

Broken Branches

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

ISSUE 148 – April/May 2022

This is dying with dignity:

Not the one espoused and promoted by the euthanasia lobby.

I recently saw a black and white image of an elderly lady lying on half a cracked wall, rough, and would have been hard on the frail body of the person lying there. The image, and the following words touched me so deeply that I want to share them with you and let's have a look at what dying with real dignity looks like. The image was made up of an elderly lady, obviously dying, (not in sanitised place or surrounded by music and fairy floss and some people and dose of poison waiting to be administered) and an elderly man holding her hand and we assume it was her husband. This image recalled what love and devotion, means "in sickness and in health, till death do us part" intrinsically what the words mean. Herewith the original words:

The lady was speaking with an elderly man obviously her husband and she said, "Don't call the doctor, I want to fall asleep peacefully, with your hand in mine."

He told her about the past, how they met, their first kiss. they didn't cry, they smiled. They didn't regret anything, they were grateful. Then she repeated softly, 'I love you forever!' He returned her words, gave her a soft kiss on the forehead. She closed her eyes and fell asleep peacefully with her hand in his. This is dying with dignity and honour and respect for two lives which were entwined till the end in all matter of life and at time of death.

They remembered the important moments in their life. Their meeting, their shared intimacies, the very real love and the final words which should be on the lips of all those who say "I will love you forever" "Mio Tesoro" "my love" thank you for your love.

This is dignity which resembles the one on the cross "father forgive them" Even maybe "Father, I love them forever" and places a kiss gently on each of our forehead.

Love knows itself to be forever. It places no time limit because there is no time limit on love.

Love doesn't say "I don't want to see you suffering because I love you too much and it upsets me so I will help you bring an end to your suffering and mine" NO. love suffered right till the end and did not ask his family and friends to end his suffering. He suffered till the end. Till the last breath when he uttered with his own lips "It is finished" That is the love that matters most because it's this kind of love which asks nothing but complete union and communion. This love is visible while in life and leaves life with nothing other than a rich memorial or echo of that love. The material always remains and cannot be taken into another life, eternal life. but love transfigured is what is taken into our next life, and the love we have shared and the love that those others have shared with us and love.

Love demands no gold or silver or even frankincense, these have already been given for love. Love only asks for truth in love itself and perhaps even a gentle holding of the hand when that kind of love is ready to separate itself from its love.

As I looked at the image before my eyes, I could see how Jesus loves/loved. If we have loved and wanted to always be close when it's time he gives the gentle kiss on the forehead, holds our hand and says "come"

A different situation is the ingesting or injecting a poison and standing by and watching the writhing body and pain in eyes of the one going and then eventually the silence. Left behind agonised look not peace or dignity. Gone the one who was there and distressed till the very last breath. Not the gentle holding of hand, the memories of love, and a separation in peace.

This, I believe is dying with dignity. We have lost our understanding of dignity and the language used in this false dignity is the voice and language of the father of lies.

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Victims of Abortion, National Office

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I have for 3 weeks been able to visit Melbourne (first time in 11 months because of border closure-now reopened) and whilst there was able to see my new grandson (oh he is sooo gorgeous 😊) and I was able to see my Melbourne clients all 8 of them. The ninth one has found a full-time job and feels she's OK. I'm glad to hear that. She is happy and in a relationship which is very good and with time God willing will lead to marriage. She thanked me for getting her to this place.

I remember when she first came to me (post abortion issue) she came "only to get my mother off my back" and was very uncooperative. However, she did keep coming and slowly began to interact with me and was happy to come and we shared experiences about the past week but not much more. It seemed more like a social meeting for quite some time, until one day she said "Anne I cried this week because it would have been my baby's birthday." He would have been 4 years old. I know he would have been a boy (Henry) and I know exactly when he would have been born.

I must admit that I had to contain myself because I didn't expect this. For so long she came in to office, even brought pastries for me and her and I supplied the coffee and a general talk for an hour and then she would leave.

After a while I realised that what she was doing was checking to see how much she could trust me and this is very important. Trust in counselling is of utmost importance.

On that day in question, I just made a comment "it's OK Julie (not her real name) to cry because he was your little boy and if he had died in any other way you would have cried, wouldn't you?"

"Yes"

"Well, crying because Henry died means that there is love there. You connected with one another and touched each

other's hearts and you love and miss him.

If you can't cry because Henry died and you think you shouldn't cry because you caused his death and you don't have a right to cry, then you are stuck in the manner of the dying and not the dying. Being stuck in the manner of the dying means more that you are feeling only your guilt and not that he died."

