

# Broken Branches

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

ISSUE 146 – DEC/JAN 2022



## Our Children living in the Lord.

*Joshua 22:26-28*

*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."*

This is one of the Old Testament quotes which I love and which I believe fits beautifully with pro life charism.

I have over the years encountered many well-meaning good Catholic/Christian individuals who like and support me and the work that I do. However, what they do object to is my belief that aborted, miscarried, stillborn children are "Living in the Lord" (St John Paul II E.V99) and following this belief I help the hurting parent/s believe that one day they will meet their baby face to face.

The difficulty they have (especially Catholics) is that word "Limbo" and all who die (including aborted, miscarried and infant deaths and deaths of righteous ones) without baptism will go to a -place of peace and beauty but never to enjoy the vision and company of the Lord.

With this belief it makes it very hard to convince a hurting mother that God has forgiven her and one day she will meet her child.

An oft cited response to "Limbo" is "if my baby can't ever see God. I don't want to either because I'm the guilty one. Not my baby" And before I get a mountain of letters correcting me, please don't. I do know that it

was a theory proposed by St Augustine but today we understand that we entrust our infants into the care and Mercy of God who does not want anyone to be lost. I have another theory which I am working on but not ready yet. It is such a beautiful theory but I need to do more research so I will leave it at that. To come.

The verse from Joshua spoke to me so clearly. It's almost like it was written for our time and this particular sin (abortion). A sin so huge that it leads to some saying "your children have no portion in the Lord" (aborted children/miscarried/unbaptised children) because of the manner of their dying. These children, our children, 50,000,000 children per year may be placed near the Lord "but they have no portion in the Lord" And yet we have a recent Pope who has now been declared saint (St John Paul II) who has spoken as "Peter" saying "your children are living in the Lord" (EV 99) Using almost the same words living "in the Lord" and Joshua "no portion in the Lord."

I take great pleasure and joy in being able to help abortive mothers maintain continuing bonds with their aborted baby/ies because of the hope that one day they will be able to meet and mother the baby which they sent back unmet.

*"so that your children may never say to our children in time to come (our day) you have no portion in the Lord"*

A service of the Lord has been performed by Jesus so that in time to come (future-us) some may not say to our children (aborted, miscarried, stillborn, righteous ones) that they have no part or portion or relationship with the Lord.

More than burnt offerings has been offered for "our" children. What has been offered for them is the Lord Himself, Jesus.

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## Another beautiful letter, received 16/9.

*Hi Anne, it's Diane here from Melbourne. I just wanted to say hello and send my love to you Anne. I'm also reading one of your books Redeeming Grief about abortion. I feel strong enough to enquire further and understand my past and what led me to those situations and decisions. I just started the book but I'm so grateful for your love and support Anne. Thank you for helping me get plaques made of my little ones resting with Jesus 🥺🙏❤️.*

*I'm doing well. I have found a good psychologist who specializes in complex trauma and my partner is looking into his struggles with Autism and anger. Things are much better and I'm practising drawing and applying my boundaries and putting myself first.*

*I just wanted to tell you Anne. You've been like a guiding light and a mother figure and confidant to me and I'm forever grateful to you for being so kind and merciful*



Love  
Diane

## A moment of vision and love.

Comment via zoom: Tasha

After many moments and hours of sharing, listening, weeping, laughing. After many months of regretful memories and record keeping and making mental searches, after many months of self-deep looking, deeper and deeper to see who this person is the moment came when I whispered ---"I can see me. I can see how good I have been created, loved, nurtured by God my Father. I have a father who loves me (not like this earth one) without conditions and without ever leaving me and without impositions. I have a Father I can trust. I have a Father I can feel, hear, know him. I am His child."

*(Words from Tash (not her real name) who felt really forgiven and understood why she is forgiven because she is His daughter and is loved)*

It had been a difficult road with Tash who didn't want forgiveness for her abortion. She wanted to stop feeling so sad and in pain over her decision but she didn't deserve to be forgiven. also, because she believed that legal abortions are good for women so that "women no longer die in lanes from botched abortions" Much clarification from me regarding this was needed

Throughout our many earlier sessions there was a tug of war going on within her. A side of her which was "really sad" over the death of hers and so many babies but another side of her believed strongly that women should be able to have abortion facilities available so that "backyarders" don't do the "procedure" I believe it was this incongruence which caused the dissonance within her.

Her original session with me ("I'm only coming once because I promised my mum I would come") turned into many on again off again first in Melbourne and since followed here in Perth, via zoom, but when she came, she was hesitant but always left more peaceful. With this person I left her appointments to be made when she thought she could cope with another session.

