

Vital Signs Ministries Letter-Writing Parties (June 2023)

First of all, let me thank you for your commitment today (and tonight) to shine lights of truth, justice, and Christian morality through personal letters. I am thoroughly convinced that it means a great deal to the Lord as we seek 1) to “strengthen the things that remain” and “occupy until He comes;” 2) to thank and encourage people who are trying hard to serve the Lord in the culture wars and in other ministries; 3) urge political officials, business leaders, clergy, media personnel, and other people of influence to do the right and responsible thing.

Now, these tasks are becoming more daunting with every day -- there are so many outrageously wicked men, movements, and political machines that one cannot hope to confront (or even lift up to God in prayer) each one. Nevertheless, rather than give up (as so many have) or give in (also, as so many have), let’s continue to put our lamps on a lampstand and encourage one another to keep them full of oil. This will mean leaning upon the Holy Spirit to do what we can in evangelism, discipleship, exemplary living, intercession, speaking into the culture the eternal truths of God’s Word, and anticipating the glories of the world to come.

With this introduction, then, we are listing below a few targets (out of a relevant myriad) for these letter-writing parties. Select those you believe the Lord would have you make a priority...and have at it!

1) Chemical abortion -- Write the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and urge them to reconsider their approval of mifepristone, the powerful abortifacient drug that is proving to be the leading cause of death (by far) of unborn boys and girls.

The job of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is to ensure that drugs on the market are effective and safe: that drugs do what they’re meant to do, and that their health benefits outweigh their risks. Unfortunately for Americans, when it comes to the FDA’s approval of the abortion drug mifepristone, the agency fell prey to political pressure. The FDA approved the drug in 2000 under the Clinton administration, but it could only do so by twisting its own rules.

Before President Clinton left office, the FDA approved mifepristone under the Accelerated Approval program—which was the only option that allowed the FDA to require safeguards for dangerous drugs. To fit mifepristone within the Accelerated Approval program, however, the FDA had to call pregnancy a “serious or life-threatening illness.” Pregnancy is no illness, of course, and the drug sponsor knew it. The Population Council initially objected, stating that “neither pregnancy nor unwanted pregnancy is an illness” or even “a ‘serious’ or ‘life-threatening’ situation as that term is defined” in the regulations.

Simply declaring pregnancy to be an illness was just the first step. To make any pretext of upholding its standards, the FDA had to argue that chemical abortion drugs provide benefits over existing “treatment.” According to FDA regulations, that meant that chemical abortion had to possess the “ability to treat patients unresponsive to, or intolerant of, available therapy, or improved patient response over available therapy.” The other available “therapy” for ending a healthy pregnancy is surgical abortion. So the FDA had to assert that chemical abortion is safer than surgical abortion. And thus, they twist their own rules out of a passion to protect abortion.

2) Opposing Planned Parenthood – Let’s not forget to continually urge our Senators and Congresspersons to oppose every government dollar slated to go to Planned Parenthood. Perhaps your letter could include items from this recent article from Vital Signs Blog.

Quickly, Name 8 Reasons to Oppose Planned Parenthood

- 1) Planned Parenthood kills preborn babies for profit. Hundreds of thousands of babies. And by payments to surgical abortionists and sales of chemical abortifacients, Planned Parenthood is raking in millions of dollars every year. They are the largest abortion providing, abortion promoting business in the world.
- 2) Planned Parenthood is the most aggressive promoter of abortion rights in the U.S. and abroad. It’s influence in Congress, the United Nations, in state governments, in social service agencies, and among government educators is huge.
- 3) Planned Parenthood promotes (and enables) sexual promiscuity, even among very young teenagers.
- 4) Planned Parenthood promotes sexual perversion and does so with obscene and blasphemous materials.
- 5) Planned Parenthood holds firm to the racism and elitism of its eugenics founders.
- 6) Planned Parenthood has been caught on many occasions in criminal cover-ups of statutory rape.
- 7) Planned Parenthood operates many unsafe, unsanitary abortion clinics. It has had several abortionists who have killed adult women through botched abortion. It dispenses very dangerous abortifacient drugs in an unprofessional manner like over the phone and through “at home abortion kits.” It works continually against parental rights and control. It works continually against any and all limitations on abortion.
- 8) Planned Parenthood makes about \$100,000,000 every year from American taxpayers.

Of course, such information could also be used for letters to the editor, to the President, to clergy who may not know the score on this evil business, and so on.

3) “Woke” Companies -- You know about Bud Light and Target. But here’s a few more possibilities for principled, polite letters of protest.

Amazon: At its headquarters, Amazon.com Inc. continues to fly the rainbow “Pride” flag in addition to sponsoring and supporting LGBTQ merchandise, film, books, and other entertainment.

Google: This year, the Google Assistant software app can share LGBTQ stories, Google Play includes LGBTQ books and games, and Ballroom in Focus, Google's latest LGBTQ initiative, features the history of Ballroom, an "underground" black and Latino LGBTQ group.

Disney: To celebrate Pride Month, The Walt Disney Co. designed a 2023 "Pride" collection, released new LGBTQ entertainment on its streaming platform Disney+, and created the first Pride Nite among its "Disneyland After Dark" events.

PBS: This month, the taxpayer-supported Public Broadcasting Service is showing three new documentaries on past and present LGBTQ activists, in addition to showing previous "Pride"-themed shows.

DC Comics: Like last year, the comic book publisher responsible for Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, and many more superheroes says it will produce LGBTQ characters for its "DC Pride 2023" initiative.

