



Choice News

Positive perspectives on Life Events

Number 18 May/June 2011



PREGNANCY SUPPORT IN THE TOP END

It is now 2 years since Bruce wrote about the situation in Darwin (see the Special Edition Newsletter 2009). Aborigines make up 2.5% of Australia's total population **but Aboriginal teen pregnancies are 4 times the national average.** This situation is most acute, it would seem, in Darwin. The problem is exacerbated by the suggestion that **much more than 50%** of teen pregnancies are aborted (Note: 50% is the national average). The National Report into Indigenous Disadvantage (July 2, 2009) also indicated that Aboriginal infant mortality rates are two to three times that of Indigenous babies. The situation is indeed dire. The young girls (as well as the adults) in the Top End are in desperate need of accurate pro-life information regarding sexuality and abortion.

When Bruce visits Darwin and some East Arnhem communities in late July he is planning, with the assistance of an experienced director of a Pregnancy Sup-

port Service in Perth, to investigate the establishment of a pregnancy service to meet this need.

Bruce will continue to present the important message of the value of every human life in the schools and these communities.

PASSION4LIFE ANNUAL WALK

From 8th to 10th July the Passion4Life (P4L) are organizing the third Walk for Life from Kingswood to Mount Victoria (approx. 90 kms across the Blue Mountains west of Sydney) to raise awareness of the issue of abortion. The sponsorship will, in part, go towards the establishment of these Pregnancy Support Services in Darwin. Please email info@passion4life.it to organize a visit from the P4L team (Ebony, Liana, Grace and Jacinta) to your church or group and to sponsor the walkers participating in this important event.

BRUCE'S NTHN TABLELANDS (NSW) TRIP—28 March to 13 April

SCHOOLS VISITED

- Manilla High School
- Tamworth West Public School
- St Xavier's Primary School, Gunnedah
- Namoi Valley Christian School, Wee Waa
- Bruce visited the Principal at Burren Junction Public School with the prospect of speaking to the students when next in the area.

CHURCHES VISITED

- Moree Presbyterian—there was a concern of a need for pregnancy support in Moree and for the possible involvement of

the church in this area of ministry.

- Moree Anglican—future opportunities via the Chaplain at Moree Secondary College
- Armidale Community Church
- Manilla Presbyterian

YOUTH CAMP

100 teenagers were challenged with the message of the value of life at the Lake Keepit (near Gunnedah) campsite. Camp organised by the Good Shepherd Fellowship.

Abortion through the eyes of a 7-year old – 70 years on!

Anne (not her real name) was 7 years old – **they thought she didn't understand.**

Anne heard her mother discussing with a friend about having an abortion. Anne's father was an alcoholic and her mother was pregnant with another man's child. Both women thought that abortion was the only solution. It was some years later that Anne recalled the loud noises she had heard upstairs. It was probably her mother delivering the baby – a little boy - who was then quickly flushed down the toilet. She had been attended to by a 'back yard abortionist'. Anne's young heart and mind had been etched with these events. **In her own way she understood.**

When Anne was 16 years old her mother died as the result of complications after a serious 'women's operation'. In hindsight, it may have been related to the abortion. Her mother was only 44. To deal with some of the trauma of her childhood Anne has been on anti-depressants since she was 18.

All these thoughts and emotions lay dor-

mant until Anne, happily married and approaching her 77th birthday, was reading the Bible reading notes provided by the Radio Bible Class. The booklet described a mother's intense grief when she looked into the eyes of her aborted baby. Anne began to weep uncontrollably. Her husband was concerned but unable to understand until Anne started to explain what had happened 70 years earlier. This was the first time that she had spoken about what she had heard that day! When she was relating the sad events Anne made a comment that this was the brother she had always wanted but never had the opportunity to meet.

Since that day Anne has told only her children but because of the sensitivity of the situation she has requested that her name be withheld. **She still feels the shame and burden that came with the knowledge of what had been done.** She is now 85 and has, by God's grace, just gained the courage to make this story available to challenge others who may not understand the implications of an abortion decision on the extended family.



Bruce's Travel Diary

Bruce is continuing school visits over the coming months to city and suburban schools

as well as interstate:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Tasmania | May 1-14 |
| Perth | May 23—June 1 |
| Darwin | July 27—August 14 |
| South Australia | September 5—20 |
| Victoria | October 6-23 |



Car Fund Update

Choices of Life thanks the many people who contributed towards the Ford

wagon. Over **30%** of the cost has now been covered. Because it is a dedicated LPG vehicle the fuel costs on the recent Northern Tablelands trip were reduced by at least 50%.

What's the value of a few stamps?

In the past 6 months Choices of Life has despatched over 12 kgs of donated Australian and overseas stamps to a dealer in Queensland. He sorts, soaks and sells the stamps to others who



are interested in purchasing bulk quantities or particular issues. Older stamps, and those of a higher face value, attract higher prices. In a reciprocal arrangement Choices of Life is able to purchase stamps at a reduced price that can be used

in mail outs and for other purposes. It is estimated that in the past 6 months Choices of Life has saved over \$1500 with this arrangement.

