UNITING CHURCH CANCELS AVN SEMINAR AT THE 11TH HOUR

May 2010

At about 12:45 this afternoon, I was standing on line, waiting to board a plane that would take me to Perth. I had packed, arranged rides for my children, caught up on my office work for the next few days and was ready to just sit back, relax and enjoy the flight (while going over my powerpoint slides for the 20th time!)

As I was waiting my turn to give my ticket to the hostess, my mobile phone rang. I almost didn’t answer but seeing that it was a Western Australian number, I thought I’d better.

Little did I know...

On the other end of the phone was a Mr Andy Corkill who is the Mission Development Officer for the Uniting Church of Perth.

He was calling to inform me that the Church Council had received calls from the WA Dept of Health and from some of their own congregants including a senior academic from a university in Perth. All these people were urging the church to cancel our seminar which was taking place on Friday night.

Mr Corkill informed me that the Council had met the night before and decided that they would cancel the event and that there was really nothing he could do to change this because it was a decision made by the Council - not by him.

When I told him that we had over 100 people booked in to attend and that I was about to board a flight from QLD to Perth specifically for this event, he suggested that we find another venue. He was quite helpful and said they would be happy to post a sign at the Uniting Church to let people know the location of the new venue - hah!

I asked him where he thought I would be able to find a
venue for over 100 people in just over 24 hours and he replied that he couldn't help with that but I couldn't have any Uniting Church venues.

So - off to the counter I go and ask them to pull my bags off the plane - down the $750 we paid to the Church for the venue and the almost $700 for the plane fares.

Don't be downhearted!
A person could really be forgiven for feeling more than a little bit downhearted by these events. After all, there are children all across Australia who have died or been seriously injured by the flu vaccine in recent weeks. There is a little girl in PMH right now who was in a coma for some time and now faces a difficult and uncertain future because of this shot. And yet, the Department of Health and certain academics have decided that Australian parents need to be treated like mushrooms and kept away from any information that might call into doubt the safety of shots.

Unfortunately for them however, this action is going to backfire and backfire badly. This backlash is already starting!

The media in WA is now asking the following questions:

1- Who at the department of health chose to put pressure on the Church to force them to cancel our seminar? Why would a small event, attended by only 100 people, be of concern to the government?
2- Who was the senior academic who used his status as a member of the Uniting Church congregation and a supposed expert on this issue to state that the AVN should not be allowed to speak at a Church venue?
3- By trying to suppress this information, is the
government trying to pretend that these reactions never took place? Are they stepping on our right to freedom of communication - a right that has been upheld by the High Court of Australia?

In the meantime, we contacted everyone who was booked into the seminar tomorrow to let them know it's been cancelled. Several of these people have excellent contacts with larger and better venues in Perth and we are hoping to reschedule this talk for sometime within the next 4 weeks.

Of course, we will let you know as soon as we have rescheduled.

If you are as incensed as I am about this discrimination and abuse of our freedom, please feel free to contact the Church on (08) 9321 9711 and let them know. You may also like to send an email to the Uniting Church to let them know your disappointment with their policy. Click here to access their contact page.

As always, please send a copy of your letter to http://au.mc1107.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=meryl@avn.org.au.

If you would like some ideas about what to write, below is a letter that was sent this afternoon by one of those disappointed at not being able to attend the seminar tomorrow:

I am writing to express my disappointment over the cancellation of the Flu Vaccination Seminar - which was due to be held in Perth tomorrow night.

I am a health professional and I attend all kinds of health related seminars regularly so that I can gather information from all sources. This then helps me to be able to better help my clients. I do not make decisions for myself or my clients without proper research, and I like to see all the sides. There actually is very limited professional information available on vaccinations - either for or against and thus my disappointment in the cancellation of this seminar.

I hope that one day your Church in general opens up to allow some science with validity into it's doors.
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Also why would you even make the booking for the venue and then cancel at such short notice - as the facilitators could have arranged an alternative venue instead, if they had more notice.. hmmm?

Happiest regards

RH

AVN exclusive Australian distributor for Silenced Witnesses part 2!
The AVN is very happy to be able to bring you an exciting new book called Silenced Witnesses, Part 2, edited by Martin J Walker.

More than 1,000 parents were weeks away from having their day in court in the UK after their children were injured by the MMR and MR vaccines. The British government withdrew legal aid from them shortly before the case was due to start, forcing its withdrawal. Silenced Witnesses tells the story of some of these families in their own words. This fascinating book covers the injustices that have been done to these families and the way in which the recent GMC hearing against Dr Andrew Wakefield, Simon Murch and John Walker-Smith played out as an extension of the same suppression of information and denial of damage that was inherent in the GMC case.

The AVN has been given exclusive distribution rights for this book in Australia and your purchase will include a fantastic 1-hour long DVD of Alan Golding’s must-see video, Selective Hearing: Brian Deer and the General Medical Council.

This book was just published two weeks ago and is hot off the presses!

Wholesale orders for Silenced
Witnesses Part 2
If you would like to sell Silenced Witnesses, we are happy to help. Please click here to place an order for 10 or more copies for resale.

Special! Double Deal Silenced Witnesses Volume 1 and 2 - save 20%
We sold out of our sets of Silenced Witnesses books in 24 hours! We will have more of Volume 1 in stock within a week so if you are interested, you can still purchase both Volume 1 and Volume 2 of Silenced Witnesses including the 1-Hour Selective Hearing DVD for $40 plus postage - a savings of almost $10 off of the cover price if purchased individually (These books are $24.95 each plus shipping). Click here to order.

Support us so we can support you
Make a donation to the AVN here

Gift Packs
The Baby Gift Packs are perfect for new parents and for those who are starting to question vaccination. It is also a lovely present to give to friends and family if you would like to introduce the vaccination question in a non-confrontational way.

Baby Gift Pack
This pack includes:

- The Vaccine Safety Manual (a highly recommended, comprehensive book)
- Conscientious Objector Pack
- Vitamin K Pack
- Investigate Before You Vaccinate booklet
- Vaccination Roulette book.
- 3 x Educate Before You Vaccinate Information brochures produced by the AVN

For a full description of these products please see their individual listings. This is valued at $112.00 so is a bargain at only $90 including postage. This offer is available in Australia only.

$90 Buy here

Deluxe Baby Gift Pack
This pack includes:

- 1 year subscription to Living Wisdom magazine (printed version - 6 issues) plus AVN Membership
- The Vaccine Safety Manual (a highly recommended, comprehensive book)
- Conscientious Objector Pack
- Vitamin K Pack
- Investigate Before You Vaccinate booklet
- Vaccination Roulette book.
- 3 x Educate Before You Vaccinate Information brochures produced by the AVN

For a full description of these products please see their individual listings. This is valued at $187.00 so is a bargain at only $150.00 including postage. This offer is available in Australia only.

$150.00 Buy here

AVN Online

Did you know that the AVN now has a presence on Facebook and Twitter as well as a Blog that is updated on an almost daily basis? If you are interested in staying abreast of the current issues involved in the fields of vaccination, natural health, organics, the environment and instinctive parenting, click on the links below to follow us on
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our progress towards a better informed and more proactive Australian nation.