Being stuck in the manner of the dying and not the dying leaves little room for genuine grief and slowly this grief becomes complicated grief not because of the loss but more about what "I did". It leaves little room for permitting oneself to be forgiven by self or even God. The guilt consumes but gives no healing and no peace.

From that day onwards Julie slowly opened up about the reason for the abortion (coercion by many) job, and fear about how she could manage. She was afraid to tell parents and her then boyfriend just said that "I will support you whatever you decide" which is always a death sentence for the baby because what she wants to hear at this time are words of comfort, words of care, words encouragement that "she can do it" and not the go to comment "I'll support you whatever you decide."

This of course is because at this time he is in a condition never expected and he does also feel trapped and doesn't know how to respond and prefers to have the problem taken out of his hands "I'll support you whatever you decide" He's not making the decision and he doesn't want to even think about it and that's why he doesn't even want to talk about it and leaves all decisions to the poor girl/mother.

After the barrier was broken Julie came faithfully every week until we moved to Perth and then via phone, and few times when I visited Melbourne, and slowly she began to grieve for the son who had died and not the manner of his dying This is moving her from complicated grief to grieving for a deep loss. When this happens then we know that the homeward journey has begun.

Julie has kept in touch with me and at times has a need to talk again and that's good because now she recognises when she has need and not allows grief to overwhelm her.

I am very very proud of her work in understanding her pain and grief and how she has slowly taken it and changed it into something which has changed her. Changed her in the same way that a woman changes when she has a baby. She is no longer the same. Something is very different. For Julie this too happened and she keeps the memory of her child alive but deep in her heart. She even said that she doesn't ever want to forget him because if she forgets then he will be gone from memory and life. The duty of love is to remember because the human being can't be reduced to cells and genetic material. It's more

than that, and the duty to remember, acknowledges that.

It has been said time and again that love is a fleeting emotion, it's a whimsy, it's even a foolishness and related to hormonal changes. Well, no!! because love happens in the human soul. The body cannot and does not know how to or what is love but love nurtures the soul which in turn nurtures life (as we saw in first article of this newsletter) and in this special nurture and special love lies the mystery hidden deeply in sexuality, and life itself.

Seeing my other clients, in Melbourne was really great to see them again face to face. It seemed like so long that we hadn't met though we have spoken weekly over the 11 months of lockdown.

I feel very humbled because I have offered for them to move to local therapists but they remained happy to phone call or zoom calls.

I really saw the difference between face to and the other two electronic methods. There is a world of difference. I understand that in our day we have professionals who are happy to render services via telehealth, etc but for me face to face is what is needed for our kind of work because we are dealing with soul pain, psychic wounds and there is a hesitation to speak freely about these over the airwaves.

Whilst we hope that no one listens in to our conversation there is always the fear and a barrier is installed.

My hope now is that the borders remain open to all states in Australia so that I can return in about 6-8 weeks. I saw very clearly that face to face brought forth words that wanted to be spoken but had not been because of fear of being overheard and the thought that her story is so awful that it cannot be heard by anyone else.

This is the thought and belief of all post abortive women whether voiced or unvoiced. Their sin is the worst ever committed and their belief that they cannot ever be seen to be good again.

These thoughts and beliefs do take some time to help change that pattern of thinking and introduce new way of thinking, right from base new thinking about the self and self-worthiness and self-regard. Helping change pattern of thought (negative destructive) eventually helps retrain

the self-beliefs of de valuation into beliefs of worthiness and able to be loved by another.

...She keeps the
memory of her child
alive deep in her
heart...

"How Can we get rid of abortion or even reduce the numbers" said a very pro-life friend?
My answer could only be that we can start by changing the mind and heart of one woman. We can change the abortion narrative by helping to change the woman's beliefs about herself and this one woman at a time.

Yes, laws have been enacted to

supposedly protect the child and the mother. However, laws will not and I repeat will not change the abortion mentality which has grown exponentially over the past 60 years. The abortion laws of this our day bear no resemblance to past laws regarding abortion.

Past abortion laws at least showed some restraint. The laws ensured that only in first trimester, only if the life of mother endangered if continuing pregnancy, only in cases of rape, incest (not to say that these are good reasons but they existed and showed some restraint).

Over the past sixty or so years it seems that a determined assault against the in-utero child was mounted but not using the previous language of concern but using a new language of rights, choice, my body, my life, demands, and slowly the demands became more and more frightful.

Demands, were followed by the new language of ‘rights’ that is, the woman has a “right” not to have an invader using her body. The new conception went from “baby” to parasite who invaded her body and it has been determined that it is her right to kill and remove the parasite. Her foetus also was unwelcome!!!

