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<https://corps-of-renewal-and-charity.myshopify.com/collections/donation>

October is going to be a memorable month. There are multiple world events over which we have no earthly control... but all events yield to God in prayer. Make this month memorable for the time and zeal you spend in prayer.

Sheryl Collmer, editor

October 1, 2023

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From the cockpit



CORAC founder Charlie Johnston travels from coast to coast in his trusty Outback to speak in person to those now weathering the Storm.

The Plain Path

My favorite Psalm is the 27th. I love the translation from the King James Version particularly. In verse 11 it reads, "Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies."

During my pilgrimage I came to deeply appreciate that line. When you are walking with 70 pounds on your back, going downhill is almost as tiring (and a bit more dangerous) than going uphill. Your legs are tensed on the downhill because they act as constant brakes – and taking a spill is an ever-present danger. Falling with a 70-pound pack is significantly worse than an unladen tumble. I liked the 27th Psalm so much that I formed it into a pilgrimage prayer: "Lead me in a plain path, O Lord, turning neither to the left out of anger. nor to the right out of fear. Lead me in a plain path."

In these crazy times that keep getting crazier, people are tempted by exotic explanations of how we got here. The truth is simple. We got here because we did not faithfully safeguard basic truths about what makes a culture healthy and edifying. In the '70s and early '80s, I was an enthusiastic recruit into the "sexual revolution." What was not to like? To my credit, by my mid-20's, I started thinking that maybe our grandparents were right in the idea of one man and one woman committed to each other for life. Raw lust, unanchored by committed love, is a dangerous, destructive thing.

Yet I never imagined my generation's dysfunction would lead to the blasted landscape of transgenderism and perversion that young folks have to try to navigate today. We have not only destroyed a lot of people's childhoods; now we have expanded to destroying their youth as well. I certainly loudly and publicly deplore it, but a part of my mind remembers that I helped put us on this slippery slope with the now downright innocent-seeming dysfunctions of a couple generations ago. On the one hand I deplore the toxic modern-day dysfunctions that threaten to topple western civilization, and on the other I cry, "Have mercy on me, a poor sinner, Lord," for my contribution to the dysfunctions that started us down this road.

We are also tempted by exotic defenses against the depravity that rises against us. Here, I advocate firmly for the next right step. You can't change where you have been – and you are where you are because of it. But you can change your heading. The only safe, reliable way to do that is with the next right step, always taken with reference to God. There is a reason why the man in the street is not eagerly invited to serve with special forces without extensive and exhaustive training. He has neither the skills nor the instincts to do the job effectively – and if he tried he would most likely get others and himself killed. If things required I go to ground off-grid and live off the land, I could do that – but only because I did it for a year and a half when all was relatively well with our culture. Even then, for the first month and a half it was very scary – because my instincts were not honed for living on the road outdoors.

A crisis will force you to learn unfamiliar skills, but it is a deadly time to try to pretend you already have skills you don't. You have to adapt as you go. Adapting means, in part, acknowledging your failures as quick as you make them and trying a

different way. The modern mania for pretending you are right even after you know you are wrong will get you badly hurt or killed in an extended crisis. You must have some humility – which is just candidly acknowledging your limitations...and the difference between your armchair theories and reality when it asserts itself.

That does not mean you cannot develop new skills now. In fact, you can develop a whole host of them just by delving deeply into the [CORAC website](#), where we have a host of instructional videos and training materials. Even then, understand that a weekend warrior is not a special forces soldier. Experience will grow and fortify your skills if you let it. If you love your preconceived notions so much you consider new and contradictory experience to be its enemy, you won't make it.

The next right step will carry you safely through the wind and waves of the storm around us better than any other doctrine I know. You simply have to walk both humbly and confidently with God. In 1 Corinthians, St. Paul obdures us to put away childish things when we are an adult. One of those childish things is pretending to prowess and knowledge we don't have. We have become very childish in modern times.

