

Email

# Choice News

Positive perspectives on Life Events

Number 5  
Spring 2008



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

The Choices of Life Inc  
PO Box 459  
GORDON  
NSW 2072

PH 9499 5108  
FAX 9498 7183

info@choicesoflife.com.au  
www.choicesoflife.com.au

## HIGHLIGHTS

### from the ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER

**Bruce Coleman** “..great hope for the future”

**Peter Barnes** “ do not grow weary in well doing”

**Sarah Black** “ ..a face to the unborn”

**Abigail Palibino** “ .. Interesting and fun”

**Julie Jordan** “ ready to go to schools”

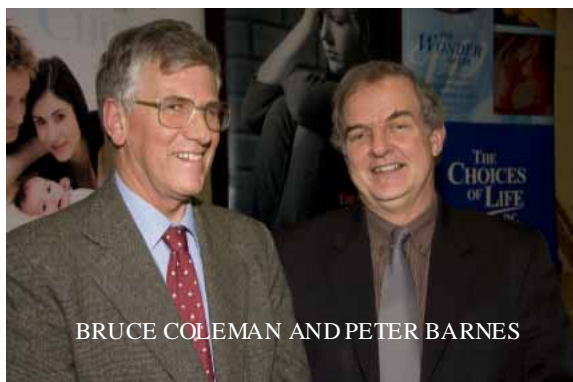
**Peter and Jenny Stokes** “ our young people need to hear the truth”

**Greg, Natasha, Sonja and Simon Tan** “we’re so special”

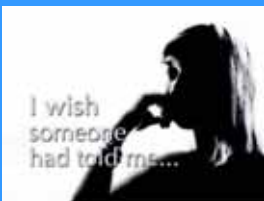
**Fred Nile** “standing in the breach”

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2008 over 140 people supported the Choices of Life

First Anniversary Dinner to celebrate 12 months of God’s blessings and direction. The **CEO, Bruce Coleman**, outlined the emerging opportunities in Tasmania and Victoria where people are in training to take the message of the sanctity of life into schools. On his return visit in September and October the training program will continue.



BRUCE COLEMAN AND PETER BARNES

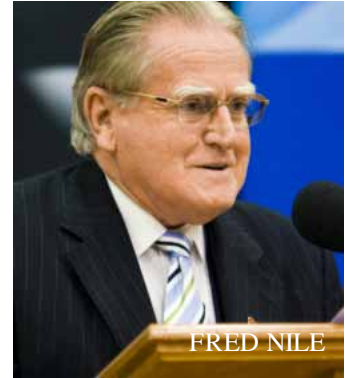




NEW PRESENTER,  
JULIE JORDAN,  
BEING INTERVIEWED

Invitations have also been received from **Queensland and South Australia**. Presenters are also in training in NSW. In the past year school bookings have been constant - increasing numbers of state schools as well as Christian Schools, Catholic schools and other independent schools. Students and teachers frequently express their gratitude for the sensitive and honest presentation of the facts. "Why hasn't anyone told us this before?" exclaimed one 15-year-old boy after a recent classroom presentation.

The evening was chaired by **Rev Dr Peter Barnes**, President of the Association and a fervent pro-life advocate. Eleven year-old Simon Tan, with his sisters Sonja and Natasha brought alive the words of Psalm 139 in the words of the song: "I'm so Special, there's only one of me – I'm beautiful unrepeatable and God knows my destiny". Surely this is the message of hope for our generation of young people!



FRED NILE



PETER AND JENNY STOKES

**Peter and Jenny Stokes, the Founders and Directors of Salt Shakers, inspired everyone to stand firm on the Word of God and uphold the Truth in the midst of the evil being multiplied through all forms of the modern media. "That is why Bruce needs to go into the schools – our young people need to hear the truth!"**

**Rev Fred Nile** concluded the evening with an impassioned prayer for the ministry of Choices of Life and for all who stand in the breach for our young people against the tide of evil.

Bruce has great hope for the future of our nation when he visits schools and meets students like **Sarah and Abigail**. "Yes, we all hear about the wrong things in which young people are involved – it's in our faces all the time in the newspapers and on the television. However we must recognise the many, many young people who cling to high Christian standards and unequivocally uphold the value of human life. I have no doubt that our country will be in good hands when they take up the leadership positions – the mothers, fathers, teachers, politicians, doctors, lawyers, nurses, journalists and so on - in our nation."