It was no longer a symbiotic relationship with each depending on the welfare by the other. Each dialoguing with the other. Each falling in love with the other. The language changed slowly and unobtrusively and the understanding of feminine changed from life bearer to “it’s my body and I’ll do what I want with it. And you (baby) are not welcome here in my body-I don’t want you”

Laws have been passed in most major countries of the world which attempted to stem the flood of interpretations of these laws and before the interpretations were clarified new laws enacted which granted further liberations to the one whose body was designed to carry that life that she has now rejected.

Throughout the years lip service has been paid which supposedly gave thought to the woman and her need for equality in all things including whether she chose to give hospitality to a child she helped to create. Slowly, slowly the language spoke of all matters “rights” about her life and more and more the rights and protections of the child in the womb were completely removed. Again, it became, according to her, a parasite and disposable.

Laws, to date (except for several recent changes in USA) have never favoured the child (or foetus) as it is referred to in language of laws and its documents. And even a global organisation WHO, who demands that nations legalise abortions to birth. Imagine a health organisation demands the legal death of infants up to birth. Where are the women who demanded rights? An organisation is now telling them that they can and should take their child including girl children to be killed. This for all women from any country. Where’s the voice of the women who don’t want anyone to tell them what to do?

The new guidelines issued by the World Health Organisation claim that laws which prevent abortion during any stage of gestation risk violating the rights of women and girls or other pregnant person??? What does this mean “or other pregnant person?” Who is this “other?”

In this new 210-page document released by the WHO organisation there is not a positive comment, thought, or even nod towards the conceived child who was conceived by male and a female. A child which will grow into a human being of immense value. A child, if permitted, who can change the world....

I’ve just had a thought! I wonder if this is the fear, that a child may be born who will change the world and reject all choices and rights and will bring about a community where babies are the “quiver full” (blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them Ps 127) or even treasures.

“Anne how can we get rid of or even reduce this thing called abortion?” by one woman saying yes to an infant who isn’t wanted, is in danger of not coming to birth but who in time to come will change all of society into a society into one of love. Can man made laws do this? No, because man made laws have the imprint of man/woman of sin and selfishness. Man-made laws are just made for men and women to accommodate their immediate desires and not look into the distance, into the future.

Man-made laws against abortion have been in place for hundreds of years and still of little effect. Indeed, we know from the *Didache* that abortions were forbidden by the earliest of Christians.

We have had laws but the wording of the laws were composed by “men and women” to accommodate their own desires and further these same laws were ignored both by the law itself and legally and what seemed to be a turning of the head when such things were talked about.

Laws are meant to serve man/woman not man and woman for the law. Laws are meant to prevent anarchy and yet in this last biblical generation anarchy over life has indeed prevailed.

Further response to the question how can we bring abortion to its knees?

Recognizing that women in ever increasing numbers are abandoning their feminine and damaging themselves for fulfilment of their desire to have a more “interesting” and “fulfilling” vocation and rejecting their vocation of “life bearer.” with all their feminine gifts of love, nurture, softness, gentleness. All the inner gifts of love and care and beginning to change this to woman beautiful.

Sex and intimacy today are wounded through disrespect of these by use and abuse of them both by male and female. It was never created as an after thought as something which can be manipulated at will but is the identity of the individual. The deepest mystery of creation with every human being a sexual being.

This is how the individual is created to further forward another copy of the original template which was created in with a divine image in mind.

How interesting that as feminist thought and behaviour has increased and risen to frightening heights so abortion has risen in tandem. It seems one accompanies the other, and how further interesting that via sexuality other “different” understandings of sexuality have arisen and found respect and legal place within society. Even the newly promoted gender identity confusion and the belief of it being fluid.

By her rejection and loss of her feminine charism woman refuses to contribute to society the necessities of a healthy humanity that is, love, harmony, mothering, nurturing, rearing the human family in a manner of peace. Of growing and moulding her family into one whose destination is heavenward.

The feminist movement which was formed to initially protect woman from known violence against her has morphed into a movement which turned in on itself. This movement wasn’t a passing fad but turned into a powerful force. A force which even destroys its own feminine sisters. It developed into a movement of violence, deciding that violence against the smallest of beings is wanted, demanded, and insisted upon. Even psychological violence against “sisters” who do not want this life.

This movement has opened the door wide to change all that created the human being and made it what it was. This movement set out to change the lot of women (good intentions to stop violence against women) and like all ideas which begin with good intentions the power achieved by them helped to change what was beautifully made into something unrecognizable. Set out to change the natural order.

