

# Broken Branches

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

Issue 97 - Feb/March 2014

## Welcome to 2014

Dear friends welcome to 2014 and I hope that this year will be one where more and more we can see hearts and minds open to the reality of what abortion means. That it's the intentional killing of another human being whose right to be born, once conceived, should not be questioned but it should be understood as an inalienable right. It's a right of the child to be born because it has united itself to the human family and the human family should protect each and every new member and not demand its death.

During the break I had an opportunity to see friends, have lunch with them, got invited to non “life” things and be normal for a short time. However there was a one discussion which I got involved in which was important and interesting and that evolved from the usual hard case, “what about a conception arising from a rape?” OH dear “ here we go again” thought I, and for a few seconds I remained silent because I didn't want to start this talk again I just wanted to be “normal” to talk about fashions, shopping, spending all my gift cards, movies, grandkids, even politics if it had to be, not that I know anything much about politics, but was even willing to give that go, but ignoring the question made me agitated rather than anything else and I wasn't worried about being thought rude, I just felt I couldn't let it go because “what about rape conception” is touted as a good reason and perfectly reasonable to agree to an abortion without guilt. As a society, it is thought we shouldn't feel guilty when approving abortion for anything but most importantly for such a horror as rape. And so my resolve to remain silent and involved in “fashions” discussion went by wayside.

Rape, like any kind of sexual abuse is horrendous and leaves in its wake a pain unlike any other. Rape is a control mechanism. And it's a control and violence against the feminine. It has nothing to do with attraction of the male towards the female; it's a violence perpetrated against the feminine. A rage against an individual, any individual and a rage especially against the femininity. An attempt at demeaning and humiliating of the feminine. And so what has this got to do with abortion?

It has much to do with abortion because if indeed a pregnancy should occur (and because of the stress and trauma associated with rape the likelihood is small) the conception, the baby, the creation, is not to be blamed, the blame about the violence resides with the rapist and not with the woman (girl) or the child which results as a result of this man's act. A child conceived during a rape and if permitted to be born, is not born with a barcode on its forehead which says “I was conceived by an act of rape.” A child conceived thus, looks just any new infant and with all the needs of any new infant and aborting the baby does not remove from his/her mother the trauma she experienced at being violated. Indeed all it does is remove permanently the evidence of what happened to her and perhaps even removes the means (I love you mummy) of her eventual healing of the pain and memory of the event.

Whilst it's to be appreciated that a woman who carries a child conceived in this manner through to birth can only be called heroic, the reality is that rushing into aborting the child conceived thus (which is also by the way, genetically half hers) will add further to her pain and sense of violation because there will come a day, a moment, a time when in silence of her being she understands what happened and then her own part in that moment of anguish. Her own failure to be brave

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and to protect an innocent one against violence and death. There will come a moment when she realizes what abortion has meant. It has meant death of a human being, her own child.

Every baby conceived is a product of love. Not so much love between a man and woman (though that is wonderful) but a mysterious love, the love and attraction between the ovum and the sperm. The sperm swims a marathon to meet “love” because it’s impelled and beckoned towards love and because it knows that “love” awaits it in order to complete itself. (Male and female He created them). And so the conception through rape (horrendous as the act of rape is) the ovum which may be possibly waiting, embraces its life engendering lover (sperm) and so the conception is the result of the mysterious love and attraction of (sperm) and love of (ovum) written in their being and which embrace and enfold and joined these en flesh externally their “Love” a baby.

Each and every creation is this kind of “love en fleshed.” The sperm racing towards the ovum does not know that it is a product of rape. The ovum receiving the marathon swimmer sperm does not know that that sperm is a product of rape all that they know is that they are attracted to one another and each welcomes the other. That is the mystery.

Every time a child of rape is aborted another act of violence is added to the soul of society because abortion is simply another form of death dealing rape. An assault on an innocent one just like the mother of the child.

That a rape victim requires much help is undoubted, unquestioned, a definite must, but the help is to be directed towards her helplessness, her feeling of being forced, her feelings of being assaulted, her feeling of being vulnerable and possibly never feeling safe again. This is the help that a rape victim has the greatest need of, not to be encouraged, urged, forced to abort “love.”

