

# Broken Branches

Issue 51

April/May 2006

John 15

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

## Blood on their hands

The RU486 debate and decision has been characterised as a political/ medical decision about women's rights. It is arguable that the decision is not even a decision much less a debate and more likely a debacle. The starting point must be by looking at the major players involved.

First of all the TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration) - the body to whom responsibility and the power to assess RU486 is now to be transferred, has a long history of questionable competence. Remember the Pan Pharmaceuticals debacle and perhaps even the thalidomide decision. The Thalidomide problem we could say was a long time ago, but the Pan Pharmaceuticals debacle was of more recent memory.

Secondly the major proponents of the change were feminists whose aim was to turn a normal medical determination into a feminist cause celebre. Most of these people came from the heartland of the feministocracy - Victoria, which has now the unenviable reputation of being the home of the godless feminist left leaning horde. Others came from the latte set of the major capital cities. The debate was also led by the left leaning Age daily newspaper (for my non Australian readers) whose main raison d'être is appeasement of some minority groups and abuse of anything Judeo Christian.

These proponents then decided to play the man (ad hominum argument) not the issue. Focussing on passionate, forceful and religious politicians like Mr Tony Abbott and Senator Barnaby Joyce, they then sought to denigrate their opponents with such derogatory slogans as "Mr Abbott get your rosaries off my ovaries". What should be noted, is that the people whom they targeted came from the distinctly conservative states of NSW and Queensland and so a proposed debate about medical procedures was being hijacked by the feminazis and left leaning Victorian politicians

The determination would probably not have succeeded but for the untimely, and deeply suspicious intervention of Mr Peter Costello, Federal Treasurer. Smarting from his political faux pas of last year and seeing his leadership prospects go down the sewer system, the "white knight" of the feminist cause then propounded his personal experience (which had nothing to do with transferring responsibility over RU486 from Mr Abbott to the TGA and a lot to do with the issue of abortion, though it was NEVER, we were assured, meant to be about this issue) showed his "pro feminist credentials" while trying to destroy his leadership rival Tony Abbott's strong chance of winning.

His motherhood sentiments and comments were followed by forceful statements about the obligations of citizenship, and then the need for tax cuts. These statements indicate that his

A newsletter of Victims of Abortion

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ P/C \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

I *would/would not* like to be on your mailing list.

Victims of Abortion, National Office  
PO Box 6094, Vermont South, Vic, 3133, Australia.  
Ph/Fax: +61 3 9887 7669 Mobile: 0408 175 033  
Email: [annevoa@bigpond.net.au](mailto:annevoa@bigpond.net.au)

immediate and only interest and desire was for political redemption. For political repair. His own! And nothing to do with transferring of responsibility or even non transfer of responsibility. It was a political opportunity for him and nothing else. This is the man who would be "King" or maybe Prime Minister.

The conscience vote had no chance at all with a femocrat like Julia Gillard (also from Victoria now the most secular of Australian States) who "persuaded" her Labor party colleagues into voting for the bill despite there being a conscience vote.

The result - the feminist agenda and the craven political search for popularity won the day, turning a decision of paramount medical importance into personality driven attack.

Make no mistake - when women start dying from using RU486 the feminist cabal will put up their collective manicured hands and say "don't blame us" we were only helping women - it was the TGA that authorised it.

Responsibility for such a dangerous drug has now been removed from the health Minister, in this case Mr Abbott, and it appears that pharmaceutical companies are loathe (at this time) to be involved in its local manufacture, but we should not be complacent, it is only a matter of time before there will be boat loads of the stuff brought in and before we start hearing about the adverse effects. When we

do, it is important to remember who it was that contributed to this situation and perhaps begin to sue all responsible for the situation.

