

Dear friends of Vital Signs Ministries,

June 2024

In this month's edition of our LifeSharer, you'll find items reflecting ministry activities, blog posts, open letters, and FYI updates. If they seem to cover a lot of ground, that's because they do! Indeed, that's the nature of Vital Signs as Claire and I sincerely try 1) to serve the people that are right in front of us and 2) to counter the lies and wicked deeds of our corrupt culture with biblical truth. And, as you know, pursuing those goals keeps us very busy.

1) The *Omaha World-Herald* printed a letter of mine in their Public Pulse section a couple of weeks ago. Not being on the friendliest of terms (regarding abortion, the OWH has always been a very liberal rag), they hadn't done that for a long time. But since many of you (like us) are not subscribers, I share it here.

"The latest annual report of Planned Parenthood is out and it reveals information that the abortion business certainly hopes the public will not learn about. For instance, that surgical abortions are at an all-time high (392, 715); revenue is at an all-time high (\$2 billion with \$699 million of that coming from taxpayers); hormone therapy, puberty blockers and other "gender care" dramatically increasing; and for every adoption referral Planned Parenthood makes, it performs 228 abortions. As they say, it's your tax dollars at work."

2) Here's one of this past month's Vital Signs Blog posts:

**To Abortion Workers:
"Jesus Still Loves the Little Children."**



The Wednesday focus in Vital Signs "3 for 5" Prayer Campaign Against Planned Parenthood is to "pray for spiritual conversion among Planned Parenthood employees and supporters." Indeed, here is the sample prayer we offer: "Please, Lord Jesus, reveal to those who work with, promote, or otherwise support Planned Parenthood the organization's inherent evils. Give them a new understanding of the sanctity of life, marriage, family, and purity. And with repentance and conversion, make of these 'born again' people effective servants of Your grace and holiness."

The Scripture exhortation we connect to the Wednesday prompting is 2 Corinthians 5:17. "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things are passed away; behold, new things have come."

Well, with this prayer target in mind, I thought I'd write up a quick summary of the appeal I made to the abortionists last Monday morning when Claire, Keith, and I were engaged in our prayers and public pro-life witness on the sidewalk there. It is one of the messages I have spoken to abortion workers for over 40 years and it goes something like this...

“Good morning! You know, among our prayers this morning are heartfelt prayers for you and your colleagues. Specifically, we are praying that you wake up to the real nature of this business -- the evil, barbaric destruction of preborn boys and girls. We are praying that (for the sake of both your happiness and the state of your eternal soul) you find another job, one where you can truly help people rather than being a part of a business that lies to women, plays on their fears and confusion, and then actually kills little human beings for money.

I know you know the song ‘Jesus Loves the Little Children.’ You have probably sung it yourself when you were a kid. Well, that’s not just a religious song. Make no mistake; Jesus **does** love the little children; each single child is a very big deal with Him. And He is urging you today to separate yourself from a business whose primary profits come from cruelly tearing these little children to pieces. Please reconsider what you’re involved in here. Hundreds of abortion workers have found forgiveness, spiritual cleansing, and a fresh start with God, simply by trusting Christ’s sacrifice on the cross to pay the penalty of all their sins and to start a new, noble, and eternal life with Jesus as their forever Friend. Won’t you take this wonderful opportunity also? Please, leave this wicked place today and come to Jesus.”

I hope this brief post serves as an effective reminder for you to pray for us as we engage in this pro-life witness, but also to pray for the conversions of men and women who are going so far in “suppressing the truth in unrighteousness” that they willingly work in such a heinous business. And, of course, we encourage you also to participate with pro-life advocates all over the country in all of the “3 for 5” Prayer Campaign. You’ll find it on the Vital Signs Ministries website.

3) Regarding another battlefield in the culture wars, here is an “open letter” which I sent to the NCAA, the International Olympic Committee, and several lawmakers.

Disrespecting Female Athletes Is a Disrespect to All Women

“Such a bizarre contradiction of the original intents of Title IX could hardly be imagined than allowing biological men to invade female sports, stealing from girls and women the opportunities for honest and fair athletic competitions for which they have long dreamed and strenuously trained for -- and they fully deserve to receive. Indeed, this recent fad of accepting biological men into female athletics is not only a reprehensible repudiation of the very purposes of Title IX laid out in 1972, it is also a blatant denial of the most basic principles of feminism, moral decorum, and, for that matter, biological science.

Please face the facts. No change of pronouns, no psychological reorientation, no drugs or surgery can provide a sufficient excuse for forcing girls and women to compete with persons born as males who thus have inherent (and profound) advantages of strength, speed, and stamina. There’s no other way to put it -- girls and women are being cheated. And the worst offenders are not the biological men lining up at the starting line with women, but rather the schools and sports associations that allow them to do so...and, of course, the Biden administration which, though claiming so loudly to be pro-woman, is being exactly opposite those claims by trying to force Americans into one of the most despicably sexist policies of all time.