As time and sessions passed, I helped her find the reason within her for her inconsistency in belief and emotions and as she slowly came to look at episodes in her own life and those who were part of those episodes, she came to see things in her ideas slowly change.

In due course even her early life religious beliefs and family beliefs surfaced (Christian) and we were able to talk about these and relate the beliefs with "life" and God and her journey away from her family and beliefs. Over the several years of sessions we covered

much and it was a great joy for me to see her understand herself and where the difficulties were and her response to the difficulties and the not so good decisions she made because of the difficulties.

Our sessions, when I moved to Perth, stopped for a time until she came to a day where she needed to talk to someone and we reconnected. Since then, as in the past sessions only when needed. However, I did experience a moment of happiness when she made the comment *"I can see me. I can see how good I have been created, loved, nurtured by God my father. I have a father who loves me etc"* (see beginning of this piece.)

Our sessions now have taken a really new and completely different but happy turn. And personally, I don't believe she needs to be with me anymore but I will leave this to her. As I do with all my past clients the door remains open just in case there is a need to talk. And yes, she does believe that she is loved and forgiven both by her baby and God and is at peace with both.

And this is the beautiful outcome I hope for when a new client begins with me.

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Dear Friends if you have a computer please try and read this story. It made me feel really sad and I looked at our legal system and saw how politically correct it acts.

For those who don't have a computer, it's the story of a couple who were awarded \$125,000.00 in compensation for the birth of son, (4 years after medical procedure to sterilise her) and wanted compensation for her anxiety, being pregnant, pain, and trauma of the birth process. This being her 7<sup>th</sup> child.

The ludicrous compensation for me was for loss of earnings even though she had not previously worked and depended on government assistance all her adult life. It was reported that the child "is healthy and much loved by the parents"

I don't know what to say or think about this story run in our daily newspaper (The West Australian) Well actually I do know what to think and say but it would be considered not politically correct and possibly even dangerous for me, so I won't comment but I am sad when I hear those parents (especially mothers) want

compensation for delivering a beautiful, healthy child even though it was unexpected.

Perhaps it might be best for me to leave it there because I am glad that even though it was unexpected and 4 years after medical procedure they did not decide to abort and instead bring to birth the child.

<https://thewest.com.au/news/court-justice/wa-parents-win-unplanned-pregnancy-damages-c-3969539>

## The year that's been.

Dear friends, as I come to the end of this last newsletter for 2021, a year unlike any other we have known in our lifetime. I would like to say that I have achieved much but the reality is that like all of us I

have not done the things I would have liked to have done as in past years.

Looking through my diary I had given three talks to two different groups, on abortion grief and one on the similarities and differences between abortion grief and sexual abuse grief. I have been back to Melbourne once (early in year) and given each of my clients two sessions each in the week I was there and then had to hurry back before borders closed.

Since that time, I have given two further talks on abortion grief and one of these talks was to professional people.

I have continued to counsel my Melbourne clients (weekly) either by phone and zoom and whilst it has not been the same as per "normal" it has been acceptable.

I continue with zoom with four clients now and I enjoy a little because we are able to see each other but I also enjoy speaking by mobile (3) with those without zoom.

During this time, I have written the usual number of newsletters per year (6 issues) and have written quite a few articles for publishing both in Australia and overseas.

I haven't been able to establish referrals from pregnancy helps but I am meeting Life people here

*...I'm glad they  
brought the child  
to birth...*

though have had referrals from Melbourne people and places I know and who know the work that I do.

I had hoped to have done something very special for babies here but I haven't been able to bring this about yet but I haven't given up on that project. I hope as things ease more can be done. I have joined several pro-life/family groups which helps me be connected with other like-minded people.

I am now in my office (here) 3 ½ days per week and other work, especially writing I do from home office because all my resources are there. The writing is very very important because its part of what I set out to do 25 years ago, that is public education about the damage/harm which abortion does to baby, woman, man, family, society.

I have been unable to order the other plaque for two babies (Melbourne client) for the South Melbourne Children's memorial wall (they should've been installed but border and lockdown difficulties), hopefully will go to Melbourne as soon as I can then we will discuss and go see other plaques so that my girl will not have to experience seeing plaques by herself. This is important.

Sadly, this now seems impossible as our illustrious leader has decreed WA border won't open till end January/Feb). However, it seems borders are moveable for sporting functions.

I also hope to have another two+1 plaques available to place on the memorial wall sometime in the new year but again its difficult to make plans for now, and perhaps when I go to Melbourne beginning of year will speak with my clients about a saying goodbye ceremony we might do whilst I am there.

