

Broken Branches

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

Issue 93 -June/July 2013

Tasmanian Abortion Law Reform

Of particular interest at this time is the attempt of Tasmanian politicians to introduce abortion laws which even the most demonic laws in existence pale in their shadow. Why is it possible for the pro abortion lobby to demand that their rights, ideals, needs are met and fulfilled? Why force the pro lifers to believe the same? Why punish others who do not see the same picture as they do? Why suddenly is a young nation like Australia being forced into abject subservience to the will of despotic few? Why can't I have an opinion or belief? Why does my opinion not matter? Do I now live in a dictatorship? Will my state follow suit?

Do I now live in nation with an immoral dictatorship? And the dictatorship is biased towards death? Why can I no longer feel safe in my country called Australia? Why does my difference of opinion (pro lifer) make me a law breaker? There is something really evil happening in Australia and unless nipped in the bud early we will indeed end up not being able to express an opinion which is different from that enshrined in an immoral law. Is this the kind of democracy we have slowly allowed to creep in?

It's frightening to think that if I dissent from the prevailing thought about abortion and speak about it I can look forward to threat of jail and/ or even massive fine. Why such virulent tactics against pro lifers? To outlaw and criminalize abortion objection. My right (to use their terms) to disagree are to be removed. **MY RIGHTS** are abused.

If this bill passes through the Tasmanian Upper House of Parliament, then to other states everyone who believes that life is sacred, or simply does not want to be a part of the pro abortion arena enters into the danger zone. Even pre pregnancy and post abortion counsellors (and I come into this) are not safe.

Even though I offer professional help to grieving and

hurting men and women if someone calls and asks me for a referral (which happens, I have been asked “which is the safest abortion facility Anne”) I “have” to name or refer the caller to a place where an abortion is possible or how to go about this? If I am reported for not assisting then a huge fine? This makes it easy to be set up.

The bill's definition of a counsellor is anyone who gives “advice or information relating to pregnancy options” and “whether or not for fee or reward.” Instantly all pro life agencies/organisations which disagree with abortion and try to offer alternatives will be placed in the unenviable situation of participation in the finding of an abortion facility for the enquirer or face being punished. As “Paul” a pro life delegate from Belgium said to me at WCF in Sydney, the time has come when you might be called to stand up for beliefs. All of us.

Where are the Civil Libertarians? Why are they not protecting my **right** to free speech, to be free to **protest**? What happened to the Civil libertarians who come out protecting the **rights of a white ant** but remain deathly silent about **my right** to refuse to not accept abortion? To deny the **right of medical personnel** not to be involved in abortions.

What happened to the Civil Libertarians? Why aren't they out there protecting the right of a counsellor trying to find a better way for a woman than killing her child and remain with that knowledge for all of her life? The knowledge that she has taken her child to die, because as time passes it will not be a meaningless word “abortion” which has no imagery which she remembers but that has voluntarily disposed of but “my baby” and it is these words which cause pain.

Dear friends I have told you that I spend time “pondering” as some others spend time “tinkering” and most of my ponderings revolve around the area of theology, abortion, sexual abuse, healing, trauma etc. So in a moment of more ponderings I asked out loud this question,

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Why do women who are designed to hold tight and protect their child want abortion? Why do they want to take their baby to die?

What has changed in that feminine mystery to do this? Why do women think that separation of their sexual identity from its function will give them empowerment?

What is behind the need to enshrine in law the right to be able to kill a small defenceless baby? What is behind this demonic shrieking need? What is behind this demonic need to offer Moloch more and more human sacrifices? Is it to save the trees? Is it to save the lemur? Or the white ant? Is it to be said by women "I am not a helper I am the head"

Or perhaps even "I will not serve anyone" including an infant. I will not host my infant.

Has the knowledge about what abortion means been forgotten? Has the reality that the word abortion means the intentional death of a pre born infant been forgotten and it's now simply a battle between pro life and pro abortion and a huge spiritual battle where the woman is again listening to a false voice and the male is absent and the collateral damage is the child and the suffering which will remain in the human population?

Is the in utero baby the scapegoat of a society which has gone off the rails and into violence? Is this where "we can see that violence never appears in the form of pure brutality. It practically always has its "good reasons" (René Girard, cited in *Must There be Scapegoats?* Schwager R, S.J, p17). What are the "good reasons?" for the violence which is abortion? Is it what is called "women's rights?" and at what cost?