Throughout this sorry saga much work was done by all the pro life groups and some churches, especially the Catholic Church. His Eminence George Cardinal Pell put out a very good public statement. The Respect Life Offices spoke out; Australian Catholic Bishops Conference spoke out. Many Pro life groups and individuals, lobbied, protested, prayed, wrote letters to politicians, newspapers, magazines. Family Life International, Right to Life, Pro Life Victoria, myself as Victims of Abortion, Members of Helpers of God's Precious Infants, Saltshakers, and the list continues.

We did work very hard to prevent the outcome. Sadly we did not win, however my hope is that the Lord will see that we have worked for the children and for the women, and men and society and be merciful.

I am reminded of Abraham asking God "I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more, perhaps there will only be ten people" and God responded "for the sake of ten people I will not destroy the place" (Gn 18:16-33).

I need to console my self by believing that there were many people who cared and because of those many people who cared the Lord God may spare humanity. I strongly believe that the work of those who laboured hard is remembered.

*"...we did work very hard to prevent the outcome. Sadly we did not win..."*

My saddest moment came when I saw those female senators drink celebratory champagne after the win, and in a photo shoot appear with large grins upon their faces. And what were they celebrating? Another new and deadly way of killing pre-born children in their mother's wombs and poisoning and possibly killing the baby's mother. Yes another way to abort. As if the surgical abortion, the partial birth abortion is not enough, now we have deadly cocktail of chemicals. The life of the infant in the womb is now more in danger than at any other place on earth. Forget war zones, forget famine sites, the pre born live in the deadliest of war zones. The womb.

Today the baby in its mother's womb is the poorest of the poor (the new anawim). We as a society have much to hang our collective heads in shame.

Stop Press!

**New information concerning RU486 has emerged this past week. New England Journal of Medicine states "RU486 abortions are 10 times more likely to kill a woman, from infection alone, than are surgical abortions in early pregnancy. This estimate does not**

**include RU486 related deaths from other causes, such a ruptured ectopic pregnancy."**

So much for the celebratory drinks of our infamous Senators. I wonder how many doctors will want to be involved with this drug.

## ERRATUM

Before I continue further I need to clarify a mistake I made in the last issue of the newsletter, issue 50. On page 4 under RU486 I called the abortion pill a "contraceptive." I apologise for this mistake. I think I was thinking about the next topic which I was going to write about *Toxic Pill- The Pill is the number 1 carcinogen* and I wrote as I was thinking. I thank the many many people who wrote and corrected me. It was a mistake made because of too many things going through my mind. Yes I do know that RU486 is an abortion pill and not a contraceptive pill. Phew! I hope this hiccup is quickly forgotten. I am embarrassed!

## SEX EDUCATION

On the 8<sup>th</sup> March, (2006) I received an early morning call from the Today Tonight Television Show (Sydney) asking me if I would appear on their evening programme and make

"Today the baby in its mother's womb is the poorest of the poor, the new anawim..."

comment about an article which had appeared in *The Australian* newspaper that very day (I hadn't read the papers yet). The article in question was called **Pre teen sex classes push.**

Our previously highly active RU486 erstwhile Senator Lyn Allison, has now finished with the RU486 and drunk champagne to the success, and is setting her sights on ensuring that sex education for children begins in the earliest years of their school life.

Senator Allison believes that a national

approach to sex education of children in schools will reduce teenage pregnancies and abortions. How smooth she sounds. As smooth as her voice was when suggesting that responsibility over RU486 had to be removed from Health Minister, not (according to her) because he is a Catholic but because it belongs in the hands of nameless, faceless, bureaucracy. How smooth she sounded and how logical. Now Ms Allison uses the same smoothness and logic to introduce sex education to the very young, and this education placed in the hands of strangers and not the child's parents or guardian.

"Children can understand some pretty basic bodily functions at quite an early stage" said the vocal and smooth Ms Allison. I agree children understand some bodily functions and they understand these according to their age and stage of development. But sexuality and sexual functions are not the domain of the very young.