Normally I would attend 2-3 overseas conferences per year and several in Australia, where I would deliver a paper on either of my two topics but this year as you can imagine all cancelled because our international and national borders closed

Even attending to ongoing professional development seminars have been difficult as I don't like doing webinars. I like the interaction with others and sharing of information.

All in all, I have done as much as it was possible to do with the limited possibilities. I am hoping to close office by third week in December and reopen end of January but as always available in emergencies.

I sincerely hope that by time of return to work some kind of "normal" will have been restored and we can look back at these past many months as a time when

we were all tried and tested and hope we have passed the tests posed before us.

## Interesting experience.

A new client came to see me, (I'll call her Jenny, not her real name) a youngish lady who supposedly came to see me re her recent abortion and the after effect of her sadness and sorrow and tears and sleepless nights and anger. All the usual effects after abortion. But somehow beginning from the call to make the appointment to her arriving and completing necessary consent forms and my making a cup of tea for me and water for her, I felt niggling sensation. A feeling that something was not right.

Yes, she did complete the necessary forms, yes, she was pleasant but sad looking. Very smartly dressed. Everything which should have made me feel OK. But still the nagging feeling continued.

After pleasantries and some information about her life and boyfriend, and family and work we got down to the issue of her abortion 8 weeks earlier when she was 11 weeks pregnant. The sad look continued and even what appeared forced tears. But as usual I continued finding out more about her relationship (he'd gone by now) her work (she couldn't take time off) and the need for the abortion.

As I said, everything should have been as past cases and story about her life and ultimate decision but that nagging feeling continued.

At some point in the session, she started to tell me that she felt sad that she had to do this abortion but she didn't really want the "foetus"? or to be pregnant (my radar started transmitting). She thought that maybe she wanted the "foetus"? but really, she had too much to do before having a baby. In fact, she simply didn't want to be pregnant at this stage of her life. "I'm too young."

As I sat there listening and by now on alert for something which didn't sound right, she continued by telling me that after the abortion she started experiencing symptoms of "post abortion syndrome" Now my radar went into overdrive because no one uses "post abortion syndrome" when they are genuinely hurting. They don't use "foetus" or even "post abortion grief" and using the word "ambivalence" is a dead give-away.

However, I continued to sit there, listening and occasionally nodding and letting her do all the talking. Indeed, I was told about her feeling "ambivalent"? before the abortion. She felt like getting "drunk" was "depressed" had "sleepless nights" "dreaming about

her “baby” (now baby) She Missed her “baby” she wanted to “cut myself” and she was afraid that God wouldn’t forgive her.

Her next question was “Anne do you help with religious and talk about God and the baby being with God?” Again in 25 years of this work no one has come out and asked do I speak about God to someone whose had an abortion. At least not until I have discerned that she has some sort of faith/religion background or she speaks about it herself and invites dialogue. The reason for this being that the “client” can complain to my peak body and say that I “forced” my religion on him/her.

So, faith, belief, God, heaven even plaque for baby comes after many sessions and usually if it’s appropriate.

As we continued our session, I was further alerted to something not quite right because she made the comment “I know that I’ve had an abortion and am upset but I believe that abortion is a woman’s right. It’s her body and she shouldn’t have to carry a pregnancy unless she wants to.

Keeping my Italian temper firmly in check I smiled politely and said “but Jenny why are you here with me if you think abortion is OK and a woman’s right especially as you now know that there is a pain in the heart after the abortion even if it wasn’t there before the abortion.

“Not until its born and the woman wants it. While it’s in her body it’s like a parasite it lives off her so she can get rid of “It” if she wants to” (parasite? “it”)

Well, I still continued being a “nice counsellor” and asked if I could go make another tea for me and cold drink for her. She agreed. This gave me time to compose myself and still smile politely sitting at the desk.

We continued with inanities for a while and then she introduced her belief that both abortion and euthanasia are important because the planet is over populated so the numbers have to be reduced. By abortion and “older sick people”

I suppose I would have been forgiven if I “lost it” but I didn’t I simply asked her “so I suppose its Ok that your baby is now gone?” No response.

“Jenny, tell me why are you here with me if you have such beliefs?” Silence for about a minute. Then “Anne I’m sorry but I wanted to know if you could help me” “I can help you but with what? How?” Would you like to talk about your abortion, your boyfriend, the

reasons for the decision to abort, how you felt before the abortion and what about now?”

Suddenly “Jenny” put her glass down stood up and said “Anne can I please think about this and maybe come back in a week or two?” “Of course, you can when you are ready.’ And she bolted out of the door.

