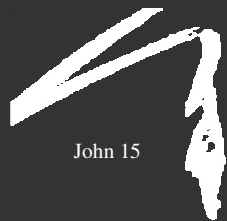


BROKEN BRANCHES

Issue 73

Dec/Jan 2010



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

Dear Friends

We have come to that time of the year when we will just slow down a little bit. Just slow down and re charge batteries and recover some of verve in order that we may continue with the fight for healing and for life.

I am always amazed when I come to write this issue of the newsletter because it means that another year has gone!!!

Dear Friends in my last issue of the newsletter I told you that I was going to Germany for a conference and indeed I did so and as usual it was better than the last one last year. I think these pro life conferences are needed especially for those of us who work in the firing line because we need to bolster one another up or we would burn out.

I was put up in beautiful hotels I did TV interviews, internet interviews and print media all on the matter of abortion, post abortion trauma and sexual abuse of children trauma and its effects.

I spoke in Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, Prague, Wigratzbad, Bratislava, Slovakia, Linz, and visited Lindau, Salzburg, and places I can't even remember and I have been invited back next year for further talks and workshops. I lunched with Auxiliary Bishop of Salzburg HE Bishop Andreas Laun, Archbishop of Luxemburg A/Bishop Francke, Archbishop of Salzburg, A/Bishop Klaus Kung, of the Diocese of Polten and Papal Nuncio, who asked me what I did and he listened with great care. I spoke about post abortion trauma and sexual abuse trauma, and I met with the senior member of the Hapsburg dynasty (The Duke). We talked about pro life matters for about 2 hours over lunch. Such a genteel gentleman.

I attended 20th anniversary celebrations of Youth for Life as a guest. I attended celebrations of Kaiser Karl I, feast day

(it's a big celebration there) and the after lunch. A Hapsburg young lady was my translator. Again so genteel it must be a European thing.

Also at the conference itself were the intrepid Fr Thomas Eutenneur, Human Life International President, Fr Bruno Meusberger (Vienna) a beautiful priest with a recognised healing ministry, I had a fabulous time with Vicki Thorn the founderess of Project Rachel. Dr Anthoni Zieber (Poland), and Director of the shrine where we had conference Fr Tomas Rimmel.

Prof Dr. Alma von Stockhausen (Gustav Siewerth Academy) gave a fantastic, beautiful, deep talk on Theology of the Body. One of those beautiful talks which require many readings. She exudes such an air of understanding it was amazing. Also caught up again with my dear friend Angelika who works post abortion trauma and grief (in Germany) using art therapy.

The conference itself was inspiring and the two meetings of pro life groups from around the world was most inspiring because we realised how much work is done by a few people to try and stop this monstrous holocaust called abortion and the encouragement necessary to keep going.

The talks which followed the conference were well received. I spoke on Abortion and the Mercy of God, The connection between sexual abuse of children and subsequent multiple abortions, another talk called In the Mourning we Remember Them.

You know dear friends, as I travelled widely my over riding thought kept being the words of Jesus found in Luke 4:24. Indeed how true these words are.

In a sad moment during my travels, after one of my talks a lady came to speak to me privately. She wanted to know how I know that I am forgiven by God for my abortions,

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because her priest told her that her sin of abortion could never be forgiven and her desolation and suffering over many years over these words was clearly visible. She would not be consoled by my words because she needed a priest or her priest to tell her she is forgiven...Only a priest would she believe.

Please dear Priest friends, please be careful what you say because it can be destroying. Hopefully I have been able to help her by directing her to a priest in Vienna who will minister to her until she is well. This child of God has been standing outside of the church perimeters because she was told she cannot be forgiven. If all I went to Germany for was this reason, I am so glad and I thank God that I could go.

Thank you to the organisers of this conference, Human Life International Austria, and especially thank you to my precious friend Dietmar Fischer and his colleagues who always help me to see the importance of my work and help me to recover and regenerate in order to continue.

Hello to beautiful Sonya.

Thank you Martin (an Australian living in Munich) for picking me up at airport and driving me to Wigratzbad a very kind and thoughtful gesture.

Day at Dachau

At the end of the conference I had the rare opportunity to visit Dachau, a WWII heinous concentration camp.

Dachau is now a beautiful village, with surroundings of Liquid Amber trees. The village is beautiful but the camp itself with its desolate feeling, the cells which scream of pain, fear, terror embedded into their walls. The cells, each with its cellmate and with a story more painful than the last.

