



Choice News

Positive perspectives on Life Events



Number 16 Summer 2010

TEACHING TEACHERS IN INDIA



REAP Literacy Centre in West Godavari



Books and slates in the Literacy Centre

The 360 km (9 hours!) drive to the villages in the West Godavari region of Andhra Pradesh brought into focus the real reason why Bruce was in India.

Bruce arrived into **Hyderabad** on Monday **15th November** at the invitation of **REAP India** (www.reapintl.org). **Under the leadership of MV Thomas REAP has successfully established 112 Literacy Centres (as at the end of 2010), teaching over 5200 students**, and is looking to expand in the coming years into many other areas around India. Each of the Centres is located in the poorer villages where the educational and other needs are the greatest.

meet in small rooms, that double as school rooms or church buildings, or out in the open air—**wherever there was space for 50 or 60 students ranging from pre-school to 12 years of age**. The one teacher, some as young as 18 years of age, in charge of each village Literacy Centre instructs the children with none of the teaching aids that are taken for granted in Australia. In villages that have no access to electricity or running water the teachers use a few books, for the older students (provided by REAP), but mostly blackboards, chalk and slates. The classes are conducted each afternoon, for 2 hours, to supplement the regular

The following day Bruce travelled the 9-hour journey to visit five of the REAP Literacy centres in West Godavari. Some



Literacy Centre Students



Literacy Centre Teachers

112 TEACHERS TRAINED AND REACHING 5,200 STUDENTS

school classes. Their goal is to teach the children how to read and speak English, as well as their first local language, as a means of improving their possibilities for the future.

For two days all the teachers from the Literacy Centres— approximately 50 in a central location



Teachers in Hyderabad

in West Godavari and then, a week later, another group of 65 teachers in Hyderabad — travelled to learn about the wonder of the develop-

ment of the baby in utero. For those living in the villages the message was particularly pertinent and extremely valuable. **The ultrasound images, the models and the posters had an incredible impact on these teachers as they were reminded of their own value, being created in the image of God for a purpose.**

FINANCIAL HELP NEEDED FOR RESOURCES

The goal is now to seek financial resources to enable the provision of the foetal models for each centre. In addition the simplification, trans-



The pre-born baby models had a great impact

lation and production of the information on the posters will enable the teachers to take this message back to the students under their tutelage.

The teachers were also instructed in important practical issues relating to classroom management, planning, organisation and discipline. These classes were presented by **Sharon Binks** who, with her family, are involved in ministry on behalf



Marc and Sharon Binks with Joshua and Isaac

of their church in **Mackay, Queensland.** This was an extremely valuable time for all the teachers involved. Many of them have never had any formal teacher training and REAP is keen to develop this area



Bethany Primary School, Chennai

for all their teachers.

Bruce had the opportunity to visit Chennai and to speak to **500 students at the Bethany Primary School, a ministry of the Christian Mission Charitable Trust.** CMCT provides free education for approximately 1200 children from extremely poor circumstances, where their parents definitely could not afford to pay for their education. It was amazing to again watch their wide eyes and the great excitement created by the ultrasound pictures and the pre-born baby models. The school was also in the midst of preparations for a Christmas pageant, for presentation to the parents, the following day. Bruce's message of the wonder of life and birth only reinforced the excitement that the Christmas story had already created.



Thank you to those who have sent stamps.

MIND THE GAP!

If you trim the stamps always make sure there is a 5mm gap around the stamp!

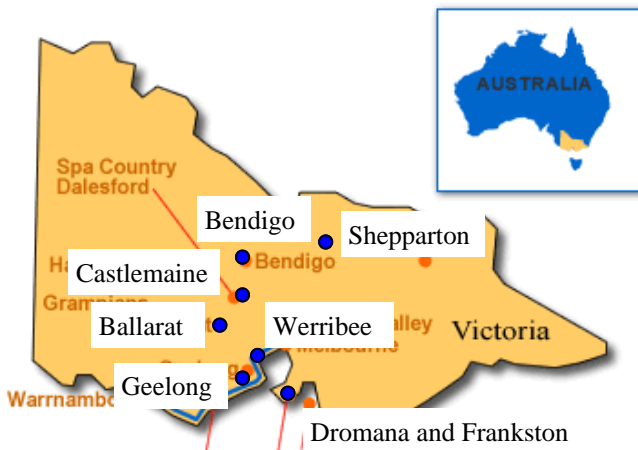
Post them to PO Box 459, GORDON NSW 2072 or give them to Bruce when he visits your school or church!



CHOICES OF LIFE IS ON FACEBOOK

Keep up with pro-life issues and events that you don't hear in the news

BRUCE'S VICTORIAN TRAVELS



From 7th to 22nd **October Bruce spoke to 18 classes in 10 schools in Victoria**, seven schools for return visits and three of them for the first time. The comments on the right are from students in some of those schools. The 2-week itinerary included involvement in the **March for Babies**, the second annual event to remember the passage of the extremely liberal abortion laws in Victoria in 2008 (see comment on back page). Bruce also had the opportunity to speak at the **Dromana Presbyterian Church** and the **Hamlyn Heights Home Church (Geelong)**.

