

## PROLIFE FACTS

In 2008, Mark Keown, a lecturer in New Testament Studies at Laidlaw College, was watching the film "Amazing Grace", the story of William Wilberforce's struggle to end slavery, when he had a sudden revelation. Slavery had been replaced by a different evil: abortion. The struggle to save preborn babies from being legally killed, is being fought by modern-day Wilberforces. **"Ending the killing is the greatest spiritual challenge facing the churches in New Zealand,"** Mark Keown later wrote in DayStar magazine.

The first abortion clinic opened in Epsom in April, 1974. Up until the end of December, 2009, there have been 419,450 recorded abortions. Since the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act, came in effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1978, there have been 388,450 abortions to December, 2009. Had they been allowed to live, those aborted in 1974 would now be aged 36. Inevitably, through the loss of such large numbers of young New Zealanders we have an aging population. Private choice for abortion results in public consequences.

The allure of abortion is that it appears to offer a solution to an unexpected and unwanted pregnancy: end the pregnancy, end of problem, life can return to normal. Sadly, many women and men discover too late that while the pregnancy has ended, life doesn't return to normal. Abortion changes you.

Pro-Life Action believes that abortion is the greatest spiritual challenge facing the churches in New Zealand. Like ending slavery, the churches have a vital role to play and so we have to start by facing the challenge.

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Eighth page  
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Quarter page  
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