The instruments of torture reminded me of instruments of torture in the abortion clinics around the world. The cells sparse and cold and alone reminded me of the cubicles where women wait for an abortion and after the procedure, desolate, alone, unknown dread. The walls of the cells reminded me of the walls closing in on the dying child.

What was so eerie was the fact that the surroundings

showed no visible sign of ugliness, indeed of the business which went on there. Of the violence which was carried out behind walls. Just like the abortion facility. Or better still as we should call the abortion facility, a human abattoir. Ordinary buildings, sometimes adorned and nice looking, landscaped buildings, but inside? Violence, cruelty and violent death.

Overhearing (more like eavesdropping on) an American voice of one tour leader speaking about "holocaust" of WWII and the many other holocausts which have happened around the world since WWII and that we should remember all the holocausts. I could contain myself no longer and loudly said "yes you are right there have been many holocausts since WWII which have killed many millions of innocents but you know we have an annual holocaust of 30-40 millions innocent babies killed before they see birth, so we don't have to look far for a holocaust in our day, we have holocausts in our own nations. America where you come from kills millions annually, Australia where I come from over 130 000. Germany where we are now speaking thousands upon thousands upon thousands and of course all the millions of the other nations. Yes indeed we have an ongoing holocaust of millions of innocents killed annually but few people cry for these innocents or want to visit the place of their death."

"Would you mind not interrupting my presentation please" said the speaker of the group.

"I have said what I wanted to say. Thank you" and turned to leave. My sense was that there was a stunned silence for a moment and as I was leaving I heard a feminine voice say "yes it's true we have an ongoing holocaust"

I didn't hang around longer because I didn't want to be escorted out or embarrass my friend Herfried (who was my driver and friend for 16 days-beautiful man). Thank you Herfried for that day in Dachau you helped me cope.

I had hoped to find some inner peace when visiting the Carmelite convent in the camp itself or even the non denominational Church of Reconciliation, however, nothing worked, the sense of desolation hung over me like a huge big black cloak.

As we were leaving I chose a small pebble to hold onto and to carry with me to remember not only this holocaust in this camp, but more precisely when things get hard in my work, to remember this day with its desolate feeling and keep going fighting the holocaust of the unborn. This abortion holocaust which I know is happening and I can do something about. The past one I can't do much about, but pray, because it was much before my time, so all I can do is pray for the victims and perpetrators, but this present holocaust I can do something about. This holocaust we can all do something about because we know it is happening and we have legalised its occurrence.

There will come a time in the future when that generation will be as horrified with our holocaust of the unborn as we are horrified with Hitler's holocaust of those he considered undesirable.

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Dear friends following the day in Dachau this thought came strongly into my heart. I share it with you because I think it's beautiful and relevant.

Am I my brother's keeper? Asks Cain of God (Gn 4:10)

This question remained suspended and unanswered for innumerable thousands of years until it was answered by Jesus' loud YES on the cross. "No greater love hath he that he lay down his life for his. "No greater love hath he that he lay

down his life for his friend" or perhaps even lay down his life for his littlest brother/sister.

Jesus on the Cross died in place of his brother or sister and in doing so answered the question "am I my brother's keeper"

"Yes Yes shouts Jesus. I died so my brother doesn't die" Yes, yes answered Jesus we are our brother's keeper. This is the response of love in answer to that ancient question of anti love.

The essence of sin is our refusal to be sons and daughters of our Father in heaven because of the demands of love and sacrifice.

Am I my brother's keeper?"

"Yes" answers Jesus and is willingly sacrificed.

Am I my brother's keeper?

Yes we respond by doing all we can to save our littlest brother or sister.

"Am I my brother's keeper?"

Yes, when we all mourn for the littlest one who is unjustly killed and its mother and father cannot mourn for it.

"Am I my brother's keeper?"

"Yes" we answer when we refuse to accept the death of our littlest infants.

"Am I my brother's keeper?"

"Yes I am my brother's keeper and his load which becomes too heavy I will help him carry"

"Am I my brother's keeper?"

"Yes I am my brother's keeper, I care that he/she dies unknown unrecognised, unloved. I care for him"

"Am I my brother's keeper?"

