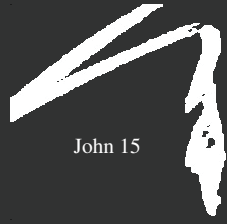


# BROKEN BRANCHES

Issue 91

Feb/Mar 2013



John 15

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

## Dedicated to the loving memory of Creos Roman. RIP. My Dear Friend.

Dear friends let us join together and hope that this coming year will bring with it good news in the pro life world. Let's hope that we experience a renewal of hope that all is not spiralling downhill but that we can begin to see signs of hope. At least some signs that sense will prevail and we see humanity more in tune with how we are meant to be and not the humanity developing towards its own downfall.

Because I was not able to travel to Perth (health) as I had hoped I had some quiet down time, shopping (you know every woman's dream), using the beautiful Gift cards I received for Christmas from my sons and their spouses and spoiling myself. I think after the year 2012, I deserved it!

I also had time to think, without the interruption of getting up at 4.45am every morning to be in office by 6.30 for 7.30am first appointment and then tiring out so that the brain's need was to sleep, about the second book (as yet untitled) on sexual abuse of children and the aftermath and after-effects of such abuse. I am happy to say that it is coming along well. The next thing will be to find publisher to publish this, especially as it is not a “nice topic.”

It's not a book about sexual abuse by clergy; the media is running that into the ground and making the most of the topic, but a book about sexual abuse where the child lives. At home. No one wants to hear about this.

Over 16 years of post abortion grief counselling I have encountered many whose journey to the abortion clinic began not at time of pregnancy by many years earlier with sexual abuse which then caused trauma and vulnerability and blueprint for all other self destructive acts to occur.

It seems an interesting situation that the Lord seems to be sending me lots of clients not only with abortion and multiple abortions at that, but underpinning their entire self concept, self wounds, abortions, lacerations, is found incest, or sexual abuse as a child.

Confusion, absence of trust, boundary absence, lack of self respect, lack of desire for well being, loss of desire for life, bad decision making, relationship difficulties, multiple relationships, total loss of respect for their own sexuality, all underpinned by abuse.

As a result of the many sessions which involved this issue I have begun to look deeper into its effects and try and work out what exactly it is and why it damages so deeply and so grotesquely. I understand that sexual abuse of children is not considered a “pro life issue” or a “post abortion” issue but in fact it's both. It's both because it sets the groundwork for abortion decisions to be made easily and in multiples as a different type of laceration, and post abortion grief tied together with sexual abuse grief creates a psychology deeply wounded and a spirituality and desire for God totally absent or warped.

Sexual abuse *is a “pro life” issue* because it brings with it a death. Not a physical death, but death of innocence. Death of childhood. Death of trust. Death of ordered sequential learning leading to a balanced adulthood as it was designed to be without distorted alien, information. Loss of knowledge of “who I am.” Sexual abuse wounds as deeply as abortion and more and more of this is coming to the surface.

I recently looked up some Australian Government Statistics on this issue and the reading made for horror R rated reading. And I became enraged because the media has in its tunnel visioned sights only religions and especially the Catholic Church as the main perpetrators of this violence against children, and yet here are some figures (Australia) almost 1 million women have reported being sexually abused before the age of 15 and more than 90% knew their

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perpetrator. (ABS 2006a.) 337,500 males reported being sexually abused before the age of 15 and 80% of them knew their perpetrator. 67% reported being abused before the age of 11 years. Main perpetrators being fathers, step fathers, male members of family and occasionally female member. Other perpetrators were figures of authority including sports coaches, guardians, teachers, foster parents, and mentioned amongst these clergy. It's a very current and interesting data. This information can be found at the link below: It is of enormous interest especially as I think there is an injustice in the commentary of abuse of children and particularly as media focus is to attack the Catholic Church alone.