Indeed to introduce sex education in the primary years means to introduce an adult concept in the latency period. From about six-seven years of age to puberty the child's sexuality rests in this latency period and is supposed to be dormant. This is a time of integration of past learning. Integration of identity as male or female. During this period both boys and girls have a need to be "boys" or "girls" and have no genuine desire to be or play together, but to be in the company of their same gender friends. This is the time when boys think that girls are "yuk" and girls likewise think boys are "yuk." Yet this is also the time when Ms Allison wants to introduce the concepts of sexuality.

To introduce concepts of sexuality at this stage is to literally try and force the child to process a concept which he or she has no knowledge about and which he or she cannot process. They do not have the capacity to process the information and this in itself can lead to distress, especially as the latency period is a period where the child is naturally shy about their body. At this stage they have a natural modesty which should be protected at all costs.

Ultimately if we follow the dictates of Ms Allison and her colleague Ms Judith Troeth, who together have completed the proposed terms of reference for an enquiry into sex education, children will be "taught" about sexuality whether as parents one wants this or not.

To my way of thinking what these women and their colleagues want to do is to intrude into sacred and private space and to muddy that space and to create more losses and confusion

than previously thought possible, because what we as adults really do, if this comes to pass, is to steal from the children their childhood.

There is only a small time for a child to remain a child, and it is by the manner in which this child's early formation has been accomplished, that will set up the pattern for future behaviour and maybe future suffering.

I would call on all whenever there is talk on this matter to become involved. Please write letters of protest, call members of parliament, pray, do all possible to prevent damage being done to children especially under the guise of doing something good.

We are reminded that we may never do an evil that a good may come from it. In this case Ms Allison and tribe seem to think that introducing sex education in primary years will reduce teen pregnancies and reduce abortion. Rubbish.

Sex education (in upper primary and early secondary) has been in existence for years now and it has not reduced teen pregnancy or teen abortion, and indeed increased same and increased STD's, now this woman calls for the younger and younger introduction of children into the sexual world.

What does it take to make some people hear? I have on many occasions written and spoken about the enormous damage done to a child through sexual abuse, especially when this abuse is done in their early years.

Sexual abuse is destructive irrespective of when it happens, but more so when this abuse is done during the period when the child does not know what this means, except that he/she feels uncomfortable, bad, about what is happening. When this happens it introduces a sense of betrayal, a sense of loss. A sense of loss of trust, a sense of self worthlessness, a sense of non belonging, a sense of shame, a sense of unreality, fear, confusion, guilt.

## Special Thanks

This month I have to say a special thank you to a small band of people who helped me to move from the old offices in East Melbourne to my new office in Bourke Street Melbourne.

First of all thank you to Chris Bright and Des Kelly for giving up their January 26<sup>th</sup> public holiday to help me to move. I decided to move on this day because of the difficulty of parking vans and truck during busy week day and also having to get special permission from council to park outside the office. I am especially grateful because it was a difficult shift having to climb up and down 51 steep stairs, many many times, carrying settees, tables, desks, and incidentals.

I sincerely thank Chris and Des for their kindness. I have promised to cook them a meal but this (for one reason or another) hasn't happened yet.

I also need to thank my husband Andrew (supervision I think he called it) and son Lucas who also helped in the moving of the lighter stuff (he has a serious knee injury-awaiting surgery) and he couldn't carry heavy stuff-but he carried what he could.

All in all it took about 3 hours to move the stuff and set it up in the shoe box office.

So thank you Andrew, Luc, Chris and Des. I appreciate your care.

I have now settled into the office, it has been painted and made nice for me and hope that everything will be OK. When I go into the office I go by train as parking is too difficult-again I'll see how it goes.

Sexual abuse does all of this and more. It steals from the child his/her right to childhood. It disrupts and confuses the progressive developmental stages and imprints the pattern for a lifetime of suffering. Introducing sexual concepts when a child cannot process such concepts is a form of sexual abuse, because it forces the child to view and take on board ideas which he/she cannot understand and which will cause distress.

