

Broken Branches

Issue 52

Jun/Jul 2006

John 15

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

Is this all he is worth?

In a recent news announcement a woman is believed to have been paid \$100,000 dollars as maintenance for a child she had when her abortion of the said child failed.

As I read this story I become more and more distressed at the state of us a people that we can do such a thing.

On the ABC she told of seeing her little boy sucking his thumb and she changed her mind about continuing with the abortion again. The county court now finds that the doctor who was supposed to have performed the abortion was 'negligent.' and she was awarded the above mentioned amount as costs for raising the child.

The woman named "Elizabeth" said she went to court to receive justice. Justice for what!!!! For goodness sake. Justice because she was spared the torment of living with the knowledge that she had aborted her own child. Justice because she was saved from the torment of nightmares. Justice because she was saved from a lifetime of guilt and guilt induced behaviour.

I cringe and shudder for that child whose value has been deemed at \$100,000 (or is it 30 pieces of silver) I cringe for that child who one day will find out that his mother had gone to have him aborted and he is alive because the abortion failed. (I have dealt with 4 of these cases over 10 years). I cringe that this woman thinks its acceptable behaviour and that it is good that she got this money. We have

become a money grabbing society. A society without morals. It is no wonder that life has little meaning when a mother who has been saved from anguish of knowing that she has killed her own child, demands and gets compensation because the child she tried to abort is alive. My God what have we become?

Today we know from studies that children, who are survivors of an abortion attempt, live a life of deep wounds. There is a sense of "unwanted ness" "non belonging- ness" A sense that they shouldn't be here, and do all manner of actions to complete the task that the abortionist failed at. It requires deep and long spiritual and psychological work to help someone who is an abortion survivor to believe that they have a place in this world. That they are not a mistake. That God indeed has loved them and has a plan for their lives. That they are not here by accident but by design of God. That they indeed are an "Amen" of God.

Professor Phillip Ney has done some work/research into abortion survivors and the suffering of these people is long and relentless.

Baptism of babies pre-abortion.

Recently one of my astute readers sent me a copy of a news article which said that in America (where else?) some abortionists are using very disturbing actions and tactics prior to a woman undergoing abortion.

These new tactics include naming of the baby, a kind of baptism ritual, writing notes to the baby to be aborted and to express words of

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"love" to the baby which they are taking in to be killed. There is an attempt to do this prior to the abortion. They are encouraged to grieve for that child that they are killing intentionally.

In fact what this does is to cause deep confusion because, there is a moral knowledge that what is being done (abortion) is wrong and hence the unease and sadness and grief, and these so called healers by initiating these rituals lead the woman not to have anything to hold onto after the abortion. This is demonic.

This says that both the woman and those encouraging these rituals know that what is done is wrong.

It is possible to suffer anticipatory grief, but this is different. Anticipatory grief is the grief experienced when someone is told that they have a terminal illness, without the possibility of recovery. From this point onwards a certain grieving begins by the person who is sick and their family. Together they begin the stages of grief, whilst waiting for the time to come.

The above mentioned rituals (pre abortion) are different, because there is a violence to be committed and it's an intentional violence.

I am horrified that such people (healers) would confuse the grieving process, so much that after the abortion and many years later, the grief continues.

We have some very sick people inhabiting our planet. Can you imagine the confusion this is going to cause? However, I am not surprised. I think I must be getting far too cynical because very little surprises me now.

This past month (May) I have spoken to a

woman here in Melbourne who also told me a similar story, but the story was more sinister because this woman went to a pastoral worker at her church for help to make a decision on abortion, and the pastoral worker said to her, "whatever you decide dear we will support you" There was no help given to this catholic girl who wanted to know what Church teaching on abortion was. Just that "we will support you."

Further, after the abortion this so called pastoral worker, who went with her on the day of the abortion, and then took the girl home after the abortion, proceeded to perform a mini ritual to say goodbye to the soul of the aborted baby boy!!! Now, eleven years after the abortion and this so called ritual and the woman still grieves and is unable to forgive herself. This grief has now developed into a complicated type of grief.