What most of all she does need is to see that the molester is made accountable for his action and not the baby killed because of the father’s action. In this determination for abortion there will be three acts of violence and hatred against femininity and against love and against life.

I know that there will be some readers who will be upset with me and even withdrawing their support for me and perhaps even cancelling their newsletter because of writing this and even using certain terms that they think I shouldn’t have used, but always, always we need to remember that every child conceived is a conception of God. God had implanted His “Yes” in that conception. We either believe this or we don’t. We *may not* be selective. We *may not* be politically correct. We *may not* fall for the mantra of the “hard cases” as good reasons for abortion. This is the mantra of a heartless society and a society which displays all forms of violence, self destructive behaviors, and disrespect and cruelty for the human being and as we are daily seeing in news services cruelty against animal creation. A new violence and new cruelty unseen before. “Going on the prowl to find someone to beat up” “A king hit which left another teenager dead” Women and young men subjected to much physical, emotional and psychological violence. This has evolved from our blasé attitude to death, and especially death of the very young and unborn. Am I stretching the bow too long? NO.

God did not want for the rape to occur, let’s not be ready to blame God for the violence, but the natural law of life and the laws written in the body are in place and where a conception (body) has occurred (the law of fertility) then into this creation God breathes His eternal Amen (let it be) into that fertility so that no one from that time onwards may destroy it without the ground soaking in its blood crying out for justice.(Gn 4:9-11)

We who are called to this special mourning for blood spilt so violently (those of us who care) because it was

a “hard case” are called because sadly this society is blinded to the meaning and loss of sense of who we are and where we come from and where we are destined to return to and of the value inherent in all life. and we no longer know how to mourn the billions of its children lost through this type of violence and thus we have suffered a dulling of conscience.

This is a society which no longer sees children as a blessing as described in the Psalms as a “quiver full” but as disposable on demand, manufacturable, a commodity and if not wanted society has granted woman (the bearer of life) as a “right” the wherewithal to dispose of the baby fully sanctioned by law. We need to mourn over the loss of the aborted babies. We need to mourn over the hard cases, the inconvenient cases, and the unwanted cases because in

the mourning we speak a language of love which belongs to the psychic, spiritual and creative life of the human person. That part most like God. We mourn because mourning is a sign of value, of love, of emotion, of eternity.

There is a need to mourn, to weep; we need to be able to express grief, because like love it is the most profound of our emotions and we mourn because the death of our own child touches the most profound depths of our being. We mourn because this mourning touches on the moral law written into the human heart (Jer 31:31:33 & Romans 11) and which can be known by our faith and by our reason.

To conceive a child is to become pregnant with His Living Word. His “Amen.” (His let it be) and in the creation of each new child God encounters and keeps encountering humanity. Hence why abortion is so horrendous. It is a rejection of this encounter with God and a rejection of His Love whispered in the depths of the mysterious ways of the womb. All created beings, including the aborted ones, have been thought about, loved and created in the likeness of the originating Word, Jesus. The Amen of the Father. Jesus is the pattern, the prototype of every human conception and it is a knowledge which is written into the womb of every woman. It is this knowledge of the loss which leads to the mourning and in this mourning, the seed of future redemption.

The malignant syndromes and great pain which arise in

the psychology of the woman do so because the womb weeps for the acts of terrorism inflicted upon it and attests to the pain. In the womb where “life” and love has its genesis, where the sperm and ovum have raced towards one another to meet in love and en flesh that love to then see this en fleshed love led to a violent death through abortion. This is the pain of mother love. The words and language spoken and written into the womb is “life” and God speaks this word. The word spoken by abortion is “death” and the prince of darkness speaks this word.

Dear friends as I ponder about many things regarding abortion, the feminine mind and heart, deep wounding of sexuality and it’s after effects, I have come to the understanding and belief that woman and indeed society have lost the innate knowledge about the

future. Woman has forgotten that in her hands, in her womb, God has entrusted the future. In her love He entrusts His creative works. To her He has entrusted the ongoing work of life. Under her heart rests the tomorrow. He designed the method and the way which He would continue His creative works. Woman needs to remember her “genius” and not despise it.