It’s my suspicion that this was a pro-abortion individual from some abortion facility or connected with some anti-life organisation, with google learned behaviour and symptoms. Over 25 years I have experienced about half a dozen such episodes and this dishonesty upsets me but it shouldn’t be surprising. Today I am alert to the language used and withdraw when I encounter such behaviour. A report to my peak body, an investigation especially if it says I have “pushed” my religion on her (I don’t) could see me deregistered and I then can help no one. So, I am now careful.

No, she hasn’t called back and has not come back and her mobile number was false. Didn’t bother with rest of information as that too would be false. Though I have kept it.

I personally am glad she chose to go as I don’t like to tell someone I don’t want to see them. This way it’s better.

Personally, I suspect that she has had an abortion or more by the coldness with which she spoke about a woman’s right to have abortion. Parasite. Foetus. Euthanasia “because there are too many people on the planet” and other words says to me that she has for some reason accommodated her actions (abortion) and joined others who have done the same.

I have thought about her and thousands of others like her and wonder where has the feminine gone? We can see the feminist but where has the feminine gone.?

Being now more aware, I do wish she would come back for more iced water for her and tea for me and maybe a long chat. It would be so good. But I won’t hold my breath.

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Dear Friends as I come to the end of the final newsletter for 2021, I usually make an annual appeal for \$\$\$ support for the coming year.

This year I won’t make a separate insert (saves much cost) I won’t do a separate formal appeal and print another nearly 800 hard sheets (not counting emails) as this would be much more expensive so I ask for your consideration to help this work.

# Letters

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Dear Anne,  
Like many others I really enjoy reading your newsletter.  
Keep up the good work. Hope this donation helps a little.  
Shirley P

Dear Shirley thank you for your kind donation and I am glad you like newsletters. I hope you like this one it's a bit different.  
Anne

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Dear Anne,  
I don't know quite how to start this letter but want to thank you so much for the wonderful mission you have been on for many years.  
How very many women and some men you have helped in healing the pain of abortion and looking forward joyfully meeting their children one day.  
(Some private info)  
I have such an admiration for you dear Anne and have enjoyed following your path of healing for many years.  
Best wishes and God's blessings for the future.  
With love  
Bev Mc

Dear Bev, thank you for your very kind words especially through this difficult moment for you.

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Dear Anne,  
I am amazed at how far your newsletter goes. It is like the "word" going out to all the world. And to think that you do all this plus the counselling work. It's amazing.  
(Some personal info – please pray for Frances.)  
Keep going dear Anne and God bless you.  
God bless  
Frances M.

Thank you, darling Frances, for your ongoing support and love.....Anne

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Dear Anne,  
On this feast day of the birthday of the blessed Virgin Mary, I enclose my donation towards the costs associated with the postage of Broken Branches

God bless you in the continuing of your apostolate so vital even during the continuing pandemic lockdowns.

God bless  
Fr Michael

Thank you, dear Fr Michael, for your ongoing support I appreciate your care. Yes, even during a pandemic there is much grief re abortion. It's interesting the churches, according to the powers that be, are hotbeds for spreading virus but abortion facilities are considered essential services. Indeed, we have reached the day when good will be called evil and evil good. The lockdowns are especially serious for post abortive and sexually abused individuals because of the enforced isolation and time alone to think. Again, thank you so much.

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Hi Anne  
Enclosed please find a donation. I know you will put it to good use and God will bless your work. Keep your spirits high and remember the "butchers" will be beaten  
Best wishes  
John B.  
NSW

Dear John, thank you for your kind donation and yes good will be used for. As for the "butchers" sometimes I worry that they are butchering too much and it's never ending  
Thank you for your kind encouragement though it at times is hard keeping spirits up.  
God Bless you abundantly.

Anne

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Dear Anonymous brother in Christ. Thank you for your kind donation and your beautiful encouraging words. Thank you also for your beautiful words about my work and belief that God will always support the work.  
I appreciate these words especially as this year's been so hard.

Thank you again. Anne

# Letters

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Dear Anne,  
*I thank you on behalf of all those who have benefited from your ministry and for continuing to minister through all these dark days. You have been a light in the darkness. A reflection of Him who inspires, encourages, supports and graces you as you share the journey through pain of others while still grieving your own personal pain. Faith alone can be your sustenance for all else is but an imitation of what He alone can give. I pray He continues to uphold and carry you as you reach out to other souls who need Him, acting through you to begin to heal and to receive a give forgiveness. May he bless you in abundance now and forever.*  
Your sister in Christ  
Sandra L... Vic

Sandra, I have no words...but thank you for your special words. Anne

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Dear Anne,  
*Hope you and yours are in fair health. Many thanks for Broken Branches and I enjoyed your explanation of the Blessed Trinity. We have Covid cases in 2000 so we are needing to ask our Blessed Mother and Jesus to answer our increased prayers.*  
Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Peter O.