In the process of this change the voice and heart of mother towards her child (one which has been permitted to live) has also changed and distanced with eyes still towards a career and needing to leave her baby to others whose own heartbeat and voice is not recognized by the child.

Loss of security leads to disturbances in the spiritual and to loneliness imprinted in the child which remains for a lifetime because it was imprinted during the earliest stages of development. And into a disordered family life reversal of parental roles, all novelties become possible. It's possible if feeling weakened by loneliness and self-imposed isolation to want and demand to change to a more dominant personality in the belief that by changing identity strength will be infused.

Identity confusion, sexual confusion, societal progression of moral instability are signs of a society heading towards collapse. A society which ostensibly everything appears good and normal and progressive (shades of the days of Noah?) but loss of morals exists. This has been evident and visible to all of us especially in last 60 years where

changes via laws regarding families, male and females, identity rejection, marital situations, and previously unknown conditions.

This is a situation and place we have arrived at because we first gave voice to the distancing between mother and child (contraception) followed by abortion, followed by despising of the child (late term abortion) followed by laws which granted permission to end life of another legally (euthanasia) followed by demands to change the innate gender and original design of the human being created in the image and likeness of God. In the image of the Son Jesus.

As I wrote this article it seems that I “have it in” for the woman and have forgotten the contribution man has made towards the illness which has overcome our society. Even a malaise which leads to apathy.

Well, I haven’t forgotten the part of the male in this miasma of pain but from all time “woman” was asked to be the child bearer, the inner peace of man, the companion of man, the one who held all things together, the one whose child and health of her family were indelibly imprinted into her being, this created masterpiece, has again listened to the alien voice of the one who wants her destruction because it is she who will undo all the work of his destruction which was planned from all time.

Woman and her child and her husband and her family would replace a certain empty place lost through pride. Woman first said No. Then She said YES. And in our century woman has again said NO.

When woman agreed to the destruction of the infant in her womb, she changed her design into one which said NO again.

As an afterthought:

In the year 2021 abortion was the leading cause of death. 42,600,000 (million) babies legally killed.

42,600,000(million) women affected, wounded, changed, diminished. By abortion

42,600,000 (million) fathers lost fatherhood.

Letters

Dear Anne,

We wish you all God's richest blessings in your life and thank you for the much-needed important work you do for men and women and darling children.

Enclosed a donation.

Broken Branches is rare honest informative newsletter.

We understand something of your enormous effort and contribution and the opposition faced.

Thanks Anne.

C & K (WA)

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your kind donation and your really kind words I appreciate both so much.

It is a difficult work but the Lord has supported me so far when He stops then I know He is saying take a rest Anne and I will. Till then with help, we keep going.

Anne

Dear Anne,

Keep up the great work!!!

Enclosed a donation to help you in work.

From your priest brother.

Fr. H.F

(Qld)

Dear Fr H,

So lovely to hear from you. I've thought about you often.

Thank you for your kindness it helps so much. God bless you.

Anne

Dear Anne,

Recently I was entrusted by an anonymous donor with this amount of \$\$ to be used in whatever way I chose to promote the mission of the church and then I read "Broken Branches" issue 147 in which the wonderful apostolate for life in the name of Christ, the Life of the World continues to be resolutely expressed and

And promoted by you even as you continue to do so on a "shoestring financially"

And so with Joy and pleasure I send the amount on to you so that you may continue in your 26th year of dedicated service. The loving care and sacrifices continuing to support many to grow through their hidden pain and grief.

Together with the enclosed are my continuing daily prayers for God's continuing blessings upon your apostolate which indeed is at the heart of the mission of the church.

May God continue to bless you as you continue to be a blessing to so many others.

Yours sincerely

Fr M M. Victoria.

Dear Reverend Father,

Thank you for your kind donation and thinking about me and the needs of this kind of work. You are so kind Yes, it is 26 years this year and at times I shake my head and wonder how quickly the time has passed and even more so how the Lord has supported this work. Always when least expected the assistance arrives.

Thank you, dear Father, because without people like you who hear the voice and respond to it, it couldn't possibly continue.

I send you many thanks and blessings and stay Covid safe please.

Anne

Dear Anne,

Have received your last issue of your bulletin and want to say how much I like and appreciate it and then share it among my friends. We even talk about it and discuss what you say.

Thank you for helping us to understand what goes on in the world about abortion and all kinds of attacks against life and family and marriage and children.

Please keep going if your health is good.

