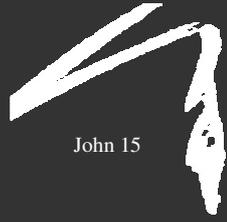


BROKEN BRANCHES

Issue 68

Feb/Mar 2009



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

Happy New Year!!

A Happy New Year is wished for you all my dear readers and supporters. Let us together pray that 2009 will bring many graces and blessings especially in the “life” area.

With the close of 2008, we closed a year of infamy in the state of Victoria. A year where it seems that evil was given reign.

Let us pray that 2009 will be a year greatly graced. I believe this is possible because evil will NOT have the last word. It cannot ever be that evil wins.

I would like to begin the new year and new newsletter with a really beautiful story. This event happened after the writing of the last issue of the newsletter, but I am glad that this happened this way because I am able to bring it to you as a first story for the year so that indeed we can begin with blessings.

Heidi

On a Saturday morning 3 weeks before Christmas I went with one of my young and beautiful girl (Heidi) whom you have been praying for and her fiancé to a beautiful place in lovely bushland by a flowing river so that she could say goodbye to her three aborted babies. This became an extra special moment of grace because Heidi’s fiancé (not the father of the aborted babies) came to this ceremony too because he wanted to spiritually adopt the children as his own - like St Joseph.

It was a beautiful and moving ceremony as Heidi’s fiancé prayed healing over his beautiful future wife, Heidi, and brought into his and her embrace and family the children,

Esther, Ruth and Joseph. The water carried away three white roses and as she prayed for her babies she “saw” the children run into the arms of Jesus and turn and wave goodbye to their Mum and Dad, not in sorrow but in great joy. At that moment I felt that great healing happened for Heidi.

It was an exquisite morning. This was awesome because of the kind of life that she had lived in the past. It was awesome because during their courtship they have remained chaste and he has honoured her for that and she has honoured and loved him for it. It is awesome because they enter into the sacred bond of marriage leaving behind all that has not been of God and carry with them only that which is beautiful. Including the children who now have a heavenly Father and earthly father and mother. So all in all it was a beautiful day.

I am looking forward to their return from their honeymoon overseas (going to meet relatives) and then catching up with them to see how their life together is going.

It is moments like this that help me to love my Job. It’s the best job on earth. I love it.

As we begin this New Year I want to share this poem which was sent to me by one of my supporters. We need to ask ourselves, what has happened to our society that has allowed “motherhood” to become so despised? What has happened to change this noble work of creation entrusted to a “mother?” Why have we as a society changed our perception of motherhood? Is it because abortion has corrupted the concept of “Mother?” Is it because it’s impossible to believe that a mother would take her child to be killed intentionally and in doing this has corrupted the very essence of what it means to be woman and “mother?” Is it because “woman” has stopped caring and defending her

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child and therefore society has taken its cue from her and done the same?

Have the words of Isaiah, (49:15) said with utter disbelief, "Does a woman forget her baby or fail to cherish the baby in her womb" come to pass? Because to abort, a mother has to temporarily at least "forget her baby." Indeed it appears so. Thanks Shirley for this poem we need to remember what it means to be a mother and how much "mothering" is devalued in our time and society.

Is it any wonder that the family is under so much travail? Is it any wonder that the natural family is under so much attack? If family no longer means mother, father and children, then of course the demands to change its essence are amplified. There was a time when family meant husband, wife and children. Today there is an attempt to redefine family and this makes sense when "woman" has despised her most intimate, unique and precious role...mother. "Eve" again is saying NO.

Again thank you Shirley for sending this to me. I hope you my readers don't mind me putting this in newsletter.

What is a Mother

A mother is the most important person on earth. She cannot claim the honour of having built the Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral. A dwelling place for an immortal soul. The tiny perfection of her baby's body.

The Angels have not been blessed by such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to heaven: Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature. God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation. What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother.

(Cardinal Mindszenty).

America's New President.

