



The DOULOS

Doulos: Greek n. "servant"



Newsletter of the Dillsburg Brethren In Christ Church

January 2017

"Lessons from the school of prayer"

By Pastor Rob Douglass

"Lord, teach us to pray..." - Luke 11:1

A hundred years ago this month, the Dutch Reformed pastor and author Andrew Murray died. One of his best-known books is *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. I would like to share a story with you about a time when I was in the school of prayer.

In 2007 we were building a new house in Ashland, Ohio. We had an offer on our former house within four days of the sign going in the yard. While we were rejoicing that the house sold so quickly, it also meant that we would have to be out of the house before construction on our new house was complete.

For the next several months we lived in the only apartment that we could find that did not require us to sign a lease, but this meant that our dog, Weston, would have to live somewhere else.

Weston moved to Pennsylvania with my gracious in-laws in October. We did not see him again until we came back for Thanksgiving. At the end of the weekend, we had to go back to Ohio. We were sad to leave him behind again, but we knew he was in good hands.

Apparently, the distance was more than Weston could bear. On Tuesday, my father-in-law called to say that the dog ran away on Monday evening and that he and my mother-in-law had been up all night trying to find him. They were tired and grieving because they felt responsible for the loss of their grandkids' beloved pet. I tried to reassure them that it would be okay and encourage them to get some rest.

I knew that the likelihood of the dog coming back to their house in a normal situation was not good. Someone could have found the dog, or

the dog could have been hit by a car. Our situation made the odds even less promising. The way he got away from my in-laws meant that he



was without his collar. There was nothing that could identify him or us. If that were not enough, there had been freezing rain and snow since we left Pennsylvania on Sunday, and this was the beginning of deer season. Family members had also encountered several animals on the farm that would have enjoyed having Weston for a meal if given the chance.

There was no doubt in my mind that we would never see the dog again. The only question was, How should I break the news to my kids?

I decided that I would tell them when they got home from school and then we would pray.

Now in order to fully appreciate the rest of the story, you need to understand that at this point, I am a seminary professor teaching a class on prayer that all pastoral ministry students have to take.

So, as my kids come into the apartment from school, I try to utilize my years of pastoral care experience and my knowledge of prayer as a seminary professor and lead them in prayer.

My prayer was twofold. I prayed that God would either allow Weston to be found by a family who would love him as much as we do or that God would return him to us. My prayer

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Our Pastoral Staff

Rev. John Reitz
Interim Pastor



Nathan Stonge
Pastor for Worship &
Communication Arts



Jeff Conrady
Pastor for Youth

**Dillsburg Brethren in Christ**

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or place them in Carolyn's church
mailbox by **January 8th**.

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with my kids had two options, neither of which were even remote possibilities. I knew in the core of my being that we would never see that dog again. This was confirmed for me as time passed.

Despite the futility, my in-laws did everything they could. They put up posters all over town. They had the story running on the local radio station. I don't know how many times they jumped in the car to chase down leads when someone called who saw a dog that might have been Weston.

After nearly two weeks, the call came.

Apparently, on the night Weston got away he made it as far as the gas station where we filled up our car for our trip back to Ohio. Since it was cold and freezing rain, someone at the gas station was able to coax him into their car and took him home.

The family immediately fell in love with Weston. Even though they saw the posters within a day or so, it took the father almost two weeks to feel guilty enough about keeping Weston to make the call. He even offered my father-in-law money to let them keep the dog.

I was being schooled. I was a pastor and a seminary professor, an "expert" in prayer. I prayed a prayer that I did not mean, that I had no faith could be answered. I prayed a prayer that had two options that were mutually exclusive (either he is found by a family that loves him or we get him back).

It was almost like God was saying, "Okay Dr. Expert, stand back and prepare to be amazed. I know you did not mean your prayer. I know that in your mind if one of the things you prayed about happened, the other could not. Sit down and watch. I have no limits. I am not hindered by your lack of belief or by the odds of something happening. I am not even confined by mutually exclusive options. Your dog has been found by a family that loves him as much as you do, AND you are getting him back!"

This all happened sixty-three dog years ago. Our beloved Weston is still with us. He is much older and slower than he was back then, but his presence is a constant reminder of the amazing God we serve.

I clearly have so much to learn, but it is good to be with Christ in the school of prayer.





*We give thanks for the tens of thousands of people who financially and prayerfully support SIM missionaries, ministries and projects. We ask our Father to multiply your sacrifice and use your participation in God's kingdom work to challenge and encourage those around you. Thanks for your support of Matt and Julie Walsh.