"Yes" I am my brother's keeper, I mourn for every child who dies unloved, unwanted, uncherished"

Am I my brother's keeper?"

"Yes" I am my brother's keeper, I bleed because he/she bleeds and dies."

"Am I my brother's keeper?"

"Yes I am my brother's keeper, his death is unjust and his voice cries out for justice and is in pain."

"Yes I am my brother's keeper I will not stand by and watch while my brother is killed and incinerated like something worthless. He is my greatest treasure. My brother's unjust death waters the ground with his/her blood. This has been done before"

"Yes I am my brother's keeper I will not stand by and watch a child be abused, ill treated, killed."

"Yes I am my brother's keeper. I am diminished when my littlest brother or sister is wantonly killed.

Yes truly I am my brother's keeper."

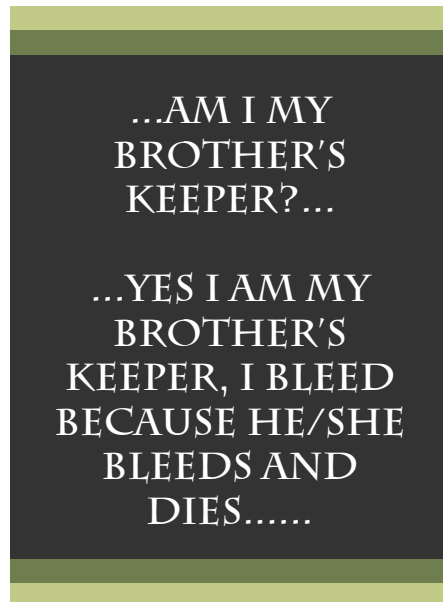
Anne....

Teen Sex Report.

In a recent (21/11/200) interesting article on the front page of one of our daily newspapers, (*Sun Herald*) it was reported that more than 3350 Victorian young women had had an abortion during the past year.

Our of this number it was revealed that 209 abortions had been performed on young girls 16 years of age and under, and of this number 2 had been 12 year olds.

What was alarming for me as I read this article was that "several abortions had been carried out without the girls"



parents' permission or knowledge.

This is really frightening. Because one needs to ask, "who knew about it and who took the child to the abortion facility?"

This report further said "that the number of young teens seeking abortions has left the staff at some clinics deeply concerned" Indeed if staff at clinics are "concerned" I am horrified on many levels, that is, subterfuge in the first place and the possible long term consequences to that girl and the very real lack of support for her because her family have not been told.

The report went on to say that abortion clinic staff "blames poor sex education at schools." This is where I part company with the thoughts of the clinic staff. That too many very young children are aborting, we agree, there should not be even one 12, 14, 15, 17 year old having abortions. But where we are at odds and part company in our thinking is that I believe that sex education in schools is part of the problem. More sexual education will mean more abortions rather than less. Sex education is not a curriculum subject like Maths or English, or languages, or commerce, or even human development. Sex education is an education which belongs in the home and is a duty and responsibility of parents who created this child and not a stranger like a teacher, amongst other strangers. This education belongs at home because intimacies, and holiness and the mystery of sexuality are involved and this can only be successfully carried out at home.

Where sex is described mechanically then it is taken on board as an "instinct" just like the animals. And this is horrific because the human being has intellect, and will, and has reflective powers and all of these come to bear if and when making life decisions.

When these three dimensions are ignored then indeed the sexual instinct which is the strongest instinct becomes nothing more than a bestial act.

We need to stop this mechanization of sexuality before it destroys the human being and our society. When sexuality is mechanized the product of the act can be disposed because it is not considered a child worthy of respect and love and honour. Sexuality is tied to pro creation and as such requires to be treated with much respect and honour.

I have heard many horror stories about sex education classes and they all have similar tone, that of revulsion, embarrassment, ridicule and pointlessness of the session.

The comments have been "we didn't want to hear how condoms are used. The boys snickered and the girls were embarrassed to think about what would happen to their bodies etc" Obviously these individuals were not ready for public intimacy or discussion of such a topic.

Whilst I appreciate that the change in societal structures and

mores means that Mum usually isn't home to be vigilant and available for the child's enquiries on the matter of sexuality and then be prepared to educate the child in a dignified, normal and serene manner, so that the child understands the importance, sacredness of his/her sexuality and the integrity and honor which this aspect of life must be held in, I am horrified at the alternative sex education being offered in classrooms.