After months and months of electioneering America has voted in its new President, Mr Barack Hussein Obama. The American so-called "Messiah" has been sworn in as president. The fanfare which accompanied the inauguration was what was expected and indeed no sooner had this new president taken office that as he had promised he overturned all bans for funding for abortion providers Family Planning Associations which facilitate abortions globally.. Indeed his pro death sympathies have been strongly shown.

We shouldn't have been surprised because he has been quite open in his intent to restore unencumbered abortion at all stages of gestation and funding to ensure that this is possible.

It was interesting because the new president signed this order without the ever present sycophantic media whose support he enjoyed throughout his campaigning for the presidency.

Pro Lifers have been dismayed over the move and have condemned Mr Obama, but of course his pro abortion friends whom he appeased welcomed his magnanimous decision and the speed with which he executed his election promise.

With one swoop of his pen Mr Obama overturned the orders of President George Bush, who when he was elected in 2001 immediately froze funding for family planning groups (abortion) working overseas. I suppose it was a "get even" with pro lifers for their time with a president (Bush) who supported their belief that in utero life is valuable. Now the free world has a leader? (Oh yeah right!!) who believes that only certain individuals have rights and those individuals are not pre born children.

As I listened to his election speech I cringed at how shallow his words were "The time has come...to carry forward that precious gift that noble idea passed on from generation to generation. The God given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness" OH yeah Mr Obama I don't believe a word you say. You see Mr Obama, the approximately

1,500,000 infants aborted per year in your nation would not quite agree with your shallow words. They are not equal because they have been deemed not human and therefore disposable. They will never get to know that “noble idea” you speak about.

Further, the illustrious? President went on “we will restore science to its rightful place and wield technology’s wonders to raise health care’s quality and lower its cost” Yeah!!! by killing embryonic infants so that others (who have not been aborted) might live. Growing spare parts for those who can afford them and who have been allowed to live. Sure thing Mr Obama. And finally his piece de résistance “America is a friend of each nation and every man woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity”

America a friend of the pre born? Its president recognises dignity of the human in utero child? What codswallop!!!

OH!!! and this pearler from his smooth lips “those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents” And pray, Mr President what is legalised killing, by the millions, of innocent in utero infants called if not “terror” “slaughter” and “holocaust” of innocents?

Mr President you speak with a tongue so forked it’s twisted in on itself.

As I sat watching the inauguration and the walk by the new president and his wife, along Pennsylvania Avenue towards the White House, a

commentator made mention that approximately 2,000,000 Americans came out to witness their new leader being sworn in at the Washington Memorial. And with the cameras panning over the sea of humanity, indeed it was an incredible sight. But more than that I found the figure of 2,000,000 quite interesting, for that is the approximate figure touted of abortions carried out in America every year.

Imagine!!! it became possible to see what approximately 2,000,000 individuals look like . That is the amount of human beings killed intentionally (abortion) in America every year.

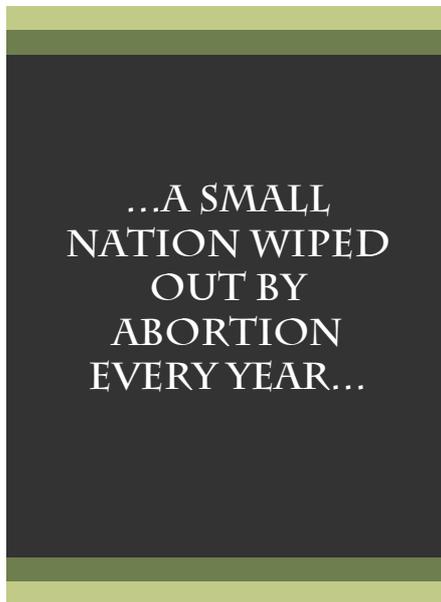
A small nation wiped out by abortion every year. Does this bring to mind a memory of words spoken in 1917 about annihilation of nations? I wonder...

His new open slather funding for abortion services will ensure that that sea of humanity we saw cheering him on, as

he was being hailed into office, is killed in the coming year. And he has the audacity to speak about those who induce terror? Sure we believe you Mr President!!!

