Dedicated to the loving memory of Fr Andrew Fennessy OCSO. RIP.

A precious friend and supporter.

Conference:

Since last issue of the newsletter, I had the privilege of attending a conference in Brisbane for the Psychotherapists and counsellors association of Qld. It was a really good conference with marvellous workshops on various themes which would satisfy the needs of attendees including supervision (for supervisors) management and enhancement of private practice for those who wanted to learn how to improve their practice and the one I attended as workshop was Trauma. I also attend workshops on trauma, loss and grief to see and hear what is new in the field and to hear other exponents and their experiences. Doug Burke who delivered the full day workshop on Trauma was really excellent and I learned some new things. However, I did realise that I am slowly catching up with the "experts" in this particular field of grief (trauma) and this pleased me enormously not because of "pride" but because it tells me that what I know and what I do with my clients is the right thing. I enjoyed very much being in this workshop and also being able to contribute much in the interactive part of the workshop.

I also delivered a 90 minute paper on post abortion grief "A New Grief in Our Day" which while not well attended (which I suspected would happen at a secular conference) those who attended were really happy that they had sat through it and I believe they learned much.

One interesting comment from another of the speakers who also attended my talk was that there is no reference to abortion in youth suicide literature. He was amazed when I pointed out the Priscilla Coleman latest findings on abortion and suicide and abortion and mental health issues of women.

Further, Richard said that he was researching to do a project on suicide and would definitely look into the abortion link with suicide. So that was good. Another of the speakers also sat in on my talk and was also surprised at the post abortion after effects and said that he would look into this as future inclusion into his work. So whilst I was disappointed that the staff who worked in domestic violence counselling and government paid jobs did not attend my talk to hear about the relationship between abortion and violence, overall I made three new important contacts in the area of conflict, trauma and grief, including one possible pro life politician whom I met and talked with whilst at the same venue.

Mind you I did notice the difference between conferences where "life" is a priority and "holy" and to be "honoured" and a conference where "choice" is the belief. Huge huge difference and my body felt the stress of the difference.

I WILL SUPPORT YOU:

OH! To have just one dollar for every time that I have heard the comment "whatever you choose to do I will support you." I would never have to ask for support again!

These are not words of support or encouragement but words of "I don't want to be involved in this decision. It's your decision, it's your body. I don't care" And this is what causes deep wounds because the woman who has heard these words "I will support you" and believed them, is after

Name	
Address	P/C
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a time left to her own pain. Those who have offered what at the time appeared to be supportive words "whatever you choose I will support you" become tired of hearing about "my baby" and "it hurts" and "I shouldn't have done it" and slowly breakaway so that she is isolated in her world of pain.

Dear readers, below is a "note" which I asked one of my ongoing clients to write so that you can see how she feels. note the language; note the "dullness" in her tone.

Chris's précised story in her own words.

When I was 19 years old, I became pregnant to a guy I had been seeing on and off for about 4 years. Being a couple of years younger than me and fairly immature, he was not interested in supporting me and made it clear that he wanted it to be 'taken care of'. Consequently I was forced to endure the burden of dealing with this on my own.

I kept my news a secret from my parents for about a week but could no longer keep it hidden due to my emotional state. They were devastated when I told them and although my mum had initially encouraged me to continue with the pregnancy, my dad was completely against the idea and would not support me in any way. (usual either mum or dad refuse support.)

I overhead conversations between them about my situation, in which they insinuated that I had behaved as a girl who had gone bad and that I needed to 'fix the problem'. Ultimately, I was encouraged by family and the staff at the fertility control clinic to have an abortion because I had so much ahead of me and a baby at this age would virtually put the brakes on me living a fulfilling life. What has in fact transpired is that ever since the day that I had that termination, I have felt empty and withdrawn from life. (isolation)

I have always regretted my decision, or more correctly a decision that was made on my behalf by people around me who believed they knew what was best for me.

I vowed never to make the same mistake again!