The sexual abuse of children is a heinous crime but it is a heinous crime no matter who the perpetrator is. I have been saying this now for as many years as I have been writing newsletters, (16 years) public speaking, and counselling. The recently announced Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse is long overdue but it must take into account, in its terms of reference, all aspects of this abuse and not make its focus religion or "institutions". But sadly the terms of reference, as I expected, are limited to "institutions." How convenient! Also who makes up members of "institutions?" except previously wounded individuals? Where were they themselves wounded? Buildings and desks and sport fields do not sexually abuse but members there in do, and why did these members abuse? "Why?" is the most important word otherwise nothing will change.

I personally have question marks in my mind about the Royal Commission's eventual outcome because the biggest need is to understand "why?" sexual abuse of children happens and unless there is some sort of answer to this question no amount of pontificating or "Inquiring" will lead to a reduction of this type of abuse.

For the most part this type of abuse of children goes unreported (unless it is priestly of course), because the victims are dependent and are not psychologically able to, or fearful of abandonment. Even fearful of not being believed, and by the time recognition of this abuse, it has gone on for years. Or has ceased many years earlier but the cementing of the trauma has set, which then is discovered when someone seeks help for mental health issues. This commission, to show some modicum of fairness and

ultimately success, and not be considered a knee jerk reaction to politically loud voices needs to look at or examine studies, and hear voices of all different childhood victims of sexual abuse and not a select category.

In this twenty-first century where nothing seems to be taboo anymore, there is "muteness" on this issue and a sense that it is a topic which should remain hidden from prying eyes, unless it makes front page headlines because it is a story relating to Catholic Church. In this twenty-first century, a highly sexualised era, when pornography is readily available on all forms media, on internet, in movies, in commercialisation, we need to protect children from this horror but the protection must be for all children abused in this manner.

Over the Christmas break I have had a meeting with a middle aged woman who I met at a social function and later she asked to come and see me. I had a sense that all was not as it should have been. During our meeting she disclosed a history of familial abuse of her female siblings by a brother, which has divided the whole family into those who believed and those who hadn't believed that the abuse happened and of course parents caught in the middle and even denying that the abuse happened or if it did, then it has to be forgiven because it's family.

Sufficed to say the trauma has affected all the females but also the perpetrator who is denying any wrong doing. This is normal for a perpetrator to look back as an adult and maybe be ashamed, or even have repressed his behaviour, or even perhaps fear of ramifications. Sexual abuse of children is serious and needs to be taken seriously and dealt with wherever it is found not just "institutions."

A child's psychosexual/psychosocial and psychological development is sequential and being forced to endure untoward behaviour and information and then to try and process this behaviour, at times under threat, ensures that the child's future will be fragmented and pain filled. This is what needs to be kept in mind when this Royal Commission's terms of reference are considered. The greatest need of this Royal Commission must be to find an answer to the "why" this abuse happens in order to put in place mechanisms to protect the vulnerable.

Please read this link below it is important information.  
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/sheets/rs5/inde>

## Emotionally Detached Generation.

I am a person who “ponders” a lot. Some people are “tinkerers” I am a “ponderer.” I ponder about the state of the world. Lots of ponderings about Scriptures Old and New Testaments and how they speak to us and to our lives. I ponder about politics (though not good at all in this department, I don’t like the bad behaviour of politicians-what horrible role models! And talk about lack of policies!). I ponder about the human person and the magnificent creation that it is and the intelligence with which we have been endowed. Amazing strengths, feats of courage and knowledge, and then I ponder about the crisis which faces us as human beings and what possibly got us to this stage where actively human persons are rejecting and knowingly taking other human beings to be killed, those who will make up the future. And I ponder a lot about grief and various types of grief and how to best manage this.

My ponderings take me to many places and one of the places (or thoughts) I engaged in recently was the sense that our young people seem, or perhaps are, such an emotionally detached generation. And where does this detachment come from. It can only be detachment and absence of empathy which permits the horrific acts of violence and events to occur. That is, abortion in the millions, violence against others, murder, knifings, “glassing,” the drug culture which is

very destructive and kills and is the cause of death of so many of the young. A young culture which is not future oriented but detached from future and is in a “now only” mode and terminal.

