

Review: Anthony Fisher and Jane Buckingham, *Abortion Australia: Answers and Alternatives*, Dove Communications, Blackburn, Vic, 1985

Pages: 165

Aborting Abortion

An aged yet evergreen coverage of the crime of abortion which kills millions each year; the biology, morality, and faith aspects, all in plain English. Biologically, the baby is human from conception, and the moral arguments against abortion are particularly strong.

Hostile witness [ex] Atheist abortionist Dr Bernard Nathanson is quoted to great effect, and the stories of women having abortions including their reasons are powerful.

In the emotionally-charged debate of killing the unborn, it pays to have clear and concise arguments why the obvious is obviously true. To have any meaning at all, the Achievement model of personhood must be rejected as dangerous, only the Endowment makes for a society worth living in.

Introduction (pp. 1-3)

I) What Is Abortion, What Is Aborted & How? (pp. 4-14)

Dilator rods enlarge the cervix, a cannula is inserted with a sharp tip and the child is shredded and pulled through the tube by rubber suction many times more powerful than a vacuum cleaner. [p6]

A unique human being comes into existence when a human egg is fertilised by a human sperm.

At conception, a baby is 0.1mm long and weighs 2mg.

“Humanity is not quantifiable as ‘more’ or ‘less’; it is an either – or attribute.”

“Biologically, at no stage can we subscribe ... the foetus is a mere appendage to the mother ... the unborn child is certainly human ... the unborn child’s immediate environment, the amniotic sac ... the placenta and cord ... are not part of the woman’s body but are formed by the child and have the child’s chromosomes.” [p9]

Brain waves have been recorded at forty days.

Lungs at 2 months.

Babies cry at 4 months.

60% of babies 500-1,000 grams can survive.

II) The Australian Abortion Scene (pp. 15-33)

Most abortions are performed in the Soviet Union (Russia) and China.

A third each of aborters are 15-19; 20-24; and 25-34. 60% are unmarried.

In September 1982, the ACTU Congress passed a motion that , ‘free, safe, and legal abortion’ was a right.

III) The Reasons for Abortion (pp. 34-57)

A woman is only fertile 1-2 days per month.

A rape victim can use a spermicidal douche since it may take hours for conception to occur.

0.007% of abortions are to save a mother’s life.

Down’s Syndrome is 1% for 40-45 year olds, and 2.5% for over 45s.

Abortion on socioeconomic grounds amounts to saying only the privilege should procreate.

Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger: “More children from the fit less from the unfit-that is the chief aim ... Go to the houses where you see the most children. This is the first symptom of feeble-mindedness and degeneracy ... Don't be fooled by their fairly normal appearance because a good number of the feeble-minded and degenerate are docile and clear-eyed ... Do not permit your sympathy or sentimentality to blind you and make you think these people are not a burden on society. Just remember how they will sap the educational funds from our schools that could turn out well-born students into geniuses ... Remember our motto: If we must have welfare, give it to the rich, not the poor.” [pp44,45]

“Who are we to say that someone would be ‘better off dead’?”

Nobody suggests older handicapped children after road accidents should be killed to relieve society's burden.

“Because each ‘normal’ person is the carrier of three or four bad genes, the only way to eliminate genetic diseases would be to sterilise or abort everybody.” [p51]

Amniocentesis tests are dangerous, doubling the miscarriage rate, and are in reality search and destroy missions.

IV) The Dangers of Abortion (pp. 59-76)

Many abortion uterus perforations may go unnoticed leading to bleeding and sepsis.

Rh- women may be sensitised after exposure to Rh+ blood of their unborn during an abortion causing rejection of future pregnancies.

Excess bleeding occurs in ~20% of abortions. Sterility increases 10% due to scarring, laceration and infection.

Abortionists use various euphemisms and acronyms: POC (“Product of Conception”); pregnancy tissue; foetal parts; blob of cells; TOP (“Termination of Pregnancy”).]]

The slippery slope mechanism of abortion:

1. Breakdown of taboo against killing.
2. Diminished social restraint against violence.
3. Revised standards of human worth in terms of convenience or cost based on the four Ps: privileged; productive; planned; and perfect.
4. That there are 'lives not worth living' which should be ended.
5. Dehumanisation of classes.
6. Pseudo-ethics of pragmatism.

V) The Philosophical Debate (pp. 77-92)

The 'spatio-temporal-causal chain of being' begins at conception.

Prof. Ian Donald, *Royal College of Obstetricians*, 1979: "It is with great sadness that I recognise that the gynaecologist of tomorrow – and even of today – is likely to be called upon to destroy more human life than he can hope to save in a clinical lifetime." [p86]

The two models of human life are: Achievement (personhood is defined in terms of characteristics meaning it can be won or lost), and Endowment.

VI) The Law (pp. 93-101)

VII) The Alternatives (pp. 102-112)

75-80% of adoptees and parents have a satisfactory outcome.

10% of couples are infertile.

A relinquishing mother loses all rights to the child she surrenders upon signing, but has the opportunity to revoke her decision within thirty days.

Non-identifying information about relinquishing parents is supplied to the adopters for sharing with the children.

VIII) Services Which Help Pregnant Women (pp. 113-130)

IX) Case Studies (pp. 131-136)

We had been married for about eight years when I fell pregnant. The last thing we wanted was a baby. We had put off having children for years because we wanted to preserve our lifestyle: restaurants, overseas trips, the whole lot ... I decided on abortion though my husband was never happy about the idea ... went behind [his] back to get [it] ... I rang a public hospital and they said, Come any time and bring some money ... Some women [there] were back for their second or third time ... It wasn't until about six months had passed ... I realised what I had done: out of selfishness I had killed my baby." [pp131-2]

Sydney, 1984

X) Appendices (pp. 137-)

Ectopic pregnancy surgery usually involves a dead foetus.

The Presbyterian Church claims abortion should be left in the hands of the woman to decide!

The Uniting Church supports abortion.

Bernard Nathanson (*Aborting America*, 1979): " Even if God does not exist, the foetus does." [p156]

Dr Bernard Nathanson, *A.B.C. Interview with Caroline Jones*, January, 1981:

"I am an avowed an outspoken atheist ... we did 60,000 [abortions] during my stewardship there [at the Centre for Reproductive and Sexual Health] ... some of the doctors ... lapsed into alcoholism. Some of the wives ... came to me complaining that their husbands couldn't sleep, that they were having screaming nightmares ... It was logical and inexorable ... the foetus was in fact a fully qualified, alive and protectable human being ... if abortion were proscribed there would be a flourishing black market in Prostaglandin sales."

Government-sponsored abortions fell 98% when support was withdrawn except in case of rape, incest, or peril of the mother.

Criminal abortion is 5-10X more dangerous than natural pregnancy.