Dear friends please read the letter below, hear the words of love of a mother, words she needs to say to her son and see how that

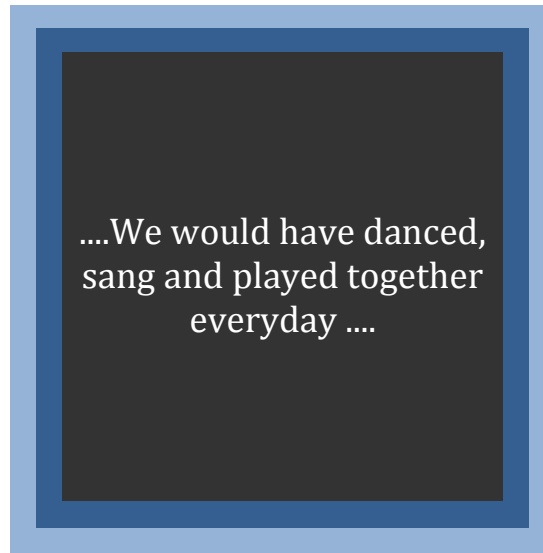
mysterious “love” leaves an imprint.

## A Mother’s Letter to her son

Ishmael,

*I told you people would read about you... I promised you that you would not go unnoticed! I am so proud of you. It has been two years already and still your presence is with me daily...I can never start to comprehend how much I love you and how much I miss you...I think of you every single day and wish you were here to share life's moments. I lie awake imagining how perfect you would look sleeping and how I would lose myself just watching you dream... I can only imagine how you look and how much you have grown. I imagine you must have big bright eyes full of joy and love and can only imagine how beautiful you are! I think about how you laugh most of the times and how your face would just light up my day. I would really love to hold your hand and hold you close to my heart assuring you that I will never let you go.*

*You certainly are the most intelligent, most talented boy I would have ever met! I would have loved to help you with*



*your homework and listen to hear all the stories you would have told me! I would have loved to answer all your questions and provide the best answers I could have. We would have danced, sang and played together everyday. I think of the long walks we could have had together. I still go to the park and picture how you would have loved being on the swings and the slides and cannot help but smile and appreciate the warmth you bring to my heart. I wish you could have met your cousins; I see your face every time I look at them and cannot help but wish you were here. You would have been the kindest, most caring, thoughtful and selfless boy. Ishmael, you are perfect. I am pleased for you... I really am...*

*I am sorry because I feel like I have robbed you of the gift of this life... But at the same time cannot help but feel happy for you because you are in the best place anyone could ever be. Ishmael I am sorry... As much as you have forgiven me already I just want you to know I was wrong and I am so sorry.*

*I want you to know that I did complete my Bachelors degree and am building a career but it is still not a good enough reason for letting you go... I cry my son, but my tears are not because I regret your 12 week existence but because you are gone and you have changed my life in a way you can never imagine.*

*Every little boy I meet now I am reminded of you and is a symbol and a sign of strength, bravery, courage and faith that in Christ we can do all things... I cannot wait to tell your brothers and sisters, (when they come) about you. I know they will love you. I live for the day I will walk through heaven's gates and see you there waiting to embrace me... That will surely be a dream come true...*

*Meanwhile... I know you already and see you standing there. Till then be a good boy. Keep on smiling and know that I love you beyond my ability to express on this paper. You truly are my world and you are forever on my heart...*

*I would like to tell you more about your father, about my parents, my sisters and the amazing people who have touched my life on this journey of mine... Someday... Someday I will.  
Truly, madly, deeply in love with you.*

Your Mom.....

*This dear friend is a letter from Tendi to her aborted son. You dear friends have been praying for her. Please keep prayers going. You can see the reconciliation between mother and child. This is our work. Yours and mine. In this way we give glory to God for His creation and ensure that the child is never forgotten and of course when reconciled the mother can rest in a new peace. Thank you Tendi and thank you to those who help me to continue this work, without you I couldn't do it.*

## **Abortion and of Life Fears & Regret.**

Recently I was speaking with a friend who works in a nursing home for elderly. We were having a cafe together and sharing life experiences and I did this time ask a question. It had been something I had been thinking about for some time. Normally I am the one to whom questions are posed to or I even eavesdrop and hear things that maybe a I shouldn't, but this time I wanted to ask a question about the elderly and abortion experiences. I really meant elderly women and if there is any sign of remembering, regretting, and fearing. Just any sign or remembrance of babies.