Sex education especially when targeted to the prepubescent age group and presented by strangers puts forth the notion that it is a topic which is no different than any other topic studied. Sex education cannot ever be values free, because when it is taught values free it becomes a lesson in biology and nothing more. And when it is taught as a biology lesson then it is no wonder that the very young experiment with what they have been shown and learnt.

When the notion of the sacredness of sexuality is removed, then it opens the door wide for all manner of abuse to occur. Self abuse and acceptance of other person abuse.

More seriously, when sexual matter is introduced into an unprepared canvas (child) it disturbs the progressive natural development. From this moment on, the psycho sexual development is seized and whilst the physical and cognitive may progress the psychological and spiritual will be arrested. Disturbing this very important phase of childhood development with information not suitable for it (latency period) ensures much present and future suffering for that child.

## SLEEP DISORDERS AFTER ABORTION.

In a recent study by David Reardon (Elliot Institute and Pricilla Coleman from University of Bowling Green); it was found that women who abort suffer sleep disturbances. The biggest

difference was found during the first 180 days (approx 6 mths) following the end of the pregnancy but then it was further found (up to four years) that women who underwent abortion were more likely to be treated for sleep disorders.

Many studies have found that individuals who experience a traumatic event suffer sleeping difficulties. In a study published in *Medical Science Monitor* (2004) it was found that 30% of abortive women reported to have nightmares.

It is my experience after speaking with hundreds and hundreds of women (and my own personal experience) that following an abortion, violent night mares are experienced. The nature of the nightmares is disturbing and frightening and it is important to understand and to work with the woman during her experience of talking about "my dismembered" baby. It is a common dream to dream about violence, blood and broken babies.

It has been my experience that when we start working with the dream and talking as often as

is necessary, the dream will disappear.

One of my young women (Hayley) spoke to me about the same recurring dream of her picking up her baby in little bits and holding the bits in her hands. Her anguish was enormous. As we spoke and she felt believed and comforted and we relocated her baby whole into the arms of Jesus, and she could see her baby whole and "not in pain any more" her nightmare was replaced with beautiful peaceful imagery.

I remember the day Hayley came in with shinning eyes (bit watery-but happy watery) she told me she had had a dream and she saw the most beautiful pair of hands (no body or head or face just hands) carrying her beautiful baby girl and the baby wasn't crying or calling to her but was nestled in the beautiful hands. From then on I knew we were going home with her being at peace.

Over the years I have heard the nightmare stories which have turned into beautiful imagery. And it wasn't always those who professed some kind of religious belief, even those without religious belief have been helped

*" ... I have heard the nightmare stories ... "*

with peaceful imagery.

This is why I believe that no matter how hard a woman or girl or even man professes no feelings about an abortion, they really cannot escape the conscience. That place where God only can enter and speak. When this place is violated with something anti-human, then it responds by causing it distress to be noted.

Nightmares, bad dreams, sleeplessness, are the response of the conscience being uneasy. It is the unease with which it has been forced to live with itself. And perhaps we could say that it is

the one place where the truth about abortion is known though the truth not always accepted.

Dreams clearly tell us that life is God's domain. It is important to note that the authors of this study (Reardon & Coleman) encourage mental health practitioners to inquire about prior pregnancy loss (if there is any) because doing so "gives women permission" to speak about their disenfranchised, unspoken of hurts, especially with abortion.

In my own room I am privileged to see the change that comes about when the woman/girl/man in front of me is given permission to miss or grieve for an abortion.

# Letters

*Dear Anne,*

*Please find enclosed cheque for \$...maybe you can use it towards the rent in your new city office. If only our politicians who voted in favour of the abortion drug RU486 could understand what Sally O'Grady wrote about this drug. Perhaps too we could show them a photo of young baby Bryce.*

*Many thanks for your efforts in the pro life cause.*

*God Bless*

*Dave B.*

*Dear Anne,*

*Thank you for continuing to send your newsletter it's the best one of the pro life newsletters. My husband and I look forward to it and we read it from cover to cover. We are amazed at how many topics you cover and always very readable and easy to understand. Thank you for your work for life.*

