

# Choice News

Positive perspectives on Life Events

Number 17 Feb/March 2011



## The Choices of Life 3rd Annual Conference and Family Camp 2011 Life Network vs Death Network

Introducing



**Inform** — Creating awareness  
**Inspire** — Developing a network  
**Empower** — Providing opportunity for action

The weekend in January focussed on Life Network Australia and its role in informing the nation what is happening in the pro-life arena. **Linda Broekman**, one of the Directors of LNA, spoke about her journey **from inaction to pro life work** through the launch of Life Network.

“I grew up ‘pro life’ in the sense that I believed abortion was wrong, but I had no idea of the massive affect that the practice is having on our country. My sneaking suspicion began when I was offered the morning after pill at a women’s health centre – without any explanation of what was being offered, only that it would ‘make sure I wasn’t pregnant’.

Through a gutsy presentation by Sonja Couroupis at our church, I came to understand the enormous number of abortions occurring and determined that **inaction was no longer an option**.

I believe there are four essential elements in launching and running any initiative: vision, obedience, provision, and favour. Obedience (action) is

perhaps the most difficult, but the first is vision.

I embarked on a quest to **learn the truth about abortion, and to seek a vision** of what I should do to oppose it. Through various conversations, books and websites I have become convinced that ordinary Australians will oppose abortion if they know about abortion, can overcome the weight of it, and have **opportunity for action**. Life Network Australia was born from this belief, with the key focus areas Inform, **Inspire and Empower**. Sonja and I launched Life Network in Deniliquin in May of 2009 with a conference and dinner attended by around 40 people.

LNA disseminates up-to-date information about abortion via speaking engagements, our website, and email newsletters. We seek to overcome despair by linking people with the passionate community of pro lifers in this country and with information about their initiatives and successes. Finally we act as a **‘pro life noticeboard’** with details of upcoming events and ways that you can get involved in the fight for life.

**Check out [www.lifenetwork.org.au](http://www.lifenetwork.org.au) to subscribe and get involved.”**



Linda Broekman (pictured) with Sonja Couroupis established Life Network Australia in May 2009

Young Australians deserve to know the scientific facts, ethics and attitudes surrounding the commencement of human life.

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## Young Pro-Lifers Expose the Death Network Agenda



Susan Laura Abigail Frances

**Susan Thring** filed this report:

“After we learnt about many of the pro-life groups working across Australia and the world, Frances Hopkins chaired a session on ‘Exposing the Death Network at Work in the Australian Society and Politics.’ The panel of four girls, aged between 14 and 19, spoke on some of the ‘pro-choice organisations’ in Australia.

**Abigail Palibino** presented a talk on **EMILY’s List** Australia. Established in 1996, they are a financial, political and personal support network for the election of progressive, totally pro-abortion, Labor women candidates. Some of their current politicians include Sharon Grierson, member for Newcastle, Tanya Plibersek, member for Sydney, and Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

**Laura Totonjian** spoke on **Sustainable Population Australia**. Founded in 1998, SPA aims to reduce Australia’s population to a ‘sustainable level.’ Some of their preferred methods include limiting immigration and, through abortion, the number of children Australian families would be permitted to have. They also propose that Australia should institute a one-child policy!.

**Frances Hopkins** discussed the **Family Planning Association** and other major abortion providers. She outlined their history and the words they use to hide their eugenic agenda. She also mentioned the vast difference between today’s pro-choice feminist movement and the original feminists, who were very pro-life.

**Susan Thring** exposed the aims of **Exit International**. Founded by Dr Phillip Nitschke in 1997 after the Northern Territory’s laws permitting euthanasia were overturned, Exit’s goal is to legalise voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide.

While the ‘death network’ in Australia is still working to become an even greater part of our society, the tide is beginning to turn. Many of their original arguments have been abandoned, and the Life Network is always growing.”

## “Is the War Winnable?” Rev Dr Peter Barnes

Peter Barnes took up the challenge to answer the question, ‘Is the war winnable?’ He commented that a number of battles may be won but still the war is lost. Why? Because people will rationalize evil to justify their own ideology. However many factors indicate that **there are an increasing number of battles being won making the pro-abortion position increasingly untenable**. Feminists are using more obscure arguments to sustain their position because all past arguments are becoming obviously irrelevant. **Ultrasound** is making it more difficult to call the unborn a ‘blob of cells’. The truth about what happens in abortions, especially late term abortions, makes it harder to justify the procedure. Medical science has established that **babies feel pain** at early stages in the pregnancy. Even so-called **pro-choicers are increasingly uneasy at sex-selection abortions**. There is increasing evidence that cannot be ignored that abortion has devastating consequences for women. And no-one can argue with **those who have left the abortion industry to become advocates for the unborn!** Just as the communist juggernaut collapsed so “we may live to see the sudden collapse of a similarly anti-life worldview.”



Peter Barnes

## SPECIAL TRAVEL REQUEST



An opportunity came to purchase a very good, used (only 49000 kms) **Ford Falcon wagon** to meet **Bruce’s** in-

creased travel demands locally, in country areas and interstate. These ministry demands continue to increase. Being a designated **LPG vehicle** it will save considerable costs for **Choices of Life** and will serve for several years. It also provides the extra luggage space - extra resources, banners and display equipment — required on long trips.

**If you would like to assist Bruce and Choices of Life meet the cost of this car please forward your specially marked gift using the enclosed donation slip.**

## Reclaiming Fatherhood in the Abortion Debate

**“To a large extent men are irrelevant in the abortion debate. It is to the detriment of both men and women to have men sidelined.”** At the Family Camp **Theo Broekman** made it very clear that men must take a significant role in the debate and in the action for the sake of the women and the children. His interview with Richard Vaughan highlighted the pain that can be experienced by men during and long after an abortion decision.