This is a matter of simple fairness, so please do the right thing. Resist this new anti-woman fad. Instead, respect female athletes by ensuring for them a level playing field.”

4) After a couple of engaging days in Kansas City with Larry & Deb Harrold (strolling through the Nelson-Atkins Museum and the Arabia Steamship Museum; enjoying burnt ends stew at Jack Stacks BBQ and early morning coffee at Mother Earth; and having several stimulating conversations together in the massive, remodeled 122 year-old house in the Hanover Place district where we stayed), Claire and I went on down to Wichita, Kansas to again visit my little sister Sherry.

During one of those times with Sherry, I described the memory I had only recently recalled of a moment from our childhood in Colorado. She was maybe 7 or 8 in this case (making me 11 or 12) and she had somehow climbed onto the high board at Green Mountain Swim Club (which was, in those years, our home away from home). I spotted her up there but I could neither persuade her to jump or to come back and climb down the ladder. No, the poor girl was frozen by fear up there. So, I climbed up (both the high and low diving boards were familiar hangouts for me in those years) and finally persuaded her to hold my hand so we could jump off together. She didn't like the idea at first, but I explained that I'd be with her all the way down. And so, holding tightly onto my hand, she closed her eyes, and stepped off the board with me, plunging a second later into cool, 14-foot deep water. It's become one of my favorite moments involving us both. And, by the way, though Sherry never became a fan of high-diving, she ended up being a very good swimmer, even eventually joining me on the GMSC swim team.

As I recounted this story to my sister, I was well aware that she might not understand me. After all, her dementia has progressed frightfully far. Nevertheless, sharing that scene out loud deeply touched me. For, as I remembered her vulnerability on that summer day so long ago, I knew all too well that an even more severe vulnerability has descended on her now. But what an incredible blessing it was when, after my finishing that story, Sherry proved to us that it had indeed penetrated the fog. She reached over, held onto my arm, and simply said, “Thanks.”

Sis, I will cherish that simple blessing forever!



Lord, the fact is that we are all weak and needy and terribly vulnerable. And we desperately need You as our powerful protector, our all-wise guide, our ever-present help in times of trouble, and our gracious Savior Who paid the penalty of all our sins when You died in our place at Calvary. Please continue to pour out Your mercies on my little sister.

5) An awful lot of Vital Signs Ministries consists of brief, even fleeting, moments of personal encouragements to individuals and small groups. But then, is “fleeting” an accurate word in this context? When one is referring to spiritual investments that are unbounded by time? Investments which the Lord God can use to create profound and long-lasting (even eternal) effects? All believers should take most seriously those divine opportunities which each single moment provides to make a difference, to be a faithful ambassador of Jesus, to be a blessing.

For us that involves such things as talking to the residents of the senior facilities before and after our “When Swing Was King” shows. Praying with friends dealing with health or emotional challenges. Enjoying the fellowship of our Aksarben Village church members as we treat them with coffee, lemonade, cookies, and personal attention after our Sunday afternoon services. Using phone and Facebook and e-mail and our Colorado greeting cards to keep in touch with friends both local and far afield. Porch visits with neighbors. Networking with pro-life colleagues like those involved with Assure Women’s Center and Business and Professional People for Life. The mutual stimulation to love and good deeds that occurs in our book discussions, letter-writing parties, and early morning coffees. Our weekly Zoom session with family members. And so on. No little people. No little places. No little opportunities.

6) Okay, before closing this month’s letter, let me mention a couple of other happenings from May as well as preview a few upcoming activities. First up, our work proved very successful in organizing a May 23 luncheon in which Nate Grasz from Nebraska Family Alliance spoke to an audience of 60 plus about the dire need to defeat the Protect Our Rights ballot initiative by which rabid abortion zealots seek to enshrine unlimited abortion in the Nebraska Constitution. (As we’ve mentioned before, there’s more about this very important battle on the Vital Signs Ministries website.) Also, by the time you’ve received this, Claire and I will have returned from 3 days in California where my younger brothers (and their spouses) joined us for a family reunion with my older sister Linda and her husband and family. (Linda also is dealing with dementia, though of a different kind than Sherry.)

And then coming up? Well, there is the Book Brunch discussion of *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels* by J. Warner Wallace on Saturday morning, June 15th at 10:00 at our home. And you can look forward to a few special opportunities the first week of September when British physician and pro-life leader, Dr. Greg Gardner, will make a 4-day visit to his longtime Vital Signs friends here in Omaha. We have visited Greg and his family several times when we’ve traveled to England and it will be an absolute delight to have him here.

Thanks for all of your prayers and support, dear friends. Your partnership with us is making an important difference and we continue to be greatly appreciative. Until next month...

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