

**Dear friends of Vital Signs Ministries,**

**March 2022**

Let me begin this month's letter with a heartfelt "thank you" for those of you who responded so enthusiastically to last month's "**Dreaming Forward**" letter dealing as it did with heavenly-mindedness as an integral part of a Christian's sanctification, especially the special trials connected to aging. Such encouragement is always wonderful but for those in Christian pro-life work (a ministry which is so profoundly counter-culture), your support is of magnificent value. Thank you so much.



Okay, this month's letter will be one full of "news and reviews" and, though our shallow-minded critics try to dismiss pro-lifers as "single issue," this letter will illustrate just how multi-faceted is the work of Vital Signs Ministries.

1) The prayers and public pro-life witness at the Planned Parenthood abortion business has continued despite winter weather and despite several of our team members down with health problems. Please keep us in your prayers and remember that you can *actively join in* this critical effort by participating in our "**3 for 5**" Prayer Program Against Planned Parenthood. Find out more on the VSM website or just give us a call or email.



2) Social media. There is our always ongoing activity on the VSM website, the blogs, Facebook, the VSM YouTube channel, and the occasional Zoom presentation. A few of the pieces showing up recently include the quick video, "10 Reasons to Read More," and blog articles "Truth: Remember It, Tell It, Live It;" "The Nursing Home Business: It Shouldn't Be Mere Business for Christians" and "White Nights, Dark Dreams: Revisiting Dostoevsky."



delighted to bless however many we can -- even as we are praying for more. And the music, photos, commentary, and conversations of a “When Swing Was King” show? Well, people are loving them more than ever!

3) We are now well underway in our March schedule of “When Swing Was King.” The number of senior facilities where we do the show has recently increased to 8. Now, that’s not the 12 we were doing *before* Covid, but we’re

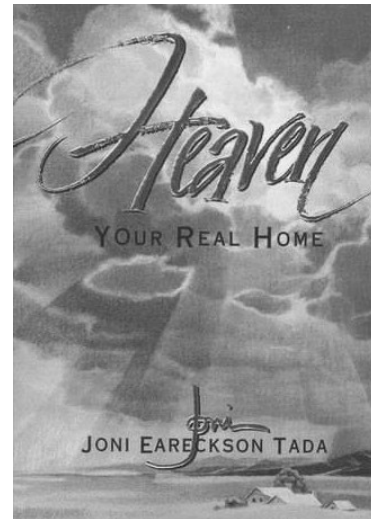


#### 4) Sunday afternoon church service.

This ministry continues to be a tremendous blessing to both residents of Aksarben Village Senior Living and the team of Vital Signs visitors who, at various times, includes Keith & Carol, Patrick, Allen, Don, Ruth, and Dick. We have recently added the observance of communion (the first Sunday of every month) and on February 27, we celebrated a full year of “doing church” complete with a gorgeous cake from Pettit’s Bakery. Thank You so much, Lord, for extending Vital Signs Ministries with this heartwarming and deeply meaningful outreach.

5) Correspondence. This last month was especially noteworthy for correspondence with a lot of phone conversations and 129 personal letters. Many of these letters concerned a study I recently did on Epaphroditus (Philippians 2) and another bunch dealing with the subject of sanctification included a link to an excellent sermon on the topic given recently by Ron Brown.

6) The latest VSM Book Brunch was on Saturday, February 19 where we enjoyed a meal and a discussion of G.K. Chesterton's extremely prescient book, *Eugenics and Other Evils*. Though published exactly 100 years ago, this book speaks remarkably to today's evils of government tyranny, the false gods of Scientism and Evolution, the apathy and cowardice of the Church to oppose these evils, and more. Excellent reading. Excellent conversation. And excellent food! The next VSM Book Brunch? That will be at our place Saturday morning at 10 o'clock on April 23 where we will discuss Joni Eareckson Tada's superb study, *Heaven: Your Real Home*. (RSVPs are profoundly appreciated.)



7) Speaking. Besides the Aksarben services, this last month has seen me preach the morning service at Faith Bible Church, emcee the morning service and conduct the communion ceremony at Grace Bible Church, and present short sermons for the funeral of a dear friend's grandson and at the gravesite.

8) Networking. Vital Signs sponsored 10 people for the February 10 luncheon of the Business and Professional Persons for Life which featured Lt. Gov. Mike Foley as guest speaker. John Kellogg and I had been talking about networking strategies before this, but that luncheon sparked a couple more meetings -- one with John, Claire, myself, and Dr. Ed DeSimone, and another with me and the BPPFL Board. We talked about how VSM might help extend the group's effect through expansion of their newsletter and website content. And we were happy that the BPPFL Board heartily embraced our offers of help. In fact, they have invited me to join the BPPFL Board and I'm prayerfully considering that gracious honor.

9) Caring for the Coppis. Our very dear friend Carol Coppi suffered a severe stroke a month ago and so we have spent quite a bit of time at the hospital and then at the rehab center where she now resides. With the family planning on relocating Quint Coppi to Florida (with Carol to follow as soon as she is cleared for travel), we organized a farewell brunch for Quint attended by 20 of his close friends. It was, of course, a bittersweet morning but we are delighted that Quint now loves his new place and it looks like, as of this writing, Carol will be there with him *very* soon. Praise the Lord.

10) "A Matter of Balance." All of the activities I've described in this letter had to be shuffled in amid a few doctor appointments and then 13 physical therapy sessions I "enjoyed" over 5 weeks. This was all due to a serious experience I had with vertigo on Sunday, January 23. It was the second bout (the first one was on Halloween), but this one not only kept me mostly in bed for two days, it created subsequent balance issues for which my doctor sent me to Fyzical Balance Center. It turns out that in addition to positional vertigo (loose ear crystals), my inner ear balance has been affected by longstanding ear damage exacerbated by -- what else -- my advancing years. Anyhow,

I returned to normal activity within a few days and I'm even back now to my long-distance walks. Yes, I still have some issues to deal with (balance, tinnitus, ear discomfort) but I'm doing the exercises they taught me (including ones for my eye/brain coordination) and I'll continue that regimen.

Of course, your prayers are deeply appreciated for any and all of the above items. I have no doubt we will discover in the New Jerusalem that our prayers were more wonderful and earth-moving than what we can dare imagine now. So thank you for all those prayers, for your other expressions of encouragement, and for your generous financial help in support of Vital Signs Ministries. Your help is truly treasured.

*Denny & Claire*

**P.S.** As you might guess, there is an obvious "spin off" ministry from "When Swing Was King" and the Aksarben Village church services; namely, personal visits to friends who end up in hospital or skilled nursing care. And, like many of you, we like to take a little something when we go visiting: flowers, food (grapes, ice cream, and Claire's chocolate chip cookies are our "go to" choices), and sometimes something a bit more cute and cuddly.



Well, we recently bought a couple of stuffed animals for that gift-giving purpose (bunnies, to be precise) but before we could give them away, they started multiplying! And, believe me, when you peek over the top of your book at night and see this ever-increasing crowd staring at you, as adorable and smiling and endearing as they might be, it's still rather alarming. Anyone looking for a pet...or two?