Thank you to those who have sent stamps—it is sure worth it!

Reserve the date: ANNUAL DINNER—6 PM SATURDAY 25TH JUNE, 2011
Details and booking slip enclosed

WEBSITE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

www.choicesoflife.com.au

The **Choices of Life website** has been designed by John Garrett and the professional team at Softcom Web Solutions <http://www.softcomweb.com.au/html> All the information has been provided by Choices of Life and has been prepared with students and teachers in mind. The website will continue to grow with the addition of more information and resources to enable students to research the growing body of factual evidence available on the internet.



The **CHOICES AT SCHOOL** section of the website has detailed information for both Primary and secondary students.

The **WONDER OF LIFE** is a comprehensive resource on many aspects of the baby in the womb including significant links to ultrasounds as well as information on the placenta, foetal surgery, multiple births, the Human Genome Project and the foetal alcohol syndrome. Even advanced students will be challenged.

The detailed page on **ABORTION** is a sensitive compilation of factual information and links that explore statistical information, the impact of abortion on men, the possible physical and psychological impact of abortions as well as numerous personal stories of people who have faced unexpected pregnancies.

Want to know more **INFO** about Choices of Life, make a secure online **DONATION**, or check out the **RESOURCES** from Heritage House?

HEALING AFTER ABORTION is a vital aspect of the website. There are links to various Australian and overseas agencies as well as information for both men and women who are searching for a way through their abortion experience.

Current and back issues of *Choice News*, the official **NEWSLETTER** of Choices of Life provides ongoing information on the local and interstate, as well as overseas, activities and projects of Choices of Life.

LINKS—a growing list of links to websites with a wide variety of information on pro-life issues. The Youtube music presentations represent a small sample of songs from men and women who, in many instances, have been hurt by abortion decisions. There is an extensive list of Australian and overseas pro-life organisations .

Use the online Contact form to make **CONTACT** with the Choices of Life national office, or follow the links to the various state and regional representatives of Choices of Life. New contact names are regularly being added.

COMMENTS FROM TEACHERS AND STUDENTS provide ample evidence of the value and impact of both the Primary and Secondary presentations.

What do the Schools say?

Comments from Students and Teachers about the presentations in schools more »

LEFT TO DIE

In July 1998 in Darwin baby Jessica was delivered alive after an abortion at around 22 weeks. Jessica was not given any medical treatment—she was simply allowed to die despite the fact that she seemed to be struggling to stay alive for 80 minutes. This incident was the subject of an inquest. However no criminal sanctions were imposed on the doctor.



choice if Poppi could be given medical assistance, even though we were prepared to accept the medical risks involved.”

Sorensen, also spoke about the role of ethics in medicine, “Mrs. Davies lack of consid-

In 2007 Figures from the Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Morbidity and Mortality Report revealed that, in Victoria, **out of 181 late term abortions that year 54 were aborted alive and left to die.** Since the passage of the Victorian abortion legislation in 2008 there has been a **600% increase in late term abortions** at the Royal Women’s Hospital alone. One can only surmise how many more children may be left to die.

Then on 23 February, 2011 ...(from Rachel’s Facebook).

“After 23 weeks of pregnancy, and 2 hours following her birth, my baby daughter Poppi Gardner was left to die, and denied medical assistance by Queensland Health, even though as her parent, I wanted her to receive medical assistance but I wasn’t given that choice.” said mother Rachel Sorensen.

Queensland Health defended their actions, saying: “In these types of situations, our clinicians make a very difficult clinical judgement about what is the right thing to do by a patient who sadly is not going to survive”, said Corelle Davies, Executive Director of Queensland Health Community and Extended Care. ¹

But according to Sorensen, Mrs. Davies hadn’t considered the wishes of the parents. Said Gardiner: “As her parent, we were not given any

eration towards the wishes of parents, when prolonging the life of their own child, indicates a concerning lack of understanding in relation to the ethics of medicine. If premature babies cannot speak for themselves, then their parents should be given the option, to speak on their baby’s behalf. The role of both government, and the medical profession, is there to serve the public interest, by protecting the human rights of it’s citizens, especially in relation to their own lives. In this case, the human rights and wishes of myself, as Poppi’s parent, were completely ignored.”

Sorensen, said “We hope that Poppi’s tragic death, will not be in vain. And that in future Queensland parents can be given a choice, to make a decision whether to provide medical assistance to their premature baby. And that this choice is presented to the parents, after having been informed of medical risks involved, and if the parents are willing to accept those risks. We hope that no parent will ever have to go, through the same experience that we have. Thank you.” Source: Quoted from interview of Queensland Health Community and Extended Care executive director Corelle Davie’s:

<http://www.news-mail.com.au/story/2011/02/19/poppis-chances-were-slim-premature-delivery-death/>

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02 9499 5108 info@choicesoflife.com.au**

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