

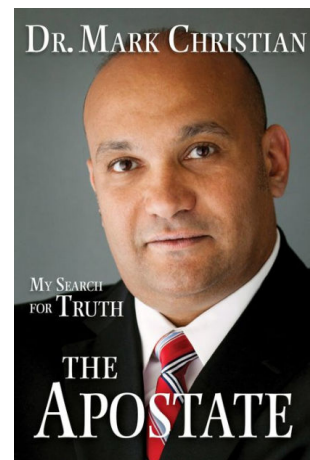
Dear friends of Vital Signs Ministries,

May 2022

I'm beginning this month's letter on a Monday morning in a doctor's lounge as Claire's orthopedist checks out tendon inflammation in her hand. And then later this morning she will be seeing our regular physician about a painful episode she experienced last weekend – perhaps related to her diverticulitis. (She wanted to see her gastroenterologist but they couldn't get her in for a month! Alas, that's modern medicine.)

Anyhow, the reason I'm taking advantage of this time in the waiting room is because I need to write the May LifeSharer early since after this next week our schedule gets really hectic. Yes, even more than usual. For in addition to our regular activities, the next few weeks require sermon preparation for a Sunday service at Grace Bible Church on May 22, two Sunday services at Wellspring (plus the adult Sunday School classes beforehand), on May 8 and May 29, and as you know, the sermons for the Vital Signs church service every Sunday afternoon at Aksarben Village Senior Living. And this doesn't count yet another sermon coming up this Saturday for the Carol Coppi memorial service that we have organized for her friends here in the Omaha area.

But the sermons aren't the only “extra” duties coming for us. There's also our hosting of the quarterly letter-writing party on Monday, May 16 and preparations for the next Book Brunch on Saturday morning June 11. The book under discussion that morning will be *The Apostate* by Dr. Mark Christian -- and get this -- the author himself will be on hand! Yes, Dr. Christian will be there to answer questions about the book, share insights about the “culture wars,” and sign copies of the books you bring along. Because please understand that Vital Signs Ministries book discussions are different than most; *that is, we expect people to actually read the book!*



And is it worth the effort? Well, here's what I recently wrote about *The Apostate* in a review on social media. “I found Dr. Christian's book a fascinating and enlightening read. It relates his early life as an intensely dedicated Muslim, gives an inside look at Middle East politics in our era, takes the reader on a fascinating adventure through Islamic history, and tells the riveting story of his intellectual/spiritual journey out of Islam and into Christianity. It has been one of the most interesting, relevant, and well-written books of the year for me.”

And it can undoubtedly be that for you too. So, get your copy soon and seriously consider joining us for brunch, conversation, and the chance to meet Mark Christian. Again, that's Saturday morning, June 11 at 9 o'clock. RSVP as soon as you can.

Okay, in addition to the upcoming actions I've just listed (all of which are also prayer requests), let me also mention some of the ministry highlights from April. Notable among them was the Assure Women's Center banquet featuring Franklin Graham. He was inspiring and encouraging as was the review Toni Clarke gave of the Center's

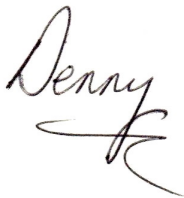
ministry from this past year. Another April highlight was the wonderful time Claire and I enjoyed at Herman Community Church where I had been asked to preach the sermon for their Good Friday service. We have long been appreciative of the small but vibrant congregation there and Pastor Doug Russell and his wife Jill are rare gems.

This past month also saw intense times of prayerful witness in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion business but that's hardly unusual. Still one morning stands out – a very cold and windy morning where Mark Fichter and I experienced the Lord's revitalizing blessings in an exceptional way. That came just a couple of days after a Saturday morning witness there on the street (and at the Malek's home afterward) which was also especially rich in prayers, conversation, and spiritual actions against the darkness of the abortion mill. The members of the team that particular morning were Don, Matt, Bev, John, Barb, Mark, Patrick, Isaac, Claire and I.

And I can't fail to mention among this highlight reel the exuberant joy and gratitude shown by our Aksarben Village congregation for the big, beautiful Easter lilies we handed out at our Resurrection Sunday service. That was really super and they are still talking about those gorgeous flowers. Thanks, Allen.

Before I close, however, let me cite just a few more April items. A phone call from an old friend and ministry colleague from my travels to Belarus...Several instances of warm fellowship with dear friends closer at hand...Extremely heartwarming responses to the 7 "When Swing Was King" shows this past month...The Book Brunch discussion over Joni Eareckson Tada's *Heaven: Your Real Home*...Claire's extravagant "girls' tea" that she hosted for 15 girls in her family at the Prairie Creek Inn B&B near Lincoln.

And, of course, there were some tough moments too. A hospital visit with the dying husband of one of our Aksarben residents...Hearing tragic stories of Ukraine from an old friend who has been a missionary there...The all-too-familiar heartbreak whenever we see young women going into an abortion mill...And dealing with some of the physical challenges I hinted at earlier. Staying the course (no matter the terrain, weather, or obstacles) requires nothing short of God's miraculous power. And so we thank you all from the depths of our heart for providing those prayers so graciously and consistently for this ministry. We appreciate your support more than we can say.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denny". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.