

Dear friends of Vital Signs Ministries,

August 2022

Looking back over the course of our 40 years of pro-life ministry, we well remember several activities that were of great importance but which, in the providence of God, lasted only for a season. For instance, there were the 14 years of “Vital Signs” and “Vital Signs Weekend” radio broadcasts and the several hot summers where we manned an information booth at the Nebraska State Fair. Other examples would include the many years of travels to Belarus to teach at a Bible school in Minsk, Belarus and the 7-year stretch where I helped out a little church congregation on the near south side of Omaha by preaching at their Sunday services every week.

Of course, “seasonal changes” are quite normal, especially when you’re looking at such a long period of time. But what is truly remarkable is that there are so many elements of Vital Signs Ministries that have been steady and sharp throughout **all** of these 4 decades. Among those would be our peaceful, prayerful presence at abortion businesses; educational and exhortational materials; speaking engagements; correspondence (including this monthly letter); various evangelism and discipleship ministries; the enthusiastic support of pregnancy aid centers; and creative, compassionate, and respectful ministries to seniors. In this last category, we have refined and extended those ministries with the addition of our “When Swing Was King” programs (now in our 12th year) and the Sunday afternoon church service we conduct every week at Aksarben Village Senior Living.

But there’s one more activity that we began in our very first year as the Omaha Christian Action Council and are still maintaining. That would be our quarterly letter-writing parties by which we stimulate and help enable participants to be “shiners, not whiners” as they write letters (as the case might be) of encouragement, advocacy, courteous protest, and appreciation. And to further encourage others to join in this key outreach, we talk about it on our website, teach others how to set up similar parties, publish “open letters” to stimulate responses from others, and occasionally give a review of this element of our Christian activism in the LifeSharer letter. And because I haven’t done so in quite a while, that’s what I’ll do in the remainder of this one.

Of course, because of the reversal *Roe v Wade*, many of the cards and letters that night went to Supreme Court Justices. And that monumental matter was also addressed in letters to Senators, Congresspersons, President Biden, Attorney General Garland, and numerous pro-life heroes who have prayed and labored for so long for this action. Also, many cards and letters tackled the violent zealotry for unlimited abortion that has been unleashed by the left since the Court issued its ruling. Speaking to that evil, letters were sent to the President, the Attorney General, governors, and many of the businesses who have pledged to help finance the destruction of their employees’ preborn children. Lord, have mercy!

You can read sample letters related to these topics at Vital Signs Blog -- as well as such other matters our letters addressed including the “woke” movement in schools and the U.S. military, sexual perversions in company ads, voter fraud, religious freedom, and more. And by using the Voice of the Martyrs website (persecution.com), we also wrote letters (accompanied by beautiful mountain photos) to 14 brothers in Christ who are imprisoned in China, Eritrea, and Iran simply because of their loyalty to Jesus. And imagine this – by utilizing a most wonderful

“device” at that VOM website, those messages are sent to these persecuted believers in their own language!

We hope that reading a few of those sample letters will encourage and help you write a few of your own. That would be absolutely terrific! And, if you’re interested in having us help you in creating a letter-writing party for your church, Sunday School class, home group, or even just your family, by all means, let us know.

With that last invitation in mind, let me tell you a little about the letter-writing party itself. And, keep in mind, the pattern is pretty much the same as the first one we ever organized. We begin with prayer, as we ask the Lord to help us speak truth in clarity and humility, to protect our letters as they go through the postal system, and to be received by open hearts and minds. We then explain a bit about the “target list” and address sheet and anything else relevant to the process. For instance, in last week’s P.A.L. Night, we had prepared a two-sided handout filled with pro-life Scriptures and other quotations that our guests could use, if desired, to season their letters. We then got started writing.