Whilst I understand that parents are "too busy" to parent properly, the reality is that this is part of the problem which really underpins the idea for the need for a school to do so. It is not the role of strangers (teachers) no matter how well meaning, to intrude into the sacred privacy of the child in order to "sex educate" This is a violation of the child's privacy and innocence and an intrusion into a space which a stranger should not enter. This is the domain of a loved one, parent, guardian.

Together with this, the culture which has developed over the past 40 years is a culture where sex sells. Where sex is openly screened on TV, movies, etc., and with no reservation for sensitivities of children.

Sexuality, that once considered holy, sacred, private domain now sells movies, cars, wine, biscuits and pet food and by being so "common" it becomes meaningless and when sexuality becomes meaningless then the product of sexuality (conception) becomes meaningless and utterly disposable. This of course leads to facilities to dispose of conceptions and legalization of abortion.

This reminds me of a recent comment, about me, made by a psychologist who is rabidly and actively pro abortion "Ms Lastman equates pregnancy with child" This lady psychologist has been able to toy with sexuality to such a degree that she has divorced sexuality and pro creation and for her this then facilitated her labour and beliefs within the abortion industry.

The article in the paper then went on to highlight the anticipation in the coming months by abortion facilities of a rush for their services, following "schoolies week", and sadly on this point I have to agree with them. "Schoolies week" is a week from Hades.

In the mix of schoolies week are teenagers with raging hormones which convert to sexual encounters, alcohol, drugs and not very responsible behavior. This in order to "celebrate" the end of their school life and entry into university life or even adult life.

This cocktail of teenagers, no supervision, drugs, alcohol is a sure recipe for abortions in the coming months and lifelong pain and regret.

The article continued that the largest increase in abortion demand was amongst 14 year olds who are

“Experimenting with sex and copying what they see on TV” And with this I wholeheartedly agree.

Seeing the amount of gratuitous sexual material on prime time television it is possible to see how influential and sadly wrong is the message that they give to the young and it is a sure way courting disaster and its following pain.

This article continued with the information that the largest number of abortions this past year were amongst the above 20 plus age range who aborted at around the 13 week gestational stage.

These are career women, the mortgage women, the first child at school and a resumption of career women, the overseas trip women, the one night encounter women, and women who did not want to be mothers...just yet.

These are some of the reasons I have heard for abortion/s and these women then grieve.

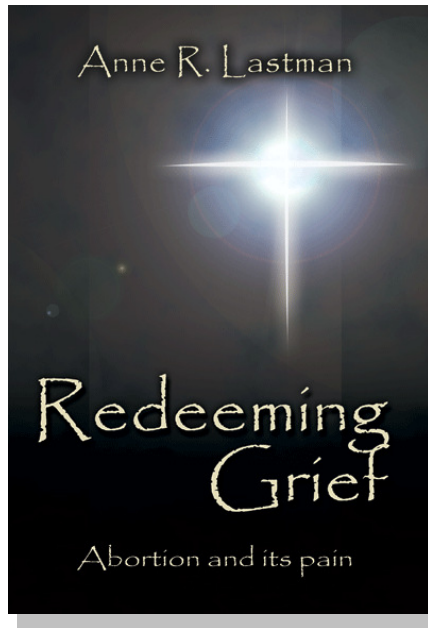
The largest amounts of abortions were carried out on the above 20's age range but 3,350 were carried out on young women less than 20 years of age.

Imagine that! 11, 12, 14 year olds having abortions before they can even vote or enter into certain venues. And further, some of these abortions were carried out without the knowledge and permission of parents.

My question would have to be “who gave the abortionist permission to carry out a surgical procedure on a minor without the permission of the minor’s parent or guardian? How is this possible?”

Who would have taken responsibility if something had gone wrong whilst the procedure was being carried out? Who would be held to account when these young women begin having nightmares? Who will be held responsible when the self abuse begins? Who will be present to the young woman when she begins to really understand what happened to her and begin to have nightmares. When she begins to “hear” her baby call out to her. Who will be responsible?

As I kept thinking about this, I thought how tragic that a young person has to be



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.

AUD\$29.95 (inc GST)

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To order your copy of Redeeming Grief, please complete this order form, detach, and send with Cash, Cheque or Money Order to:

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at least 18 years of age to vote, to drive, to enter establishments, yet making a life and death decision or having that decision made for her so that she has to live with it for the rest of her life, seems not to be considered important.