Dear friends if I sound utterly despondent over this man’s election as leader of the Western world, it’s because I am. I don’t believe we have much to rejoice in with him as president. I don’t believe that in utero children have much to be confident with him as president. I don’t believe that the next few years will be easy for pro lifers.

I’m sorry I don’t know what to suggest except we need to get on our knees more and plead with Almighty God to somehow effect a change of heart in the illustrious Mr Obama because apart from that I believe we have a few difficult years coming.



Abortion After - effects

Abortion after-effects will always be treated in heated manner.

Abortion itself will always be a topic of furious debate amongst those who believe that abortion is a hard won “right” and those who believe that all life is sacred. This we need to accept. We do not need to like it but we have to accept it. We also need to accept that there will always be studies which lean

either towards the side of pro lifers or anti lifers. And wisdom is what is needed when we read the so called “expert” studies.

Two months ago, (December) the British Journal of Psychiatry published the findings of a study where it was found that women who had an abortion are at higher risk of developing mental health problems.

The researchers found that women who had had an abortion suffered from mental health problems at rate of 30% higher than those who have not had abortion.

However, what seems incongruent is that the study concluded that the negative effects of abortion were only responsible for mild (moderate) effects on the mental health of the woman and did not support the conclusion that abortion has “devastating” effect on women and their mental health. Though it did reject the idea that abortion is

without any negative effects.

These colourless words come in the wake of an earlier American Psychological Association's (APA) statement that it found no credible evidence that abortion causes mental health problems. Though Brenda Major of the APA acknowledged that evidence of mental health problems associated with multiple abortions is "more uncertain."

The task force which carried out this latest New Zealand study did find that some women who have abortions experience feelings of sadness, grief and loss, and "some may even suffer depression." But at the same time, it said, there was no evidence that this sadness, weeping, grief, loss, depression was caused by the abortion itself.

For goodness sake where does this ivory tower "task force" think that the weeping sadness, depression, grief, sense of loss come from if not from the abortion? What is the problem with these so called researchers?

Whilst we know that the jury is still out on the existence of post abortion grief and trauma (they don't see the people I see everyday) there is a begrudging consensus amongst researchers and medical science field that somewhere between 10-30% of women who have abortions suffer from serious and prolonged psychological sequelae.

Indeed whilst the American Psychological Association does not accept post abortion trauma, it is at odds with a report put out by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in March 2008 who were very clear and explicit about abortion and its inherent risks.

The Royal College of Psychiatrist went further and suggested information on abortion should include the risks inherent in this procedure, including possibility of depression otherwise informed consent cannot be given without all information given to the patient.

I am happy that the Royal College of Psychiatrists believes that updated information on abortion matters should include possible after-effects, because this actually means that they acknowledge the existence of the after-effects. This is good. However, you my dear readers, especially those who have been with me over many years of the newsletter, know what I already think about the issue of "informed consent" especially when it concerns the abortion. I don't believe that true informed consent is possible when it comes to the abortion issue, because the woman/girl seeking an abortion is generally in such a distressed, tense, at times fearful, frame of mind that she is not "hearing" about the possibility of depression, long term negative effects, the possibility of breast cancer, etc. Whatever the reason why she is seeking the abortion that is her main focus, with a belief that once this pregnancy (or problem) is over with all her fears, problems will be solved. So to be regaled with a litany of

possible difficulties and after effects sometime in the future will go straight over the woman's head and into the stratosphere. She cannot hear what might happen in the future, she can only know and hear (its either me or it-husband/boyfriend or too many children we can't afford it. or you have been promoted to such and such and it will mean a marked increase in salary) what is being said right now. What might happen in the future e.g. grief, sorrow, regret, loss of peace; etc is also is too distant to be a worry. This is what abortion decisions are made on. The experiences and feelings of NOW and not later.

This is why I always say abortion decisions are situation specific and the decisions are made in haste. The abortion industry knows this and works with this to their advantage. Because if and when there is pre abortion counselling, and this isn't always, what is stressed are the difficulties of NOW and the freedom from these difficulties immediately following the abortion. Those difficulties that can be seen, heard, felt NOW and not those which may or may not come at sometime in the future.