I wanted to know about this because mostly pro lifers and pro life workers including myself generally refer to "women and their pain" we tend to think unconsciously maybe about women of reproductive ages even ranging from 13-40ish. But we don't tend to think about abortion and after effects in the elderly. So when we speak about post abortive women this is the age ranges we tend to speak about, refer to etc. And as I have said to you many times, I tend to ponder lots and lots about abortion from the many and varied aspects and the many and varied victims of abortion.

I know that in my 17 years experience in this work I have counselled all through the various ages from 13 through to 85 years of age but in the extreme age ranges, that is 13,14, to then post 60 years through to 85 years I have only counselled perhaps a dozen or so.

At the very extreme end only one 85 year old who I was asked to see because she was very ill and towards the end but kept speaking about a dead baby which no one seemed to know anything about, and she was dying but afraid to die because her "daughter" would hate her and God would hate her and her regret that she "did what I did."

And indeed as we spoke she told of her story of abortion when she was 17 and got pregnant and was taken away to have the abortion and come back and continued her life as per normal. I will call her a generic name "Jane" for ease.

"Jane" carried this pain for nearly 70 years and never spoke about it even to her family because as she said "they would have been so ashamed of me" and so she told no one except the father of the child who took her to a woman's house, he paid her some money, and she was taken to a room and told to lie on a single bed and the woman gave her some alcohol to drink (it was awful!) and after some minutes

“stuck something in me and I started to bleed and had so much pain, it was agony, and after some hours of agony I delivered everything in the toilet.” For those of us who work in this area we know what her explanation meant.

It appears that no permanent damage was done because she later married “well” and had three other children but what interested me was her lament over “my daughter” the one that she delivered in the toilet.

She told me that all through the years that have passed she has remembered the date that this happened and she knew that it was a “daughter” as she said, “I just knew” and even though she had other children and grandchildren whom she loves, for her that “daughter” has always remained foremost in her heart.

“Not even one day has passed Anne, without me remembering her and the cruel way she died with me not even putting up a fight for her. I don’t deserve to be forgiven I did a wicked thing.”

As I spoke to “Jane” and told her of my own experience and that I know God has forgiven me, and the fact that God does not know how to hate and if her daughter is with Him then she won’t know how to hate either, then surely He would forgive her also and to be at peace because God has seen her suffering and her regret and her hundreds of expressions of “I am so sorry” and He would listen to her and forgive her as would her daughter.

After several hours of talking and sharing I left her and she did look more peaceful than when I got there and I hoped that I had been of some help to her.

When several weeks later I contacted to see how she was going I was told that indeed she had passed away peacefully with her family



# 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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around her and my suspicion is that another special member of her family was there also waiting to welcome her into her arms and guide her to her new home, her daughter whom she had loved and never forgotten for nearly 70 years.

As I continued talking with my friend who works in the nursing home she also told me that some women sit all day rocking a baby sized doll and moaning or singing gently to the doll. They walk around carrying the “baby” and become distressed if the “baby” is lost or forgotten.

I mused and wondered whether the “baby” being nursed, rocked, sang to and walked was a miscarriage or an abortion or even a stillbirth. You see as it says clearly in Isaiah “Can a mother forget her baby?” (Is 49:15). These signs surely tell us that we can for a time suppress the memory of “that baby” but not permanently. NO a mother cannot forget her baby.

You see those women who say “I had an abortion and feel OK about it, maybe feel OK at that time, at that moment when many distractions are present but in the evening of life or towards life’s end whenever that is, when distractions are no longer of interest, then “woman” remembers the losses whether intentional or non intentional and rocks and carries and nurses and sings to that “doll” who now brings to mind her lost child. She cannot go without remembering her child. How tragic it is that we cannot tell those going into the abortion facilities that the abortion of this day will come back to haunt at a different time. And the haunting will be more difficult because of her “lack of fight for her daughter”

Dear friends as I have often written abortion is situation specific but situations are always fluid and what appears difficult in this day looks tragic in a different time.

How sad it is when a grandmother of a baby intended for abortion takes her grandchild to its death. This grandmother and her own daughter (baby’s mother) will pass through this moment’s difficulties but the memory of the rejected baby will remain with both mother and grandmother and come back to haunt in the quiet of life. “Can a mother forget her baby?” (Is. 49:15) The answer is surely no she cannot.