*'Mary and John T.*

*Malvern Vic.*

*Dear Anne*

*Thank you for your newsletter and I also thank you for the beautiful work you do.*

*You help Jesus carry a portion of His Cross. May He bless everything you do. I do remember to pray for those whom you ask prayers*

*Enclosed is a small donation towards the postage of the newsletter.*

*God Bless you and your family.*

*Love*

*Gerard & Alice.*

*Dear Anne,*

*I have been receiving your newsletter Broken Branches since you first began sending it out and I am amazed at the quality and depth and variety of information which you have been able to sustain over the years. You really know*

*your stuff.*

*I would like to tell you how much you have taught my husband and me about the abortion topic. We look forward to your newsletter and count the days when it is due. I must admit that yours is the only one that I read from cover to cover.*

*We love the new format and would like to congratulate your son Luke for his input. You seem to be very blessed with your children. We have been praying for Nick and wait to hear about his welfare.*

*Thank you so much for the work that you do. May God shower His blessings upon you, yours and the people you minister to.*

*God Bless you*

*Marian and Jeff H.*

*Adelaide SA.*

*Ps: We are sorry that your Archbishop could not find a room for you to work from but we are glad you have found another room even though it is a secular setting.*

*Dear Anne*

*Would you please thank the people who read your newsletter and have been praying for me. You told me that my name is on the newsletter list and that people have been praying for me. As you know, Anne, I have only been to you about half dozen time and even in this short time I feel already 100%. I know that we have a long way to go but between your help and consolation and the prayers of those kind and unknown people I am well and truly on the mend. I hope one day to be able to write my whole story and share it with your people.*

*Thank you to those praying for me and please could you continue, as I need to lay my three aborted children (Angela, Chris, Gabriel) to rest and begin to reclaim by life again and begin to be a wife to my husband.*

*Jacquie.*

It is wonderful to see the almost immediate change in the facial features, when a woman is believed and is helped to grieve. It is wonderful to see and hear that the nightmares have stopped and she has beautiful dreams.

I often tell people I have the best job on earth! Granted I am looked at in shock, but when I explain that I get to see grief turned to joy they understand. Indeed I do have the best job on earth and I thank God for this.



Please be introduced to baby William. He is one of my beautiful babies whose mum was helped during 2005. His birth gave a lot of us much joy. When I look at William and baby Bryce who featured in my last newsletter, I am saddened to think that over 100,000 like these two are aborted every year (in Australia-alone) and over 50,000,000 world wide. How sad. I

am reminded of Jesus saying "Father forgive them they know not what they do." Indeed this is true. We don't know. If we really knew maybe we wouldn't. Imagine if every abortive mother could see the baby she has aborted (at this age) I know she would not have gone through with it. God Bless William's and his lovely mother's life.

As I come to the end of this newsletter, I thank you for your continued care for me. I can't do it without you, you must know that.

It's been a hard several months and I am still settling into the offices. And I have had a spate of new calls both for abortion and sexual abuse. So I need to ask for your continued care and prayers please. Both for myself and the people I work with.

Please continue also to pray for Nick, it is his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and I am praying for miracles.

Please continue to pray for Melissa, Hamish, Carlie, Marie, Adam, Susie, Sally, (Sally 2 finished) Jodie, Andrea (1) Andrea (2) Catherine, Tori, Julie Anne, Jack, Darren, Marle. Judith, Jacinta, Jacquie, Clare, Irene, Libby, Kate, (new) Athina (new) Donna (new) Iris (new) Dave (new) Liz, Elissa (new), Anne Louise (new) Kylie (new) Cassie (new) Helen (new) Mary (new).

**Anne Lastman**

*Broken Branches - Back Issue Request*

Issue Number _____	Date/Yr _____	Number of Copies required _____
Issue Number _____	Date/Yr _____	Number of Copies required _____
Issue Number _____	Date/Yr _____	Number of Copies required _____
Issue Number _____	Date/Yr _____	Number of Copies required _____