I was 26 when I suffered a miscarriage: a result of what I believed to be a punishment from God for terminating my first pregnancy. My partner at the time was not keen on the idea of having a baby at that point but I was quietly relieved when I had miscarriage that I did not have to face the prospect of having to make a decision like the one I did when I was 19. Our relationship ended 8 months later; however, we were still seeing each other on and off after that. I became pregnant again with his child in October last year (replacement child) and upon hearing the news, he demanded that I terminate the pregnancy. I was determined to listen to my gut and follow through with the pregnancy despite being told that I would be entirely on my own. (Abandonment) Regretfully though, my volatile emotions during the early stages of pregnancy meant that I was once again coerced and I listened into making a decision that I would later regret.

The most recent abortion has affected me deeply as my baby would have been due to be born around this time (anniversary symptoms) and my body reminds me of all three of my losses each day. There is not one day that passes where I do not feel complete sadness and emptiness, not to mention regret.

If I could have anything in this world I would have my babies with me and I could be working in the most undesirable job, but I would be happy and fulfilled. I have a great job in a good career field, I have a wonderful family and am financially secure but I am unhappy and my heart bleeds every day with the pain of knowing that I terminated two lives of my unborn babies. My soul weeps with grief at the loss of my three babies Chelsy, Ethan and Olivia. I would do anything to have them and to hold them in my arms. It angers me that those who encouraged me to have the abortions (including may parents) had never experienced the anguish of abortion for themselves. It is ironic that anyone who seems to have an opinion of abortion has already been born!

This dear readers and friends is why I keep going and not playing golf instead. Not that I know how to play golf but I could learn couldn't I?

Stopes International Marie Leaflet!

And Marie Stopes International has this to say in their leaflet which was again dropped into my letterbox at the office. See how different the leaflet is from the actual reality of those who suffer like Chris in the previous story: Re reread Chris's last paragraph and see the lies of the abortion facility and abortion providers.

Because my office is in a medical building with many gynaecologists/obstetricians/paediatrician (on one side of me there is a gynae/obs and on the other side there is a paediatrician) so I suspect that the dropping off of leaflet was not intentional, just random, but why I speak about this is the wording of such a leaflet.

First we are told in the leaflet that its facility is opened during school holidays (imagine school holidays means children) especially as most other "specialists take leave, and they would like you to know that they are fully operational during this time and can accept your referrals with no waiting period" So the "specialist abortionists" take time out to be with children during school holidays...how interesting!

Further down describes the "pregnancy termination services which include medical (MAP etc) and surgical terminations. decision based counselling (I know the decisions the counsellors help the client make. I hear

them in the office-look back to Chris's comment about the clinic). It offers 24 hour after care. What about lifelong care when the woman can't forget. And of course all the contraception services. And all of this in convenient locations surrounding the outer city and suburbs of Melbourne.

However the clinchers for me were "clinical standards assured through the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards...Hmmmm. I remember how many women were infected with Hep C in one of their clinics. And what about the woman who died last November whilst aborting her 24 week child. "Clinical standards" right!

Further, "24 hour free call dedicated aftercare service with experienced nurses trained in pregnancy termination aftercare," so we also have "nurses trained in post abortion care" and for 24 hours! Goodness this is "caring" isn't it?

Then they continue with "over 100 years experience in providing sexual reproductive healthcare around the world!" Wow what an honour that must be! 100 years of being able to terminate the life of pre born infants. That must be some badge of some kind! I think...maybe..though I wouldn't think an honourable badge.

The pricing structure to kill the baby is also really accessible...How comforting to know that a woman cannot keep the child because it costs, but can afford to terminate because the Marie Stopes International abortion facility has an accessible pricing structure. Oh it must mean our Medicare system pays most of it and the parents pay the

Of course the staff is non judgemental. Hmmm different than what I have heard from clients. "The staff is cold and

> distant. I suppose they have to be to be doing what they do" (Sue)

> And now for the real beauty for the promotion of this work "100% surplus profits are donated to our work in developing countries to save lives" I take this to read that the profits are redirected to offshore branches and tie these profits to "reproductive health" of women in third world countries, meaning setting up abortion facilities and convincing women in these countries that aborting their children will enrich their lives and give them all the opportunities and wealth and easier lives than they are now having... saving lives but killing pre born children....Okay that must be newspeak.