And then I started pondering some more. Western society’s idea of pregnancy and babies is that they are disposable. If permitted to live then the child when it’s born is placed in a separate room at home in a room all on its own (all with good intention having its own pretty nursery) but away from the sound of Mum’s heartbeat and Mum’s voice and noise which the infant has been used to hearing since conception. The noises surrounding him or her. The infant would sense its alone ness in its pretty nursery filled with all the silent stuffed toys and no noise.

Then from this aloneness to day-care and the various noises and voices unrecognised there, but not the one the child recognises from conception and gestation and infancy.

Then separate bedrooms, separate TVs, computers, then alone playing games with interaction only with robotic creatures. From this flow school years and peer influence, and the ups and downs of teenage years. So whose voice of authority do they listen to? There has been no stable “voice.” There have been the carers at day-care, the imaginary companions in games, peer and friends and teachers but whose voice is the constant secure echo? So who is the main voice of authority? Of security. The voice that the child knows is a voice of trust and is the voice which is part of him/her? Where has the parenting voice which said do this and do that? This is right and this is wrong.

Who taught the child empathy? Empathy is the watching and feeling for another. How has the child learned this if its cries while being left in day-care weren’t heeded because “he’ll be quiet as soon as you’re gone” or “she will settle down as soon as you are out of sight” And indeed this might have happened, but why did it happen? Because the child knew that no matter how much protest nothing would change and so learned to detach.

Who taught the child manners and correct behaviour? And being one of the many looked after by various good and well meaning minders, who taught the child in its most formative years, the notion of caring for another?

And so we look on our screens and watch news footage and see young children knifing another young person. Where is the learned control? Or punching, and kicking another. Where

is this violence coming from? There is internal rage in this behaviour. A behaviour which does not seem to be able to be controlled once it is unleashed. Who taught the child boundaries which may not be crossed because it’s wrong? Who taught the child emotion control?

I suspect abandonment to others for the care of the child and/ or bad parenting, broken parenting, and abusive parenting, and the fruit of this is the violence we watch on screens, when we see and hear of a young man king hit on New Year’s Eve and dies. Both families that of the victim and that of the “fighter and others involved” ruined and changed forever.

Where does this violence and *detachment* from having compassion for another and being able to stop so that a fight might end before disaster happens come from? What happened that detachment is so deep that one young person cannot feel for another?

...WHO TAUGHT  
THE CHILD ABOUT  
MANNERS AND  
CORRECT  
BEHAVIOUR? AND  
EMPATHY? WHAT  
ABOUT EMPATHY.  
HOW DID THE  
CHILD LEARN  
THIS...?

This violence we are seeing, this out of control behaviour is it the children's rebellion against being abandoned by their parents and deprived of their "natural childhood?"

Have we progressed to the degree that parents don't slowly release their children into the world having prepared them for adulthood but release them long before time? Long before they have learned how to be?

I am reminded of a study I read a million years ago where young, so called, "delinquents" were asked what type of parenting they would have preferred (after the researchers had explained the meaning of the words used), authoritarian, authoritative or laissez faire. The hypothesis was that the answer would be laissez-faire because this was the "loose" kind of parenting without rules, curfews, repercussions etc. To their surprise the response was "authoritative" Not authoritarian because this meant strict and bullying and violence. Not laissez faire "because my parents didn't love me enough to put boundaries and rules around me and I am as I am today"

But authoritative parenting because this type of parenting has rules and consequences but a young person feels that they can learn to negotiate and discuss with their parents and not be "hit or bullied" and in this way learn how to negotiate in life.

Laissez Faire was the least preferred. Why? Because a child feels secure when there are rules and consequences and boundaries and as growing people they slowly learn and are challenged to press a bit further these boundaries. This is how they learn the right and wrong. Through good and fair parenting and being loved by its parents.

Emotionally detached children become emotionally detached teenagers, then adults, constantly on the lookout for someone to fill that void left somewhere in their distant past. That detachment from leaving the womb and compassion in the womb to then being isolated through all its stages of development, leads to activities and behaviours which show that there is a loss and a seeking for that which has been lost even if it means behaviours violently against them and others.

