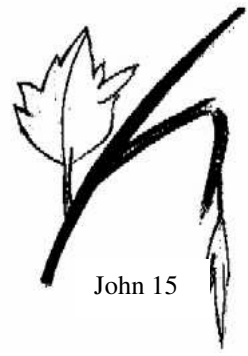


BROKEN BRANCHES



John 15

A newsletter of *Victims of Abortion*

Issue 12

September 2000

Welcome to issue 12 of Broken Branches!!

We made it. Goodness I wondered if I could sustain the newsletter for 12 months and indeed confound my husband who wondered if I could speak/write for 12 issues and not run out of things to say. Well I did show him didn't I!

As I reviewed the past 12 months I was amazed at the ground covered. Not only did I write about PAS and its symptoms but also briefly and anonymously about various case studies. I have seen some wonderful healings and moving on and new ones taken on board and some who just needed someone to talk to a few times. I have spoken publicly on many occasions. Have worked with some girls who mistakenly rang for an abortion and I managed to get them into the office and please God they didn't continue with the abortion. I have worked very hard and over a long time with a young mum (baby 9 months) who is not an aborted mother but who is suffering Post natal depression and who was convinced that the depression would go if she abandoned her marriage (she is a Catholic). Thank God that after many weeks of seeing her weekly and speaking to her about the Sacredness of marriage and the Sacredness of her covenant which has been ratified and blessed with her baby, she is still with her husband and I no longer believe that she will walk away. Today she does not speak about leaving "and starting a life of my own with my baby" but words to the effect "I didn't know that marriage was a sacrament. In fact I didn't know what a sacrament was, we just got married in Church because that's what everyone does."

We are still not finished here but the urgency has been lifted. Thank God.

The Death of a Child.

The death of a child is always the saddest and most devastating event possible. It at times appears incomprehensible and unfair. The death of a child always renders those left behind incomplete and will from then onwards remain so. Whether through accident, sickness, severely challenged, the death (even when expected) numbs and questions the validity of life. Death always leaves behind unanswered questions, however, the death of a child freezes the human mind and calls into question

the reality of a just God.

Whilst death is always an enigma and remains to taunt human beings, always appearing unjust and unexpected, the death of a child is much more so. Many reasons can be offered for why this happens, however, perhaps the closest and best understood reason would have to be that when a child dies, a tomorrow has died, a future has died. The generations have died. Indeed when a child dies a covenant relationship is permanently and prematurely severed and never to be reconnected here on this earth. Death the enemy of humanity and the legacy of sin continues to randomly claim its own. However, it is the intentional death of someone that has the capacity to unhinge the human mind. Intentional and at times unintentional death leaves in its wake a incomplete interrupted journey which the perpetrator of the intentional death often attempts to complete. By this false attempt at completion of the journey there is a sense of vindication or atonement for the interruption of the life of the other. Where there is an interrupted story the beginning was experienced, the middle may have been experienced, however, there was no end to that particular story. It is the end, which must be concluded in order to finalize the story. Intentional death especially the intentional death of a child mirrors chaos. It is an abyss from which there appears no exit.

As I listen to the stories and observe the mourning by aborted men and women, I am brought to a deeper understanding of the mystery and profundity which is love. More importantly the profound meaning and love which is present at every conception even when and where this appears not to be so. I have seen how intimate is the relationship between suffering and love and the very real metaphysical connection, which exists between the two. This connection is also present between a mother and her newly conceived infant *even when this is not apparent.*

Further I have seen the very deep pain of a father and his experience of suffering which the loss of his child has induced in him. This of course has also helped me to understand (just a little) how God the Father must have felt seeing His child die and not being able to intervene. I have gained a new

appreciation of the unseen bond that both a mother and a father have to their child even though at times it appears that they do not even know that the bond exists.

A key to the understanding of maternal and paternal grief is to first understand the relationship between a mother and father and their child. Their relationship does not begin at some magical moment after the child is born but begins long before the child is conceived. Indeed it began in heart of God through the programming inherent in the human individual which has its genesis in Him. For men and women of whatever class, culture, time, creed, the future has meant –children. It was always understood that the future belonged to the children and it was not an option that the future would be killed or in some way would die. ***This is a post Christian-post modern egoistic philosophy. Only modern “man/woman” would seek to kill pre born children in order to carry out experiments so that he himself will live longer. Only the modern human will destroy its progeny because it is inconvenient. I say “human” because the animal creature would not do this. A so-called irrational “beast” would not kill its young because it was an inconvenience or an accident. The “bite” from the tree of knowledge of good and evil has not served us well.***

The death of a child whether “wanted” or “unwanted” is always followed by a time of suspension. I have listened to women tell me that they went into the clinic feeling really “fine” about the abortion because they had convinced themselves that it was the best thing to do. Yet almost immediately a change began. Perception of all around them changed. Those who had been friends no longer seemed friendly. Those who had been a partner had suddenly developed deficiencies. Parents who had been well meaning when they drove their daughter to an abortion facility and waited for their grandchild to be destroyed (some quite advanced) were no longer the totally trusted parents who had always done the very best for their offspring. Today as they sat in the clinic or left to come back “later” and they seemed strangers.