Yes.. Indeed this of course leads me to think how thoughtful! They feel or maybe how gullible they think Australians are to think that really they "save lives" by offering abortion to women in developing nations.

And yet there must be something strange about us here in Australia because in the last 5 years one of the Queen's Birthday honours went Fertility control Clinic founder's wife (don't even want to remember her name) and now we award the highest civil honour in Australia to philosopher Peter Singer for "eminent service to philosophy and bioethics as a leader of public debate and communicator of ideas in the areas of global poverty, animal welfare and the human condition."

How interesting that here in Australia we know him as someone who thinks that an animal is worth more than an infant and that he actually gives legitimacy to infanticide and for this thinking he is awarded the highest award.

He is known to have said "A week-old baby is not a rational and self-aware being, and there are many non-human animals whose rationality, self-awareness, capacity to feel and so on, exceed that of a human baby a week or a month old. If, for the reasons I have given, the foetus does not have the same claim to life as a person; it appears the newborn baby does not either."

An Order of Australia should reflect what we as Australians value. Our mores,. Our ideals. The goodness and value of an individual but surely tolerance of infanticide and equating an animal (good creation that they are-but not human) as of higher value than a new born, is not, in my opinion, one of them. Have we as Australians also lost the plot when this can happen, chief abortionist and philosopher who can think like this are deserving of such a high public honour? We get the people we deserve.

I remember when Professor John Finnis the Australian born legal scholar and philosopher debated Professor Peter Singer on the moral status of the "fetus," Finnis said he considered that outside of medical contexts use of the word "fetus" is "offensive, dehumanizing, prejudicial, and manipulative". Go Professor Finnis!

Peter Singer doesn't even equate a human infant with an animal; indeed he thinks the animal's rationality exceeds that of a human infant. It has been this thinking together with media, together with change of language which eventuated in the situation we have today...loss of value of human life and loss of dignity.

The animal species are protected. The human person is destroyed. I wanted to say another word but for decency sake I thought otherwise.

As I have often said over many years now, where the pro aborts and pro choicers won, was when they changed the language into one without imagery. And like Professor Finnis said, outside of the medical field "fetus" should not have a place in our language. It should always be "baby" "infant" "child" "son" "daughter"

The Words of a grandmother:

At a recent gathering of about 50-60 people I gave a talk on abortion grief as per usual, and as I faced the people my attention was drawn to a lady who appeared to be weeping copiously the tears pouring but she was unmoving. She kept looking ahead at me and my attention kept wandering back to her. We both knew that the other was aware.

After the talk and during refreshments I unobtrusively sought her out and by this time she was composed, face dried and no tears.

I asked her if she was OK and could I help. "No Anne thank you, as you spoke and mentioned grandmothers I

remembered that I forced my 16 year old daughter to have an abortion because it would have brought shame on the family but from the time that she could she has left us and has little contact with us and I miss her so much. She has other children but we can't see them. The last time I saw her she looked at me with such hatred. But we thought we were doing the right thing for her.

Her father and I thought she was too young to have a baby and she had her whole future ahead of her but we didn't think about how it might have affected her.

As I listened to you tonight I understand and I regret it so much. We not only lost a grandchild to death at our insistence, we lost grandchildren whom we don't see and our daughter and her husband. We lost much because of our bad decision. Abortion."

Abortion affects all family, parents of the child, family, grandparents, unties, uncles, cousins, and society who is diminished because of its loss of a human whose potential will never be known and generations the children will bring will never be known. Whose partner in marriage will never be known. There is a litany of losses.

Bullying

Recently there was a letter to the editor in one of our daily newspaper which moved me to tears and I could almost hear the pain and frustration of the writer, a young person and her call for new laws to stop bullying and causing death to her young colleagues and friends.

However, I don't think that new laws are the answer. What I suggest, is a deeper look into why this behaviour has intensified over the past 20-30 years to now regularly occurring event. My suggestion to this problem is that in the mentioned years there has been a loss of "family" the strong family ties which existed and protected. There has been a loss of boundaries or teaching children about boundaries and in this teaching of boundaries right and wrong from an early age.

