# **Broken Branches**

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

ISSUE 135 - Feb/March 2020

#### Welcome to 2020.

Dear friends,

Let's together hope and pray that this new decade will bring with it much peace in our hearts in our families, in our work and in our world. Let's not forget to pray much for this beautiful garden given to us to live, love, tend and enjoy. During these days when we humans have almost turned our backs on our creator and his gift of life let us pray much for a return with our arms outstretched into his loving arms.

Let's hope that abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, suicide, addictions, murder, violence, human trafficking, and all other ills which attack the breath of our Father will be miraculously defeated. Together we pray for this.

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Therefore we said, 'Let us now build an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice, but to be a witness between us and you, and between the generations after us, that we do perform the service of the Lord in his presence with our burnt offerings and sacrifices and offerings of well-being; so that your children may never say to our children in time to come, "You have no portion in the Lord."

Joshua 22:26-28

I have this quotation from scriptures and I love it so much especially as so many take pleasure in telling me that aborted babies do NOT belong in heaven. It's so painful for me to hear this and the cited scripture passage says to me that "your children may never say to our children in time to come "you have no portion in the Lord." The sacrifice has been offered both in OT and New Testament by Jesus so that the children DO have a portion in the Lord. The figure has no more part to play when the fact it portrays has come to pass. The figure of the OT sacrifice was fulfilled in NT by Him who was to come.

#### Pain

Because of my recent experience with both physical and emotional pain I spent some time pondering over such a thing as "pain"

Why did I think so much about pain? Because I think I can understand why someone would choose to end it all because persistent pain which affects and changes mental health, being, tolerance, compassion, understanding even the joy of waking up in the morning and looking out at the world around us.

This does NOT mean that I have changed camps and agree with euthanasia, assisted suicide and other pain eliminating acts. Absolutely not! I have not changed camps and still very much believe that euthanasia, assisted suicide are actually quite immoral, evil, wrong, but what I have come to understand is that pain and prolonged and persistent pain does change our thinking and this is where loved ones can help not to lead one to death but to lead one to wanting to continue in life even though there is pain. How and why did I come to this?

Pain first is separation from God, it was never meant to be in the beginning. We first hear about pain and related to birth and from then on all manner of pain has been experienced by all living.

Physical pain can be intolerable and where there is no respite there is a desire and longing to end such pain. There is no consideration about the morrow or the family or other "goods" of life, just the never ending pain which no handful of pills will reduce and perhaps even the knowledge that as much as there are obvious physical effects which can also be visible, no one can really enter into the pain being experienced by another. Absolutely no one. Words of comfort can be offered but there is a helplessness which accompanies the words of comfort because the one uttering those words cannot really experience the pain being felt. Pain, sadly is one of the effects of our original separation from God and that is that ultimately each

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must endure pain alone. No one may enter into the other's pain because each of us experience the same event the same pain very differently.

I have spent a bit of time thinking about the issue of pain both of the physical kind the emotional kind and spiritual kind and what I have come to the conclusion is that all three kinds of pain have in them a separating element. A distancing, a loneliness because no one can enter into the pain of another.

No one has been able to enter into the physical spinal, sacroiliac, surgery pain I have felt and the pain following surgery and the restrictions and limitations imposed by this pain. I have felt the prayers of many. I have felt the compassion and calls and flowers, but the pain has been alone.

Emotional pain of abandonment, sexual wounding, abuse, grief, violence, neglect, mistakes which are irremediable and laced with regret, (abortion, suicide, abuse) each have as a core a pain which must be endured differently by each sufferer. To the extent that it is possible. The core of this kind of pain is "why". Abortion "why did I kill my baby?" Suicide "why did he/she do it? What did I miss? Why didn't I see?" Sexual abuse "why did it happen to me? Why didn't someone notice? Why didn't God help me and stop it?" Domestic violence "why is he/she doing this? I thought we loved one another? Grief. Why did he leave me alone? Why did she leave me? (Leaving/loss is deeply within grief, and grief is the response of this loss. Neglect...Oh goodness neglect is so wounding because it has embedded shame, unwantedness, rejection, failure. Neglect says "I should never have been born." And from this thought then actions follows.