This is why the immediate feeling after the abortion is one of "relief" and it's a comment I have heard thousands of times, that the first thing felt after the abortion was relief. This of course makes sense. All the foreseen problems gone. The boyfriend/husband doesn't leave, at least not now but maybe in several weeks or months. Her parents wont "kill me or throw me out of the house" not now but maybe in several weeks (as happened with one of my girls) The promotion does happen but at a cost of working hours and loss of friendships not counting loss of son or daughter.

And importantly, what is not foreseen is the pervasive feeling of sadness, of being teary, of sense of loss, of no joy in life, of sadness when near baby, of loss of desire for happiness, of possible hallucinations, of hearing the cry of babies and being reminded of your own dead baby.

And of course in due time the development of full blown depression.

Dear friends only a week ago I had the experience of speaking with a young woman who I was asked to talk to because she was pregnant and had 4 times booked for an abortion and three of those times she cancelled and went home, and the fourth appointment was due in 3 days. I was asked by another counsellor to speak with this lady because she obviously didn't want to have the abortion (she cancelled three appointments). The woman was married happily, financial, and pregnant 9 weeks. I spoke at length with her and I believe she didn't really want the abortion but was offered a job which she has to start in weeks and its a job she wanted, but also I believe she has a natural aversion to the idea of abortion. I also believe she is afraid to be pregnant and alone in Australia as all her family live o/seas and she is here alone with her husband. They are

career people and are quite financial. So I believe that the reason for her decision to abort is fear of something or even her husband's non commitment response "I will support you whatever you decide"

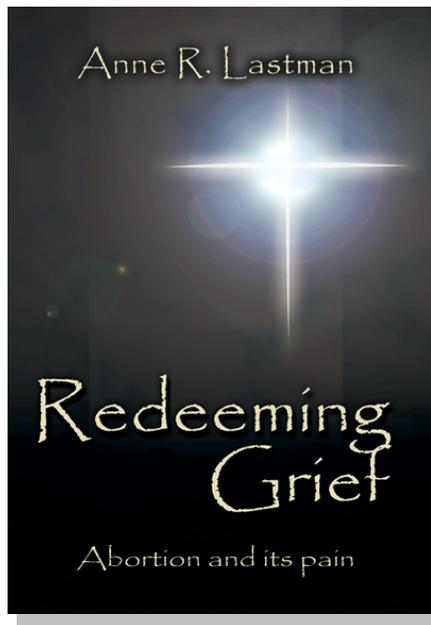
I had asked her to cancel her appoint for Monday afternoon's abortion procedure and had made an appoint for her to see me in my office on Tuesday morning 11.30am. To this she agreed however on the day I waited outside my office door (in searing heat) for about an hour, but she did not arrive. And she has not contacted me since. I could not contact her as she refused to give me her phone number, so my suspicion is that she went through with the abortion.

Perhaps we could pray for her but I think it's too late to save the baby. Thank you to those people I emailed or called to pray for the girl.

It was very disappointing as I had contacted others to assist this girl in any way possible to help her. I had also suspected that her husband's nonchalant response contributed to that final decision.

There are now many studies which support the idea that when a partner is supportive there is a much stronger chance that the baby will be saved. The support of partner or significant others is a buffer between the fear filled mother and the baby.

One of my girls (Heather) has told me that the reason that she had the abortion was because she was threatened (by her mother) with expulsion from the family home if she did not agree to the abortion, and as she was only 17 years of age with no money, job, or anywhere to go, she had to agree. Sadly on the way home from the procedure itself she was told by her mother (who had accompanied her to the clinic) that she had 2 weeks to find other accommodation and leave. So even though the girl had acquiesced she still was thrown out of the family home and environment. This is similar to the situation where a



Redeeming Grief is a reflection of 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 1000 personal stories and listening to the expressions used by the women as they spoke 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. 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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boyfriend says, “either it goes or I do” and even though the “it” goes, the boyfriend usually follows at the first opportune moment.

