

Dear friends of Vital Signs Ministries,

June 2022

We are shaking things up a bit with a different look to the newsletter. (Only for this month, though.) And you'll see that we're covering several items: a "When Swing Was King" testimonial from an activity director, a brief essay about the sad silence of the Church to the moral meltdown around us, a few announcements about Vital Signs activity, and more.

And Still the Preachers Are Silent

I paid \$3.99 a gallon for gas this morning, 22 cents a gallon more than just 10 days ago. And this was at Costco where the price is usually lower about 20 cents a gallon than at any other place in town.

But, of course, with no practical actions being taken by the present administration, the price of gasoline (like the prices of hamburger, milk, clothing, utilities, rent, shoes, airline tickets, taxes, and everything else) will keep going up and up while the quality of life for Americans (and those around the world who have historically looked to us for inspiration and assistance) will keep going down and down.

After all, consider just a bit of the news I read this morning through my regular online sources. Escalation of petty crime, felonious assault, grand theft, and murder. New evidence of massive vote fraud. Loud, lewd, and downright loony "celebrations" of abortion. Attempts by progressives and other thugs to intimidate judges and policemen from doing their jobs. New waves of illegal immigration which are both encouraged and assisted by our federal government.

Need more? The alarming impotence of America's misnamed criminal justice system that fails to prosecute criminals as well as failing to hold in prison the ones who *have* been convicted. Sexual perversions being taught to kindergarten kids with the FBI and DOJ then investigating the parents who complain about it! Starvation in Sri Lanka created by a policy of radical environmentalism. The latest saber rattling from China and North Korea and Iran and Belarus plus the *actual* saber thrusts delivered by Russia to the people of Ukraine. Nary a word about how the drug companies have made a fortune from products that failed to effectively protect people from Covid while at the same time conspiring with government, media, and academia to keep from the public drugs that *do* help.

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Recent Vital Signs Happenings

* At Grace Bible Church and several Sunday services at Wellspring, Denny has been presenting sermons on the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. He has also been doing before-church classes at Wellspring on the Book of Esther.

* Denny accepted an invitation to serve on the Board of Business and Professional Persons for Life.

* We are again recording Denny's brief sermons at the Vital Signs Sunday afternoon church services at Aksarben Village Senior Living. You can view those 12-14 minute sermons on our YouTube channel and/or send the link to others.

* The VSM quarterly letter-writing party drew 10 people who turned out 60 letters of pro-life advocacy (and thanks, when appropriate) to political officials, businesses, religious leaders, and others.

* As always, there's been plenty of activity over on Vital Signs Blog, the website, and our Facebook pages. Check 'em out.

“And Still the Preachers Are Silent” continued)

No, my friends, it's not only gas prices that are soaring out of control. So too are the forces of wickedness across a wide front. Isn't it ironic then (and terribly sad) that most churches have little or nothing to say about these enormous matters? Of course, the typical justification for this ominous silence is that the preacher must not exchange the priorities of the gospel and discipleship for political platforms. But that is a completely false premise. For neither of these obligations cancels any of the other duties the pastor owes to his congregation and community. No, indeed. The biblically-oriented preacher must *also* be about the Father's business of countering the lies most zealously promoted by the devil in our day.

Among them? Lies that insidiously obscure, distort, and outright deny God's teaching about the sanctity of life; the creation of humans as either male and female; the sacredness of marriage; and the sins of premarital sex, adultery, and divorce apart from biblical reasons. Furthermore, the preacher should be a model and a mentor regarding the Scripture's admonitions about child-rearing. That would require his dedicated opposition to a government school system which routinely indoctrinates students with lies about evolution, syncretism, socialism, disrespect for family, history, religion, and sexual perversions. My, oh my.

Yet despite all the evidence of the world coming apart at the seams, the church (except for scattered para-church ministries and the increasingly rare preacher who dares to confront the anti-Christian culture rather than compromise with it) remains irresponsibly silent on these matters. Lord, please bring a new “great awakening” to our pulpits. And very soon.

“Their faces light up!”

