

Dear friends of Vital Signs Ministries,

October 2021

The last three LifeSharer letters you've received from us have focused respectively, on my Mt. Bierstadt adventure, the storied history of our nearly 4 decades of pro-life ministry, and then last month's letter dealing with God's bountiful gift of friendship. The response to these was very positive and we thank each one of you who passed along encouragement to us. It means

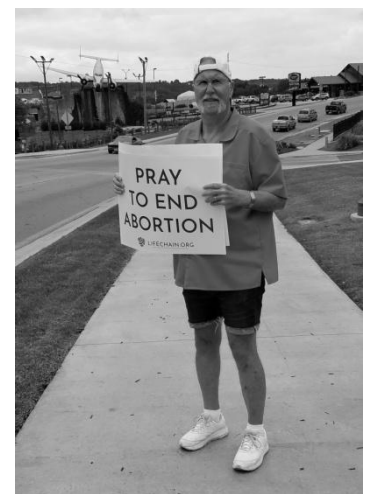


more than we could ever say. However, I figured it was due time to make this letter a more “newsy” one – a letter that reminds you of the day-to-day work that is ever ongoing around here. And, because that covers a lot of ground, let's get right to it.

First off, let me catch you up to date with the “mercy ministries” element of Vital Signs; that is, our services which focus on seniors. This, of course, includes our “When Swing Was King” shows at senior living facilities. But it also involves our Sunday afternoon church service at Aksarben Village Senior Living and the weekly, 9-page activity packets for seniors (and boomers!) which we have recently started up again. “When Swing Was King” had been making a slow comeback from the virus quarantines of 2020 and we had climbed back to doing monthly presentations at 7 facilities. That's still way down from the 12 shows a month we were doing before the lockdowns began, but we were thrilled to be back in any degree. Alas though, the latest move toward quarantines has returned and we only have 5 shows scheduled so far for October. We are also dealing with a new wave of restrictions on our Sunday afternoon church service. Everyone must mask up -- even the preacher when he's preaching. No treats afterward. No visitors allowed besides Claire and me. And they've even cut our post-sermon visiting time in half. But the residents have expressed over and over again their deep appreciation for our continuing the service despite the obstacles being thrown our way. And we are earnestly praying things will improve soon for all of our “mercy ministries.” Your prayers are greatly appreciated too.

Regarding other senior services we're privileged to pursue are the packets I mentioned earlier, regular intercession, quite a bit of correspondence, and personal visits to a few people who need a bit of “extra” care. For instance, there's 98-year old Fran whose severe arthritis required her to leave Aksarben for another facility. The Lord had established a special connection between us and so we now visit her frequently, bringing flowers, snacks, and spiritual counsel.

Okay, what's next? Our prayers and public pro-life presence at the wicked Planned Parenthood abortion business continues apace four mornings each month. This winsome witness is not only critically important to moms and dads, their preborn children, and the general culture, but it also serves to keep our own hearts resolved to fight against abortion on other fronts



too. Such activities in recent days have included regular posts on Vital Signs Blog and Facebook; participation in last week's Life Chain (in Branson, Missouri); letters of advocacy; the ongoing "3 for 5" prayer campaign against Planned Parenthood; various kinds of support to Assure Women's Services; and new moves against chemical abortion we are undertaking.

As many of you know, a good deal of our daily ministry activities fall into the general categories of hospitality, discipleship, and networking. And, in the past few weeks, these would include our quarterly Governing Board meeting; our help in organizing a Christian Brotherhood reunion; participation in events sponsored by other pro-life groups like Assure Women's Center, Business and Professional Persons for Life, and Nebraskans Embracing Life; a funeral for an old friend where I served as co-officiant; my early morning coffee conversations on Tuesday and Thursday; conversations on the phone and through Zoom; and a lot of personal letters and cards.

And I'll finish this month's letter by mentioning a few things that are coming up.

* Saturday morning, October 23rd at 10 is the next Vital Signs Book Brunch. We will be talking about Eric Metaxas' biography of William Wilberforce, *Amazing Grace*. We're delighted that the response to this event has required us to move it to a large location!

* Saturday afternoon, October 23rd. I will be speaking about "Standing Firm in the Faith" at a men's retreat for Grace Bible Church.

* Friday evening, November 5th at 7 is a Vital Signs Ministries Pie Social. Always a wonderful event, this time around the party has as its special purpose the celebration our 50th marriage anniversary! We sure hope you can come, but RSVPs are essential so please let us know if you can make it. Bring no gifts...except cards and, of course, a pie!

* Friday evening, November 12th. I'll be speaking at a chili supper at Fremont Nazarene Church.

* Monday, November 29th at 7. Vital Signs Ministries will be having our annual Christmas P.A.L. Night, the most festive and fun of our quarterly letter-writing parties. We will be sending cards and letters to authorities, business leaders, seniors, Christian leaders, first responders, and Christians around the world who are enduring persecution because of their faith in Jesus.

Okay, that pretty much brings you up to date on the various happenings of Vital Signs Ministries. And remember that all of this activity is immensely helped by YOUR prayers, encouragement, involvement, and financial support. We are forever grateful.

Until next month,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denny". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page.