Are these 50 million annual scapegoats atonement for a society whose ethos and conscience has slowly died?

My suspicion is that "the good reasons" (Girard) are a society which has reverted to primitive state. In its technology it has advanced and in its morality it has regressed to pre caveman state.

The youthful violence, the drug culture, the euthanasia demand, the youth suicide, the amorality, the hyper-energised *Thanatos* instinct all speak of a society which has changed but has not refreshed and renewed its beliefs and life but indeed regressed into a desire for death.

To stifle the voice of any individual or any group of individuals is to return to dehumanisation of them (abortion victims/protestors/holocaust victims/victims of despots/victims of war/victims of brutality). To dismiss the voice of the one crying in the wilderness is to silence the voice of warning and ignore the cries of the poor to our detriment as dismissing ones designed in the image of God.

Abortion has written within it *Thanatos* (death).

The proposed new Tasmanian laws which propose that we cannot even protest about abortion if we want to, is a last gasp of *Thanatos*.

Does this mean that other protests will also be forbidden? Or is it just the abortion protest only?

Can we visualise the unions not being allowed to protest some perceived injustice? Or is it the abortion issue only?

Can we visualise, teachers, police, metalworkers etc, not being allowed to protest or is it about the abortion issue only?

Has society become so desensitised to cruelty and death that we cannot even argue against it? I think the answer is yes. See below story.

The Savagery of abortion and the silence of the Media.

As I follow the story of the American abortionist Kermit Gosnell, whose trial was in Philadelphia and the gruesome details of his practice, known as the "house of Horrors" the charges being considered number in the hundreds, but it 's the four first-degree murder charges and a single third-degree murder charge that have rendered us pro lifers bewildered. He is accused of

killing three babies, born alive, during late-term abortions. He also faces the third-degree murder charge for the killing of 41-year-old Karnamaya Mongar.

I again return to the state of primitiveness except primitive with a suit on. Primitive with a neatly trimmed moustache. Immaculately suited. Primitive without even a facial twitch but the occasional smirk, for his alleged activities. No emotion to be seen and yet he has played such a negatively important role in the life of “woman” and her child.

Whose ideology has Gosnell imbibed that he can no longer see the feminine and the innocent and their humanity? How much male angst and feminist anger has he taken on board whole, to be able to carry out such grotesque acts at his abortion clinic that can only be likened to works carried out at an abattoir but with unborn children. Some infants said to have been delivered into a toilet, and jars with foetal body parts stored around his facility some whose spinal cord he had cut whilst the baby was still alive and at times crying.

Gosnell was originally charged with one count of infanticide and five counts of “abuse of corpse” for killing babies born alive after an abortion procedure and this he did in most grotesque manner so much so that I cannot even put it on paper.

How did it become possible that a human person who trained to heal could carry out the butchery

against woman and child as this “doctor” did and still the “feminist” world remained silent? The “masculine” world remained silent. The media remained deathly silent because it was just an “abortion issue” and that issue is out of bounds for reporting.

There was so much media reporting on the Boston tragedy and yet within the same nation (Philadelphia) an equally huge and abhorrent tragedy was being continually played out and the media would not see a connection in the violence. How did it become so possible for the media to remain blushing silent about the monstrosities being described by Gosnell’s own staff and ignore the bloodbath happening in his clinic?

The dead babies. The exploited women. All these should have been seen as a new barbarism even for such a macabre industry as the abortion industry, yet the irony is that much of the media’s lethargy in covering the Gosnell case really doesn’t surprise. It’s part of a culture that cannot see what it doesn’t want or is inconvenient to see and doesn’t want to disturb the

status quo about the realities of what abortion means.

The brutality in abortion is intimate, personal, permanent and *invisible*. The Boston massacre was visible and it galvanised visual media because it made for good viewing and even satisfied a sense of the voyeuristic and macabre. It made world headline news and therefore worthy of reporting on all forms of media

Abortion, (the massacre of pre born infants) on the other hand is already a ho-hum event. It happens “it’s a woman’s right to choose what she does with her body” and media is not interested in reporting on it. This is what our “feminist” sisters have achieved for 50% of humanity (women) a certainty that they can be violated, at times killed and that definitely the child that they carry can be legally killed. Unlike past times where mothers fought and died to protect their child the thought of the feminist is that modern mother doesn’t need to, there is a way out.