This telling article concluded with the information that the Federal Government is planning a new National Sex Education Curriculum for primary school (5-12 years) and secondary (12-18 years) schools but that the package is years away. Thank God!!! And if it's possible it won't see the light of day.

Dear friends as you can see we have much work ahead of us not only to protect the integrity of the children but to protect children from being aborted because of the sad culture of death which has developed in our time.

The Year That Was

Dear friends, a quick review of the diary for this past year has really surprised me it was as usual very busy.

Apart from the counseling, which includes one off sessions and long term sessions, and many new clients, I attended monthly pro life meetings; spoke at 2 schools as part of a pro life team. Spoke to women's groups. Prayer groups and a youth group. Travelled to various towns in country Victoria. Attended workshops and seminars for my own ongoing professional development in the area of vicarious grief, loss and trauma. This, so that I am able to understand better and help my girls much better. I delivered several well accepted workshops, travelled, interstate, (once because Mum in Perth is very ill) travelled to Germany and other places around Europe (as previously written in this newsletter).

Have written 6 more issues of the newsletter and amidst all of this found and changed my office to a much more suitable location.

This year I have noticed a marked increase in the number of women (and several males) who have approached me for counseling in matters of sexual abuse and this continues to disturb me especially as I see more and more clearly the deep link between sexual abuse of the incest or early childhood variety and following multiple abortions.

Sadly when I speak about multiple abortions I generally mean 3 and over, because 2 abortions are now becoming a norm. However more and more I am seeing women with 5,

7, 8, 9 abortions and this always means serious trauma in the early childhood developmental stage.

I have been asked "but Anne why multiple abortions because of sexual abuse?" Because dear friends the women are replaying the trauma in order to make sense of it. To bring it to the attention of someone. To try and bring light into the pain of theirs. To hope that someone will "discover" their pain especially if they have been forced into a pact of silence, with a threat attached.

The woman who aborts 5 children is not thinking that these are her children that she is aborting, but a type of self mutilation and until a sense is made of this pain in her life, then the mutilations in the many forms (including abortion) continue. She cannot recover or make sense of her own life until the violation can be processed. The violation to her as a child has remained unprocessed and that is why it continues to so tragically wound her, most times on her own volition.

Dear friends sexual abuse of children is as rampant as abortion and as deadly as abortion for, it deadens the spirit, and to reawaken the spirit is necessary in order that life be renewed. A spirit which is deadened cannot participate in its God given life with all its shadows and rays of sunshine. It lives in dark shadows for fear of discovery and shame which this discovery brings.

Counseling in this area of work requires someone not scandalized or angered by the abuse but someone who can walk into the shadows and accompany out that little wounded child and bring him/her out into the sunlight.

This takes times (long time) and a love unlike the normal kind of empathetic love, but a love in the dimension of the Cross.

Sexual abuse of children is as horrendous as abortion because it spells death to the life of that child as God had intended it to be, but with the Mercy of God all things become possible. And healing of this pain is also possible. Please pray to God for His Mercy and love to fall on those children and men and women who are hurt in this way.

Indeed if we can answer "Yes I am my brother's keeper" We need to be vigilant and protect our brother or sister who is a victim.

Dear friends as I come to the end of this newsletter, I would like to thank all of you who have supported me this past year either through finances or prayer or both.

Thank you dear friends.

...THE VIOLATION TO HER AS A CHILD REMAINED UNPROCESSED.....

Letters

Dear Anne

Your ministry continues to be absolutely awesome, resolute and God driven and even more now comprehensive! As the Lord continues to “take you out into the deep...” Allison and I overwhelmed with what you are doing!!

Thank goodness though that you have the necessary decision to ease up over the festive season to recharge the batteries.

God bless

Errol and Allison.

Thanks Errol and Allison...hugs Anne

Dear Anne,

I am Claudia living in Vienna.

It is very close to my heart to write this email to you.

So, how does it happen that I’m writing to you?

I survived 30 years of sexual abuse and have been raped heaps of times.

And because of this I have been pregnant several times and have had a number of abortions.

I have had forgotten about all the details (or rather pushed it to the very back of my mind) and it is still very vague to me.

I’m not sure about the numbers of my pregnancies and abortions or abortive births.