Further, what fuels bullying is the ongoing diet of supposed "reel" violence on all sorts of media outlets, eg movies, games, now Facebook, which then translates into "real" violence especially where there is some injury to a young person watching violence being portrayed. This at times leads to a sense of catharsis.

Bullying in schools has always existed. there was always the "in" group and the "non visible group" which also caused lifelong wounds to self esteem, but what we are seeing today is the visible (suicide) of what used to be the invisible (rejection by in group). Do I see a day when this will change? No because I don't see a day when parents will return to the old days when father worked and mother looked after children and oversaw their development and

strength, and knew exactly what was happening to their child on day to day basis.

The society we have today is a society where the careers, mortgage, cars, trips, are put in front of being with children to oversee their formative years. So sadly laws or no laws suicide by the young who cannot cope with bullying behaviour will increase and multiply.

LIFE DINNER

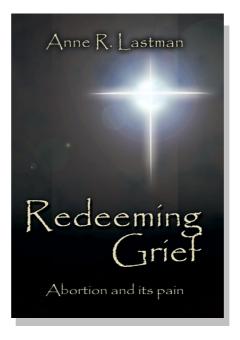
Again since the last issue of the newsletter we have had the annual "life Dinner" which was attended by a humungous lot of people. It was a riotous night especially with Canavan being his usual John entertaining auctioneer self. The meals were yum and the company especially those at my table were magnificent. Even Nicholas (remember your old teenage writer in Broken Branches?) came with his beautiful girlfriend Elysha and of course my long suffering husband Andrew, and there was Charles, Marcus, June Anne, Celina, my ever faithful Fr Dowling, and his beautiful sister Mary . Thank you for coming to share my table dear friends.

There were only 10 people at my table however we did laugh and it was good. Perhaps some more may accept the invitation from me next year and form two tables of supporters of Victims of Abortion.

Thank you to whomever it was that nominated me for the Charles Francis Award but it went to a more worthy nominee. Well done Richard.

s of this time the "Life Dinner" for 2013 is anticipated to be April 13th a bit earlier than usual because of elections and other state and federal activities which are due in 2013, so please start thinking about that date and supporting VOA and Anne.

Continuing Bonds



Redeeming Grief is a reflection of and study of abortion grief, which is experienced by some women who choose to undergo this elective procedure. 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)

Plus postage and handling

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

> Victims Of Abortion, PO Box 6094, Vermont South, Vic, 3133, Australia.

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			P/C
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Number of copies	_@	AUD	\$29.95 each
P+H (per book)		AUD	\$3.45 (within Australia)
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In the Journal article by Fraley & Shaver (1999), the crucial point was made concerning "new insights regarding continuing bonds" This study cited the work of Klass, Silverman & Nickman (1996) with bereaved children which served to contribute towards further understanding of Bowlby's Attachment theory and the grief response.

Bowlby, J. (1946). Maternal Care and Mental Health. Geneva: World Health Organization.

It's of particular interest that children who are still innocent and free of cynicism are able to facilitate (unbeknownst to themselves) an already existing theory about loss, and are able to adapt it to themselves in order to assist in the maintenance of their mental health and that is to hold onto the loved one they have lost. They can continue to love their lost one and hold onto to that person in an almost unbreakable bond.

The "continuing bonds" (with their aborted infant) which the abortive women permit themselves to maintain do not in themselves appear to cause psychological disequilibrium especially when the grief is handled well and grief is permitted, but rather can bring into play the state of what we know as "middle knowledge" or the "partial awareness of the reality of death that forms the best compromise between unpleasant truth (death) and a wished for state of events." (p. 79)

Continuing bonds with lost loved ones (in this case pre born infants) enables the relationship to be maintained, but as a memorial, in a new and different dimension. When dealing with love and loss, it is unthinkable that physical absence would diminish the attachment or the love.

Where there is deep mourning, anguished grief there is also found deep and unswerving love and this is the dimension, which does not die. Love changes its dimension but continues.

Klass, Silverman & Nickman's (1996) study opens the way for further study into attachment theory but attachment not necessarily as a place of safety and security and from which to launch into new and further fields, but attachment as a dimension of something inexplicable called "love." Love, a universal "need" which ensures that no one is ever forgotten.