Three of us got together and send you a small donation.

God bless you dear.

Marie, B

Vic.

Thank you dear Marie, I have appreciated your support over many years and very glad that you still like newsletter.

Following the news stories about this war between Russia and Ukraine I saw on social media an image of a young mother breastfeeding her what appears to be a very young (newborn) infant. Sitting amongst rubbish, signs of collapse, building trash, and signs of war bombing, was sitting this young person head down, part her head shawl covering the child, except its tiny head, and the usual look of such love and adoration when a mother is breastfeeding her baby.

I stopped and looked, and sat back and looked some more and it brought to mind many images we have of the mother of Jesus looking down lovingly at her newborn infant. It also brought to me images of the terror of war and the sign of peace amongst the shambles of non-peace.

Amongst the destruction a symbol of hope, a woman who holds on to her child tightly and stops to tend to its needs. This is the sign we need to raise up if we want to slowly and methodically demolish the demon called abortion. This is the sign of the woman and child who will defeat that demon called abortion.

When thinking about this latest insanity of “man” I thought about the mothers, babies, toddlers, young children, teenagers, youth, et al who have been displaced and some will probably never feel safe again. I thought about pregnant women under rubble, elderly under rubble and young fathers, sons, grandfathers lost to this insanity. Nothing was learned from the horror of WWII.

It seems that dictators, despots emerge in each generation and cause havoc and then it takes three or generations to recover before another insane individual starts the horrors again.

Having lost many family members in concentration camps and those remaining with a tattooed number on their arms I never in my wildest imagination thought we would see such horrors again. But I guess there it is and I was wrong.

We can only pray that God will intervene for the rest I don't know.

Dear Friends, here I go again at the end of another newsletter. I must admit when I sat down, I didn't know what to write about except about my Melbourne trip but when fingers hit the keyboard something happens and away, they go.

I am saddened that support for this work has really almost ceased except for about half dozen supporters. I don't know whether to read something into this or just keep going and trust.

Please continue to pray for me (health) and those in my care

Frances, Sarah, Mel P. Judy, Sylvie, Chris, Riley (new) Alysha, Thea, Belle, Sharyn Carmine, Josie, Alex Natalie.

I want to say thank you to those who sent help and especially an anonymous donor. Thank you.

I also just want to remind you that I have still quite a few books for sale both first and few second editions of Redeeming Grief and lots of Hidden pain. Sale of these helps office expenses.

Dear friends as I say bye for now
I wish for you a safe, happy and Holy Easter and the blessings from the one who made Easter possible.

May the Lord bless and keep you and if you are travelling, please travel safe.

God bless

*The Lord is Risen
He is Risen Indeed...Hallelujah*



Anne Lastman

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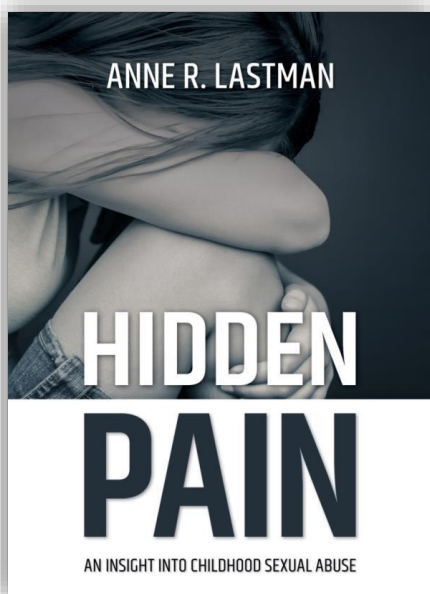
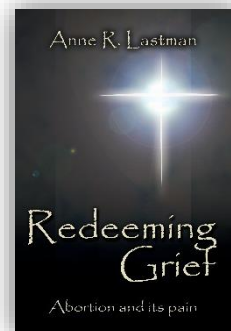
Contact Anne via email for international orders. anne@victimsofabortion.com.au

CLEARANCE!

There is a limited number of the first edition of Redeeming Grief to be cleared at a reduced price 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.

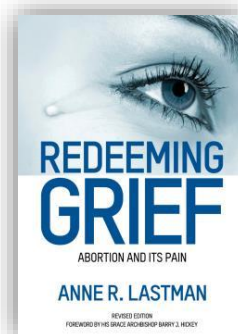
This is not a step by step guide to dealing with abuse. It is the result of my engagement with those who have come to me originally for post abortion counselling and on further investigation it was found that abuse (especially in cases of multiple abortions) existed in their history. It is my hope that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

(Including free postage within Australia)

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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