Eight months into my pilgrimage, I took a one-month break to help a legislator with a big problem back home (I had promised three officials if they got into a big jam while I was gone, I would give them a month). I was well-known in the Capitol and my "walkabout" had been the talk of the town. Everyone was asking me if it felt weird to be back driving cars, wearing a tie, and negotiating with high officials. It was not. The day I got back, I just seamlessly went to what was already part of my territory of normal life. But there was a difference. The first month and a half I had been on the road, finding new shelter every day, it had been very scary. When I went back on the road, the day I got to it, I was pleased to see that this way of living had now become part of my territory of normal life.

For most of us, after we become about 30, we quit dramatically expanding our territory of normal. Modern events will likely force us to start dramatically expanding it again. God is with us if, acknowledging Him, we commit to the next right step. But we can't expand our territory if we pretend we already know it. Things are getting scarier by the day, no doubt. But God is inviting us to relive the joy of discovery that so animated us when we were young. To be childish is to exaggerate your own prowess and knowledge. To be childlike is to trust God and delight in new discoveries. The way to be childlike without being childish is to firmly commit to taking the next right step under God.

Lead us in a plain path, O Lord.

Charlie Johnston

If communication goes out for any length of time, meet outside your local Church at 9 a.m. on Saturday mornings. Tell friends at Church now, in case you can't then. CORAC teams will be out looking for people to gather in and work with.

A SIGN OF HOPE BLOG

<https://corac.co/newsroom/#c-media-a-sign-of-hope>

God's Plan Begins to Reveal Itself... If You Relax
Are We There Yet?

BRIEF UPDATES – short snippets from Charlie

<https://corac.co/category/charlies-brief/>

Belling the Cat (4 minutes)

It Is the Religion of Ignorance That Tyranny Begins (6 minutes)

BE READY COALITION

BRC is an Catholic online training ground for men and women, young and old, in spiritual, mental and physical readiness. Doug Barry and his family are your trainers, in ways that sync well with the goals of CORAC. Through CORAC's alliance with BRC, you can join "Indomitable" and get an incentive gift from CORAC. Check it out here: <https://corac.co/indomitable/> Doug Barry lives what he teaches, and makes an excellent coach!



News

OCTOBER MILEPOSTS

We are living in a watershed moment in salvation history. October *must* be a month of intense prayer for our Church and our world, for the unborn, the innocent, the vulnerable who fall prey to those with evil intent. Join the 54-day Rosary Novena (elsewhere in this newsletter) beginning on October 7, visit the Blessed Sacrament on as many days of the month as you can manage, answer Mary's request to pray the Rosary every day. We who have the sacraments and know Jesus Christ are standing in the breach.



* St. Teresa was canonized at the same time as Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, and Philip Neri.

Reformers of the Church, pray for us.

THE SYNOD

Apparently some people are calling the upcoming Synod "Vatican III," which is enough to keep me up at night. We haven't even faithfully implemented Vatican II yet, reclaiming the Church from the distortions of those who pirated it for their own agendas. Facts about the upcoming synod:

- Opens Wednesday, October 4
- Closes Sunday, October 29
- 363 voting representatives, including lay people who have an equal vote with the bishops
- 14 American bishops will be included
- 5 of those bishops were elected by their peers: Broglio, Dolan, Barron, Kevin Rhoades, Daniel Flores
- The other 9 bishops were either tapped by the Pope or were included by virtue of their Curial position: Cupich, McElroy, Gregory, Tobin (the "nighty-night, baby" Tobin), Farrell, Etienne, O'Malley, Prevost, Skurla
- Non-episcopal representatives include Fr. James Martin, Fr. Ivan Montelongo, several college students, women religious and other lay people. There are representatives with LGBTQ connections, but no representatives from Traditional Latin Mass communities.

Resources to prepare yourself:

- The Synodal Process Is A Pandora's Box: https://store.tfp.org/search.php?search_query=pandora%27s+box&Search=Print+copy is \$10.95; ebook is free. Excellent resource.
- What You Need To Know About the Synod: <https://www.ncregister.com/cna/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-synod-on-synodality>

SIX ESSENTIAL STATEMENTS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Bishop Strickland has been working his way down a list of the Six Essential Statements of the Catholic Faith, issuing pastoral letters as needed. These are handles to hold onto, as the Synod begins its deliberations.