Emotional pain in all its shades is pain which at some time or another visit each of us and each of us is called to accept this visit and work with it to the best of our ability. Each according to their own capabilities and learning.

As a result of much physical pain and of course spiritual and emotional pain of 2019 I have been able to ponder about this topic and whilst not agreeing with euthanasia (and wanting to end it all because it is too much) there are moments when it feels like that is the only end to the pain. And this is the time when loved ones, friends, others need to step in and quietly, not talking or offering platitudes like "God wouldn't give you much more than you can stand" (not a good one in midst of deep pain) or even look at how so and so suffered without even complaining (this is definitely not good because it points to weakness and deficiency) or even perhaps "you are asked to be a victim soul" (again not good because if the individual cannot suffer quietly he/she will feel not a good sufferer-which is what I have felt especially in this past year).

What is needed in this time is for loved ones to walk silently holding hand, sharing life, sharing day, sharing meal, sharing family and friend news, and where it's possible sharing prayer.

Pain of any kind was never in the template of the human person. Was never in the design of man/woman. As we saw in the life of Jesus his body was never in pain. But at the appointed time pain was imposed on him. Pain which he needed to carry and I hope which he carried for those of us who really don't carry pain well.

The striking thing about His pain is that his consolation was just a handful of close ones and they couldn't help him bear the pain which had to be borne. He had to carry experience and carry that alone. They could only be there. Similar to the pain which we carry alone. Even for him, the pain he carried no one else could do it. The same for each of us.

When I ponder on post abortion pain of those who come to the realisation of the enormous wrong she/he has done the pain strikes violently at the core of one's humanity.

The realisation of the intentional loss of the humanity of another brings a pain which no one else can share even though countless others experience the same event which causes such pain.

In my work, I can understand the pain of another abortive woman (been there) and I can sit in silence with her as she rocks back and forth hugging tightly a settee cushion. This is not the time to talk, discuss, reasons, regrets etc. This is the time to sit and hold a hand. Hold her body as it shakes violently at the thought of what might have happened to the body "of my baby." This is the time when one can sit almost in "Gethsemane" Just waiting.

In my work with sexual abuse, the pain is visible in the eyes. In the demeanour, in appearance. In shaking. In difficulty saying words and bringing the words out. Bringing words out seems such a horror and perhaps even makes them real. "Anne I haven't told this to

anyone in 67 years" or "Anne I haven't told what happened to anyone in 34 years" and the rocking and holding tight of her body as if to protect it from further assault.

This pain and accompanying demands both silence and reflecting. Reflecting her demeanour. Her actions. Her words because at this stage it's all that is possible. This pain demands long periods of silence but accompanied silence because during times of abuse there was such aloneness, loneliness and helplessness.

This pain demands being there so as not to leave him/her alone (again) but for now (present) no words necessary but her words as much as she wants to say or not say.

This type of pain is so linked to abortion pain because both relate to innocence and loss of this. Loss of trust and its aftereffects. Death of what might have been if "it hadn't happened." "Where might I have been if allowed my daughter to live?" where might I have been if "it" (abuse) had not happened to me?" This pain is the pain of "Why" and "where".

## Re-education of Students re sizes of baby in womb so they know and we know.

In an encounter with Ellen (no abortion. met during break) and following a discussion about gestational

ages and size and appearance of baby born to friends of hers (very premature birth) and how much loved and cradled she is by her parents and indeed willed to live. Ellen was left in amazement and awe when she was shown a photo of the baby (still living). Cradled in her father's hands with both parents looking adoringly at her and almost tangible love emanating from their eyes. Willing their baby girl to live and she is still living though still under what would have been 26 gestational weeks.

Ellen spoke to me of this because she knows of the work that I do and asked did I know about these things and my response of course was that I do know about these things and was the opportunity to add to her knowledge about life in womb, in all its stages and abortion to all stages and its infamous history.