Dear Peter, thank you for your kind donation and your encouraging words. It has been a hugely terrible year. But then I am not surprised with all the moral issues which are abandoned and trampled on why are we surprised. We shouldn't be.  
A change of heart by our society is needed.....  
Anne

You know the work that I do and the usual expenses in running an office and the needs (printing, rent, stamps, electricity etc etc) to keep going. As you can imagine these past two years have been really, really difficult in the \$\$ area but with the help of God and half a dozen strong and obliging supporters I have been able to keep going so please if you can consider support for a while longer. And perhaps even help me off load some of my two books this would help me enormously too!! Edition 2 of Redeeming Grief I have run out of, but Edition 1, I still have quite a few and definitely Hidden Pain (sexual abuse) I have a lot.

I thank those who have responded and when I've needed to call for help it came. Thank you. You know who you are. Thank you to those who kindly and regularly sent donation and especially 2 anonymous donors you also know who you are.

I come to the end of this newsletter with wishing you my dear friends and supporters a beautiful Christmas. Let's enjoy it so much more because we have been so much deprived and yet the Lord keeps on coming every year and giving of Himself and making our load lighter because he takes some of it on Himself. Please enjoy the Lord's birthday with friends and family and loved ones. Please be safe during these times and keep both covid safe and holiday time dangers safe, and can I please ask you to continue to pray for me (health) and for my clients both from Melbourne office and Perth. Remember time like Christmas is usually a difficult time for post abortive men and women. It's about a child and with-it memories of their child who wasn't permitted to live

I am going to close the office about third week in December and return about 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January but as always if there is an emergency I can always be reached. In your prayers, please remember Fran, Alisha, Thea, Michelle, Sarah, Melissa P., Natalie, Chris, Tania, Liz, Belle, Stephanie, Sharyn, Carminé, Josie.

Till we meet again, may God bless and keep you safe in the palm of His hand.



**Anne Lastman**

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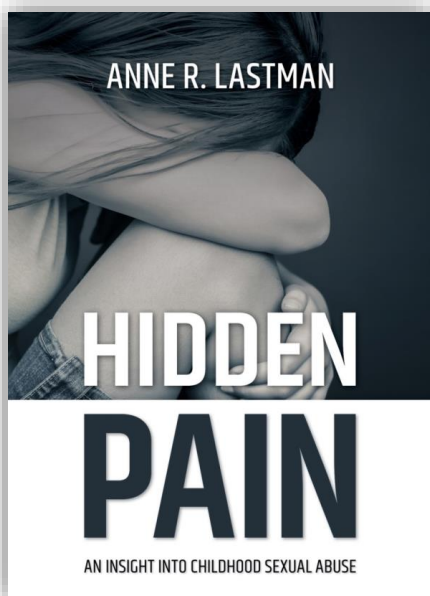
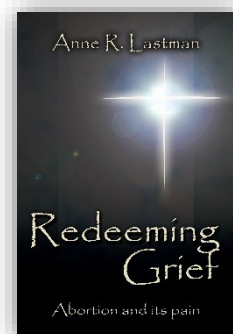
Contact Anne via email for international orders. [anne@victimsofabortion.com.au](mailto:anne@victimsofabortion.com.au)

## **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.

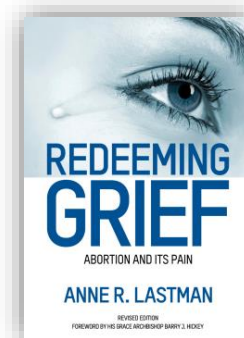
This is not a step by step guide to dealing with abuse. It is the result of my engagement with those who have come to me originally for post abortion counselling and on further investigation it was found that abuse (especially in cases of multiple abortions) existed in their history. It is my hope that **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.

AUD **\$20.00**

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**NEW REVISED EDITION!** **REDEEMING GRIEF** is a reflection of over 17 years of counselling and study of abortion grief, which is experienced by some women who choose to undergo this elective procedure. These reflections are the result of listening to over 1500 personal stories and listening to the expressions used by the women as they speak about their decision to abort the life of their child. These reflections then attempt to reconstruct the meaning that this procedure has had for the aborting woman and how this one procedure has been the catalyst for life changes.

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