1. The Catholic Church is guided by truth that God has revealed to humanity through His Son Jesus Christ and the doctrine of the Church protects us from natural errors that arise in human culture. Allowing these errors to go unchecked has devastating consequences for Christian life.
2. Modernism is the term that captures the spectrum of these errors in our present world. Pope Saint Pius X addressed these errors in the early 20th Century in his encyclical *Lamentabili sane* in 1907.
3. The constant vigilance of the Church from her beginnings in the 1st Century and the rigorous conservation of the truth revealed to us by God constitute her fundamental duty to defend and transmit the doctrine of the faith without compromise or any diminishing of their force.
4. The absolute duty of the Church to guard Orthodoxy is expressed in 1 Timothy 6:20 and 2 Timothy 1:14 “Guard the deposit entrusted to you”. St. Paul gives this unequivocal significance in Galatians 1:9 “If anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed”. To fail to fulfill this duty is an absolute betrayal of Christ and His Church.
5. The teachings of the Catholic faith were not invented by the Church, they are a gift divinely revealed and ultimately completed by Jesus Christ Truth Incarnate. The Church receives the treasured truth of the faith and has the grave responsibility of guarding it, witnessing to it, mediating it, and deepening her understanding of it.
6. The joyful responsibility of the Church, the Bride of Christ, is stubbornly, uncompromisingly, and vigorously to conserve the Truth she has received and transmit this Truth, ever ancient, ever new, to every generation. The world has and will label this as intransigent and outdated, but when the world urges an easier, more relevant approach She must respond with Apostolic fervor, we cannot. Acts 4:20 “It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard”.

More from Bishop Strickland here: <https://www.bishopstrickland.com>



THE “AMERICA’S BISHOP” PHENOMENON

Today I met a couple from Pennsylvania who drove for four days to get to Tyler for a Mass with Bishop Strickland presiding. People from other dioceses tithe to Tyler. Lay apostolates in other states who can’t get episcopal support for good projects call Bishop Strickland, and he gives his support, even when it means a tight schedule and wearying travel.

It’s clear the laity are starving for strong, moral leadership. Why in the world are lay apostolates having to go outside their own dioceses to get it? There would be no “America’s Bishop” phenomenon if all the American bishops were pastoring their flocks.

Now the bishops will be waiting to see what happens in the Synod. If it’s as subversive as some fear, a response will be required. Write to the bishops and shore them up. Let them know they have your support in speaking up for the Truth that was handed on to the Apostles.

We must build a united front.



54-DAY ROSARY NOVENA FOR CHURCH & COUNTRY

Bishop Strickland of Tyler Texas has requested the 54-day Rosary novena beginning this Saturday, October 7, to storm heaven for the Church, our country and the world. The novena will coincide with the Synod.

<https://ewtn.co.uk/chpop-texas-bishop-calls-catholics-to-storm-heaven-in-54-day-rosary-novena-starting-oct-7/>

Online instructions for the novena can be found here: <https://everydayprayerco.com/blogs/news/how-to-pray-the-54-day-novena-rosary-pdf-guide>

Or you can order the booklet here: https://www.amazon.com/Rosary-Novenas-Our-Lady-Novena/dp/150286682X/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=54+day+rosary+novena&qid=1696179136&s=books&sr=1-1

Bishop Joseph Strickland and the Diocese of Tyler
invite you to join us in prayer

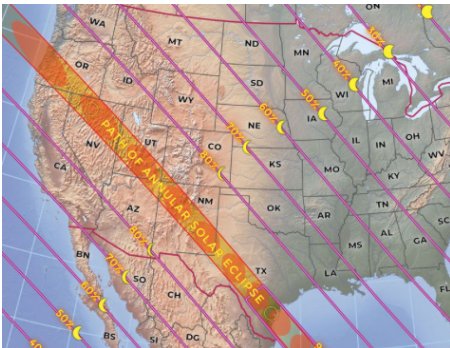
**54 Day
Rosary Novena
Oct. 7 - Nov. 30**

"God is love, and whoever remains in love
remains in God and God in him." 1 John 4:16



RING OF FIRE

The annular eclipse that will occur on October 14 is known as the “ring of fire” because a new moon will be seen in between the earth and sun, darkening only the center of the sun. Visible from 8 American states, from Oregon to Texas, the moon will cover about 90% of the sun along the Path of Annularity. Here in east Texas, we will see about 80% coverage. Check your own location on this map, and get ready to look up on Saturday the 14th. But don’t forget your eclipse glasses, necessary for the protection of your eyes. Order now so you have them in time.