She couldn't believe that late term to full term babies are aborted today. She couldn't believe that a baby

> born alive and who had been destined for abortion is left to die alone because a dead baby

She couldn't believe that decisions to abort a baby because of even minor disabilities is even possible. There was much that Ellen couldn't believe and never missing an opportunity during a teachable moment was able to talk to her/with her about what happens in our day, here in wealthy and "civilised" Australia and globally.

was intended. ...cradled in her

father's hands...

She apologised that she didn't really know much about abortion and had not really been interested in knowing much about the topic. Indeed all three death topics. Abortion, euthanasia/assisted suicide. She had consciously removed herself from these topics. It of course left me wondering but her next comment was of particular interest.

"Anne, I didn't know that abortion was like that today. If it's true that babies are aborted even at full term that is 30-40 weeks when they are "real" babies then why don't we know this information?" These words from a 47 year old woman who's had 2 children.

"Why aren't older school kids taught about the sizes of babies in womb? Why aren't they and we shown images of what babies look like in the womb? Why don't we see this on news, and programmes, and media? My friend's baby (the premmie) looks like a perfectly formed baby. So if the babies are that

perfectly formed how can anyone want to kill them?" (the question we all ask ourselves)

And so continued my teachable moment (thank God for Coffee Club and much latte) and the reality that schools, media, and pro-abortion advocates refuse to allow such information to be distributed and shown and discussed in schools and places of learning and be shown on all media outlets. We can view murders, accidents, disasters but not aborted infants of all gestational ages.

This because in our country and most of the western world all abortion to late term is now considered a female "right" and on demand.

We talked long into the afternoon and I was surprised that much interest was shown in this topic and I marvelled at how it came to be. Because her friend's early/premature delivery of her baby girl and how much loved this baby was and the longing of her parents for this tiny infant to will to live enabled this lady Ellen to see and ask questions about foetal life. (Nothing religious just knowledge about what is happening in a topic she had not been interested in).

I have to admit that when I recognised the interest I enjoyed being free to speak openly with her about this topic which has been my passion for, this coming year 25 years.

About a week following this discussion I happened into one of our national office supplies stores to buy supplies for the new office, when it came my turn at counter, after the scanning and totals I was asked in what name receipt. I just automatically said Victims of Abortion and how would I pay for goods "by Victims of abortion cheque" and this is when things changed. The young woman "Jane" looked at me with sadness in her eyes and asked what is it that I do. Do I do abortions and who are "victims" (my ever patient driver husband) standing by knowing that I would get going and not stop.

I got out a business card and gave it to her. I briefly just said "I help mothers who regret having aborted their baby" and her response "my sister has had 4 abortions, my mum 2, and I have miscarried 2. I can't seem to hold on to them" (eyes sadness).

Looking behind and seeing that line was waiting to be served I said how about giving me a call in three weeks when my office will be opened and we can speak about all these things including her two babies, and then maybe see if her Mum and sister want to come to see me. But only if they want to. OK? And we left it at that thinking that I probably would never hear from her again but 4 days later I got a call from

(Jane...not her real name) saying that she had half a day off and could she have a coffee with me.

And so we had several hrs together. Her sadness at the ease with which he sister and mother disposed of their babies and her great sadness because she and her husband desperately want babies. Please pray for her that her next pregnancy will be successful one.

I've been told that there is no apparent reason why she miscarries but she reaches 12-13 weeks and miscarries. I didn't make much comment at this stage because I don't want to open doorways whilst she cannot come more than this session for a time and for me it was good too because if I continue to see her I want to see her in office and not having coffee because it more professional in office and perhaps what I say will have more weight.

I've thought about it since then (and the deep pain in her eves) and think that either there is a life wound somewhere in her history or she is vicariously losing babies in concert with the female members of her immediate family.

As I said I have not seen her since and have told her will contact her around first/second week in February and she was happy with that. But this was amazing to me because this meeting came about due to some stationery and name on cheque book and an enquiry into what it is that I do.

