work.

What a wonderful day the weather was today especially for a winters day.

God Bless and keep you and your loved ones close to His Divine Heart.

Love And prayers,

Mary P.

Mary thank you for your lovely sentiments and NO I don't take time to be still or do "Anne type things" Every time I plan for a day like that something new emerges and there goes my day, but I am sure one day it will happen.

As I conclude this issue of the newsletter I would like to thank 3 anonymous donors. I usually like to send a thank you note to those who donate but there were 3 who did not give details. To those three, *Thank You. I have appreciated your care.* During these times when there is such a call for the donation dollar I appreciate those who remember me and keep me going. Though I must admit it gets harder and harder.

Congratulations

To my beautiful “girl” Sophia see Issue 41 and her husband on the arrival of their second baby Gabrielle (see below). Isn’t she gorgeous!



Gabrielle

Congratulations also to Jacquie and her husband (see issue 55) on the safe arrival of their gorgeous son (to date un-named and I haven’t a photo YET).

If you remember Jacquie’s story is one of multiple abortions and enormous grief and fear of being pregnant. She now is the mother of a real little beauty. A healthy 3.8 kilo little footballer and so handsome too!! Congratulations both of my beautiful “girls” I am proud of them and their achievements.

Please continue to pray for Melissa Jacquie, Carlie, Hamish, Maree, Andrea, Michele, Elissa, Iris ,Dianne, Helene, Phillipa, Sophie, Brigid, Stephanie, Susie Grace, Derek Silvia Antoinette, Nancy, James, Kate, Kathy, Tania, Clare, Frances, Alexis (special prayers please) Mandy, Yvette, Sara, Mikela, Julie. Catherine.

Ps..Dear Friends I thought you might like to know that I have been accepted as a Member of the Australian Counsellors Association and am registered with them as a post abortion grief counsellor with the permission to write after my name as below. This follows the BA (Psy). BA Rel stds., Dip Ed., MA Theol. MA Rel Ed., MACA (qual) I share this with you because I was recently told I am not qualified enough.



Anne Lastman - MACA (qualified).

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Broken Branches – By email!



Dear Friends,

In an effort to help reduce the costs and time put into preparing each newsletter, I am now able to email it out to you in Adobe Acrobat format (.PDF). So if you would prefer to receive Broken Branches electronically, please email me at annevoa@bigpond.net.au with a request to be added to the email list.