“*When Swing Was King* has been coming to Elk Ridge Assisted Living and Memory Care for about five months now. I notice that when certain songs or pictures show up on the program, different residents have different responses. Some songs you can tell just speak to their souls!

The faces I see light up when songs from their childhood play (especially for our memory care residents) is a beautiful sight.

My favorite slide I've seen was of cheerleaders from the '50s, as one of our AL residents has fond memories of cheering in high school and even still says some of her cheers!
She loved seeing that picture,
as the memories came flooding back.

Claire and Denny make friendly, personal connections with our AL and MC residents and even their families, which is a very special touch to the program. We will have them back as many times as possible!”

Dear President Biden,

What a striking contradiction your current policies are to the Democrat policies of the past. I mean, think back to FDR, Harry Truman, JFK, RFK, Scoop Jackson, Tip O'Neill, and so many others.

As a matter of alarming fact, Mr. President, your current policies on energy, the Middle East, immigration, lawlessness, and especially the sanctity of life are a contradiction to the policies **you yourself** once espoused!

C'mon, man; do the right thing!
Stop playing patsy to your loony left “handlers” and become a President that God can richly bless.

* We are always deeply appreciative of your prayers for our physical protection, purity of heart, and spiritual empowerment during our public pro-life witness outside the Planned Parenthood abortion business. And yet those prayers are more crucial than ever as abortion zealots are going all out to intimidate, shock, distract, and even harm Christians engaging in peaceful pro-life actions. We want you to know that the on-site prayers and conversations have been intense in recent weeks, but they've also been full of hope, joy, and fresh commitment. Indeed, we all believe there are "happenings in the heavenlies" around us and so your prayers remain of inestimable value. Thank you so much!

* We are delighted to tell you that the **Vital Signs Book Brunch** coming up on Saturday morning June 11 (9 to 11 AM) has drawn a larger crowd than we can fit in our home. However, that's not a big surprise to us. After all, the book under discussion that morning is *The Apostate*, the riveting story of Dr. Mark Christian's movement out of Islam. *Plus, Dr. Christian will be at the Book Brunch in person!* Don't miss it. The new location? Room 201 at Community Bible Church at 90th & Q Streets. You can still join us, of course, and we hope you do but RSVPs are necessary. And read the book!

* There's a lot of speculation (some of it counter-productive) about what's going to happen with the U.S. Supreme Court and the effects on politics, society, and the Church if *Roe v Wade* is tempered or even reversed. We encourage you to watch the presentation I gave last December "**Facing a Post-Roe America**" which deals with this crucial matter. It's only a half-hour long and is available on the Vital Signs Ministries YouTube Channel.

* Claire had an encouraging time at a Vital Signs literature table we had set up at our church a couple of weeks ago. She had some stimulating conversations and handed out quite a bit of pro-life material. She was especially pleased at the interest in the bookmark-sized cards we offered which spell out the "3 for 5 Prayer Campaign Against Planned Parenthood." (By the way, everything at a VSM table is always free, even copies of Randy Alcorn's book, *Why Pro-Life?*). Anyhow, Claire wanted me to remind you that you can request copies of those cards for yourself, your friends, and your church. We would be delighted to send them out to you. Also, that information is available on the Vital Signs website as are a lot of other excellent articles and other resource materials.

"The unborn child is a human being created in the image of God, and to deny this is to deny the authority of the Bible. It is impossible to read Psalm 139 and truly believe what it says without realizing that life in the womb is human life. It is impossible to truly believe in the incarnation and not realize that the child conceived in Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit was indeed the Son of God from the time of conception. If we truly believe the Bible, there is no question when human life begins. And to deny this is to deny the authority of the Bible.
Are we so blind not to see what is involved...?"

Yet much of the [Christian] world carries on business as usual, saying they are not for abortion except for this or that, saying that we should not make an issue of this because it might be divisive, or saying we should not draw a line – even when millions of human lives are at stake. But if we are not willing to take a stand even for human life, is there anything for which we will stand?" **(Francis Schaeffer)**