

From the desk of...Pastor Steve Sjogren

It is an amazing challenge for anyone to convey a biblically based message regarding politics. We aspire to speak the truth, yet not convey the signal of endorsing a given political party. To be true to God's Word without making the Gospel sound like a campaign slogan is difficult for anyone of faith involved in the political scene. God's wisdom is needed to walk out the razor's edge of being relevant and life giving, yet not coming across in the "sound bite" culture of today as the caricature of a cowboy hat televangelist on retainer to a political cause.

I have known and respected Phil Heimlich for many years. More than anyone I know he seems to have figured out this fine balance here. Here is a brief [video about Phil](#). Phil is a Messianic Jew, son of Dr. Henry Heimlich - inventor of the "Heimlich Maneuver" - and grandson of famous dancers, Arthur and Kathryn Murray. Phil has an extensive background in public service – he was an assistant prosecutor; then served eight years on Cincinnati City Council and four years as county commissioner. He has also been a candidate for Congress.

Phil has spoken extensively at Mayors' Prayer Breakfasts in many cities throughout the country. He presents a compelling story of a driven individual from a well-known family, who went to the finest schools and held prominent public positions, but missed out on peace until he met Christ. Here is his [testimony at the Greater St. Louis Prayer Breakfast](#).

Phil has started something unique that is worth celebrating! He has a radio show in which he applies biblical principles to politics and today's issues. It is called Hard Truths and appears on the Salem Radio Network (www.heimlichhardtruths.com). He believes that sharing "hard truths" means confronting in a loving manner, as the Old Testament prophets and Jesus did.

His new venture includes him speaking at churches, conferences, retreats on the topic of politics, the scriptures and the convergence of life in times like these. He handles these difficult issues in a sensitive and brilliant manner.

If you know me a bit, you are aware I am not a promoter type in the least. In fact, I have never written an email or letter such as this before. When I became aware of this new direction in Phil's life, I insisted upon helping in introducing him to whomever I can at this vitally important time in American history where, as Dylan wrote, "Times, they are a changing."

If you have any questions of me regarding Phil, don't hesitate to contact me directly at Steve@kindness.com.

The best is yet to come,
Steve Sjogren