Theo and Richard

### Challenging Interview as Richard tells — “My Journey Through Abortion”

When I was around the age of 19 my girlfriend came to me one day and told me we were going to have a baby. We had been together a couple of years and this was a topic we had discussed more than once, should something like this happen. Sophie refused to tell anyone especially her parents at that stage, which made things very difficult. We visited my doctor to confirm the pregnancy and ensure Sophie was ok. At the Doctor’s suggestion we were assessed by a Social Worker and we were evaluated as a young couple that could successfully raise a child. We were ok with that. A legal abortion was not an option for Sophie.

I finally convinced Sophie we must tell her parents. It appeared that her mother had known all along. Sophie’s father informed me they were worried Sophie would destroy my life. That was definitely not what I was expecting.

After 27 years the memory of the exact sequence is lost but some where around this time a third party became involved, a woman with an extremely strong personality and her husband. The next thing I was being informed that Sophie was being taken by this third party to the **only illegal abortion clinic** in the area at the time. I don’t remember being referred to in the process, it just happened – **Sophie and our baby were gone.**

Sophie returned a few days later, I went to see her, we just sat, what could you say? We were both numb. We stayed together as a couple as I wanted to be there for her as best I could but the strain grew too much between us and we began to push each other away and tear each other apart.

During this time I had to do something with all the feelings churning inside. **Who does a young guy talk to?** Talk to the wrong group of friends and you get told you were lucky – you’ve got a second chance at life – **that’s not how I saw it at all.** I was concerned what the trauma of the

situation would do to my own immediate family so I just buried it deeper, except when I was under the influence of alcohol or other substances.

I paddled to the most remote section of a picturesque lake I knew and on a small hill I made a little grave and placed a simple cross for our daughter. Since becoming a Christian some 22 years ago and becoming aware of the grace of God, I’ve given my daughter the name Jasmine.

Eventually we ended our relationship. I moved 1000km away and began a new life. I returned to my old town a year later and as I walked down the street and rounded a corner I walked straight into Sophie. She was heavily pregnant. We just stopped and stared at each other. We didn’t say a word. Slowly we moved off still staring at each other. I later found out Sophie gave that child to her sister to raise. Approximately 18 months later I received a phone call very late one night. It was my Mum. **Sophie had taken her life.**

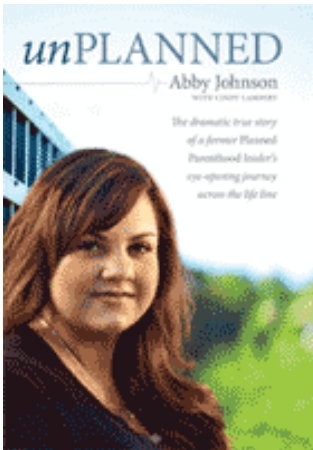
I’ve only just started to tell my story (more than 26 years after the event) and it stirs up a myriad of feelings. Some of the strongest ones are the anger, frustration, shame and heart wrenching grief that I didn’t want anyone to die and I couldn’t protect either of them. Also I wasn’t permitted to be with Sophie when she was in one of the darkest moments in her life. Other times I stop and wonder what would Jasmine be like if she were here now. **Many different feelings and levels of pain still sit just under the surface.** But I’m working them out piece by piece.

**My hope is that in time more men will speak up about their experiences and through that change will occur. That greater support will be provided, and there will be a deeper understanding of how men feel and cope with the experience of abortion.**

I’d like to thank my beautiful wife and our 5 children. Without their support and encouragement I couldn’t speak out. I’ve only just begun the next part of *my journey through abortion.*

# NEW RESOURCES—HOT OFF THE PRESS

## “unPlanned”



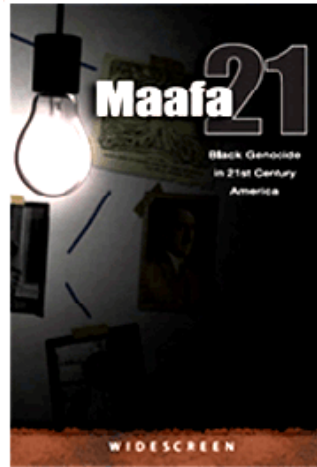
Abby Johnson quit her job in October 2009. That simple act became a national news story because Abby was the director of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Texas who, after participating in her first actual abortion procedure, walked across the road to join the Coalition for Life. Un-

planned is a heart-stopping personal drama of life-and-death encounters, a courtroom battle, a spiritual transformation that speaks hope and compassion into the political controversy that surrounds the issue. Telling Abby's story from both sides of the abortion clinic property line, this book is a must-read for anyone who cares about the life vs rights debate and helping women who have face crisis pregnancies.

**\$25.00 (plus \$5 Postage)**

## Maafa 21

### Black Genocide in 21st century America



**Question:** What do the slave trade, Margaret Sanger, Adolph Hitler, John D. Rockefeller, Bill Gates and the 21st Century abortion industry have in common?

**Answer:** They all have an agenda to rid the world of the inferior (by their definition) races. Written into the operating principles of the abor-

tion industry and funded by the white elite with the support of some of the Presidents of the USA the black population is at risk of extermination. Is that a dramatic exaggeration? Watch this DVD and consider the well documented evidence. And consider—is this an aberration in the USA or is it coming to a country near you? Or has it already come?

**\$25 each or \$35 for 2 (postage paid).**



### The Choices of Life International Sticker Collection

These Choices of Life stickers (4 cm diameter) are available free for those who would like to use them. Email or write and indicate the number that you would like.

One sticker has been included in this mailing.



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 PO BOX 459 GORDON NSW 2072

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