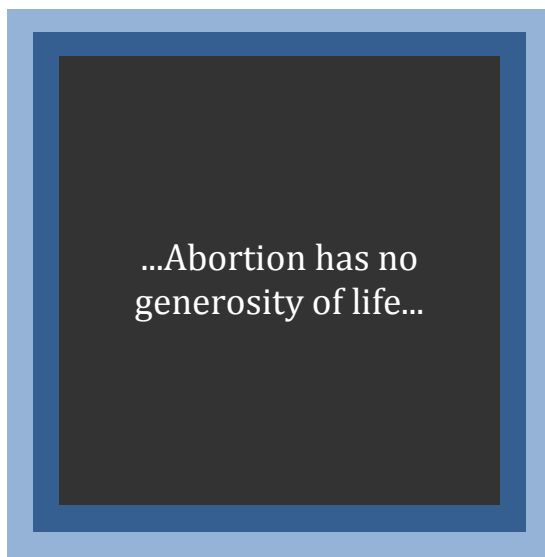
This Gosnell story should have had all of USA and the world in uproar and shown the world what actually abortion means. Sadly, the uproar didn’t happen except for the usuals. Pro life media. Faced with the hunger for power the answer for the feminist and her cohort has been to seek power and the after effects of this power have been lethal to humanity and the family.

I remember once reading feminist Simone de Beauvoir who said “the role of pity and tenderness is

one of the most important of all of those which have been assigned to woman. Even when fully integrated in a society, woman subtly extends its frontiers because she has the *insidious* generosity of life” (de Beauvoir, S. (1972) *The Second Sex*. Pub. London, Jonathon Cape, 1972. (TSS)

I loved the above comment because even with using the comment “insidious” this *feminist had to acknowledge* that woman is inherently imbued with “pity and tenderness” and perhaps this is the agenda of the feminists who set out to remove from the feminine “pity and tenderness and generosity of life” This is behind the agenda of abortion and feminist demands for abortion, the changing of the design of the woman so that no longer will she be generous with life.

Abortion has no “generosity of life”



Post Script

After many weeks of testimonies and several weeks of deliberations by the jury, the trial of abortionist Kermit Gosnell ended with him being found guilty on 3 counts of murder, one count of involuntary manslaughter and other criminal charges.

The manslaughter charge is related to the death of a woman (Karnamaya mongar) when a member of his staff administered an overdose of sedatives during the abortion.

The charges enumerated included infanticide, abortion more than the 24 week limit, informed consent violations, corruption of minors, tampering with evidence and the list appeared endless indeed nearly 400 charges in all against the abortionist himself and quite a few against his co defendant Eileen O'Neill.

The kind of charges listed against him would normally have warranted the death penalty however he was given a life sentence on each of the murder counts. That means 3 "life sentences" What does that mean? I don't know.

Sex Selection Abortions

It should not come as a surprise that gender selection abortions are requested and carried out.

In a recent article in our Sunday daily it was reported that a Melbourne doctor, Dr Mark Hobart, had actually spoken out that a couple had demanded a referral from him for an abortion of their 19 week infant because it was a girl and not wanted.

Dr Mark Hobart went on to say that he refused to give a referral (which wasn't needed in the first place) and reported his colleague who later did the abortion.

I, Anne, am not surprised. Why should we be surprised? We technically have abortion for any and no reason to 24 weeks and abortion to 40 weeks with 2 doctors' signatures so why should this surprise us.

It was also revealed that couples do request abortions for gender reasons but that it was "refused" Well I can't believe that, because the couple who went to Doctor Hobart were there with the request for referral for an abortion of their 19 week daughter, simply because she was a girl.

I found it interesting that Fertility Control Clinic, the largest abortion provider in Victoria, Psychologist Ms Susie Allanson said publicly in the same article that this type of request came only once "in a blue moon." Well doctor Mark Hobart was just asked for a referral and there was no blue moon about that night.

And Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists President said that there was no evidence that the practice of abortion for gender selection occurs "I don't think there is any doctor

who would perform an abortion on those grounds" Well sir, your colleague did that recently and aborted a 19 week little girl who with great effort would have survived had she been wanted and guess what? The Medical board said "they would not pursue the matter because Victorian doctors are allowed to terminate pregnancies of up to 24 weeks." So what this doctor is saying, is that no matter what, they are not interested because the Victorian laws already provide for late term abortion for any or no reason including gender selection.

So from my perspective there is a lot of skulduggery not only within the abortion industry but also in its surrounds.

Gender selection abortions are another frontier to be pushed through by the abortion industry.

While it might be a crime against humanity, the created baby, society, and ultimately another scapegoat at the mercy or whim of the parents with no protection for its own humanity, gender selection abortion is also *discrimination* because of gender with death of the child if it happens to be the wrong gender (usually female). This is in Australia, a first world country with the most horrendous abortion laws.

First, abortion for foetal abnormality (even as little as cleft palate in UK several years ago that we know of) and for dwarfism here in Victoria several years back and now for wrong gender? What next? Abortion for wrong coloured hair or wrong coloured eyes?

Whilst the bill before the parliament on funding for gender selection abortion *should not be supported* or even considered it seems to me that the portal of 24 weeks for any or no reason ensures that questions or reasons for abortion won't be asked and it will be left to the conscience of doctors with integrity or even to the integrity of the medical profession to help protect these infants in danger. (Though from the comments above I doubt the integrity of medical hierarchy).

Medicare funding should **not** be permitted either for gender selection abortion or indeed for any abortion. Abortion is not a medical procedure which is health preserving, or an illness which demands all help to be given, but abortion is a refusal by woman whose body responded to the natural law written within her being when an act is carried out. Abortion is a procedure dangerous to her mental health because it goes against her "normal" emotional design.

Ultimately Medicare funding means that the government and taxpayers fund the destruction of future generations, indeed fund destruction of future society.

World Congress of Families

Well the 7th World Congress of Families, Co hosted by both Australia and New Zealand and held at the Sydney Technology Park, Australia, 2013 has come and gone and indeed what an amazing event it was. We know when something is amazing because on the final day there was a sense of sadness. A feeling of ending. A low feeling. A sense that we had to say goodbye to previously known friends from other nations and newly made friends also from other nations and from states within Australia.

I went to the Congress in Madrid in 2012 and it was so good that I wanted to repeat the experience however, after going to our own I definitely want to repeat it again in Russia in 2014.

The speakers were excellent each bringing an area of expertise in family issues, fatherhood, motherhood, family, its challenges, its joys and times its sorrows. The keynote speakers held the listeners enthralled, the various religious denominations mingled happily together each with the health and well being of family in mind.

In Sydney over 650 delegates over three full days listened to authoritative speakers on family, marriage and related issues. Dr Allan Carlson (Founder of Congress) and other international keynote speakers such as Bradford Wilcox, Janice Shaw Crouse, Steve Mosher, Patrick Fagan, Miriam Grossman, Ian Grant, Larry Jacobs, Ted Baehr, Bob McCoskrie (New Zealand) Fr "Jay" Szymczak (Poland) Theresa Okafar (Nigeria) a UN delegate, Paul von Oldenburg, Mathias von Gersdorff and others.

Australian keynote speakers included His Eminence Cardinal George Pell, Bishop Peter Elliott, The Hon. John Anderson AO (former Member of Parliament) Prof. Ian Harper, Patrick Parkinson, Rabbi Shimon Cowen and others. A further large number of Australian and other nation speakers were also included in concurrent sessions, Sharon Slater,



REDEEMING GRIEF

ABORTION AND ITS PAIN

ANNE R. LASTMAN

REVISED EDITION

FOREWORD BY HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP BARRY J. HICKEY

NEW REVISED EDITION!

REDEEMING GRIEF is a reflection of over 17 years of counselling 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 1500 personal stories and listening to the expressions used by the women as they speak 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, and 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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Congratulations to Babette and the late Charles Francis for the Lifetime award given to them for their work for the family and other life issues and congratulations to other recipients of awards for their work for family.