Bruce Johnson, President, SIM USA

*God is on the move and you are an integral part of his plan! In the last year, Forgotten Voices has partnered with nearly 100 churches in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi. These partnerships are helping provide physical, educational, spiritual and psychological support for about 5,000 children.

By 2020, we plan to partner with 250 churches, through which we will offer services to 10,000 children. Your donation will help meet those goals by helping pastors in Africa lift the heavy loads they carry. We are so grateful that you have joined in our mission to innovate orphan care through the local church in Africa. Thank you so much for your recent donation.

Audrey Eisenberg, Director of Engagement and Operations, Forgotten Voices

"There is something different about you guys." Those are the words of one young man who previously felt completely jaded toward Christian faith. A bad experience in his past had scarred his spirit and heart. But since playing basketball with a group of young men through Push the Rock's Harrisburg ministry, he opened his ears, eyes and heart toward the Gospel. Your investment in Push the Rock makes opportunities – which are really about letting men and women trust Christ for life – like this possible. Thank you!

David P. Walton, President, Push the Rock



SECRETS REVEALED!

Join us Tuesday, Jan. 10 for the annual Ladies' Secret Pal Party at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

What is the Secret Pal Program? It's for all post-high school ladies of the church. It provides an opportunity for ladies to make new and lasting friendships.

How does it work? We gather once a year to PARTY!!!! Really, it consists of praying daily for your Secret Pal; a \$5 gift on her birthday (suggestions given); a \$10 gift at the end of the year party (suggestions given) and participation in the end of the year party.

Regardless if you have a pal now, would like a pal for 2017, or simply would like to get out of the house, this is the party for you! You have received your personalized invitation. If you haven't RSVP'd, please do so by Jan. 4. For more information, see Nina Hoover or Sue Lawver.

Leadership Council Report

By Steven Miller

At Leadership Council's November meeting we:

- Modified the Personnel Manual section on health insurance and appointed a team to review the holiday and vacation policies.
- Discussed the 2017 budget and allocations for Ministry Council.
- Reviewed the congregational input for Elder, Stewardship Director, and delegate nominees and selected individuals to be asked to fill the positions.
- Made preliminary plans for Pastor Rob to visit with ministry leaders in April, as well as join Congregational Council in February.

Stop Traffic

By Marj Strayer

A very big THANK YOU to all who donated Christmas gifts to the Peace Promise outreach to adult clubs in Harrisburg. The girls who work in these clubs were so surprised by the outpouring of love from our church and churches and organizations like ours who believe in this work of the Lord.

As stated before, some of these girls would not have any other gifts this Christmas. I believe Jesus would say to us, "Well done, my good and faithful servants."

We have another opportunity to support Peace Promise in the coming month. January is Human Trafficking Awareness month. Each year, Peace Promise has organized **Eat for Freedom** to raise awareness of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. This event involves going out to eat at a restaurant and showing a flyer that allows a certain percentage of the cost of your meal to go to Peace Promise as a donation. These donations will be used in their outreach to the many women who are trapped and exploited in the sex industry.

This year the Mechanicsburg Hoss's and a few other restaurants to be announced later, will be participating in this event. Let's gather as many of our family and friends together as we can and go have a great time over lunch or dinner in support of a very worthy cause **on Sunday, January 29**. The flyers, provided by Peace Promise, will be available prior to the event.

If you have any questions or would like more information on Peace Promise, please feel free to contact Marj Strayer at strayered@aol.com or call 432-4240.



The Book Nook

By Harriet Conrady

This month we have added four extraordinary books; books that can enrich your lives. Please don't miss them, especially the story of an orthopedic surgeon who drowned, saw heaven, communicated with angels, and felt a deep sense of sadness when she realized this was not yet her time. Following are the brief reviews of the books added to our library this month.