It is not only the death of a “wanted” baby which introduces a new set of emotions, difficulties, doubts, and an new level previously unknown suffering, but also the intentional death of a child (abortion) introduces a dimension of self induced and self perpetuated suffering and death. Intentional death (abortion) by its own mother and father introduces not redemptive suffering but its opposite, destructive suffering. Redemptive suffering has a dimension, which raises it heavenward, whereas destructive suffering spirals downward.

Loss of an infant through death requires that various levels of psychic pain must be negotiated before a leveling out can occur. Not a return to a time pre baby but a leveling of the existing situation. There is a transitional period (following the death) which must be experienced if emotional health is to be retained. The transitional period is important because of its negotiative aspect. Within this transitional period must be negotiated the reality of the existence of the child. The reality of its death, irrespective of the method of death and the reality that never again will things be the same. Further, within this transitional period will be the laying of the groundwork for the coping with and negotiating the moments of abysmal pain which will follow an aborted man or woman for the duration of life.

For a woman who has experienced (wanted or unwanted) the growth of a child in her womb, life will not be the same again. From the instant of conception the child had “spoken” to its mother and together they formed an indissoluble bond. No words were exchanged or needed by either of them, just the emotional presence and the secret knowledge that they only shared. It is interesting that even before a woman has been officially told that she is pregnant, her child (embryo) will have contacted her. This, through her blood stream and through hormones, which indicate to her that she, has a new and special guest within the depths of her being.

Recent studies seem to confirm this. Even from the earliest of days of conception the embryo sheds stem cells which appear to implant and colonize the mother’s medulla where they attach and remain for anything up to thirty years after birth. Professor Mancuso in an interview on Zenit News (ZE00090503Sept 8,2000) has this to say”we have proofs that beginning in the fifth week of gestation, in other words, when a woman realizes she is pregnant, an infinite number of messages pass from the embryo to the mother through chemical substances like hormones, neurotransmitters etc., Such information serves to adapt the mother’s organism to the presence of a new being.”

I have seen and heard this being spoken of by my women. I have heard a young woman who aborted when she was approximately 3 weeks pregnant say to me that she knew she was pregnant, that the baby “spoke” to her (not voice but by its presence) and she does not know why she continued and had her abortion because she still feels that there is a part of her baby within her and yet another part which has died. This young woman does not speak of embryos or tissue or cells but her “son “ She does not weep for some meaningless blob but son-her son. Perhaps what this young woman feels is the presence of her son’s cells still within her. This of course does not surprise

me. It simply explains and confirms what I have personally seen and heard.

Over the past nearly four years I have quietly observed the behaviour and language of post aborted women and men and whilst it may appear that their behaviour is the behaviour of individuals who have experienced a trauma (which they have) there is still much much more. Whilst the trauma is not to be denied, there is more to the response of these people and the "more" is subtle but it's there. It is the "more" which will not allow abortion to decrease. It is the "more" which is not being attended to, which will ensure that abortion, post abortion syndrome, post abortion grief, increased risk of breast cancer, increased risk in uterine cancers, ovarian cancers and indeed all life sustaining areas of the body will be attacked. ***There is much more to abortion than willfulness. There is much more to this than we are seeing. The picture is so much larger and grimmer,*** and whilst we look to Caesar for help in this area we are bound to lose the battle. It is Caesar, his savants and his minions who fuel, feed and disseminate their well-funded (billion dollar) agenda whilst those of us on this side of the fence continue struggling and generally unfunded.

There is a fantastic myth being perpetuated by the abortion industry and the modern human that the bond between a mother and her infant does not exist prior to birth. This myth has served the abortion industry well because if it is true then what happens prior to birth is acceptable. Thus it becomes easy to terminate the life of the child prior to birth (for now) because this myth has been well promulgated. This further makes it easy to dismiss those who mourn over the abortion as individuals who were troubled. By denying the fetal child membership of the human race then grief and mourning over the loss is really an over reaction to a pre existing problem and is person specific.

The loss of a baby through death (irrespective of gestational period) renders all of us temporarily out of kilter. It is not the normal and can never be treated as normal. Aborted parents cannot treat the death of their child as a trivial matter because any attempt to do so ultimately backfires and causes much suffering. ***We cannot change the human blueprint. It is not our blueprint or ours to change. However the blueprint decrees that when an intimate loss is experienced there will be a time of unspeakable suffering.*** Love and suffering cannot be separated. Life and suffering cannot be separated because ultimately it was part of "me" that died.

Big Thank you

As I conclude I would like to say a big thank you to all who have supported me this year whether by donation or with your prayers or both. It has at times been very difficult but your kindness kept things going. Extra special thanks to my "brother in Christ" from Qld and others. My kind supporters from Sydney (PB and others) My supporters here in Melbourne (Margaret, Fr. L. K. and all the others) who regularly contact me one way or another and to all those who write letters of encouragement they really are very important because for the most part I look forward to mail. Br. Simon (UK) who never fails in his kindness. I also thank "The Helpers" Fr. Brendan W., Gail, Wanda, Kathy (Perth). Thank you one and all. You sustained me. We made it year one (12 issues). Please God that next year I will improve. Please keep your support going and I will keep going also.

May the Lord Bless and keep you.



Anne Lastman.

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