This woman still lights candles to "guide" the soul of her baby into heaven!!! For goodness sake! And guess what? the "pastoral worker" is nowhere to be seen. This is the type of damage that is being done by thoughtless, ignorant individuals who offer platitudes and nothing substantial. Who are not present (and can't support) when the woman suffers and hears her baby calling her in the middle of the night. And who lights a candle so the baby can see her and not be afraid.

When I heard this last story (I had heard a similar one last year but let it pass) I became incensed because this is the devil's work, carried out with smooth satin language. This is false compassion. This woman went to learn what her Church believed and taught about

The woman still lights a candle to "guide her baby home".

abortion, she had not yet made the final decision to abort. She was wavering and unsure. That child could have been saved. She had a right to the truth and to support with the truth and nothing else. She had a right to expect that her church could and would help her and not offer a pseudo "liturgy to release the baby's soul" a new age pastoral worker with fairyland theology.

Now comes the notice that in America they are "baptising" babies to be aborted" The church has to get involved more. The Church has to teach better her stand and the whole truth. The Church needs to speak about this issue every day, every how. Using every means.

The Church needs to recognize that all other social justice issues are useless without the right to be allowed to be born. Without this right, all other rights become abusable and absurd because life is considered valueless and meaningless. For other pastoral issues to be applicable one has to be allowed to be born!

I am tired of hearing the most awful and tragic stories because of the incompetence and saccharine attitude of **some of** the Church appointed members. And I don't mean the

Catholic Church alone. I mean the Anglican, Baptist, Uniting, and those that call themselves "Church" I have seen members from all denominations and none and I have heard stories that must break the heart of God. I have heard stories told about God, that if they had been told about a human person, that human person would have the right and duty to sue all and sundry.

Abortion survives, and increases, because of the lies and deceit that are permitted, even by good people. Abortion continues because we do not hear the cry of the woman and the cry of the child that is aborted. Abortion survives and increases because we have lost the fear of God and fear of retribution. The Church, the Body of Christ needs to speak the truth in and out of season. Until we get this truth right none of the others will be taken seriously.

The Church is the only hope against the war on life but the Church and its members need to speak the truth **ALWAYS** even when not palatable. There is never any compassion when lies especially about abortion are told. I see the after effects of the lies and the after effects are ugly.

"The church is the only hope against the war on life"

Abortion drug RU486 as a possible new form of contraception pill.

It's interesting but my error in issue 51 of calling the RU486 a contraceptive pill maybe wasn't so much an error but may be a premonition.

On March 29th *The Australian* (daily newspaper for my non Aust readers) ran an article which posited that the RU486 abortion pill has potential as a new form of contraceptive. In

fact the writer of the article (Medical reporter for this tome) lauded a low dose RU486 as a new pill with the potential to reduce the risk of breast cancer and "even eliminates premenstrual tension" Indeed researchers are now saying that that this chemical cocktail is safer than the "pill" because it contains no oestrogen and could stop menstruation and the symptoms which this has.

I am appalled; this is a newer way of creating womb- less automatons. We at last have found a way in which women can become like men, non reproductive. They can be sterile. They can roam around, have sexual encounters and

not worry about pregnancy.

I am wondering where it will stop. I am also wondering if we are not sterilising our future citizens even before they are born. What kind of demonic mind can produce such hatred of women?

Prof. Caroline De Costa, who began the RU486 debate and its aftermath, now says "I think that now that we no longer have the ban, we will start to see it tested for various uses".

This is a cocktail of synthetic chemicals which she wants to test on women.

How amazing that this drug to be used to treat all sorts of reproductive issues of women also works by blocking the action of progesterone which is needed for ovulation and to help support and maintain a pregnancy. Why is it that we are not surprised?

The minds of these researchers are sick and I am sure that there is a deep hatred of women and a desire to change the design of women. It's no wonder we have a need for cloning.