This discussion with my friend has led me to think that maybe those who work outside abortion facilities might remind those going in of a time to come when they will not be able to forget the baby they are taking in to die this day when they will want to nurse and rock and gently sing to a doll which looks like their child.

## More Findings of link between abortion and breast cancer

Dear friends, it seems that the results of studies, and news about the link between abortion and breast cancer seem to be flooding us with another two of three meta-analyses which support the link between abortion and breast cancer.

A spectacular review and meta-analysis of 36 Chinese studies by Dr. Yubei Huang (remember I reported on Chinese studies by this researcher and colleagues in special edition newsletter October 2012) and his colleagues and reported in the journal, Cancer Causes Control, last week (Jan 2014) reported a significant 44% (one abortion) increased breast cancer risk among women with at least one induced abortion compared to women who had not had an abortion and the risk increased with number abortions that is this study shows clearly a relationship, with two and three abortions raising risk by a statistically significant 76% (2 abortions) and 89%, (3 abortions) Earlier studies also found that the more abortions a woman had the higher her risk of developing breast cancer.

Huang’s team cited and supports a 1996 review and meta-analysis, led by Prof Joel Brind, and colleagues who found a 30% risk elevation for women with any history of abortion.

In his analysis of the Chinese study (below), Prof Joel Brind called the outcome a “game changer.” He said “Not only does it validate our earlier findings from 1996, but its findings are even stronger, for several reasons.”

Most importantly Prof. Joel Brind has consistently argued against the government funding for abortion and contraceptives as being disastrous for women’s health.

Dear friends another recent study and its results (Indian) can be found on this link but the language and results are same.

<http://www.indianjcancer.com/article.asp?issn=0019-509X%3byear=2013%3bvolume=50%3bissue=4%3bpage=316%3bepage=321%3baultast=Bhadoria#ref17>

Dear friends as I continue to read the more and more studies which link the abortion/breast cancer connection, and as I travel my own very physical and emotional journey of pain with breast cancer, I am left wondering why is it that the Cancer councils, Cancer foundations, Cancer charities, cancer specialists, breast cancer surgeons, oncologists, are not picking up on this very important news. And as you know dear friends I

# Letters

Dear Anne,

Please find enclosed a cheque to help in your work. Thank you also for your magnificent book *Redeeming Grief*. It is one of the best books I have read on abortion and Post Traumatic Syndrome and I am so looking forward to your book on sexual abuse.

Have a good break and a happy Christmas with your family.

Yours sincerely

Joe S. (Vic)

Dear Anne

Great to hear from you and God bless you and I hope you are well again following your run-in with breast cancer.

Abortions have been coming down in London - I have some statistics for you which I will forward - it is very encouraging - I think this must mean the beginning of the end.... please God let's hope so.

The prayer vigils continue apace - and there are more of them including during the weekdays.

Looking forward to reading you newsletter as usual - they are truly inspiring.

If you wish you can print this in your next Newsletter.

Warmest regards

Anne Dunne.

Dear Anne,

Hope you can have some R & R during the festive season.

You've certainly earned it!

Your latest bulletin was one of your best if not THE best.

(some personal stuff)

May Jesus hold you and your family gently in the Palm of His Hand now and forever.

Love

John M (NSW)

*Thank you John love to you too.*

Dear Anne

In response to your Christmas appeal please find enclosed donation to help in your work. May God continue to bless you with perseverance and courage. We wish you and your family a happy and blessed Christmas.

Love

Carmel and Jack M. (Qd)

Dear Anne,

Loved your Dec/January bulletin. You seem to be getting better and better and your range of knowledge is awesome.

Loved the article "Abortion v Contraception" more of this is needed if we are to defeat this monster abortion. Good onya mate, keep going.

Enjoy a well earned break with your family.

Blessings

Anthony J. (Vic) *Thanks Anthony. Will try more next yr.A*

Dear Anne,

We were not surprised that you copped flack about the contraception v abortion issue. There are thousands of people who (sincerely as far as we can tell) believe that contraception is not as bad as abortion, or even not a sin, but fondly imagine that they would never have an abortion as they don't like the sound of it or for various other reasons.