The theme of this WCF was "Happy Families, Healthy Economy: A New Vision for National Prosperity and Social Progress." Each and every speaker in one way or another showed how the well-being and health of families leads directly to the well-being of nations. Healthy, functioning men and women creating happy families make for healthy, functioning societies, while broken dysfunctional families result in volatile economies, volatile generations and countries in decline. Attending a congress of this nature helps to make clear our need to reclaim, relearn, and renew what we know as marriage and family. It helps us to understand that the future always depends on the "now" and how the "now" is treated. For us, we are not treating the future well.

Congratulations to the organisers headed by Mrs Mary Louise Fowler and her very able team of colleagues for bringing together this spectacular Sydney 2013 World Congress of Families and best of luck and best wishes to the Russian delegates who took home to Russia the banner to prepare for the next congress in 2014 in the Kremlin. Imagine! Where once not so nice things came out of the Kremlin, next year the Kremlin will host World Congress of Families. A gathering of love filled people and a gathering of people who want to hold to truth for the "now" and for the future.

Indeed miracles do happen. For my catholic readers can I remind you what was said in 1917 by a special Lady? I was reminded of this when I saw the passing of the banner to Alexey Komov, chairman of the Russian organising committee to lead it to Russia. Whoever would have thought that this would happen? But with God all is possible.

And I so much loved a comment made by Alexey Komov, I don't remember it exactly but it went something like this, "in the past the west helped Russia now we come to your help" (not exact quote) but for me that was one of the highlights. We can see miracles if we can only open our eyes. In our day and time when marriage and its very truth is challenged we can rest assured that we have friends who also want to take up the banner with us.

If possible please buy any of the talks which might be of

interest to you when they become available. They are really worth hearing. Through computer go to World Congress of Families website there should be information, or contact any one of the sponsors (e.g. NCC, or Aust. Family Association) for information. Well worth the effort.

As a PS: The entertainment was also distinct and magnificent. Meet and greet cocktail, formal dinner overlooking Darling harbour (with eminent Australian photographer Ken Duncan putting on a display of his beautiful work) the screening of new movie Return to the Hiding Place with producer and star there, singing by Tongan youth choir, singing of Congress theme song, fashion parade (beautiful) so there was something for all.

Abridged Version of my talk at WCF. 2013.

"Abortion grief and Healing"

After the introduction to post abortion grief and its after effects and concentrating on the Priscilla K Coleman study (2011) and mention of Chinese studies 2012, I spoke about taking an abortion experience and its attendant and unresolved pain into a future marriage or indeed into a current marriage. I spoke about abortion introducing a barrier into either a new marriage and potentially disrupting/fracturing an existing marriage. Unresolved abortion pain has attached to it unfinished business and lost love and lost trust.

An abortion within marriage is destructive because even though it may appear that both may want the abortion (eg career, mortgage) in reality either one or both of them is never "quite sure" and is never ready to have an abortion. However, because one spouse is stronger than the other, the weaker one will concede or the dominant one insist and thus confused dialogue and an abortion "he should have protected me and our baby I will never trust him again" (Sue) or from him "I cannot see her as my beautiful wife anymore she murdered our baby. I'm out of here" (Tim)

Because of the shortness of time allotted to all sessional speakers (10 minutes) it was impossible to say much more except that whilst an abortion can place deep barrier between a man and a woman, a husband and wife, there is a strong possibility of healing because God is always merciful. We live in a society where "Eve" is hurting and "Adam" is absent. Their marriage which was declared "very good" needs to be rekindled and healed so that happiness and joy and children are again seen as gifts of that union.

Redeeming Grief, Abortion and its Pain is a book I have written using 17 years of experience and reflection. Abortion grief can be a good grief if handled well because it means that the baby will not be forgotten. Will be remembered but without pain.

Letters

Dear Anne,
Thank you for another inspirational newsletter. May God bless you and heal you, you are very much needed here to work with so many people in need of so much healing. I pray that you and your family have a peaceful Easter with all of God's blessings.
Maureen. (Vic)

Thank you Maureen, I had 5 straight days home!!! It was wonderful. And Easter days peaceful.

Dear Anne,
Please find enclosed donation to help with the work you are doing on behalf of the Christian community in this most important field of activity, words cannot express the gratitude for your commitment to those souls in such need.
God Bless and keep you always,
Jim H. (Vic)

Dear Anne,
I am proud to know you. Every success you have is something I have a tiny share in. Enclosed is a donation to help you and I have ordered your revised version of Redeeming Grief. I'm sorry but because of ill health I cannot make to Life Dinner.
Your life is very precious. Take care of yourself so that you can continue.
Your friend in wonder and awe
Fr. Leo.