Pinterest: Through its "Pride and Progress" initiative, the social media platform is showcasing LGBTQ individuals.

Walmart: The retail giant has remained silent publicly about its "Pride" collection, which it continues to feature in stores.

Dick's: In addition to participating in "Pride" parades and offering "pronoun training" for employees, the retail sporting goods chain is showcasing a "Pride" collection.

Nike: The official Nike Inc. "Pride" webpage highlights the sports footwear and apparel brand's "Be True" collection, created by "trans man and artist Xavier Schipani to illustrate the euphoric feeling and joy of being free to express who you are."

Under Armour: With the banner "United We Win," the sportswear company highlighted its latest "Pride" collection designed by LGBTQ activists.

AT&T: Since April, AT&T Inc. has been celebrating Pride Month with its "Turn Up the Love" concert tour featuring LGBTQ music artists.

Ikea: All proceeds from sales of a large Ikea shopping bag with a rainbow design will go to an organization devoted to supporting homeless LGBTQ individuals.

Kohl's: Besides its "Pride" collection, Kohl's Corp. plans to donate \$100,000 to The Trevor Project.

North Face: Despite receiving criticism for doing so, this outdoor apparel company continues its "Summer of Pride" and features a "Pride" collection on its website.

Levi Strauss & Co: released a gender-neutral clothing collection and spotlights six LGBTQ individuals on its website.

Kay Jewelers: Under the heading “Kiss With Pride,” the jewelry store chain features its “Pride” necklace against a backdrop showing two men kissing.

McDonald’s: The popular fast-food chain shied away from making a public statement this year, but McDonald’s continues to feature a “Livin’ My Truth” webpage promoting its LGBTQ partnerships, including sponsorship of the LGBTQ-themed variety show “House of Pride” on Revry, the “queer” streaming network.

Domino’s: The pizza chain used Twitter to announce its sponsorship of the Motor City Pride Festival in Detroit and, on its website, highlights LGBTQ employees’ views on Pride Month.

Wendy’s: On LinkedIn, the Wendy’s fast-food chain posted a video of the “Pride” flag being raised at its corporate offices.

Kind Bars: This brand of granola bars offers a “Pride”-designed wrapper and flavor: milk chocolate peanut butter.

Skittles: The candy brand celebrates Pride Month with a “Pride” design in packaging.

Hershey: The chocolate maker known as Hershey’s notes that it throws a “Pride” parade in addition to building an LGBTQ “culture and community” within the Hershey Co.

PetSmart: Not even animals are exempt from Pride Month. Pet owners may find “Pride Bikinis” for their dogs in PetSmart’s “You Are Loved” collection.

Fox News: The media company Fox Corp. has a webpage called “America Together: Celebrating Diversity” that currently is devoted to videos focused on LGBTQ activists. The page carries the headline “LGBTQ+ Pride Month” in a rainbow design and adds: “Fox News Media celebrates the contributions to America by the LGBTQ+ community.”

UPS: Besides donating to LGBTQ organizations, the United Parcel Service says it is giving entrepreneurs “who self-identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community ... 50% off the initial franchise fee of a new The UPS Store franchise.”

Walgreens: The drugstore chain continues to offer “Pride”-themed products on its website, in addition to highlighting the story of an LGBTQ employee.

CVS: Similar to its competitor, CVS Health Corp.’s website showcases an LGBTQ employee’s story and continues to offer “Pride”-themed products.

Listerine: Even mouthwash has gone woke as Listerine continues a “Care With Pride” campaign by showcasing a “Pride”-themed package design.

4) The Unicameral battles -- Let's send thank-yous to the state senators who voted for LB 626 and LB 574 and to the pro-life groups and individuals who fought so wisely and well in these battles. And among other key tasks, that means urging our clergy to start taking a more principled, relevant, courageous, and spiritually-responsible leadership in these crucial matters. To encourage and help you in these objectives, please check out the sample letters I've written to state senators, pro-life groups, and pastors posted on Vital Signs Blog.

5) The Los Angeles Dodgers – This baseball team ignored courteous but impassioned requests from Christians all over the country to cancel their plans to honor the The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a radically obscene and perverted “performance art queer group” by featuring them as the stars of the Dodgers’ “Pride Night.” (The all-male “sisters” specialize in anti-Catholic pornographic skits that mock Jesus Christ and sexualize Christian rituals.)

6) Bravely, Wisely Defending Pre-Born Kids -- Thank you to Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel who stands firm on the necessity of the G.O.P. being steadfastly pro-life. Republicans can win on abortion, McDaniel argues, but only if we are smart and consistent and courageous. Indeed, she insists that the GOP needs to go on the offensive when it comes to life. The surest way to lose in 2024 is to stop talking about the unborn. Why? Because “if there’s a vacuum in messaging,” the chairwoman said, “the Democrats will fill it.”

And fill it they have, she said, spending \$360 million on the abortion issue alone in the 2022 midterms. “And many consultants said, ‘Don’t talk about it. Voters only care about the economy.’ That’s not true,” McDaniel argued. “Because when \$360 million is spent against you, you need to respond. And we’re right on this issue. So let’s respond and be positive. And let’s not let the media or other Republicans say we lost because of abortion. No, we lost from our inability to defend life.”

7) Boy, do we have some heroic servants of Christ out there! And there’s no doubt they could use a bit of encouragement from us.

Franklin Graham and Samaritan’s Purse.

Ken & Joni Tada.

The team at Assure Women's Center.

The College of the Ozarks.

Alliance Defending Freedom.

Tim Tebow.

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

And that’s just getting started!