## **Jan 22, 1973-Jan22 2013. 40yr Anniversary of the infamous Roe v Wade ruling USA.**

In this year 2013 we remember the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the now infamous Roe v Wade court ruling in America which declared open war on infants in the womb when it ruled that these were non – persons. That a child in the womb is a non person. Imagine the insanity of that moment which opened the door to open slather death of infants.

This decision by Justice Blackmun and 8 others was reached when they determined that as life and personhood

could not be agreed upon by the medical profession then it behoved the court to determine this and the determination was that the child in the womb is a non human and therefore does not warrant protection accorded to all other US citizens. The child in the womb was found guilty before being declared innocent instead of being innocent until proven guilty.

With is erroneous thinking and the stroke of a pen over 55 millions, Yes 55,000,000 children have perished in just the USA alone. Nearly the whole nation of UK lost legally killed babies to all gestational ages because 9 men on the Supreme Court of USA decided this fate.

Roe v Wade 1973, together with the ruling of others nations like Australia, UK, gave "women's rights" priority over life and has changed forever the face of society.

More than wars and epidemics the loss of preborn life has been in proportions never before imagined, and still to this day with all the research which clearly shows embryonic and foetal life from the moment of conception, still the preborn child is deprived of its status as human and its own "right" to life and protection of its life.

Over 55,000,000 infants in USA, unknown millions in China, because of its one child policy. Unknown millions in India, with its dowry and caste system and preferred male. Untold millions in other "civilised" nations like Australia with its own Menhennitt Ruling, Victoria, (26/5/1969) which also made abortion legal, initially to protect the life and mental health of the woman, and Victoria later followed by other states till today abortion is legal in Australia and in Victoria again as precedent, abortion to 40 weeks.

Forty years, one biblical generation and the doors of death for the preborn infant were opened wide. Today abortion is globally available and open and spoken about and demanded as a right. A right to legally terminate the life of a baby and create a society of men and women who are marked with hardness of heart. A heart which cannot hear the words that a baby in the womb is a baby, a child, a human being, their child, their baby.

Please let's pray together this whole year. Make reparation. Pray unceasing. Let's pray that the Lord will help us to bring this monstrosity to and end. That He will find a way, where we cannot.

## **Special Letter**

Hello my name is Christie and I am 19 years of age. I am writing this because Anne who has been my counsellor for 5 months has asked me to do this especially to let maybe her young readers read and hear what I am saying. I am

especially writing to tell the young readers about the dangers of falling in love, or thinking that you have fallen in love too fast and not really really thinking about the consequences, of what you think falling in love means.

When I fell “in love” with my boyfriend Daniel I thought we were in a great and beautiful relationship and I thought he was just the most amazing person there could be. I thought he would never hurt me or ask me to do things which were wrong because I thought he loved me and respected me but after a while he started asking me to do him “a little favour” which was a euphemism for sex.

For me it wasn't just a “little thing” it was a really big ask because I have been raised in a home and family where sex was related only to marriage and I knew that what he was asking of me was wrong but after weeks and weeks of pressure from him and from some of my friends who said that everybody does it, I finally gave in.

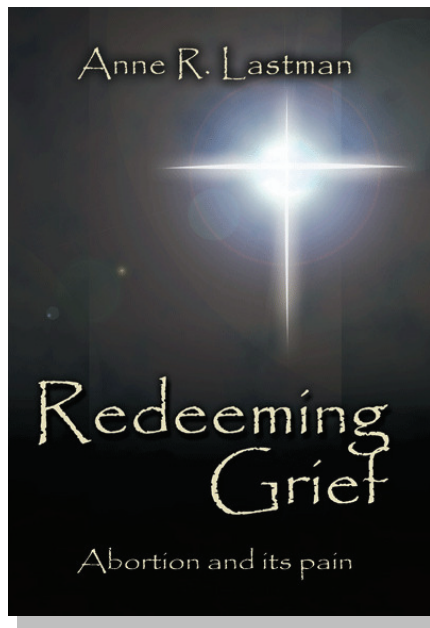
It's strange because it wasn't all it was cracked up to be and after a while the relationship changed. Before we began having sex he seemed to take care of me, was concerned for me and cared for how I felt. After I said “yes” all he thought about and talked about was “sex.”