GREG TAN

NATASHA

SONJA

SIMON



## ABIGAIL PALIBINO, PRIMARY SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

I am a Year 7 student attending Wyong Christian Community School which Mr. Coleman visited last year.

When I heard my teacher say that Mr. Coleman was visiting my school, I was excited to learn about how God created life in the womb as my mum was six months pregnant.

When my class lined up to go inside the classroom I was excited and said hello to Mr. Coleman and introduced myself.

**I really enjoyed how Mr. Coleman's presentation was interactive and how he used visual aids. It was interesting, eye-catching and Mr. Coleman made**

his presentation fun.

I took a lot from Mr. Coleman's presentation. I learnt the value of life and how important it is not to stop God's creation to have life. I learnt that abortions should not happen no matter how old you are. [NOTE: Abortion was not mentioned in the presentation. This was Abigail's conclusion after hearing about the wonder of life.] My friends and I still dearly remember the presentation as the presentation was good for our age and it was interpreted into a language which young people can understand and reflect easily. **I know that seeing that presentation has been life changing for me because now I see life and creation in a whole new perspective.**

I wrote Mr. Coleman a card thanking him and he encouraged me to pursue my dream as a brain surgeon. Mr. Coleman has made a huge impact on my life and I am really grateful that he is sharing this wonderful presentation to other young Australians that need to know this vital message.

I would like to thank Mr. Coleman for inviting my parents and me here tonight. I would also like to thank all the people and supporters who are behind and helping this really amazing organization.

On behalf of my class, I would like to say that your presentation was great and that we all see how perfect God made us and that sometime in our life we have a choice of life. **I also would like to encourage everyone to keep up their support and prayers for Choices of Life as this knowledge in the presentation is really going to help Australia's future generation.**

Thank-you for listening to my speech.



Abigail wrote this card after the Yr 6 presentation

## SARAH BLACK, HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE Mt St Benedict Girls School, Pennant Hills



Abstinence is the best form of contraception ...

I still remember when we started *those* PDHPE lessons. The ones the teacher was embarrassed to have to teach, and the girls would giggle about and pretend not to be completely confused. And every few pages of our book, was that page with the same capitalised bold slogan: Abstinence is the best form of contraception. This was drummed into us, and then we would learn a few things about what some other people may do, if they made different choices to us.

But that was where it stopped. Any talk of actual pregnancy, of the actual after effect of not following any of these rules, seemed to be a completely taboo topic. No-one felt comfortable talking about it – it was as if it was better just to pretend it wouldn't, or couldn't, happen.

Of course, we'd learnt a little bit in science. But it was all about foetuses and zygotes and meiosis. There was no mention of babies, or life.

And then we had the visit from Bruce. Our eyes were opened to so many new concepts. We saw beautiful pictures of how 'human' a baby looks at just a few weeks old! We learnt all about their progress and development in the womb ... when your baby's heart starts beating, when their skin stops being transparent ... we learnt just how early a baby can feel pain. It surprised and engrossed every student.

I'm reading a book at the moment about a Roman soldier. He easily performs his duties in battle when he is just slaying faceless barbarians, and saving his own Empire. But then he gets to know some Celts, and becomes friends with them, actually falling in love with one of them. And suddenly, all of the 'barbarians' have faces. In his eyes, of course the Celts, but also the Goths, and the Hun, all become actual people. And suddenly to him, his mighty Empire doesn't seem to rate next to the slaying of these people's lives.



The face of the unborn 18 weeks after conception

**I think that is what Bruce's presentation did for us. It gave a face to the unborn children.** It's so easy not to care about someone who doesn't seem human to you, and to consider your own achievements and well-being as rating far more highly than this anonymous thing's life. **But Bruce helped us to realise that this little baby is another human being, a human being with eyes, and ears, and a mouth, and a heart, and most of all a nervous system. Unborn babies can feel it when you kill them.**

My first class after Bruce's presentation was science and there was a completely new atmosphere in the room. Girls were actually talking about unborn babies, and pregnancy, and the repercussions of pregnancy.

Our teacher didn't even really try to continue on with the lesson – I think she could see that something huge had been released in our minds and we really need to discuss it with each other and contemplate these never-before mentioned ideas. Of course, some girls still didn't agree with the message, but I think the greatest thing was that the girls were actually discussing the subject. It had been raised in their minds, and all you need to save a baby is for a girl to just have a second thought for a moment. In one thought you can realise the humanity of the baby.