Check this article for times: <https://www.space.com/annular-solar-eclipse-2023-guide-ring-of-fire>



EMERGENCY BROADCAST TEST ON OCTOBER 4

I think this falls in the “better safe than sorry” file. Some people are warning that the EAS signal could react with nanotechnology in the body and cause harm. At the last national test, it was speculated that the government could be somehow backwriting code in our phones (that didn’t happen, as far as I am aware.) It is all speculation, but it’s an easy thing to turn off your phone and electronics for an afternoon. The signal should go out around 2:20 pm Eastern this Wednesday, October 4.

Dr. Lee Merritt, who I have trusted on covid matters, advises that you turn off your phone, tv and other electronics that afternoon. Go for a walk and forget about electronics for a while. See her explanation here:

<https://www.brighteon.com/692b472b-3373-40fe-9782-cfba4a95786f> (5 minutes long)

If you’ve been considering building a Faraday cage, this might be a good motivator to get ‘er done. DIY instructions here: <https://www.askaprepper.com/10-faraday-cages-you-can-make-at-home/>



YES OR NO, HOLY FATHER?

It was made public today that five Cardinals submitted *dubia* to the Pope ahead of the opening of the Synod. The five are Cardinals Raymond Burke, Walter Brandmüller, Robert Sarah, Juan Sandoval Iniguez and Zen Ze-Kiun. (Burke and Brandmüller signed the 2018 *dubia*, which were never answered.) The current *dubia* were sent on July 10, in private, and

received a response from the Pope on the following day. Because they judged the response to be unsatisfactorily vague, the five Cardinals reformulated their request for clarification in a format requiring simple “yes” or “no” answers, and sent it on August 21. No response has been received, so the text of the *dubia* was released to the faithful.

The average age of the five signers is 85, which is a warning klaxon to us, the faithful, that younger prelates must rise up to defend the Church.

The *dubia* asked for clarity on five points:

- Can the Church teach something contrary to what She has previously taught in faith and morals?
- Can a priest bless a same-sex union? And does every sexual act outside marriage constitute a grave sin?
- Can a synod of some selected bishops represent the supreme teaching authority of the Church?
- Does the Church have the authority to ordain women to the priesthood?
- Can a penitent with no intention of amendment receive sacramental absolution?

These are not difficult questions, but they do hold the feet of the Pope and participating bishops to the fire. If they answer in ways contradicting the clear teaching of the Church, they are exposed as betrayers the Deposit of the Faith. The need for prayers for all participants in the Synod is desperate.

Full article here: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/255534/cardinals-send-dubia-to-pope-francis-ahead-of-synod-on-synodality>. This is worth studying, as we must understand what the issues are, and what we may be called to do.



J6 NEWS

Journalist Lara Logan has begun a series, “The Rest of the Story” to chronicle some aspects of the J6 ambush. The first two episodes concern dear **Matthew Perna**, who was tormented to death by Federal authorities. He committed suicide on February 25, 2022, dying of what his loved ones described as a broken heart, a boy who’d never gotten into any trouble at all and who loved his country. Watch: <https://rumble.com/v3hqz4o-lara-logans-rest-of-the-story-docuseries.html>



GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED CHILD TRAFFICKING

The Biden administration is essentially running a child trafficking delivery service, according to Tim Ballard, founder of Operation Underground Railroad. The open Southern border encourages cartel trafficking, which victimizes women and children most of all. Full article and videos of Ballard’s testimony before Congress: <https://thepostmillennial.com/breaking-tim-ballard-tells-congress-biden-admin-has-become-a-child-trafficking-delivery-service>

Meanwhile, the American Catholic bishops mounted opposition earlier this year to the Secure the Border Act of 2023, thus aiding the cartels, whether by naivete or malice. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2023/05/08/u-s-bishops-condemn-secure-the-border-act-of-2023/>

The act which passed the House in May as HR 2, calls for resumed construction of the border wall, tightened asylum standards, criminalization of visa overstays, increased number of Border Patrol Agents, defunding of organizations receiving tax dollars to traffic illegal aliens throughout the heartland, prohibition of Homeland Security using an app to assist illegal aliens, and more. The companion bill awaits passage in the Senate.

