



Choice News

Positive perspectives on Life Events

Number 19 July August 2011



Resisting the Culture of Death A Report on the 2011 Annual Dinner (25 June)

“We live in dark days, with a culture of death in full battle against a culture of life.”



Bill Muehlenberg
Culture Watch

For all the guests at the Annual Dinner Bill Muehlenberg was stating the obvious. But it needed to be said! Despite the disturbing facts—

- one hundred thousand abortions each year in Australia,
- the Victorian abortion laws the worst in the Western world,
- the anti-life agenda of Peter Singer and the Greens

— he left a message of challenge to all proliferators to be engaged at some level in resisting the culture of death. He acknowledged the work of Choices of Life in the schools and gave an **amazing example of pro-life political successes in Queensland and Victoria. Bill highlighted the fact that, when they are clearly informed about pro-abortion MPs, the general populace support life-affirming politicians.** However the warning remains, we cannot afford to be complacent.

He also provided a challenge that **we should not forget the lessons of history**—the negatives of the Nazi holocaust and other geno-

cides in the 20th Century. They seem to be ignored by many in positions of authority in the 21st Century. Nor should we forget the great men of history—such as **William Wilberforce** — who gave their all to stand up for those who were drastically dehumanised. **The Culture Watch website <http://www.billmuehlenberg.com/>** is a constant source of information and opinion on these and many other current issues.

Again the **Annual Dinner** was an occasion to take a quick tour around Australia—from Sydney to Perth, from Darwin to Hobart and India — seeing the breadth of the pro-life activities of Choices of Life in the past 12 months. We were privileged to have the Passion4Life provide beautiful music to introduce the evening. **The Principal of Tangara School for Girls (Cherrybrook), Dr Marie-Therese Gibson, with Monica and Penny**, two Year 11 students, affirmed the value of Bruce’s visits to their school each year for the past 14 years!

Back Row
Bill Muehlenberg
Marie-Therese
Gibson
Monica Limbers
Penny Burfitt
Bruce Coleman

**Front Row—
Passion 4Life**
Grace Ellis
Jacinta Wesse
Liana Wesse
Ebony Ellis



THE VALUE OF THE “LITTLE FEET”

Bruce spoke at the Annual Dinner about the influence of the “**Little Feet**” in the lives of people in all walks of life—bank tellers, air hostesses, restaurant waiters, students and many others. He related stories of people who changed their mind about having an abortion after seeing them. The included story from Jessica arrived on the Monday after the dinner, another confirmation of the value of the “Little Feet”. The following email was received from Jessica with her story (as printed on the next page). She wrote: “I found it difficult to write it about but I have finished and I hope it is helpful. I'm just glad that my story proves that **your hard work has more meaning than I can put into words!**”

ANOTHER TWO LIVES SAVED

Bruce received this email:



I needed someone to talk to that didn't agree with having a abortion. I don't know how to say this, but I'm 9 weeks pregnant. My pregnancy is unplanned, this was never meant to happen. I don't know what to do anymore.

Is my baby a gift? I can't

stop thinking that who am I to take a life that didn't even have a chance to speak for itself? I was always against abortions, until I found out that I was pregnant.

The father keeps saying what's the point of having this baby, I keep telling him no matter what I'm keeping my baby.

I needed someone else's opinion, then again I know what your gonna say.

I guess a baby is a gift from God, but at 16?

Thanks so much:) Love Priscilla xx

NOTE: This very personal letter is printed with the permission of Priscilla and her parents. Priscilla is proceeding with her pregnancy with the support of her parents. Bruce and Amy-Mary Coleman have affirmed her decision to have the baby and have encouraged Priscilla to seek assistance from a professional Pregnancy Support Counsellor such as Jenny Gurry at Diamond Pregnancy Support.



Bruce's visit to Tasmania 1 to 13 May

- Spoke at **8 schools**— 5 primary and 5 secondary classes
- **Four of the schools visited were first-time appointments**
- Visited the first Catholic School in the north of the state at **St Patrick's College, Launceston**
- **Shirley** has indicated her willingness to consider training for taking classes in schools.
- Spoke at **5 churches** between Hobart, Burnie and Boat Harbour
- Spoke at **3 young people's groups**
- Participated in the Tasmania Support and Prayer Group in the home of **David and Sherrin Drew** in Kingston. This group is responsible for coordinating Bruce's Tasmanian itinerary.
- Two ladies shared their abortion stories with the possibility of speaking at a school on a future occasion.
- **Paulo** told his personal abortion story for the very first time to a young adults group.

Plans are in place for Bruce's visit in 2012.

