



Choice News

Positive perspectives on Life Events

Number 21 December 2011—January 2012



TEN-YEAR PLAN— TAKING SHAPE!

Choices of Life was established in May 2007. Bruce Coleman had this goal: **to have competent contacts and presenters in each state within 10 years.** . Currently there are official contacts in all states and territories (except WA). There are also presenters in NSW and Victoria with the potential of another state represented within the next 12 months. There may also be additional presenters in NSW in that time period.

The first requirement is that those involved must have a passion for life and, with that, a desire to get that message into the schools. The training is designed to turn that passion and desire into the practical skill of presenting. As noted on page 2 Julie Jordan has been taking classes in NSW for almost 4 years.



Neena Tester (NSW) with her 4 children: Sydney, Nathan, Jessica, and Megan Grant Tester is speaking at the camp in January.

In early November Neena Tester took her first Year 6 class in NSW and in mid October Kristina Sutalo spoke to a Year 6 class in Victoria. Neena and Kristina have both succeeded in this first challenge and look forward to many opportunities in the years ahead.

In March 2012 Bruce will be in Victoria to undertake further training with Kristina as well as with Sally Baird Sally has taken some classes and has faithfully organised classes in the Geelong area, including Warrnambool over the past 4 years. It is anticipated that there will be another four passionate proliferators at these training sessions, including Lucy who is hoping to travel over from Hobart, Tasmania.



Sally Baird (VIC)



Julie Jordan (NSW)



Kristina Sutalo (VIC)

WOMAN SUES ABORTIONIST

(This happened in Australia in 2011)

A mother of three who was pressured by her husband to undergo an abortion has settled her case against the abortion clinic. The amount of the settlement cannot be disclosed.

The woman had complained that staff at the clinic failed to provide information as to the development of her unborn child and had played down the risks involved with abortion, in particular the risk of suffering long term and severe depression.

The staff made no attempt to identify the pressures driving the woman to abortion, **nor did they ascertain that the woman's real wish was to keep her child** and that she had attended the clinic only because her husband had insisted on an abortion.

Once at the clinic the woman felt she was on "on a conveyor belt". She was allowed insufficient time to reflect on her decision. The doctor proceeded with the abortion despite that fact she was crying during the whole of the lead up to the surgery, including the point where she was given sedation. *(continued on page 2)*

CHOICES OF LIFE
ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND FAMILY CAMP
Fri 13 to Sun 15 January 2012

Full Time and Day Visitors—Please Book before 20th December, 2011

CURRENT WEBSITE COMMENTS

Young Lives Changed by the Pro-life Message

After the class many of the Year 11 students (mostly 17 years of age), both male and female, rushed down to examine, hold and wonder at the display models. **Bruce Coleman was repeatedly thanked** for coming and presenting to their class. The impact of the message was clear.

A number of female students wrote:

- Life is so important and precious – it was very insightful and taught me so much about how amazing and unique each life is
- It helped me to be better equipped and to support people who have had an abortion/ wanting to have one/ considering their options
- Every life is from God and no matter how small it is still a life
- It was helpful, confronting and challenging
- These are current issues that can't be denied or disregarded as irrelevant. Also we have to be compassionate
- It's amazing information to have – it's beneficial
- Abortion impacts you for the rest of your life

A number of male students wrote:

- It showed me not to judge those in these situations
- Abortion is not always the only option – in fact it never is. It opened my eyes
- It was very informative and compelling



Abortion is a bad thing – it made me realise this a lot more

I understand how precious a life is even at conception

Julie Jordan is a competent presenter who has been speaking at some Sydney Primary Schools over the past 4 years and is likewise impacting the lives of young people with the exciting message of the wonder of life before birth. After Julie spoke recently **some Year 6 students wrote:**



- I realise how unique I am
- I enjoyed it and it will probably help me in the future
- I have always appreciated my life, but seeing this makes me appreciate things more.
- It shows the beauty and creation of us, that it was all planned by God
- It's an experience you can't miss.
- .It was beautiful to watch the ultrasound.
- **I think this is the most wonderful presentation I have ever seen**
- **It made me respect people no matter how small**

One Grade 6 teacher sent this email 5 weeks after they had experienced the presentation:

We still reflect on your input in class and I'm sure this year's group have made our 'Fearfully and Wonderfully Made' unit the most enjoyable I have been involved with. May God continue to bless your endeavours.

This is a very small selection of the hundreds of comments that appear on the Choices of Life website. Read them at <http://choicesoflife.com.au/wordpress/>

WOMAN SUES ABORTIONIST *(from page 1)*

The woman has suffered severe grief and depression since then. This has affected her ability to work, her ability to function as a mother to her other children and has placed an enormous strain on her marriage. **She eventually sued the abortion clinic involved, alleging a failure to provide adequate counselling and failing to adequately warn of the risks of abortion, including psychological damage.**

No doubt the abortion clinic wished to avoid a Court hearing and the adverse publicity which that would have generated for the abortion industry as a whole.

This story is sadly a common one. An American study based on interviews with several hundred post

-abortive women, found that 64% felt they had been under "significant pressure" from someone else to have an abortion at the time. Abortion clinics for their part provide only rudimentary information about the procedure and deliberately play down both physical and mental side-effects.