This clock ticks up about every 8 seconds, day and night.

Illegal Border
Crossings Today: **3582**

(10:30 am)



AT LEAST 1 IN 10

Like so many other stories that were originally dismissed as “conspiracy theory,” the idea that the government is populated, in large part, by pedophiles and Satanists is gaining awareness. It’s “fringe” when less than 1% of the people believe it, but 10% is somewhere in the tens of millions of people who say the government is in the hands of Satanic pedophiles.

<https://thenationalpulse.com/2023/06/09/at-least-1-in-10-americans-say-satanic-pedophiles-run-the-government/>



Members of the Biden administration... but I'm sure it's just a conspiracy theory.



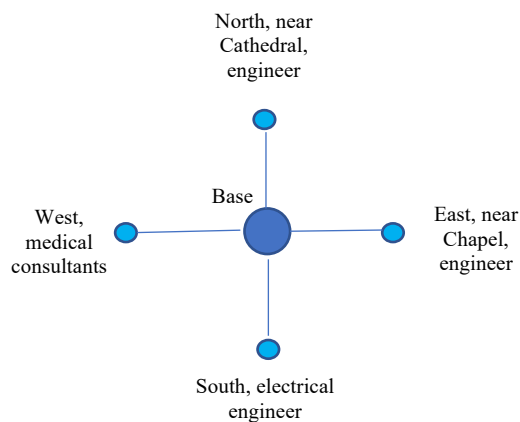
THE RADIO PROJECT

I'm a radio dunce; missing gene or something. For this reason, I've decided to chronicle my process to set up a GMRS radio network for CORAC members in Tyler. My expert advisers include Paul Allred in Dallas, Stuart Bottom in Oregon, and the rest of the Signal CORAC Comms Helpline participants who are so generous with their expertise.

If *I* can do it, *anyone* can do it. So this series can serve as a blueprint for others who feel inadequate in the radio arena. I'll make the mistakes so you don't have to.

First step: envision your network. Our plan is to use GMRS handhelds to connect members in designated parts of the city with a central base station located at my house, which happens to be on a slight elevation. It is designed like spokes in a wheel: my house is the hub, and members north, south, east and west will have GMRS handhelds. The handhelds are battery operated, and the base station at my house will have backup power. We happen to have engineers who live at propitious locations, plus a doctor and nurse practitioner on one spoke. That means critical troubleshooters in the basic design.

Basic Plan of CROSSNET



Stay tuned, so to speak. More details to come, as we test our equipment and design protocols.

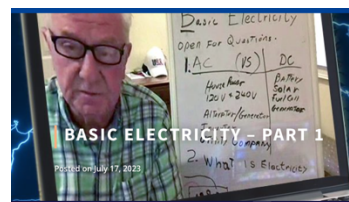
Meanwhile, let's all take the Basic Electricity course on the CORAC website to get ready.

Basic Electricity, part 1: <https://corac.co/2023/07/17/basic-electricity-part-1/>

Basic Electricity, part 2: <https://corac.co/2023/07/18/basic-electricity-part-2/>

as well as familiarizing ourselves with GMRS comms:

<https://corac.co/2022/10/09/how-to-create-an-emergency-plan-using-gmrs-radios/>



IN THE THEATER

Mother Teresa and Me: a story of two vocations, one that of a privileged Indian woman who finds herself with child, and the other that of a young Mother Teresa. Opens **this week** Thursday, October 5. <https://www.mother-teresa-and-me.film>

CORAC NATIONAL TEAMS

Is everyone familiar with the structure of CORAC's national teams? We have teams for:

- Health & Wellness
- Communications
- Sustainable Living
- Prayer
- Education

These teams include experts and interested parties from across the country, and now, around the world. I am fairly confident that the collected knowledge of these people can answer any question in their area of expertise, and they do not quit until they have. We don't have to rely on just a few people; we have whole communities with decades of experience. Questions are discussed on various Signal threads, and when there is consensus, the teams put it up on the website for everyone's edification.