FICTION

- ***In the Field of Grace***, by Tessa Afshar. Many of you have spoken appreciation of author Afshar's books of biblical fiction. The story of Ruth will come alive for you as you read how she leaves her people in Moab and follows her beloved Hebrew mother-in-law back to Naomi's home in Israel. With a willing heart and a strong back, Ruth gathers grain in a field abandoned after the harvest. The author clearly portrays how Boaz becomes a kinsman-redeemer.
- ***The Cottage***, by Michael Phillips. Last month I listed Phillips' first novel in the *Secrets of the Shetlands*, *The Inheritance*. This is Book 2 of that series. Phillips and his wife spend time each year in Scotland and have made it the setting of several books. When Loni Ford is informed that she has inherited property in the Shetland Islands of Scotland, she laughs. She wants to sell it and be done with it. She is quite surprised to find that "The Cottage" is not at all what she expected.
- ***Precious and Grace***, by Alexander McCall Smith. Many of you will be coming to the library to get in line for this new book, No. 17, in the *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series*. You will again meet Precious Ramotswe, the traditionally-built owner of the detective agency, and Grace Makutsi who has been promoted to co-director. The setting for the series is the country of Botswana. Mma Ramotswe dispenses help with graciousness and warmth, and with surprising insights into paths of forgiveness and new beginnings. Author Smith was born in Zimbabwe and was a law professor at the University of Botswana. He now lives in Scotland.

NONFICTION

- ***To Heaven and Back: A Doctor's Extraordinary Account of Her Death, Heaven, Angels, and Life Again***, by Mary C. Neal, M.D. In 1999, Dr. Mary Neal, an orthopedic surgeon, drowned in Chile and died. The book is a remarkable true story of her spiritual journey of dying and going to heaven and coming back. Her captivating story of this modern-day miracle of heaven can enrich our faith in Christ and our walk with God.

See you in the library!



THE QUIZ BOX

By Mel Brough

On Saturday, December 3, the quiz team was at Grantham BIC for a practice tournament. Only three teams (Dillsburg, Grantham and the Meeting House (Carlisle) were quizzing. It's possible the two teams (Elizabethtown and Souderton) might join us for future practice tournaments. It was a great morning of quizzing.

Our next quizzing event will be the mixer tournament and games with teams from the Allegheny and Atlantic conferences on **Saturday, January 7 at Meeting House - Carlisle**. We will be quizzing on Luke Chapters 1-10.

Please mark your calendars with these important dates.

Saturday, Feb 4 – practice tournament at Dillsburg BIC – 9 a.m. - noon.

Saturday, March 4 – practice tournament at Grantham ??? – 9 a.m. - noon

Saturday, April 8 – Allegheny Open Tournament at Meeting House-Carlisle – All day

Saturday, May 6 – Charlie Crider Memorial Tournament at E-Town BIC – All day

Saturday, May 20 – Regional Conference finals at Dillsburg BIC – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Weekend of June 23 – Denominational Finals at Bongiorno Conference Center in Carlisle

Verse of the month: Luke 7:22 – “So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and **report** to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.”

Both the Allegheny and Atlantic conferences are looking for a conference quiz director. Please join me in prayer for these positions to be filled quickly.

A great way to financially support the quizzing ministry at Dillsburg is to purchase Giant gift cards. Please see Avis Whitesel to purchase gift cards or if you have any questions.

To be eligible to quiz, you must be between the ages of 12 and 19 sometime during the quizzing year, which is defined as beginning Nov. 1 and running through Oct. 31. Quizzing provides an opportunity to study God's Word, fellowship with other youth, participate on a team, and experience positive competition.

If you have any questions about quizzing, please contact one of us:

Mel Brough	432-4864	mabrough58@gmail.com
Brent Whitesel	432-9048	btw10@comcast.net



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jason & Dulci Brubaker
Nathan & Brandie Stonge

January 4
January 13



Naomi Smith
Beth Beachy
Liam Wingert
Sierra Storm
Terry Stoudnour
Ron Rudy
Scott Eyster
Vern Martin
Jeff Conrady
David Vader

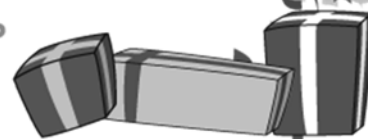
January 1
January 4
January 6
January 7
January 9
January 10
January 13
January 13
January 14
January 15

Marian Hoover
Jeremy Rank
Stephanie Walsh
Dave Miller
Steven Miller
Claire Reitnour
Rachel Miller
Sarah Hoover
Mary Faulhaber
Joe Savadge

January 18
January 20
January 23
January 26
January 26
January 27
January 27
January 29
January 29
January 31



Happy Birthday!



January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:15 a.m. Worship	2	3	4 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 p.m. Thrive 6:30 Kids' Club	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Classes 10:15 a.m. Worship DOULOS Deadline	9 7:00 p.m. Human Trafficking Mtg. (Strayers')	10 6:00 p.m. Secret Pals Dinner	11 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 p.m. Thrive 6:30 Kids' Club	12	13	14
15 9:00 a.m. Classes 10:15 a.m. Worship	16	17	18 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 p.m. Thrive 6:30 Kids' