

Dear friends of Vital Signs Ministries,

April 2025

“The March of Dimes is neutral on the subject of abortion.”

That is the official response from an organization that is supposed to champion healthy pregnancies. And they say this despite their strong encouragement for the testing of preborn children for birth defects, Downs Syndrome, and other problematic conditions -- tests the March of Dimes knows will present a temptation for parents to “terminate” those babies whose test results might be perceived as the wrong ones. And the March of Dimes insists on their neutrality on the subject of abortion despite their support of clinical research that involves fetal tissue obtained from the bodies of aborted babies. Furthermore, the MOD says this despite evidence of some of their local chapters (as late as 2020) making donations to Planned Parenthood businesses. And finally, the March of Dimes maintains this claim of neutrality despite certain of its chapters openly touting a “community partner perspective” with Planned Parenthood businesses in implementing a program of “birth spacing.”

Hmm. Maybe it’s just me, but this hardly sounds neutral, does it?

With all of this, however, what I find *most* revolting about MOD’s official statement is the shameful arrogance of using this weasel word in the first place. Really? Neutral on abortion? Neutral on the practice of poisoning and/or dismemberment of millions of living preborn boys and girls? Of course, the March of Dimes knows better than any the facts of embryology. They are also well aware of the horrific measures utilized to kill these little kids. And yet they have no inclination or time, no honesty or moral sensitivity to make a judgment on abortion -- the most barbaric and horrific crime in all history? This is utterly irrational...as well as immoral.

And yet, as remarkably stupid and depraved as the MOD’s posturing is, I am grieved to say that oh-so-many Christian churches in the West have followed a not dissimilar policy. Let’s face it -- for several decades now, abortionists have been torturing and murdering preborn boys and girls at an incalculable rate. And with barely a ripple of protest. Does anyone believe then that the Church’s response to this malevolent madness has been what God wanted from us? Haven’t we tended to be weak and timid and compromising in our response to this evil? After all, this holocaust hasn’t been perpetrated underground; it’s not been a campaign of violence occurring across an ocean. The abortion mills are in *our* neighborhoods. And Planned Parenthood and its ilk are in *our* schools and libraries, in *our* Girl Scout chapters and social service agencies, and, due to immense government funding using our tax dollars, in *our* wallets.

And yes, abortion is only one of the many areas of demonic teaching and coercion that the Church has become comfortable with in the last few generations. There is also evolution, euthanasia, a whole host of sexual abominations, Marxism, the State’s assuming control of our children’s education, and the toleration (if not embrace) of a variety of theological heresies. These too are enemies aligned against the Church by the devil. Yet here too, instead of facing these threats with courage and an informed, firm faith in God, we have relinquished the field to the enemy. We have displayed an inexcusable neutrality rather than an alert and resolved combat readiness. In the crucial culture wars of our time, haven’t Christians tended to leave their

spiritual armor in the closet, their Bible on the shelf, their shining light under the basket, and their stewardship responsibilities as Christ's ambassadors and warriors back in the locker room?

"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.'" (Revelation 2:14-16)

And so, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, please consider this month's letter as a "stir up" one. That is, a "stirring up" along the lines of these exhortations given us by the writer of the Hebrews. "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end." (Hebrews 3:13,14) and "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He Who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to *stir up* one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:22-25)

Therefore, on this day called "today," let's carefully take stock of our surroundings, our responsibilities, and our remarkable spiritual powers to "strengthen the things that remain" (Revelation 3:2), "occupy until Jesus comes" (Luke 19:13), and "Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." (Isaiah 1:17) Let's make sure that we are not acting as neutrals on abortion and these other crucial spiritual concerns, but instead that we shine the light of His truth, justice, and His offer of mercy for repentant sinners to our nation.

I wonder what it would look like if the Church shook off her lethargy (and her neutral posturing) and got serious about her opposition to the silent holocaust. Well, certainly we would see preachers begin to unapologetically espouse and defend the Bible's teaching on these crucial matters. As faithful under-shepherds, they wouldn't be so worried about popularity, comfort, audience size, political-correctness, or criticism from the "snowflakes" and other liberals in their congregations. They would understand that having a "gospel-centered" perspective to their ministry doesn't discount the need to provide clear, relevant, "Bible-centered" teaching on *every* area connected with a Christian's pilgrimage through this world.

These pastors would thus be joyful, confident pro-life champions. They would be cheerleaders for pregnancy aid centers and adoptive parents. They would be eloquent advocates for pro-life legislation, and exemplary teachers whose congregations would be best prepared to boldly live out pro-life values in their own families as well as in the public square.

Abortion businesses would be the site of frequent prayer meetings and polite, principled protest of the abominable bloodshed going on inside.

Christian pregnancy centers would be supplied with everything they need to successfully serve babies, moms and dads, and the general culture. The churches (and the individual congregants) would provide finances enough to better educate the public about the truths regarding fetal development, the cruelty of abortion, the dangers of abortifacient drugs, the full forgiveness Jesus offers to sinners of all stripes, etc.

The church would increase its support of Christ-centered children's ministries, including foster families, those seeking to rescue kids from sex traffickers, and those serving orphans. (The Tim Tebow Foundation is an excellent example of such an organization.) Likewise with post-abortion healing ministries, pro-life organizations, medical missions, and Christ-centered relief ministries like Samaritan's Purse.

Church parking lots would have more pro-life license plates. There would be larger numbers at Life Chains, Marches for Life, and prayer meetings at the abortion businesses. There would be more Night to Shine prom parties. There would be a lot more family visits in nursing homes. More Christians would be reading about, talking about, writing letters of advocacy about, and praying about all of these matters -- matters that are oh-so-close to the heart of our Lord.

I know that's an awfully ambitious vision. But then I also know that if you aim at nothing, you hit nothing. And so I believe that such things need not merely be the stuff of dreams. Indeed, they can serve as inspirations, stimulants, and direction signs that can help us dramatically "improve our serve" when it comes to being a truly pro-life people. Dear Father God, please refresh your people and kindle holy flames in us and in our churches so that we will come through with the specific callings You now give to us regarding this exhortation.

And speaking of "specific callings," I guess it's time to give you a quick review of what Claire and I have been up to in recent weeks. Here is the "zip file" version...

March came in like a lion -- and stayed that way most of the time! And one of the places we noticed it most was on those mornings when we were praying and conducting our public pro-life witness outside of Planned Parenthood. Wow, what cold and fierce winds we battled this month! Also, on one morning recently, we also had to deal with the taunts and threats of an oversized bully who had taken someone into the abortion mill. As is usually the case, though, when thugs realize that their profane blustering is ineffectual (in this case, his demand that we leave altogether "or else"), he was the one to depart. This kind of incident isn't that unusual, of course, but I mention it as a reminder to keep us in your prayers for, as you can see from the rioting crowds, the attempted assassination of a presidential candidate, the brazen murder of a financial CEO, rogue judges defending terrorist gang members, and scores of burning Teslas, the pagan left is becoming more enraged and violent with every day. Why? Simply because they see their foolish, ugly ideologies (along with their wicked deeds) exposed to the light of day.

Our latest letter-writing party was successful as 9 of us wrote 54 letters and cards to politicians, businesses, media, and pro-life heroes. As always, you can find stimulation and assistance in writing a few letters of your own by checking out Vital Signs' website and Vital Signs Blog for targets, addresses, and even sample letters.



Claire and I made a quick 2-day visit to my little sister Sherry in Wichita early in March. Sherry's physical condition (severe dementia) is declining, but her caregivers are compassionate and efficient. I helped feed her for several meals but most of our connection was simply holding her hands. My older sister Linda's dementia has also intensified in recent weeks and she too now needs continual care. Lord, please embrace my sisters in Your love and peace.

The March "When Swing Was King" shows received the usual rave reviews. What a delight our audiences take in the program! We are currently making efforts to increase the number of shows that we do each month, trying to get back to our preferred schedule of 12 or 13.

Our Sunday afternoon church services at Aksarben Village continue to be a wonderful blessing. Sadly, in a ministry such as this, there is always the hard necessity of saying goodbye to dear friends. And these last couple of months have been especially difficult. (The photo shows Ruth Denzler, Isaiah Troutman, and me getting ready to pass around the St. Patrick cookies Claire and I had made.)



On other fronts this past month we helped organize and emcee the Business and Professional People for Life luncheon; dealt with two bad storms of wind and snow; prepared April's "When Swing Was King" show; completed sermon preparations, social media posts, and a lot of personal correspondence; compiled The Top 5 every Saturday; and so on. And coming up in the next few weeks? In addition to our ongoing duties there is the next Vital Signs Book

Brunch on April 12th (Randy Alcorn's classic *Lord Foulgrins's Letters*), our quarterly Board meeting on the 15th, and the Assure Women's Center banquet on the 24th. And, of course, whatever else the Lord throws unexpectedly into our "to do" list. So, until next month's letter, please check in with us on Vital Signs Blog, the website, or our Facebook pages. And know we remain deeply grateful for your prayers, your encouragement, and your financial help.

P.S. The last photo shows the pro-life sign displayed in our front yard as well as examples of others we've ordered and have waiting in the wings. Our plan is to leave one up for 3-4 weeks, take a "sabbatical" of 3-4 weeks, and then put out one of the other ones. What dya' think?