There will come a time when women cannot fulfil their function anymore because of the tampering and modifying and changing.

First the Pill, then the injections, then insertions, (IUDs) the depo Provera and of course we cannot forget the condom and now RU486 and eventually external womb conception...Ah and the women think they will have it made. That they will have reached their ultimate purpose. Yes society will have become androgynous.

Hallelujah we are now robots. Now the feminists can boast that they have neutered their genius.

Herod and Pilate are Friends Again.

Recently here in Victoria Australia (for my non Australian friends) there was a report in one of the daily papers which was cause for grave concern. Whilst at the moment abortions are carried out almost to full term, they are still

considered technically illegal and as such do not exude an aura of confidence or licitness in the population. In fact several years ago a study showed that the Australian society believed that there are too many abortions. Now we have a Catholic Labor Party premier who promises that if he wins government he will decriminalise abortion.

One could argue that it's already abortion on demand; however, if it is decriminalised, there will be a subtle change of perception. Today it's illegal, so perhaps the thought is that it's not so good. When it becomes legal, then the perception will be that it's OK. Going through a red light is illegal...wrong. Going through a green light it's legal therefore right. If it's legal to kill in utero children then the message is that it's OK. That it is only a minor procedure, that it causes no problems in fact that it becomes a norm.

If this is indeed a true reporting then the Catholic Church must act according to its own norms "formal co operation in an abortion constitutes a grave offence. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against life" and "by the very commission of the offence" (CIC. can. 1314)

If decriminalisation is to be sought, our Premier, a publicly known Catholic, is thus involved in the "formal co operation in an abortion" and thus gives scandal. The Church must stand firm and excommunicate him. The Church must stand for life because if it doesn't, it cannot be expected to be respected on other matters on which it believes and preaches.

Following this report the incumbent leader of the opposition also made comment on the abortion issue and his comment is equally devastating and utterly stupid. This new opposition leader does not believe that decriminalisation will make much difference to the world. And in the event that the issue comes to the fore he will support the change.

"I don't think it will make difference to the world" says this erstwhile new leader of a

Congratulations.

On Easter Tuesday I had the pleasure of attending the 20th anniversary of the birth of the a wonderful charism within the Catholic Church. The Holy Spirit of Freedom Community.

This community reaches out to the very poor, the anawim, especially those known as "street kids", those caught up on prostitution, drugs or any other wound which has sent them living on the streets. I first met the founders The Rev. Frank Feain (permanent deacon) and his lovely wife Lu, in Pemberton in Western Australia, where the HSOF community has headquarters. It was here in this beautiful sprawling farm setting that the Lord began to draw me towards the work that I am doing now. It was here that the Lord began the healing of my abortion wounds. It was here the words of the Holy Father John Paul II (Evangelium Vitae) found root in me and began to grow.

It was so good the meet up with Frank & Lu again and to be able to remind them of that morning in Pemberton when a group prayed for whatever it was that was hurting and destroying me. It was during these prayers that the wounded memory of my abortions surfaced and the need for healing began. It was also here that I met the fantastic Catholic priest who led me through a series of events culminating in beautiful letting go of the children and his words to me "now Anne you go and do for others what has been done for you." I wonder if that priest even knew how prophetic and deep his words to me were. Thank you Father Michael.

Thank you Frank & Lu for setting me on this fantastic journey towards my Fathers house." Well done good and faithful servants."

May your charism continue to grow and may the Holy Spirit, lead many home through the ministry which you found for them.

With love and thanks to Frank, Lu, Peter, Josephine, Elena, and those who prayed over me that day.

major political party.

I would like to say to him," of course not, 40,000,000 (globally) abortions per year don't make much difference do they Mr Baillieu? And over 35,000 annually in Victoria don't make much difference do they Mr Baillieu? Imagine over 10 years an extra nearly 350,000 citizens working, saving, buying, schooling, marrying, spending, loving, and laughing, wouldn't make a difference would they Mr Baillieu? The teachers, doctors, artists, songsters, accountants, Priests, mothers, fathers and all the other careers which will be short changed because at least nearly half a million people were killed and in their dying took their lives and talents with them.