Maybe you can imagine what that means to me and how I have been suffering.

(Moreover, as a psychologist I understand the symptoms of PTSD and PAS quite well.)

However, about 3 or 4 months ago, accidentally I came into contact with (name deleted).....

We started talking about my story, and she invited me to bring it before God.

I started on that journey.

You know, I have been in psychotherapy, out-patient as well as in-patient, for 10 years now. But during all that time I never spoke about or faced those wounds by abortion; I even did not face the fact that I ever have been pregnant.

Now I hope that God will heal me, and I have already experienced a lot of His Mercy since I have been in contact with (name deleted).

Until now, I became reconciled with three of my aborted children, Mareike, Elisa and my son Moritz, (yet, it is still unclear to me, how many else there are...)

But it makes me very happy to know the three little ones

and to know they are with God and I can talk to them and once I will meet them and enfold them in my arms.

So, some weeks ago, I asked whether I might be of help in some way for God and in the congress.

And then, (name deleted) came to me and asked me whether I would like and would emotionally be able to translate two lectures from the Congress in Wigratzbad. I am glad that she did! I felt honored about her thinking me being able to do that.

Yet, the translations were very hard for me. Not the language, but the content.

By translating, I experienced a lot of pain. But I felt that it is a healing pain, that I have to know about the things you talk about and that the translation into a meaningful German formulation would be the very best way to really understand what you mean.

I know, God has been guiding me through that work, He has been protecting me from too much suffering, He has helped me to bear the pain.

Yes, my suffering with this has been transformed into an unqualified blessing.

And it still goes on.

So, I wanted to tell you what God has done to me through you, even though I have not listened to you in person but translating your words.

I am deeply grateful, first to God and, second to you for being His “instrument”!

Of course, I am very afraid of all the grief I will have to face, but I have been surviving so much.

I am not asking WHY I did have to suffer all that violence, I am asking WHEREFORE I am a survivor and in what way it may be useful experiences.

Remember the “old violin”. I yearn for healing and for being an instrument in the Master’s hand.

Thank you so much!

I send all my blessings to you!

With best wishes

Claudia

Thank you beautiful Claudia and May the Lord Bless you and heal you and keep you nestled in His beautiful hand. I am so glad I came for the conference especially for you. Indeed you are a truly angelic being.

Anne

A special thank you to Fr Raymond, Paul B and family. Thank you to anonymous donors. Thank you to those whom I had reason to ring for help and they responded to the need. Thank you Paul B, for the influx of \$ so I could move office. Thank you to several of my friends and family and volunteers who have helped with newsletter labeling, stamping, folding and inserting, for the past year.

Thank you to those who continued to support the sale of my Book *Redeeming Grief* (especially thank you to Michael & Rose O'Doherty UK for your care and help. I still would encourage those who have not got a copy to do so, I have received many encouraging words over the content and it delights me that those who have read it have made the comment "loved it" As I said in past issues of the newsletter I have not marketed the book and my husband still thinks that it is a best seller if ever it sees the light of day. That's the confidence of husbands isn't it!!!

Thank you again to my prayer warriors especially those who keep me and the work and my clients covered in prayer. This is important because of the attacks (as you read in a previous particle in this newsletter) which come my way.

As you know dear friends I depend entirely on your generosity so if at all possible please help so that I can continue this very important work.

My desire is to take the message of abortion and its pain and sexual abuse and its pain to the ends of the earth but without your support I cannot do this. This via the means of newsletter, book, talks, workshops etc. And of course the counseling which is the healing of such pain.

I plan to take 3-4 weeks completely off (I say this every year and it never happens) but this year just stay at home and not travel. Just stay home and visit my garden and see how many weeds have become trees for lack of time!!

Please continue to pray all my people Janelle, Robyn, Victoria, Anna, Kirsten, Heather, Juliette, John, Sue, Jenny, Maria, Josie, Gloria, Gabby, Sophie, Paul, Antoine, Nicholas, Gayle, Maddie, Paula, Erica, Teresa, Helene, Lillian Tina, Diane, Rebecca. Please pray for my Mum who is very ill, her name is Angela. Thank you

Change of Email

Finally, a quick note to advise that my email address is changing to anne@victimsofabortion.com.au, in line with my website. Please update this in your address books!!!

Happy Christmas dear friends and a very Happy New Year

Till we meet again in 2010.



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