To forget and move on has a dimension of "use" inscribed within it. To permanently remember and move on has a dimension of "love" and "forever" inscribed within it. To remember means that all that the deceased was is and will be has been necessary for the well-being and happiness of those left behind. The deceased, in this case infant has touched the lives of those it was meant to touch.

To view attachment only as a necessary means of security loses its most profound meaning and becomes a servile instrument only. Attachment, as love, goes into repose but cannot ever be servile. Attachment for "use" only can die because its purpose is finite.

Whilst Bowlby saw ongoing bonds with deceased loved ones as a natural flow on of the attachment theory the added dimension of "love" to this theory needs to be accepted for healing and memorial and movement forward to be accomplished. This is where good counselling, good understanding of abortion grief, and belief in the woman and her pain and her loss, renders itself valuable. Counsellors without this understanding cannot enter into this dimension and help to heal post abortive women. This type of "love" can also "heal" sexual abuse but this is another story.

Chinese Studies 2012-07-14

We in the pro life movement have been given a great gift in recent months. The gift of two studies coming out China. Two studies which also speak about the after effects of abortion. The first "The Impact of Prior Abortion on Anxiety and Depression Symptoms During Subsequent Pregnancy: Data from a Population-Based Cohort Study in published of Clinical China" in Bulletin Psychopharmacology 2012;22(1)51-58.

The authors Huang, Hao, Su, Kun Huang, Xing, Cheng, Xiao, Xu, Zhu, Tao, in their introduction stated that "abortion represents a complex biological psychological event, which is regarded as a difficult and distressing life event for a woman" (p51)They continued that women to many women an abortion "may represent the loss of a future child, of motherhood, and part of self, and it may engender doubts regarding the ability to procreate" (p51) Indeed these researchers suggest that "parental response to loss can extend to a subsequent pregnancy" or even their ability to carry another child to full term.

In this study the authors and researchers proposed a hypothesis that there is a difference between induced abortion and spontaneous abortion (miscarriage my words) in terms of impact on pregnancy women's mental *health*" the aim of this research was to compare symptoms of depression and anxiety during the following pregnancy after spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) and that of induced abortion, and the time since the loss was also

Petters

Dear Anne

Once again a lovely Issue for us all to read and meditate

I was particularly interested upon your touching on the issue of suicide!

As someone who comes across these issues and have to deal with them perhaps some points that I have got to know in dealing with the families of these:

- drugs are an issue in many cases.
- depression is the main theme. (Some were on steroids for 'bulking up' too, which can bring on depression, and then the slippery slope begins!).
- a sad common denominator is that many of those suffering from depression did not/would not seek help or talk about it. They tried to 'battle it alone'. Then the 'explosion' would hit!
- fractured family life was another reason in the mix.

It's all very sad, as the vast majority have been in their late teens/twenties.

Of course, no God in their lives has not helped either, yet that didn't even apply in a very small number of cases. God Bless

Errol & Alison xx

Thank you Errol and Alison for ongoing care...Anne

Just after speaking with you Max picked up your latest issue of newsletter from mailbox. We both thank you for the incredible work you do and we pray for peace and healing in body and mind and spirit if all whose lives you touch and have touched. We also ask God's special blessings so that you may continue to be sustained and energised especially through the love and support of others.

It is always heartening to read expressions of gratitude dear Anne to you in the letters page.

With all our sincere love and appreciation

Cathie and Max

Thank you dear friends am still playing Romanza. Love you. Anne

Dear Anne,

A donation to help you.

I pray that the Holy Spirit continues to direct your ways; continues to bless the people you minister to; continues to support you in all the material, financial, spiritual and practical ways you need; continues to cover you with the Precious Blood of Jesus to protect you; continues to carry you lest you should fall; and continues to motivate, inspire, heal and love you, for He also does these thing for us.....through

Yours in Christ.....Sandra.

Thank you dear Sandra I have to admit to tears when I read your letter as a prayer.

Dear Anne.

Having received Broken Branches for a number of years now, I would like to go on receiving it. (some personal info) I have now moved to the new address as shown.