All my friends talk about how great sex is but not what happens after, like feeling guilty, feeling ashamed worrying about pregnancy and maybe abortion, or even if my parents and family would hate me.

Because of how I felt eventually Daniel and me broke up because I knew that I couldn't keep going like that and I knew that my family would be hurt if they knew what I was doing.

The worst part of all was watching him walk away with something I held precious and something which was never his to take and no amount of tears, regret or pain and hurting me would return it back to me and would return my honesty back to me.

I felt used, abused, embarrassed and complete failure especially I felt I was 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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great disappointment to my family who love me even though I think they know what happened.

I think I felt so low and such loathing for myself that I jumped straight into another relationship with another loser. Again at first I thought this person would look after me and take care of me and not hurt me and protect me but I couldn't have been more wrong. I became obsessed with him and everything else about my life was not important. The only thing important was him and he demanded the "little favour" too and I gave in again to the favour. After all I had done it anyway. (*An oft made comment of one sexually abused...Anne*)

Today I look back (with Anne's help) and see that I sacrificed all that mattered to me, my family, good friends, and above all my dignity because he told me "we were in love" and what we were doing was normal. Eventually even this relationship failed too because he walked away from me and left me heartbroken, depressed and desperate to find things that would take away the hurt I felt inside. I really thought that this person would take away the hurt I felt inside about my first boyfriend but instead he added to my hurt himself.

After many months of feeling like (.....), I tried to fix the relationship with my family but I still feel so alone, I felt that no one understood my pain and my loss. And I was angry because I listened to my friends who said that sex was good and "if you love him you will do it" That's a lie because "doing it" left me with more pain than I had ever known because I now couldn't feel the same with my parents and family whom I love very much.

"Doing it" affected my uni studies. "Doing it" changed me and there was a time when I thought about ending it all. I even thought about cutting my wrists and ending it all.

It's been a while now since all these awful things happened to me and I still think about what "I gave away" and which I can't get back. For every one especially young person who is reading this, please don't make the same mistake I did. At the time I thought my life was perfect, the "high" is only temporary but the "low" lasts a long time and nearly destroys you. I still struggle everyday with what I did and how I compromised who I was for someone who wasn't worth it. Never compromise who you are or what you believe because eventually you will give in and I can tell you that that is not a maybe but a definite and the result is painful.

Even now I don't, won't and can't stay in relationship or even friendship because I am scared that I will be left again

and I drink far too much and hurt myself and my dignity when I drink. This I know because my friends tell me after. They don't stop me but tell me after what a fool I made of myself while drunk.

But I have also learnt that I have a few friends who have stood by me and haven't judged me and the biggest lesson I have learnt is that true love doesn't make you compromise who you are as a person and won't leave you devastated and true love doesn't ask for "little special favours"

I have been working with Anne for a few months now and slowly I am beginning to see things a little different and beginning to get some control back over my life and some self respect and to see and love my family differently but still there are times when I look at myself and wonder how I could have done what I done. I don't want to be a loser I want to be a survivor and with Anne I am working towards it. Christie.

## A Beautiful Article.

A recent article in Scientific America again shows clearly how intimate is the connection between and mother and her preborn infant even before she has any knowledge of the conception. An exchange begins between them which continue into lifetime. This article showed the biological connection between both mother and child and indeed even the child's father through the child shedding cells whilst in utero. How amazing, that mother carry cells from every child conceived for the rest of her life, so indeed it makes sense that she cannot forget the child of her womb, even...yes even the aborted one.

The child carries cells of both his/her mother and father and even in trials it has been found that a damaged mother's heart has had stem cells from her infant gather around the damage in order to begin the repair work.

We carry each other's cells for the term of life. This article found here:

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=scientists-discover-childrens-cells-living-in-mothers-brain>

I am also reminded that several years ago I read another article which also said something similar. It spoke of women undergoing permanent changes because of pregnancy and indeed "inherit" some characteristics of the baby they are carrying and some cells or characteristics of the child's father through the transmission between mother and child.