The face of the unborn 28 weeks after conception

**Bruce's talk left a lingering thought in my mind about unborn children. That year, for the inter-school oratory competition, I was given the topic 'heads and tails' to give a speech about and my mind immediately went to the plight of unborn children. I gave my speech on the concept that there's heads, and there's tails, and no in between – similarly, there's life and there's death, and no in between. You can't say something is kind of alive, and by taking that life from it you're not killing it. If you take life from something you have brought about death. Abortion takes life. I remember the audience looking at me with wide, almost disbelieving eyes. They were shocked that a Christian school girl would be tackling these obviously taboo issues in a competition she was representing her school.**

At the end of the round we received feedback from the adjudicator. He took me aside quietly and said, "That was a well-written speech. I don't at all agree with the message, but you really engaged the audience." It didn't upset me greatly that he disagreed with my message. I was only glad that everyone in that room had been exposed to the idea that unborn babies had faces. And so maybe, now that they've heard the message, it will linger in their minds, and just like all the girls in my grade at school, anyone in that room, even the adjudicator, or his partner, will one day have a second thought, and realise the humanity of their unborn child.

## SYDNEY'S 2nd PRESENTERS AND VOLUNTEERS TRAINING DAY

16 and 17 July 2008



**The purpose of these follow-up training days was to provide an opportunity for further training for the experienced and an introduction for those who just wanted to find out more.**

Therefore it was no surprise when **Julie Jordan**, one of the trainees in the 1st Training Day on 11th February, impressed the group with her presentation of the Primary Program. Well done Julie!!

Not everyone who comes to these classes will go into the classroom. So, why do they come?

**They may be interested in**

- ringing the schools to make appointments
- entering data onto the data base
- typing collated responses from the students.

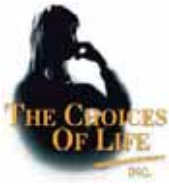


John, Julie, Judith, Ray, Jenny, Amy-Mary, Mark

Every volunteer has an important part to play. The first step is to be correctly informed.

**Would you like to become part of the Choices of Life Team in your area?**

**Please contact Bruce Coleman**



# PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

for *The Choices of Life*

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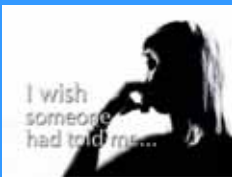
## GOD'S LIBRARY

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PSALM 139:16

**Euthanasia is back on the agenda in our nation.** It's proponents call it 'dying with dignity' and prescribe the use of a 'glorified plastic bag' to do the job! Some have more aptly labelled the practice as 'physician assisted suicide'. Whatever angle we look at euthanasia it has to be recognised for what it is—taking the life of those for

whom we have the responsibility to care. **It is taking into our finite hands the action that should only rest in the hands of our Infinite God, the sole author of life and death!** It is indeed a sad day when we think we know better than God and act accordingly.

Psalm 139:16 reminds us that every day of our life is written in a book before one of them even existed! God Himself fashioned every detail of our physical creation and He alone has marked out our destiny before us. He has my book, and your book, in His enormous library and it is not in our hands to re-write it to suit ourselves.

**ACTION: Check [www.saltshakers.org.au](http://www.saltshakers.org.au)**

Pray daily that we will be watching and petitioning God for those who will decide between life and death.

### HOW TO PRAY FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

**Before each speaking opportunity** pray for:

- open minds and hearts to the message of life—understanding of the truth—thank the Lord for the opportunity to be in the school

**After each speaking opportunity** pray that:

- the message will impact their lives and choices—that God will work in their hearts to bring them to know Jesus Christ more personally

## PRAYING EACH DAY

1. Praise God for the opportunity to share at the Annual NSW Congregational Ministers and Families Retreat on 1st October in Hazelbrook NSW.
2. Praise God for those who provide monthly support for Choices of Life. Pray for more people to join the support team to meet the daily running costs, fund our volunteer program and enable the consolidation as well as expansion into new areas.
3. Praise God for the enthusiastic response to the Annual Dinner held in Sydney on 21st June.
  4. Praise God for the dear messages delivered by Sarah Black and Abigail Palibino at the Sydney Annual Dinner. It is encouraging to have young people with a conviction about the value of life. Pray more young people will take a stand.
5. Pray for continued volunteer training opportunities while Bruce is in Victoria between 1st and 8th September. Pray for school bookings for presentations.
6. **Pray for people who can assist in various administrative tasks such as typing and phoning schools.**

**These are important roles in maintaining our presence in the schools.** People are needed in different states as well as in the city and country.