That women are pressured to abort, this is a known. The pressures come from intimate partner/spouse or family or career. However, I would suggest that the pressure to abort begins long before the conception occurs. The pressure to abort begins with the younger and younger sexualization of children. It is this premature sexualization which leads to younger and younger girls becoming involved in sexual activity resulting in abortions. It leads to activities which young men and young women are not yet ready for and their subsequent consequence which accompanies that behaviour.

As I have said in past newsletter, 13,14,15,16, year olds have no business being sexually active. At times even 11 and 12 year olds. These are important developmental years and should be devoted to development of skills, talents, emotions, spirituality, and growth rather than development of sexual skills. 12, 13, 14 year olds should not be living the fear of pregnancy; they should be living the life suitable for that age.

It concerns me deeply that younger and younger females are experimenting with sexuality and younger and younger girls are having abortions.

Its concerning especially as we are beginning to see clearly that there is a link between youthful abortion and breast cancer. We are seeing younger and younger women die of cancers associated with reproductive areas and still abortion is not taken seriously as a possible (though not only) cause.

We also know that there are certain types of women most at risk of suffering abortion after effects and foremost of these are the very young because their youthfulness is still in an idealistic stage of development and cannot comprehend the “killing of my baby” (14 yr old Sarah). These younger and younger girls then have to journey through their life carrying the abortion experience with them. An experience which contributes to the formation of their psychological and spiritual makeup.

In a school setting we would not teach a grade one student, grade 7 material because we understand that the developmental stage of a first grader is different than the development of a 7th grader. If we attempted to do this we would cause a violation and much psychological damage to the young child. Yet sexual activity, an activity of the supposed mature is being engaged in by the very young with what we now know as disastrous consequences.

“Not the Right Time”

The results of another survey were published recently and the findings clearly showed something which was not surprising to me because I hear the comment “it was not the right time” to have a baby. Indeed I heard that comment last week when I spoke to that young lady whom I offered to meet at my office and she didn’t turn up.

Amongst the reasons offered was one where she was offered the job she was qualified to do and wanted to do and “now was not the right time to be pregnant and have a baby” (notice she used baby-so she knows what she is doing)

As I said to that young woman (over the phone) that she needs to consider that if she aborts because of a career development, then any progress or development she makes in that career it is always underpinned by the death of her son or her daughter.

Perhaps at this moment in time she has to been ready to hear my words that the job is not worth the life of her baby especially as there were no financial difficulties in the family, but at a time in the future (if she has had the abortion) the memory of her decision will come back to play with her mind and her sense of herself and her sense of being or not being “mother”

The results of this new survey do not surprise me and it is as I have seen over nearly 14 years. I have seen and heard the language of desensitisation. Today it is easy to say words “I know that abortion means termination of pregnancy” and when challenged further on this (as I have done several weeks ago) to clarify what termination of pregnancy means the answer given is without hesitation “it’s the killing of the baby in the womb” (this said by a young man I was debating over the rights to an abortion). No sense of anything wrong. That killing a baby in the womb is wrong. I asked him if he was waking down the street and saw a young mother beating her baby to death would he walk by and do nothing. He looked at me horrified and I told him that that is what is being done. We know that babies are dying by thousands daily and we do nothing.

Again as I have said many times in the past this has happened because our language has been highjacked by the abortion industry and used in such a way as to slowly mask the reality of what is being done. Killing a small baby.

What tragic times we live in.

...PROGRESS IN HER CAREER IS ALWAYS UNDERPINNED BY
THE DEATH OF HER SON OR DAUGHTER...

Letters

Dear Anne

I have many times tried to write to you and thank you for sending me the newsletter over many many years. At least I think I have the courage to do so. Thank you for the work that you are doing. Thank you for sharing this work with us and giving us an inside view of the pain which is suffered by men and women who have abortions. I live in rarefied atmosphere of never having had the experience of pregnancy or even difficulties financially so that I feel I am unable to be of good to anyone. What I can do is pray for you and the women you work with. This I know I can do well. Thank you for your persistence in the face of adversity and may you be a blessing to those you minister to.