...THAT'S A LIE BECAUSE "DOING IT" LEFT ME WITH MORE PAIN...

# FOR YOUR DIARY...

Second announcement of  
**Pro Life Dinner For 2013**  
@ Moonlight Receptions  
622 Nicholson St, North Fitzroy, VIC, 3068.

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2013.**

**Cost \$80 pp. Concessions available.**

(And still a third of takings to go to each pro life group made up of supporters).

So my friends please get in early by contacting Phyllis Restall at [phyllis@family.org.au](mailto:phyllis@family.org.au) or call her on 0429 336 053, and ask to be placed at my table. Last year there were 10 at my table let's make it more. Love to see you there!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Join us in Australia in 2013 for  
the 7th World Congress of Families

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- ★ WCF7 Sydney will explore how business, government, education, law, healthcare, and the media can strengthen families.
- ★ What can I do to make family life better?

*Come to WCF VII Sydney,  
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this important conversation.*



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Further information can be found on the Conference website at [www.wcfaustralia2013.org.au](http://www.wcfaustralia2013.org.au)

Professor Salvatore Mancuso head of Gynaecology institute stated that there is proof that from the very beginning of conception an infinite number of messages pass from embryo to mother and the vice versa. This dialogue between mother and child prepares the mother's body to accept the newly created being. If this dialogue did not occur then the mother's body would have rejected the newly created being as a foreign object but for the dialogue between both of them which ensures the safety of both. Even from the very beginning of cell division when the embryo is moving in fallopian tubes there is contact with the mother and shedding of cells as it moves towards womb. After implantation in the uterus the dialogue is more intense through the blood stream and later at birth there is a transmission of cells in massive quantities. Irrespective of whether natural birth, caesarean section, miscarriage OR ABORTION.

I am thoroughly impressed with these new studies because they explain clearly why we have post abortion grief. It is not a "religious thing" as is the want of pro aborts to think and scream out, but it is in fact a biological reality. There is a connectedness between the mother and child so deeply etched that even if she rejects the "mothering" of a particular child/children it doesn't mean that the child has gone. Always there will be a memorial to its momentary presence in her life. Here I am reminded of the words of scripture when they didn't have foetology/embryology studies but still the authors knew "Can a mother forget her baby or the woman the child within her womb" (Is. 49:14-16).

The answer is NO because it is written in both of them to love each other and that is why no woman who aborts really ever forgets "that child." Maybe temporarily averts her gaze but never forgets and in the evening of life remembers.

Dear friends as I come to the end of this first of the new year's newsletters I thank you for your past support and hope that you will continue to support me and this work. I have recommenced work again, though mind you I only stopped work for 3 ½ weeks after surgery and then went back, but many cards and comments made to me suggest

that my readers thought that I had stopped work completely. No I haven't stopped, there is far too much to be done and I love the new information because it can be used for healing.

I have, an **urgent need to ask for \$\$\$ support** as the Christmas usuals didn't happen. Again I suspect it was because readers thought that I stopped working but dear friends I haven't and unless something else (health) happens I don't plan to... even for golf, (though it's tempting) but what I plan to do is give "Anne" a bit of regular "Anne time" which I haven't done for years.

**Dear Friends,**

**Thank you for your thoughtfulness and your many, many Christmas cards and little gifts.**

**I have appreciated your care for me. I completed radiotherapy the week leading to Christmas and was I glad to see the end of that. Not an experience to be shared even with one's worst enemy.**

**I have now commenced the Tamoxifen part of therapy ( 5 years tablet daily with some side effects), and hopefully it (cancer) will not emerge anywhere else.**

**Thank you again for your kindnesses. I felt too ill to do much about cards, calls or other things this year.**

Please continue to pray for Terri, Christine, Anna, Marilyn, Tandi, Greg, Christie, Sue, Cathleen, Debbie, Sam, Alyce, Joan, Irma, Daniel (much) and Emily (new) Phillip, Chloe, Maggie (new) and please continue to pray for me too.



**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](mailto:anne@victimsofabortion.com.au) to be added to the email list.