If you have a question, submit it to your regional rep or regional coordinator, who will refer it to the pertinent national team. You can also join the open discussion on the CORAC General Discussion thread on Signal. Download the Signal app and register your account. Then search "CORAC General Discussion" and request to be added.

FORAGING BOOK

The national Health & Wellness team has put together a marvelous book about foraging, in addition to a video series. Foraging successfully will build your confidence, as you discover all the treasure of nutrition and healing that God has built into the world around us. If you can forage, you will not be so subject to fear about supply chain issues and inflated prices. But it takes practice and knowledge. Start with this beautiful booklet: <https://corac.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/hw-foraging-class1.pdf>

The accompanying video series is here: <https://corac.co/category/specialty-teams/health-and-wellness/foraging-herbal-medicine-wild-foods/>



EAT WEEDS (NOT BUGS)

Purslane is easy to grow in most areas, tasty to eat, and has multiple medicinal uses. Many consider it a weed, which implies it is useless and pesky, which is far from the truth. The leaves are full of antioxidants and vitamins, and are pleasant to the taste. You can eat them fresh in a salad or sandwich, or pickle them. It may have use in treating diabetes and asthma, and can be used topically as an anti-inflammatory.

<https://gardenerspath.com/plants/herbs/grow-purslane/>

As with all new remedies or wild foods, confirm the plant's identification before ingesting. Try a small amount first to make sure you don't have a reaction. Follow the rules set out on page 7 of the CORAC foraging booklet <https://corac.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/hw-foraging-class1.pdf>

- Skin test
- Tiny taste test
- Bigger taste test
- Eat a small amount, and wait 8 hours



SURVIVAL GREASE

Every garage has a can of WD-40 somewhere. Dust it off, and see what inventive uses you can make of it: insect repellant, stain remover, fire starter, waterproofer and more.

https://www.askaprepper.com/15-shit-for-wd-40/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=AAP



Immediate Action

USE CASH

Pay for everything in cash only.

ADORE JESUS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEv6oBxB7s4>

FIND LOCAL FOOD SOURCES

<https://www.localharvest.org>

CORAC Website

There's a new resource on our website called **The Conversation**. This is a posting of particular topics that crop up among the specialty teams. Check out this page to see what's being discussed: <https://corac.co/the-conversation/>

Health & Wellness <https://corac.co/health-and-wellness-teams/>

Sustainable Living <https://corac.co/sustainable-living-teams/>

Communications <https://corac.co/communications-teams/>

Education <https://corac.co/education-team/>

Crisis Scenarios <https://corac.co/crisis-scenarios-team/>

Prayer <https://corac.co/category/prayer-teams/>

Prayer

OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTIONS

*That CORAC members experience the divine efficacy of The Brazen Serpent Prayer and related prayers: "Come, Lord Jesus, purify this food and drink and all I consume in any way. Let it lead me to strength, to apostolate, and to take the next right step; at all times, in all places, and in all situations <https://corac.co/2022/04/11/the-brazen-serpent-prayer-2/>

*For a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our lives as we strive to live the Gospel and be a sign of hope to others

*For CORAC courage, discernment, protection, and grace as our members encounter "many dangers, toils, and snares" in these days

*For fruitful ideas and actions as CORAC members continue to Go Forth, joining together with people of other churches to do good deeds for people in their local communities

*As always, that CORAC members volunteering for all of our committees in all of our regions receive the gifts of creativity, good humor, resilience, camaraderie, and unexpected joy of spirit as we serve the Lord in these days

*That existing and new CORAC members may strongly desire and find the means to participate in financial support for our vital ministries

*For all intentions carried in the hearts of CORAC members and those posted on the CORAC Prayer Hotline, with gratitude for prayers answered in our daily lives

St. Gabriel, enlighten us.

St. Michael, defend us.

St. Raphael, protect us.

Ave Maria, Stella Maris!



PRAYER HOTLINE

Email prayer requests to the CORAC Prayer Hotline at prayerteams@coracusa.com, and we will post your request (using first names only) on the CORAC Prayer Hotline Signal group.