7. Pray for continued volunteer training opportunities in Tasmania between 3rd and 13th October. Pray also for schools to be booked for presentations.
8. Praise God for the speaking opportunity at a dinner in Tarcutta on Saturday 26th July. Bruce spoke at a youth group in Culcairn on the Friday night as well as two church services on the Sunday in Culcairn and Holbrook.
9. Pray that Bruce will be kept well in his frequent speaking appointments and constant travel.
10. Pray for opportunities emerging amongst the indigenous communities of the Northern Territory. There is great concern at the devastation being caused by abortion in association with many of the other social evils. The message of life and hope in Christ is greatly needed.
11. Pray for the John Berne School, Petersham as Bruce seeks to encourage the students with the message of the value of life. (19th September)
12. After a presentation at Maitland one Year 10 student exclaimed "Why haven't we been told these things before?" Praise God many of our young people want to know the truth. We need to tell them!
13. Pray for Brenda, Naomi, Geoff and Sherrin as they seek to organise schools in Tasmania in early October. Pray for further training for presenters.
14. Pray for the Years 6 and 9 classes at Medowie Christian School held on 15th August.
15. After a class presentation one Year 9 student wrote: "My sister had an abortion when she was 17—now I understand why she is depressed and I can go home to talk with her." Pray for this student and her sister.
16. Over a three day period (18-21 August) Bruce spoke at a number of chapels and classes from Year 3 to 12 at the Macarthur Anglican School near Narellan. Pray for an ongoing impact of the messages.
17. **Pray for someone to assist with the coordination of itineraries when Bruce is in country areas.**
18. Pray for the Year 12 students at the Holy Spirit College, Lakemba (19 August).
19. Pray for Sally as she organises schools in the Geelong area for when Bruce is in Victoria in September. Also pray for her as she is also preparing to take a class.
20. Pray for the Year 6 students at St Joseph the Worker School in Auburn (22nd August).
21. Pray that God will open the hearts of all the students from Year 7 to Year 10 who will be attending the Scripture Seminars at Gunnedah High School on 28th October. Praise God for the support of the Ministers Fraternal.
22. Continue to pray for the ongoing financial needs of Choices of Life as the message of life reaches to more students in more schools in more states.
23. Pray for the Year 6 students at the St Joan of Arc Primary, Haberfield - 25th August
24. Pray for God to open doors into more State Primary and Secondary Schools. Pray for support from the Department of Education for the program.
25. Pray for the Year 10 students at Terra Sancta College at Schofields (17 September).
26. Pray for Frances as she has taken the responsibility of organising a dinner in Denman on 25th October. She is very keen to get her teenage friends involved in the pro-life cause. Frances is only 14 years of age.
27. Pray for young people, like Frances, who have a passion for pro-life issues and for many more who will rise up to defend life.
28. Pray for the Year 6 students at William Carey Christian School (15th and 22nd September).
29. Pray for the Year 6 and 10 students at Cedars Christian College at Unanderra on 22nd October.
30. Praise God for Chapel services that provide the opportunity to present a distinctly Christian message to a group of students.
31. Praise God for new openings that may be emerging into Queensland and the Northern Territory. Pray for time and coordination to consolidate the current areas and also take up the new opportunities.

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## **APPOINTMENT DIARY (in addition to schools)**

July 11-12 (Display and Seminar) Worship Conference, Dural  
July 16-17 Sydney Training Days  
July 19 (Display) Mighty Men of God Conference, Warrimoo  
July 26 Dinner at Tarcutta (near Wagga Wagga)  
July 27 Crossways Church, Holbrook  
July 27 Living Word Church, Culcaim  
August 3 Tocumwal and Finley Presbyterian Churches  
August 3 Deniliquin Baptist Church  
August 8-10 (Display and Seminar) 'Your Kingdom Come' Conference in Canberra  
September 1-8 Schools and continued training in Victoria  
October 1 NSW Congregational Ministers and Families Retreat at Hazelbrook  
October 3-13 Schools and continued Training in Tasmania  
October 25 Dinner at Denman (near Muswellbrook).

### **URGENT NEED** Volunteers needed to

1. Ring schools
  2. Type and enter data
  3. Arrange Itineraries
- (see Prayer points 6 and 17)