As shown by a study published earlier this year in the British Journal of Psychiatry, abortion is associated with elevated rates of suicide, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, relationship breakdown and other mental health problems. This case should remind us that abortion destroys the life of a child but also causes long lasting emotional damage to the woman involved. **This case also serves as a reminder that abortion clinics can be sued for malpractice and their manifest failures can be exposed for what they are.**

BRONWYN'S STORY

By David Logan, Bronwyn's father



It was March 1985. We lived in Condobolin, a small town in the Central West of NSW. Christine had been pregnant with our third child for a bit over 3 months. But **something went wrong** and the local GP wasn't sure just what had caused the problem so we were sent to the nearest specialist (a gynaecologist) in Parkes, some 100 kms from Condobolin. The doctor had already read the report from our GP so the order of the day was simple—straight on to the bed with Chris as the nurse prepared the ultrasound machine while the doctor and I took up our seats in the front of the monitor.

It didn't take long to find the problem and you didn't need too much medical knowledge to see its seriousness. Clearly visible on the screen was the small foetus appearing as though it was squeezed into one corner of the uterus by a huge blood clot that actually appeared to be twice the size of the foetus.

The specialist explained the situation to us. The clot would either stop blood flow to the baby causing death in utero and risking the mother's health through rapid onset of septicaemia or it would simply pull away from the placenta and cause massive bleeding ... either way, the baby could NOT survive and the mother's life would be in serious jeopardy. **There was only one option, according to the gynaecologist, and that was a very urgent termination.** He gave us a minute or two to talk but both Chris and I were instantly of the same mind—abortion, termination or call it whatever you will—meant just one thing: taking the innocent life of an unborn child.

The answer was no.

The doctor was clearly upset by our decision and he explained again that the baby could NOT survive and continuing the pregnancy would put

Christine at extreme risk and very likely could cost her life. Take one life to save one rather than lose both was his idea. **Saving both seemed like a better option.**

He became rather hostile towards us for what he considered to be a very irresponsible decision. He said that Christine was not to travel (except to go home, and even that was risky) and not to pick up as much as a broom. If she survived for a month, we were to return to see him, but he doubted that things could continue for that long.

We arrived back safely in Condobolin and very quickly arranged for some people to come and pray. It was hard to explain to our youngest, then a 17-month-old boy, that mummy couldn't pick him up (he was a LOT heavier than the broom that she was not supposed to pick up!), **so Chris basically ignored the restrictions, trusted that God would answer the prayers made on her behalf and continued to function normally**—as a mother of two young children and as a pastor's wife.

A month later we were back at the gynaecologist's room for another ultrasound. This time however, the problem was not what the doctor could see but what he couldn't see. There was no clot. I noticed a small white line moving and asked what it was. "That's the baby's leg—it's kicking!" he responded rather tersely. I explained that we were Christians and had prayed about Chris's situation, but he muttered a few things and eventually conceded that, in **all his years of experience, he'd never seen a clot of that size just disappear.**

We never saw that gynaecologist again and the rest of the pregnancy seemed to go without a problem. In September, 3 weeks before the baby's due date, we were in Sydney and the baby apparently decided that she'd rather be born in Sydney than Condobolin. So our third child, Bronwyn, was born in Mona Vale Hospital on 2 September 1985. I explained to the midwife what had happened, just in case there were any problems with the birth. All went well but the midwife commented to me after the birth that she had checked the placenta. **"It must have been a huge clot," she said. "I could see the scarring on the placenta."**

Today, Bronwyn is wonderful attractive young lady, a great musician (violin, piano, bass guitar), loves God and is the sort of person who is simply loved by everyone who knows her.

Continued on the back page

Bronwyn's Story — Continued



Was it worth the risk? If you ever met Bronwyn, you will understand why I wouldn't even bother to answer such a question. My world and that of many other people, would be SO much the poorer if the pregnancy that could NOT continue didn't and if we'd taken the "only one option"

that the gynaecologist had given.

Bronwyn worked as a youth leader with Young Life Australia for a few years and is now living in Brisbane where she is studying psychology. Bronwyn is a musician and song writer, she attends Nexus church where she serves on the church's worship team—and for any young men who like her photo, sorry, but it looks as though you've left your run too late!

BIO: Rev Dr David Logan is the Senior Pastor of a network of churches in Armidale, Walcha and Tenterfield, in Northern NSW. David and Christine have 4 children: Elizabeth, who is on the staff of a large Brisbane church; Andrew, who is married to Kerrie and live with their 4 children in Armidale; Bronwyn; and Frank who is an underground miner.

Hear David and Christine tell Bronwyn's Story at <http://www.choicesoflife.com.au/abortion.html#stories> It is also available in a coloured brochure—a donation of \$1 per 5 copies would be appreciated.

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

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Abortion

by Heather Clements
Year 10 student, Covenant College, ACT

*Silent, unseen they lie in the womb,
Defenceless yet wonderfully made,
God knit them together when they had not
even been born,
And yet people are willing to take their life
away.*

*We need to speak up for those who cannot,
As they don't have a voice to speak up for
themselves.*

*Fearfully and wonderfully made they are,
But people don't even count them as hu-
mans.*

*These babies have a right to life as well,
To experience the joys this life has to bring.
We have to speak up for those who cannot,
As they don't have a voice to speak up for
themselves.*

*They would cause embarrassment,
Mess up my life,
Are the excuses these empty people have to
say,
How could you take someone's life away,
When they haven't even had a chance to live
it?*

*We must speak up for those who cannot,
And stand up for justice in this corrupt world!*

Bruce is speaking to the Year 5/6 and 9/10 students at Covenant College in ACT (Canberra) in March 2012

Name

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