Sincerely

*Joanne G.. W.A.
Enclosed a small donation to help in this vital work.*

*Thank you Joanne for your kind words and donation.
Anne*

Dear Anne,

*Happy New Year to you and your family,
Hope you have had a good break and you did get to see your family in the west and are now refreshed and rearing to go.*

Keep up the good work

*Marian S..
Vic*

Marian not sure about the "rearing to go" bit. I miss my children and grandchildren in W.A. so much.-Anne

Dear Anne,

I came across your newsletter quite by accident and was so impressed that I immediately decided that I want to be on your permanent list. You do amazing work. Thank you for all those who don't say thank you. Anne could I please have a copy of some past issues of the newsletters, as an older woman I take a bit longer to read and digest things but I would like to read some more of what you have written. May I also have a copy of your book Redeeming Grief please? I enclose for you money for book and a small donation for postage of newsletter.

God Bless

*Ann B
Vic.*

*Thank you for your kindness, I will certainly put you on newsletter list and post you a copy of the book and some back issue of newsletter, as soon as possible
Anne*

Dear Anne,

Sorry, but I didn't like the last two issue of your newsletter so would you kindly remove me from the list. You have become too political. It's not how I understand your job to be.

*Judith M.
Melbourne.*

Done. !!!!

I don't apologise for my outspokenness. Abortion cannot remain hidden it must be spoken about and brought into the open. As does the issue of incest which is prevalent in the abortion culture. As for political, abortion has to be fought on every level including political.

New Website

Dear friends, my very clever and talented son Luke has for some time been itching to update the layout of the newsletter and set up a new website.

At last I let him have his rein and here you have the results. Hope you like both the website and the updated newsletter.

Please remember that the website is going to be a work in progress at least for the time to come.

For those of you who have access to computer and internet the website is www.victimsofabortion.com.au Your comments (nice ones of course!!) would be appreciated.

I will also shortly be moving to a new email address, anne@victimsofabortion.com.au. More on this to come.

I would also like to thank the person who nominated me for Australian of the Year Award. I didn't win but I have a beautiful certificate which says Australian of the Year Awards 2009, Congratulations, Anne Lastman, on your nomination for the Australian of the Year awards 2009. "Thank you for your contribution to making Australia a better place to live in." (I am really humbled by that comment).

Thank you to my nominator. I appreciate your care.

As I come to the end of the first newsletter for 2009 it seems difficult to think that this year will be 14 years that I have been involved in this area of work. At the beginning slowly slowly and now full time.

It's a work that will probably never go away because we live in a culture which celebrates violence through all the mediums and then wonders why there is such violence. Even if abortions were to stop this very day, there would still be need for post abortion healing/counselling for the next 3 generations. Abortion wounds cross the generations

and refuse to be healed until the violence which has been committed against the woman, the child, the man has been acknowledged, atoned for and dealt with.

As we start this New Year please keep me and this work in your prayers. It really does get exhausting but as I have said in another part of this newsletter I do really love the work. To see someone healed and return to a life of peace is something really amazing. The Lord does marvellous work if we allow Him to.

Please also support \$ as you can. I don't like to ask, you know me well enough to know that I depend entirely on you dear readers. As I have said in the past, in nearly 14 years and thousands upon thousands of hours of counselling, writing, speaking about the pain of abortion, I have never once written an invoice for fee. The fee is God's business. Even the travel that I undertake is usually paid for by those who invite me or if its something that will teach me or me teach others a supporter may pay. So God does His business very well.

Also if possible support me through the buying of the book Redeeming Grief. It helps.

Please continue to pray for the girls and guys I put in here I really cannot do without your prayer support.

Julie, Payan, Cathy, Amanda T. Helen, Suzie, Heather, John, Alex. Jenny, Maria (Rome) Mel, Rula, Stephanie, AnnaMarie, Linda, Abby, Mary, Joy, Erica, Caroline, Val.



Anne Lastman

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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.