There were 13 present last week (with 2 others writing at home because an injury kept them from attending in person) and while Claire bustled about in our midst (getting the right envelopes for the letters and cards, keeping coffee and teacups full, securing whatever addresses we had missed on the handout, answering questions, and occasionally getting a few minutes to write a letter herself), we had a very productive time. The writing portion of the evening is actually rather brief – from a little after 7 until 8:20 or 8:30 on the outside when the cookies and ice cream are served. But in that time, we managed to write 151 letters and cards!

It didn’t set a record...but it was pretty close! Lord, please make each letter count.

Okay, I suppose, that’s enough about our letter-writing parties. But I did think it relevant to describe this part of the ministry. And again, I do so in high hopes that it motivates some of you to follow our lead. Now, before I close this month’s letter, I’ll give you a quick review of a few other Vital Signs happenings.

* After a “road trip” down to Lincoln where we enjoyed wonderful success with “When Swing Was King” shows at 2 senior living facilities there, we decided to add both places to our regular monthly lineup. That will put us at 8 presentations every month.

* Our Saturday morning “Book Brunch” discussion of Dr. Mark Christian’s book, *The Apostate* proved a big hit. 38 attended the event which included a superb buffet brunch and an in-person presentation from Dr. Christian himself.

* The next Saturday morning “Book Brunch” (beginning at 9 o’clock on September 10) promises to be an important event as well. We will be using the event to celebrate together the reversal of *Roe v Wade* and to honor one of the noble heroes involved in this incredible victory, Justice Clarence Thomas. The book to be discussed (hot off the presses) is *Created Equal: Clarence Thomas In His Own Words* edited by Michael Pack & Mark Paoletta. RSVPs are of serious importance in our planning the event so please do so.



* We are pleased to say that the intimidation tactics and violent actions taken by pro-abortion thugs around the country have not yet been aimed at our public prayers and pro-life witness outside the abortion business. But who knows what they have in the works. Your prayers remain of great importance. And speaking of our public witness out in front of Planned Parenthood, take a look at our newest education signs. (They are the ones on the far right of the photo.) As we've mentioned before, we have always had some of the most winsome,

persuasive signs in the pro-life movement but we are pleased to add these two to the mix.

* Besides a very pleasant morning at Prairie Lane CR Church last week, my Sunday preaching has concentrated on our afternoon services at Aksarben Village Senior Living. What a delight this ministry is to us...and to the residents there too! After 2 weeks where a couple of covid cases caused them to cancel Sunday services, we're now back to normalcy. For instance, we can again bring helpers/visitors; we can again serve coffee, lemonade, and cookies after the music and sermon; and I can even leave my mask off when I'm delivering the sermon. That's important because not only can people hear the "live" sermon better, but it's a marked improvement in hearing the sermon online. By the way, you can check out those 12-15 minute sermons yourself simply by going to the Vital Signs Ministries YouTube Channel.

* You might also find of interest some of the posts we've recently uploaded onto Vital Signs Blog. Among the most recent: *Thoughts on Psalm 140*; *Prophets vs Profits: Principled Protests to Businesses*; *Check Out These "Light-Shining" Letters*; *4 Thoughts on Psalm 139*; *Nothing Stays in the Closet Nowadays*; *Urgent: Lie Detectors Wanted*; *Celebrating Life Is Always In Order*; and *Bravely Bear the Lord's Banner*. And, from over at The Book Den blog, you might note *William Tyndale & the English Bible*.

* And finally, let me thank you again, my dear friends and pro-life colleagues, for your generous support and your prayers to God in our behalf. We are so, so grateful. But I'm going to be so bold now to ask for 2 or 3 extra prayers for us as we get ready to take off for a few days in Colorado. And yes, on one of those days I'll be trying to make the summit of another 14er. I know that might cause a little anxiety for some of you who remember the adventure of last summer (smile) but, believe me, we have considered it carefully, prayed about it a lot, and I have prepared for the physical challenge as best I know how. But those extra prayers? They might just make all the difference! Thank you!

Until next time...

Denny