### **Horror Story**

Not long after the two above experiences I was directed (by a reader of my newsletter) to a story which left me thinking that when I think that there is nothing else which might shock me, along comes something that really changes my understanding and thought.

I read that in 2019 a law was passed in Washington state where in death a corpse is be to be turned into crop fertilizer via the medium of liquid cremation. To have bodies composted! And since then have found out that other states in USA have the same laws and guess what? The same "right". There is that word "right" again. Apparently Alkaline Hydrolysis (flameless cremation) turns flesh and bones into liquid fertiliser (we are told) and thus then using the fertiliser on crops which we then bring to our tables to consume.

This is the ultimate dishonour of a body, a body which is so important and should be so honoured that the Lord Jesus himself took on a body like ours. How did we reach this stage in our treatment of the body, the temple where the Spirit dwells?

This is how. We easily destroy new life, we trade living life and organs. We interchange species organs (pig's parts into human being) we euthanize unwanted life. We play with genetic material and creation of life and dispose of what is unwanted (IVF). we attack with violence all stages of life. And now the latest, the use of the body as liquid fertiliser.

Imagine! fertilisation of our body which has borne new life, healed life, imagined all creations, has known love and has loved, has heard of a creator, has designed, sang, wrote and played music, painted, is now considered nothing more than material to be turned into fertilizer. Is this another form of cannibalism? A more sophisticated type of cannibalism one which perhaps the Greens will laud. Washington state and other states in USA hubs of green thought demanding the 'right" to liquefy a body? Is this their latest dishonourable offer to our society and their brothers and sisters?

It appears that when it looks like nothing new can shock there is always something around the corner. Another way to disrespect the body. Abortion. Murder. Suicide. Abuse. Compost.

This information said that a law was passed in 2019 in Washington USA (not Washington DC but Washington state-different) declaring this action is now legal and "a right". How come this new law was passed without media interest or whimper/ murmur even on page 31 of dailies? And quietly enshrined as a fait acompli?

I am reminded of a quote by Albert Einstein which I read sometime in 2019 and it remained with me "we cannot solve our problems using same level of thinking that created them" and perhaps this is where those of us who understand the value of "life" the why of "life?" are maybe not winning this assault on life because maybe we are using the same thinking which created them in the first place.

We are trying to solve the anti-life mentality by fighting with those against life using their methods. Laws. It will not be a law which will prevent abortion, euthanasia, suicide, composting. It has never been about law because in 25 years we have gone from abortion limited by law to a certain stage to full term with laws and rights enshrined and even infanticide and the law declaring killing of one's own child a woman's right, and even encouragement when a baby suspected with disability a duty to abort.

As we have seen over the last 50 years laws have done nothing to prevent assaults on life but indeed enabled these assaults legally. Enabled all manner of assault on life at every gestational age, disabled, aged and

determined them valueless, unwanted inconveniences and ultimately because of valueless then can be turned (by Washington law) into what might be considered of use as "fertiliser." They were considered worthless in life but in death, turned into fertiliser. Utilitarianism at its most clear understanding. Of benefit if useful. If it brings usefulness/value to others, if it serves purpose for others. In this case unwanted in life but useful in death. As fertiliser.

I have said on many occasions that we pro-lifers are almost isolated in our work instead of being with each other and together form an army against the enemy of life. We each to unite under one banner and sing from the same page. Only in this way can we defeat a powerful anti-life army. Uniting so that we become a mighty force (with God's help) a power which cannot be halted. Our voices, thoughts need to become louder than the pro aborts, pro death rent a crowd.

As I read the words (sought out if true –google) I went cold. So this, together with post birth abortion, legalised euthanasia, assisted suicide, infanticide (called for openly) are to be the enemies of life in our closest future?

How long will it be before other countries (Australia to be sure will be among the leaders in this new macabre industry- and we thought selling baby body parts/organs was bad) will begin the protests, the demands for their rights to turn their mothers, fathers, children, into liquid fertiliser for vegetable crops which then grace our tables as healthy and maybe even cited as organic crops and good for us. How long?