To this wannabe Premier, Mr Baillieu, several million more citizens in Australia obviously would not make a difference. However it needs to be said that today these missing citizens are causing shortages of labour and so are their skills. What short sightedness! I wonder if these missing (at least several million over the last 25 years) citizens will lead to euthanasia because there wont be sufficient people working and paying taxes in order to keep the elderly, and as the population ages and its needs for medical services increases, there wont be sufficient people paying taxes what will happen? Of course Mr Baillieu can't see difference. We get the leaders we deserve!

Further, what short sightedness that Mr Baillieu cannot see the pervasive grief of women following an abortion and its effect on families and society. What short sightedness that he cannot see the strain on the health budget because of mental health, breast cancer, and other abortion related illnesses suffered by women. What a pity he cannot see his own lack of vision.

Please remember when election time comes (for my Victorian readers) that Mr Baillieu does not believe that approximately 35- 40 thousand aborted children would make much of a difference. Please also remember that for him to decriminalise abortion and liberate the baby killing as a "normal" is OK. And please also

remember that Mr. Bracks (a catholic) our "reigning" Premier has intentions for the decriminalisation of abortion. The last bastion against overt legitimacy of abortion. Keeping abortion as a crime still says that there is something wrong with it.

It seems the child in the womb has not found a friend or supporter in either Mr Bracks or Mr Baillieu. It seems that neither of the two major parties have any passion or compassion for the unborn child. **It seems that Herod and Pilate are in cahoots again. How convenient.**

Telling children about the death of infants through abortion or miscarriage.

Since the last issue of the newsletter I have seen quite a few new people, several just for brief time, some will be extended time, and two of them have been children in the 5 & 6 year age range.

Both of the mothers had aborted in the second

trimester because of foetal abnormality. In both cases pregnancy had been welcomed and much rejoiced. And for the woman and the father of the family, who were posed the question of termination because of test outcomes, and who had to make that decision, the time ensuing has been traumatic and difficult. However, now the youngest of the children in both families are showing signs of distress and complicated type of grieving. Both, the little five year old girl, and six year old girl are greatly distressed that their sibling (in both cases boys) have died. These children show a sense of anger an injustice.

In an effort to ease the child's pain, and with good faith, the parents told the child that the baby had been very ill and had died and *Jesus had come and taken him/her to heaven.* Now the children (both of them) want Jesus to bring the baby back, because according to the child "its my baby and I want it back." "Tell Jesus to bring my baby back" said 6 year old Tina. And it is heartbreaking to hear her say these words. And of course it brings greater and guiltier grief for the mother as she listens to the request.

Because children are not capable of abstract thought at this stage of their development, and

"It seems the child in the womb has not found a friend and supporter in either Mr Bracks or Mr Baillieu"

for them concreteness is the only reality, it is difficult for them to understand death. For them death is temporary, and it's ok for someone to go away for a time, but after a time the person must come back. The child has no concept of the finality of death, and therefore unable to process the permanency of the situation.

Whilst doing some drawing therapy with the child and listening to her speak, I was able to see her anguish but also her anger at Jesus for taking her baby away.

I would like to say how important it is for children to be told the truth but in a manner that does not leave long term difficulties for the faith of the child (No I do not mean to tell the child of the abortion) but to speak in a way that leaves hope. That leaves the child unafraid and with hope of seeing his/her sibling again one day.

For this child, Jesus was unfair taking her own baby. Also challenges her belief that Jesus can heal because according to her He didn't heal her baby and bring him back, but actually took the sick baby and didn't bring him back.

Letters

Dear Anne

Today I have received your latest issue of newsletter Broken Branches. Thank you. You are amazing. Your newsletter gets better and better. This last issue was probably one of the best. Please keep going and may God bless your endeavours.

