

Dear friends of Vital Signs Ministries,

February 2023

In this month's letter, we have a few highlights from the last few weeks and yes, they include a few photos. Among the activities that have kept us busy have been our quarterly Board meeting; a couple of special speaking engagements (a Sunday morning church service and a Saturday morning men's breakfast); Nebraska Right to Life's Walk for Life in Lincoln and a 500-guest banquet the night before; correspondence and visitation; 9 "When Swing Was King" shows; reworking a couple of our website articles to be posted on the website of the Business and Professional People for life; helping BPPFL organize and promote a luncheon where 76 guests heard from Nebraska's new Attorney General, Mike Hilgers; our prayers and pro-life witness outside the abortion business; the Sunday afternoon church services at Aksarben Village Senior Living; and prepping for the 2 upcoming seminars I'm presenting at the L'Abri Conference in Rochester, Minnesota.



And the photo details? Well, #1 shows a portion of the audience for the BPPFL luncheon as I undertake the emcee duties. Photo #2 is Claire and our colleague Dick Loneman at one of our Saturday morning pro-life gatherings. #3 is pro-life champions John & Barb Malek coming in to the Vital Signs literature booth after the Lincoln march. #4 shows a small bit of the crowd at that event. #5 was taken during one of my recent sermons at the Aksarben Village church. #6 shows Claire and her good buddy Carol Moran manning the VSM booth. #7 is a shot of Claire's and my toes finding some much-welcomed warmth after a Monday morning at the abortion business. And #8 is a collection of some of the

finest friends and pro-life colleagues one could ever hope to find!

At the banquet on the night before the Walk for Life, Nebraska Right to Life asked me to give the opening prayer and a devotional. Looking at my notes now, I'll try and repeat those remarks as best I remember.

*Good evening. My, what a delightful sight you all are!*

*Milestone events, like this grand banquet sponsored by Nebraska Right to Life tonight, often serve as memorials as well for they provoke heartfelt remembrances of heroes who worked hard for the cause of life before us...and some who worked beside us also whose presence we especially miss.*

*But we cherish them all the more on nights like this and we thank God for their prayers, their efforts, and their example. And yes, we take fresh inspiration from them to stay the course in this noble battle.*

*One of those heroes was Ronald Reagan who, among other singular achievements, did one of the rarest things of all. While serving as President of the United States, he took the time to write a remarkable courageous, compassionate, and wise essay entitled "Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation." This was, of course, just one of the examples of his pro-life convictions and we saw those convictions also played out in many speeches and, more importantly, his policies.*

*Among the most telling of his written warnings regarding abortion, Reagan wrote, "We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life -- the unborn -- without diminishing the value of all human life." But alas, America did not heed Reagan's reprimand and we have thus reaped a whirlwind of violence and shame.*

*Millions upon millions of preborn boys and girls destroyed by surgical abortion. Untold millions more when you count those killed by chemical poisons. Infanticide. Yes, the increase in infanticide is all-too-real. And imagine, all but one person in the entire Democrat Congressional contingent voted to protect babies who managed to survive an abortion attempt. Only one. And with such evils as these, who wouldn't expect child abuse, child neglect, and child abandonment to soar? And sex trafficking. Murder in the streets of our cities every night. And a broken justice system that is no longer able to do anything about the culture of death assailing us.*

*But listen up. Ronald Reagan also wrote this, "Despite the formidable obstacles before us, we **must not** lose heart." And how much would he (and all of those other champions of life that are on our hearts tonight), how much would they all challenge us not to lose heart now -- especially when one of the most formidable of all of those obstacles, the **Roe v Wade** decision itself, has been astoundingly, miraculously overcome? The battle is no longer far away. It's back at the state level and our work is more important than ever!*

*So, my dear friends of life, do not lose heart. Instead, on this momentous evening, let us **take heart** and re-dedicate ourselves God and to each other as we pledge anew to take prayerful, consistent, loving action to build a culture of life that is reflected in law, social practice, and the moral heart of our nation. Let's pray...*

\* The L'Abri conference in Rochester, February 17 & 18. My sessions are "Beware the Mad Scientist: Divine Warnings Against 'Playing God' from Classic Literature" and "A Winsome Witness: Communicating the Bible's Pro-Life Ethics Through Word and Deed."

\* The next Vital Signs letter-writing party will be on March 6 and there's plenty on tap with the Nebraska legislature, the assaults of the "woke movement" on religious freedom, the ongoing foolishness of the Biden administration, and so on. But here's the twist – we're actually hosting 2 letter-writing parties on the 6th. That's right; one will follow the regular pattern and will begin at 7:00 in the evening. But we received an invitation to have another one for people who don't like to drive at night or, for whatever reason, would prefer a daytime event. Great. So now you have two options, the evening party or the brunch version which will begin at 10 AM. Please RSVP.

\* The next Vital Signs Book Brunch is on Saturday, March 25 from 10-12 with the book under discussion *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Western Civilization* by Anthony Esolen, professor of English and a writer in residence at Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts in Warner, New Hampshire. He is also a senior editor of Touchstone magazine. So, put the date on your calendar, RSVP, get a copy soon, and start reading!

\* Interested in checking out a "When Swing Was King" show? If you come along, please know that we will also give you opportunities to visit a bit with the residents. They would love to meet you! The WSWK schedule is posted on the Vital Signs Ministries website. (Look under the Seniors tab.)

\* And speaking of being of help in our "mercy ministries" to seniors, we would love to make some additions to our visitation team for the Aksarben Village church services. That would involve only an occasional Sunday afternoon from 2-4. Let us know if you're interested.

\* You are also invited to be a part (even if every once in a while) of our prayerful pro-life witness at Planned Parenthood. The "team presence" is on the first and third Mondays of the month (8-9:30 AM) and the first and third Saturdays (8-9 AM).

\* Finally, we would appreciate your prayers for my sister Sherry whose dementia and disorientation has become more severe than even last month. We are planning another trip to Wichita soon and so we also cherish your prayers for our travel safety and our ministry of comfort to my sweet little sister.

Okay, that's it for this month. As always, we thank you so much for your prayers, encouragement, and support. It means more to us than we could ever express but we know the Lord is well pleased with your kind friendship to us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denny". The signature is written in black ink and is located at the bottom left of the page.