When will it be that we pro-life groups gather in one voice together with all our supporters and demand that our rights and beliefs NOT TO KILL life be heard and respected? Why our beliefs and thoughts are not considered a "right" but another's ideas to "kill" are considered a "right?" When will we demand like the LGBQT and homosexual lobbies, pro-abortion lobby, and euthanasia lobby, also demand that we also have rights and demand that our rights to believe in life be protected too?

When will our right to protect "life" be enshrined in law? When will our right to stand in front of oncoming "death of a life" be protected against those who are anti-life, and anti our rights. Why are our rights mishandled/and removed? Since when did the antilifers have a voice but we lost ours? What happened that we allowed our voices to be muffled and not heard whilst all other fringe groups suddenly with powerful backers and misinformation developed so loud a voice that the laws which were demanded suddenly become a "normal?"



Dear Anne.

Enclosed please find a donation to help you to continue with the work you do. We hope that your health has improved and your pain has subsided. Being in pain all the time is quite debilitating.

God bless you dear, Carol

Dear Carol as always thank you for your support I appreciate the care which you have shown to me since I began this work.

Regarding my health. Well I think I have resigned myself to having back pain, sciatica pain, for the rest of my life. Nothing seems to work. I now had, surgery, physio, chiropractic and lastly acupuncture. Nothing seems to work permanently. But thank you for asking and prayers please.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Anne.

Enclosed please find cheque for \$... being a donation towards the work that you do.

We hope that there has been an improvement in your health.

God bless

Carmel and Jack.

Thank you Carmel and Jack I appreciate your care. Anne

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Hi Anne

I was thinking about you and your work. I found this clip of flowers opening and it made me think of you and the sacrifices you make just to help these people.

If each person is like a flower that cannot see the sun, eventually in the darkness they may not thrive, they may wilt and just give up. With no hope, abandoned and alone, then what is the outcome, who will help them?

And then there's you. You reach out your strong and gentle hand, you breathe life into them and you resuscitate them with hope.

If each person is a flower that you save, then because of you a beautiful garden grows! You are saving their lives and your great work will live on for the future generations to come.

Just in case no one thanks you, or sees your work, this is a small reminder of your great sacrifice to help these broken people.

I was once a broken person too. And because of you Anne, I will not give up, I will not lose hope.

Whenever your work gets hard and tough, just remember that beautiful garden of flowers that you are helping to nurture and grow. I think your amazing Anne!

You are my inspiration and my Keep up the wonderful work.

Di (Vic)

Thank you dear Di, It has been good being with you. I had to smile when I noticed the words you used "I was a broken person"

Only several weeks ago one of the new girls I saw said the words "you've broken me" this during sobs and body shaking.

Not knowing what she meant I asked and she said "I've been going to Psychologist for 8 months and still I'm asked weekly how I am and I hear reflected to me the words I spoke never quite getting to the place of pain. And you went straight to it. (Multiple abort/sexual abuse) It was not because I wished to interfere in the other professional's method of care but I recognised her close to the surface pain and her sense of need to get out what the pain is. And of course I recognised the signs.

More on her later. Much prayer needed.

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My special thanks to Tim, Margaret, Paul and Michaela, who continued to support And of course to the others who have helped me. Anne

Do any of my older readers remember a movie of long ago maybe 30-40 years called Soylent Green? Where humans were turned into food? This was considered fantasy then but in less than one biblical generation it has become a reality this whilst we were distracted with the climate change mantra and other contemporary demanded and manufactured issues and causes.

Is this another population control method? Abortion, euthanasia, composting of humans, and then what will the population controllers do with the whole planet? And what will be the next population control scheme be? Where does the money trail lead to? Will composting of human beings, turning them into liquid save ground used for burial? Is this it? And using human compost for food growing purposes? We eat our family? Is this human behaviour or slowly being turned into compliant beasts without "rights?"