Mary U.
Melb.

Dear Anne,

Sorry I have been slow with my donation, but I hope the enclosed cheque will come in handy. Here we are, so close to Easter and I sometimes wonder if we really realise what it is all about, as we cope with so many changes that don't seem to make much sense..

Thank you for your recent *Broken Branches* (that name is very apt) and I congratulate you on the wonderful effort you give to all who need your support. Glad to hear you have found an office.

I always remember you and your intentions in my prayers and may God Bless you and your loved ones.

Very sincerely

Ivy W.
N.S.W.

Dear Anne,

Once again many thanks for sending your wonderful newsletter.

I certainly endorse once more all you have written .

Keep up your wonderful work for the Lord and may he shower you and all to whom he sends you with his choicest blessings and graces.

Your brother in Christ

Br. Con.

Dear Anne,

Thank you for your informative newsletter. I was also very disappointed in the overturning of the ban on RU486, a sad day for our country, but it was heartening to see some of our politicians stand up for their Christian beliefs I take comfort that the anti life people are worried about the pro life movement or they would not be so demonstrative in their condemnation of it. As you also said God does not judge on our successes but on how hard we tried. Thank you again for the work that you do.

Love and God Bless
Catherine H.
Victoria

Dear Anne,

Your issue of "Broken Branches" issue 51 was without peer!

You just summed up the whole issues so perfectly! Similarly with your commonsense appraisal of the ridiculous notion of introducing sex education to young children before puberty.

I am forwarding your issue 51 to several of my friends and I would appreciate it if you would forward an extra 5 copies. I know he will be delighted to read your writings.

Thank you for the work you do.

God Bless
Errol.

Dear Anne,

Good onya girl you sock it to 'em

Gene.

This also can create a fear for the child's own life, that if she/he is ever sick then Jesus will come and take her away from her mummy and daddy and her family and not bring her back.

Today we live in a society where death is not something that is part of life. Death is invisible. It happens behind closed doors and is sanitised. Usually, dying happens away from the family and home and the next time that the dead person is seen he/she is lying in a box generally looking a bit different. Children are most often totally excluded from the events surrounding the death, so that for them, a loved one is here and then gone.

What are some of the needs of bereaved children? To know that whatever happens they will be cared for. They will be safe. To know that nothing that they did caused the sickness and death of the child or other. To have the information about the death made clear and in a language that they understand. To feel that they are important and part of the grieving of the family, including where there is a funeral to have a small part in that. Important to continue the normal, routine activities. These tell the child he/she is not in danger.

Let there be someone very close to the child who is willing to listen to their fears (often many times) fantasies, questions. Help the child create something of their own to remember the dead person (a book of stories about the person and drawings). Kids need adults to model grief behaviour. A child who knows his/her sibling has died in utero will also feel cheated. They had also looked to the child joining them in life. So please take care of

children in their grieving, it helps for a positive resolution. And please, please, try and not make Jesus an ogre by telling the child that "Jesus wanted baby all to Himself" or "Jesus saw that baby was sick and took him/her away" When using language like this, a sense of injustice is aroused in the child and this sense can last a lifetime, and often it is not known where the distrust of Jesus might come from. It can usually be found that the child has been told, or has had something done that didn't make sense and they felt let down by Jesus, the One who is supposed to love and protect them and according to them He didn't.

As I come again to the end of another newsletter, thank you to those who write and support me. Please continue to pray for, Melissa, Hamish, Carlie, Marie, Adam, Susie, Sally, Jodie, Andrea (1) Andrea (2), Catherine, Tori, Julianne, Jack, Darren, Jacinta, Jacquie, Clare, Libby, Katie, Athina, Iris, Dave, Liz, Elissa, Anne Louise, Cassie, Michelle (new) Helen, Mary, Joanne (new), Dianne (new) Greg, Louise (new) Phillipa (new) Sarah (new) Michaela (new).



Anne Lastman

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