GUESS WHAT I DID?!?!?!?



On Tuesday 19th October **FRANCES HOPKINS** went to school with her mouth taped. She was armed with brochures, baby models and other material to celebrate the Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity on behalf of the unborn. From the time she arrived at the bus stop she was questioned and she quickly wrote appropriate responses.

Frances reported : "They all had the same questions. I showed them the brochure and then the models. I've never seen year 10 guys so fascinated with the models. They brought up the topics of rape, pain, choice, why I was doing it. I had to write a reply every time. They considered my view and read what I said. When they found out that my goal wasn't money but to raise awareness they were surprised. By the end of it one of the year 10 boys said "I'm proud of you" which isn't what one would normally hear from a year 10 boy." Not everyone was as complimentary but at least they got the message!

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CHANGING THE WORLD ONE CLASS AT A TIME

VICTORIAN STUDENTS' COMMENTS

A student wrote after a **Year 6** presentation: "**I learnt things today I will never forget!** I have felt very worthless lately and seeing everything today changed that feeling. Thank you very much. **You have changed my life.** Keep going because you are changing the world **one class at a time!**"

Year 9 students were impacted by the presentation and wrote:

- I had what I thought a good knowledge of the abortion issue. Now I have a much broader knowledge and I can share what I know to tell someone considering an abortion that **life is the only way.** I believe EVERYONE needs to know about this—your talk was very encouraging—I believe every high school should be made to listen to this—thanks for coming very much appreciated.

- Even though I would never think of having an abortion, looking back on this presentation will definitely help me and has helped me realise the **importance of a child and even though they are so small they are as important as you and me.**

- It has made me realise that there are people suffering because of abortion and will **make me a lot more compassionate and will help me to help others in this area.**

Choices of Life
3rd ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
AND FAMILY CAMP
at Toukley, 90 minutes north of Sydney
14-16 JANUARY 2011
Keynote speaker
Linda Broekman
from Life Network Australia
Life Network aims to link pro-life Australians and bring about life-affirming change.
A number of young pro-life enthusiasts and campaigners are also on the program!
DAY VISITORS WELCOME
BOOK NOW
USING THE ENCLOSED FORM
CLOSING DATE: 24th December



Hayley Weir speaking at the 2nd March for Babies Rally

9th October 2010

Changing Australia one life at a time!

Addressing the 50 protestors, including coathanger-wielding representatives of the Sex Party, on the steps of the Victorian Parliament House their leader said, "We may be only a small group but we represent the majority of Australians. Those in the march [for Babies] - that is all of them—there are no more. They are in the minority." I fail to see how 50 pro-abortionists represent more citizens than over 2000 pro-lifers who marched and gathered to commemorate the passage of the iniquitous abortion laws in 2008. I guess that is as logical as the arguments they use to defend their support of abortion.

Chaired by Victorian MP, Bernie Finn, the March for Babies rally was addressed by a number of eminent speakers whose rousing speeches for life were punctuated by enthusiastic applause and rousing cheers of affirmation. The vocal protesters, despite their desperate efforts with megaphones and loud speakers, were no match for the sheer volume of the pro-lifers.

The most impressive speaker was young Hayley Weir, a 15-year old student from a state high school in southern NSW. (see Issue 15 of the Choices of Life Newsletter). Undeterred by the loud protesters, no more than 10 metres away, she presented a logical defence of

the prolife position. "A pro-abortionist said to a friend of mine that I was too young to have an opinion on abortion - I did not have enough life experience. If that is so, why are my peers allowed to have abortions without even their parents knowing. **If I am considered old enough to have an abortion am I not old enough to stand up for what I believe?**" Fair point Hayley!

She went on to ask, "**Why isn't my generation being taught the truth about abortion?** Why is it that when I gave my speech at school I saw looks of shock and disbelief ... Why, instead of being educated about the effects of abortion, my generation is told the nearest abortion clinic's phone number? Why do pregnant women have a lack of support? Why is it that when any female announces her pregnancy to a GP she is met with 'Do you want to terminate it or carry it to full term?'. We agree this is unacceptable." Hayley concluded on a positive note. "However I am encouraged by the amazing things that have already been achieved. I know that many of you here today are breaking through and changing Australia one life at a time! We still have a long way to go. But we are not alone. We have each other. And we also have the God of the universe on our side. **May you allow God to lead you to do what He has purposed you to do in this fight.**"

Name

Address

Suburbpostcode

Phone ..(.....).....

Email

Please return to: CHOICES OF LIFE
PO BOX 459 GORDON NSW 2072

Please charge each month to my credit card until I advise otherwise

OR a one off donation of:

\$50 \$100 \$200 or my choice

My cheque payable to CHOICES OF LIFE

Debit to my credit card

MasterCard Visa Amex

_____/_____/_____/_____

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Name on Card _____

Signature _____ Expiry ____/____