And how has it become possible that there are those who could even think up of these schemes. What has changed in the morality of humanity that these thoughts and ideas are even countenanced? What has gone wrong with our ethics? And for goodness sake where are heads of all Christian churches and other religious persuasions both in Washington and globally? and why are they not making such loud noise that it reverberates not only on this earth but perhaps even inter planetary? Where are such loud voices and noises? When will we remember the honour invested in the human body and return that honour authority back to the one who created us in His own image and likeness?

What is left after composting of human body? I don't know but I am sure that evil which does not sleep will have something else ready to enshrine in law. Don't misunderstand I am not against laws. We need laws to live an orderly life because whether we believe it or not there is sin and wickedness in the world. Without these, laws would not be needed, so because evil does exist we absolutely do need laws but why there isn't an earthly law which has enshrined the way of love.

Why not one nation where the Law of Love is supreme and demanded. Why only laws which harm.

A new life is love which has taken on a body and is visible for all to see. Life in all its perfections and imperfections is love enfleshed and demanding of honour because of its mystery. Because of its mysterious knitting. Love demands that none will be harmed and as Pope Francis said recently, we cannot say we love God if we go past our neighbour. (or the other). We need such a law sometime in nearest future.

#### Some Housekeeping

Dear friends as I come to the end of another issue of newsletter, I would like to thank those many who sent cards and gifts for Christmas. Those who wrote loving letters. Those who encouraged me. Thank you.

Please dear friends remember my new address details. Not the Vermont South post office. They are kindly reforwarding the mail (free) for now after I stopped the redirection because it was too expensive. So please remember to change address and if you are planning to move if you continue to want newsletter please let me know your new address. Postage for both Australia and overseas is expensive and as I will not remove anyone from newsletter list (unless requested) the RTS is wasted funds. Thank you.

Again, as I come to end of this issue, Could I please ask that you consider purchasing a copy of the books Hidden Pain and Redeeming Grief. It will help me so much in many ways financially. Money goes into VOA especially when donations are limited. Sending a donation for book and just postage and request for book I will post to you.

Finally, I do ask that you consider making this charism one that deserves to be supported. I do much not only in counselling, help to other counsellors and pregnancy help workers, writing articles, speaking where requested. There is something I would like to do this year. Something fantastic but more on this later.

And finally may I ask for continued prayer. prayers for me, Barbara (very new much prayer) Jane (not her real name for now how she wants it) Chrystelle, Daniel, Rebecca, Kate, Fran, Chris, Belle, Sharon, Helen, Tania.

Thank you, bless you till we meet again.

Anne Lastman

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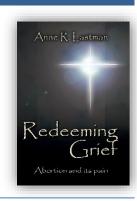
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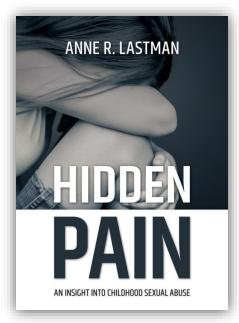
#### **CLEARANCE!**

There is a limited number of the first edition of Redeeming Grief to be cleared at a reduced priced of **\$10.00** including postage within Australia.

If you or anyone you know may be interested, please pass this on to help me clear them.

AUD \$10.00 (Including free postage within Australia)





HIDDEN PAIN is written about memories which are hidden and cannot be spoken out loud. It is a book about shame, pain, sorrow and lives which have gone wrong both for victims, families, and perpetrators. Sexual abuse of children is common in all communities, in all societies, and yet it's still one of the last remaining taboos. It is something which cannot be spoken about because it's so awful, so inappropriate that it cannot be discussed. Yet discussed it must be, because the children are crying and pleading to be helped.

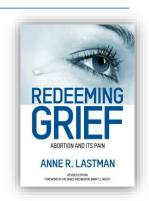
This is not a step by step guide to dealing with abuse. It is the result of my engagement with those who have come to me originally for post abortion counselling and on further investigation it was found that abuse (especially in cases of multiple abortions) existed in their history. It is my hope that HIDDEN PAIN can be of help to those who read it and more so be vigilant and not to turn away when a child is suffering.

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