

Dear friends of Vital Signs Ministries,

November 2021



Certainly one of the highlights of the year for us was the Vital Signs Pie Social last week and the celebration it represented for our 50th marriage anniversary. 90 people were present for the festivities, food, and fellowship and a good time was had by all.

The program itself was brief. First, Claire answered the trivia questions that guests had been given out and then she shared a bit about our Top Ten Hints for a Successful Marriage. Next up was a nostalgic and fun PowerPoint show featuring music and

photos from our 5 decades together. Of course, with our being involved in pro-life ministry for 40 of the 50 years we've been married, there were plenty of photos depicting various activities in that sphere. And with our travels, there were pictures from Belarus, Russia, Burkina Faso, Poland, England, and various other parts of the world. And yes, people got a kick out of the changes in fashion, hair length (and color!), automobiles, and age lines.



It was an entertaining yet inspirational review. I then finished with some comments about God's unique call on a Christian's life and the rich, eternal blessings available to us all – married, widowed, or single – if we but humbly, bravely, and in faith stay true to His Word.



And then there was pie! Pumpkin, pecan, apple, lemon meringue, cherry, caramel, strawberry rhubarb, chocolate, blueberry, peanut butter, and more – all of which got rave reviews. And alongside were ice cream, whipped cream, hot tea, and a couple of choices in coffee. Karla also made a special Paleo pie that Claire and I could enjoy. And we most certainly did! There was even an anniversary cake too, part of which survived the evening and was shared with our friends at Aksarben Village Senior Living after our Sunday afternoon church service there.

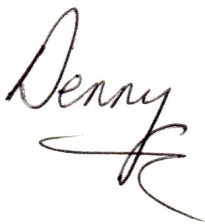
Of course, the reality is that the celebration of marriage (like the believer's commitment to Jesus Himself) isn't something to do at a now-and-again party. Rather it is a critical task to perform every single day, leaning as we must upon the Holy Spirit to keep our love intense and pure, maintain attitudes of thanksgiving and mercy, and perform our vows with humility, hope, and faith.

This month's letter then is a short one and for 2 reasons. 1) We dropped in a few of the photos from that PowerPoint presentation I mentioned for those who weren't able to attend the pie social and 2) because we're awfully busy this week as we try to squeeze into our regular schedule a lot of pre-winter household chores. Keeping up with the falling leaves. Trimming the bushes. The last couple of times mowing the lawn – and cleaning the mower afterwards. Draining the garden hoses. Hanging Christmas lights while it's warmer. And so on.

And the Vital Signs Activities? Well, let's see. There's the mornings of pro-life witness outside Planned Parenthood, the "When Swing Was King" shows (now back up to 6 every month), preparing for the Sunday afternoon church service, the social media and website, the weekly activity packets for seniors, and keeping up with the correspondence and personal visitation. Also coming up is a speaking engagement at a church chili supper and another for a local pro-life organization. There is the quarterly letter-writing party we're hosting on November 29th (we'd love to have you join us) and the quarterly Vital Signs Ministries Board meeting. There is another book brunch in the works where we will discuss Mollie Hemingway's *Rigged: How the Media, Big Tech, and the Democrats Seized Our Elections*. And then we're just getting into plans for the holiday hospitality ministries.

So, there's plenty for you to pray for and, of course, to get involved in as well. Until we see you or until next month's letter, please know your partnership is deeply appreciated. Your investments of prayer, support, and encouragement are making an eternal difference. Thank you so much.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denny". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Blessings," text.