You are always in my prayers and I thank God for you and all you do for all the mothers and the babies. Please accept this small donation I send to you and I hope it will help with some of the expenses.

May God Bless you Anne

Love

Mary T. (NSW)

Dear Mary I am deeply moved by your thoughtfulness Especially in your time of r suffering. Anne

Dearest Anne,

Enclosed please find a cheque towards the work that you do. Recently I had the pleasure of meeting you face to face and now I can put a face to Broken Branches,

It has always been one of my wishes to meet you and now I have and I admire you even more. I think of you often and pray for you and that God might give you strength to continue.

May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly. I big hug and kisses. With love

Frances.....

I have received your book Redeeming Grief and it's amazing! And an eye opener!

Thank you dear Frances and I am glad to have met you and yes I remember you and am also glad you liked the book, I like it too and hope to do more with it. And I also give you big hugs....Anne.

Dear Anne R.

As my beautiful old mum (RIP) would say "I have a bone to pick with you." You, Anne, didn't tell me that "A Time to Recover" is THAT GOOD.

Just in the last few days I've been reading it, for the first time, and I'm finding it an eye-opener and so revealing. Thank you for a remarkable opus.

One only personal observation, a counsellor in this world would need quite a faith.

Keep up the good work Anne. I've re-started to love you again!

Fr Paul

Restarted!!! These fickle people! Can't be assured of anything anything anymore! Can I?. (sigh)

Didn't know he'd even stopped. OH dear!

Glad you liked it Father am hoping to expand on it, and you should know I only write good stuff.

included as a variable. Of the 6887 pregnant women in the study 3264 or 47% had experienced an induced abortion whilst only 8.3% spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) and other variables were taken into account.

The findings of these researchers were that women, following peri natal loss especially through abortion, showed higher levels of anxiety. They found that "the impact of previous peri natal loss was moderately correlated with depressive symptoms" (52) which in turn found that raised levels of depressive and anxiety symptoms were found to be harmful to obstetric outcomes (obstetric complications, pregnancy symptoms, preterm labour, and pain relief in labour) and further had implication for foetal and neo natal wellbeing." (p52)

"Abortion poses serious mental health risks for women which further increases the risk of obstetric complications, pregnancy symptoms and adverse pregnancy outcomes"

The authors of this research state that "the period leading to decision to abort can be distressing (Anticipatory Grief" the process of deciding can be difficult and the reasons for electing to have the abortion can affect the psychological responses AFTER the event (56)

The authors continue that their findings were that women with history of induced abortions elicited poorer mental health outcomes than those with a history of spontaneous (miscarriage) abortions. And further "women with a history of induced abortions were more anxious and depressed than women with a history of spontaneous abortions (miscarriages)

Further, "long term, women who had induced abortion reported significantly more avoidance of thoughts, feelings, related to the event than women who had spontaneous abortions" (all signs of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) (p56.)

There is also a second study from China but I will hold that over to next newsletter because it's important. These studies coming out of China with its one child policy can give us some hope that they can see that their policy which was meant to be only temporary has created for them a wounded and unbalanced society. Please God we can begin to see something new from them. Remember God always makes lemonade from lemons.

As I come to end of this newsletter I want to say thank you to those who responded to my call for help \$\$\$ however....

Thank you also to the person who sent me the beautiful bracelet through the mail. There was no name or address so I cannot thank you personally, but I love it. Though my son's girlfriend Elysha has kept taking sneaky looks at it and keeps trying it on so I need to guard it or give it to her. Not sure which! Probably give it to her because she is lovely.

Please keep praying for me I need prayers at this time and those in my care Heather, Marlene, Sarah, Cathy, Debbie, Alyce, Jodie, Carolyn, Terrie, Greg, Alex, Sue, Cathleen, Phil, Josephine, Mary, Lisa, Mary (2) Michelle, Anna, Christine, Sam (new).

Please help with millions of prayers am trying to hold on to one marriage and baby, and another "replacement" baby please pray for their mothers and fathers please pray for me and for them Also for "Sam" sexual abuse as a child now adult with inappropriate behaviour.

Till we meet again..God Bless

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.