These people are only looking at the temporal side of the question and forgetting about eternity. They are also not aware (or want to realise):

- (a) Many contraceptives block implantation as at least one of their actions, so they may produce early abortions on an unknown number of occasions.
- (b) Contraception promotes the idea that sex is for fun and babies are an inconvenient intrusion, so those who use or advocate contraception take a more benign attitude to abortion than would happen otherwise (often without fully realizing it).

You are welcome to use anything I have written if you wish, and you can publish my name in connection with it. I am not shy about my views.

Best wishes and keep writing, even if some of your readers do not agree with everything you write.

Dr. Les Hemingway (Vic)

*Dear Les, thank you for your words and happy to write it in my newsletter. There has been much "complaint" about the article and perhaps my error was to write such a controversial article in an issue where I make "Christmas Appeal" for funds. Perhaps not well thought out. ☺*  
Anne

Thank you Margaret G.

Thanks Bridget

Thank you Cynthia for lovely long letter.

Thank you to anonymous person glad I could be of help.

Thank you Michael & Pamela for kind donation.

Thank you Monica T. (SA)

Thank you to those who sent anonymous donation.

Thank you Frs Lewis, Campbell, Leo, Raymond, Anthony, Brendan

Love you.

am a “muser” I keep asking “why” “why” “why” and the only answer which makes sense to me is that a whole “industry” has developed around breast cancer/contraceptive world and this industry includes the pharmaceutical, medical, powerful feminist lobby, powerful pro abortion lobby and further powered by Government acceptance and legalisation of abortion citing its efficacy.

An industry which has become a Leviathan to accommodate abortion and the right of women to kill one’s own child. Are women so confused and messed up that they have permitted themselves to become a mint printing \$\$\$\$ at their expense? If it is not this why don’t the cancer specialists make it their business to really look at the studies, at the possibility that abortion really does lead to health and death for women. Why continue to feed the \$\$ monster which has developed around breast cancer?

Why not tell women that having an abortion whilst legal and their right to do so, could lead not only to the death of their baby but ultimately to a very painful health problem and/or possibly death for them. Why not tell everyone presenting for an abortion that there is this very real possibility of painful cancer ahead. I now it really is painful.

Dear friends as I come to the end of another newsletter I want to say thank you to all those who responded to my call for funds, I didn’t have to sell my husband to pay the bills (joke ☺ ) Thank you and please keep your support going as you know I rely on your kindness entirely I have no other income coming in.

Thank you also to all those who sent Christmas cards and presents to go under my Christmas tree. I appreciated both. Thank you.

We didn’t end up going to Perth, which made me very sad as I had so much looked forward to and wanted to see my grandies and rest of family but in the end it became impossible to go, but it was OK I had a rest at home. I actually got to sleep in and not have to get up at 4.45 am 3-4 mornings a week so that gave my body a rest. I have now returned to the usual days.

Dear friends I also want to share with you that since we last connected I have been accepted as a Member of the Singapore Psychotherapists’ and Counselling Association. I feel very honoured to have been accepted which now means that Anne Lastman is a member of Australian Counselling Assoc (Level 3-3 is a high level) Memb. of ACA College of Loss & Grief (Level 3) Memb. of Victorian Counselling Assoc and now memb of APACS (Singapore). This together with two Masters Degrees, Bachelors, Post Grad Education degree, and post grad trauma grief & Loss and about 90 hours of specialist trauma studies. So to the individual who refused to give me a room to work from because I am supposedly unqualified... blah to you.

As I say bye for now please continue to pray for me for healing of the cancer and seizures so there might come a time I won’t have to take medications anymore. Please also continue to pray for my ongoing people, Chris, Christine, Anne M, Anna, Marlene, Chloe, Steffi, Denyse, Greg, Jayne, Jessica, Amy, Melissa, Sarah, Tendi, Jade, Phil, Marilyn, Tara. Please continue praying for Andrew whose story you have read in October newsletter he needs prayer, and pray for a very special person called “Joe” more on him later, Danni (new) Susie (new) Marie (New) Ben (new).

Also thought you might like to see this.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/366588/abortion-hurts-interview>



**Anne Lastman**

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## Broken Branches – By email!

Dear Friends,

Please email me at [anne@victimsofabortion.com.au](mailto:anne@victimsofabortion.com.au) to be added to the email list.