Dear Anne,
Just a small donation towards your most important work. I hope that you have had a Blessed Easter,
Regards and Blessings
Alan
Thank you Alan it was a lovely Easter and I had a good break 5 days. It was really good.

Dear Anne,
Sorry I haven't written to you for a while but I am thinking of you and I am praying for the people you ask us to pray for.
God Bless
Stephen M Dee Why NSW

Thank you Stephen for prayers. They are important to my work and my health.

Dear Anne,

May the Risen Lord bless you richly and grant you good health, we are sorry you are suffering. Thank you for your amazing work, the generous giving of your many talents so that others may fully live.

Enclosed donation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you especially for the World Congress of Families. May your help turn the world to goodness and generosity.

Broken Branches is deeply touching and informative thank you. God Bless.

Colin & Kathleen.

Dear Colin and Kathleen thank you for your kind words. I highlighted the bit about Broken Branches because I love to hear that it is liked and read. Thank you.

Anne

Dear Anne,
Congratulations on all your works. You are in my Rosaries and Masses as are all your girls and boys.
With love and Go Bless
Kath M. (Vic)

Thank you dear Kath and i hope you are well too.

Dear Anne,
Let me congratulate you on the winning of the Charles Francis Award. It is well deserved. I will pray for you at the two up and coming conferences. May you be blessed in all that you do.
Sincerely,
Frances M. NSW
Thank you dear Frances and thank you for your ongoing faithful support I couldn't do it without those like you who help me to do my best.

Dear Anne,
Enclosed please find donation from our letter writing group in order to help you with the work you are doing. Do hope you are well now.
Beth.
Thank you dear Beth and other friends. Not well yet. Had to go off Tamoxifen it was doing strange things to me and have started new hormone drug. Hope this is OK. Prayers please.

This dear friends is a short synopsis of my talk used with power point slides (thanks Peter for help with PowerPoint am fossil when it comes to technology. OK at other things though! I can even write a book!).

Launch of book.

Dear friends I am sending the newsletter earlier than usual because I would like to invite you to the launch of my book *Redeeming Grief* (Second Ed).

There are some changes and additions of new information and if for no other reason so that we can meet.

The book will be launched by the

The Hon. Mr Kevin Andrews MP

Member for Menzies and Shadow Minister for Families, Housing and Human Services.

The launch will be at the offices of Freedom Publishing 2nd floor, 35 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn Vic.

At 7.30pm June 11, 2013.

Phone: (03) 9816 0888

Email: orders@freedompublishing.com.au

It would be really good to catch up and meet face to face. In this really important year leading to Federal elections in the close future, I appreciate Mr Andrews taking the time to do this for me.

See you there.

As I come to the end of another newsletter I would like to tell you that since the last issue we have also had the annual pro life dinner and this year I was awarded (unexpectedly) the Charles Francis 2013 Pro Life Award. Thank you to colleagues and friends who voted

for me, I feel unworthy of your care. Thank you also to Babette and her family for making the award available in honour of Charles, Babette's husband and father of their children and most eminent pro life Queens Counsel.

Thank you also to "Teresa & John" for your kind donation I could not acknowledge personally because I don't have surname or address.

Please remember dear friends that I depend entirely on your kindness.

Thank you also to those who responded to my call for \$\$\$ "help" I have appreciated your response

Thank you to Luke, Teresa, and Andrew S. in Brisbane for hosting me for book launch and talks and looking after me and I look forward to seeing you again.

I have also been receiving mail and calls for update on my cancer treatments so I thought I would just say that I have stopped taking the Tamoxifen (hormone) drug because of its effects on me, but I have been given another to take. I was told by oncologist that we have to find one that should be OK with me. So far this new one is OK but I have developed lymphatic issues so have to deal with them.

Please continue to pray for me and for my girls Marilyn, Tendi, Margaret, Denyse, Liz, Steff, Lynne (much) Melissa, Anna, Christine, Kristie, Greg, Terri, Sue, Cathleen, Debbie, Alyce, Joan, Irma, Daniel (much) Nikki, (new) Phillip.



Anne Lastman

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Broken Branches – By email!

Dear Friends,

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