Bruce's first visit to Perth 23 to 21 May

- Spoke at **Swan Christian College and Rehoboth Christian School**—5 Secondary classes
- Discussed with Michelle, Rachel and Felicity the possibility of re-invigorating the **school pro-life education** program in Perth and beyond
- Spoke at the **Christian Reformed Church** in Gosnells
- Participated in the **Annual Rally for Life** (pictured) with over **1000 pro-lifers**, including a number of West Australian **politicians**



JESSICA'S STORY

“I just kept thinking about those little feet”



I fell pregnant not long after I turned fifteen. The news was not happy news at first. I lived with my boyfriend who was a bit older than I was and though I had left school already, I was working at a cafe and attending community college. I had a rocky relationship with my parents who were separated.

When I was in high school (Year 7, I think), Bruce Coleman came to my school to talk about the importance of pregnancy and giving a child life. After the talk, he handed out little badges in the shape of little feet. He told us that it was the size of real baby's feet during the early stage of pregnancy. I remember thinking that I would never get an abortion.

My boyfriend did not want me to keep our baby. He felt we were too young and not at all prepared for the responsibility of looking after a child when we were still children ourselves. My friends encouraged me in the same direction.

I felt pressured and scared.

My whole family are Christians and I thought that telling them I was pregnant would be the last straw to a very long bunch of screw-ups. I was scared that they would stop talking to me and I was scared my boyfriend was going to leave me. I was scared about what people would think. I

was also scared for all the things I had planned for my life that would be ruined.

I started wondering if I should just go ahead with an abortion. It would make life so much easier. I wouldn't have to tell my family, my friends would support me and my boyfriend wouldn't leave me. **But I just kept thinking about those little feet.** I couldn't pretend that the baby inside me wasn't a human life. The first time I heard his heart beat, I knew that the only changes that this baby would make to my life were good ones. **I kept him and have never regretted my choice.**

My family were obviously upset when I told them my news. I will always remember my brother, Jason, saying “**We love you and we're here for you.**” My family absolutely adore Ethan. Funnily enough, Ethan brought me closer to my family than I had ever been. I had to grow up quickly but I wouldn't have had it any other way.

Ethan was born two days after my sixteenth birthday and my mum was there holding my hand. His father hung around for the first year of his life then before he decided the responsibility was too much, but his family are lovely and adore Ethan just as much as my family does. I have been very lucky to have so much support.

Ethan was a real blessing to my life.

He is in year one at primary school this year, he is six years old. The last six years have been full of challenges that every parent (young or older) experiences.

I am in my third year of law at university. I have a loving support network of family and friends and a special friend who may not be the biological parent of Ethan but he is a dad to Ethan (I did just fine the four years that it was just Ethan and me). And most of my friends are young mums too!

(June 2011)

Jessica's story is available in a coloured brochure available from Choices of Life—a donation of \$1 per 5 copies would be appreciated.

PASSION4LIFE (EBONY, LIANA, JACINTA, GRACIE) BLUE MOUNTAINS WALK—8-10 June 2011

The week began with an earthquake in south east Melbourne followed by two days of very windy weather in the Blue Mountains (west of Sydney) that caused havoc. However, more significant was the **Walk for Life by over 25 intrepid walkers** — freezing weather but with a burning passion to take the pro-life message to the Blue Mountains. **Nathan, an Australian Paralympian**, joined the walk for the first day and often led the group. The walk



began at the Diamond Pregnancy Support Centre (pictured above) in **Kingswood** (Western Sydney) and concluded 3 days later in the bitterly cold winds of **Mount Victoria**.

The walkers appreciated the hospitality of Blaxland Presbyterian and Blackheath Baptist and the use of the Dundas Baptist bus.

Along the way they heard some people's abortion stories or just words of support. The donations received by Passion4Life from churches or individuals (some that they met along the way) totalling almost **\$10 000 will**



assist Jenny Gurry at Diamond Pregnancy Support as well as Choices of Life.

Choices of Life will be using their portion of the funds to work with **Michelle Macormic** (pictured above, from Pregnancy Problem House in Perth) seeking to establish pregnancy support in Darwin.

The walk was a constant reminder of the 100 thousand babies who lose their lives in abortion every year in Australia.

If you would like the Passion4Life girls (Ebony, Liana, Jacinta and Gracie) to speak at your church, youth group or school contact them on youthp4l@gmail.com

CHOICES OF LIFE ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND FAMILY CAMP

Fri 13 to Sun 15 January 2012

Elanora Conference Centre

Elanora is located on Sydney's Northern Beaches, 45 minutes from the heart of Sydney and set in natural bushland overlooking North Narrabeen beach.

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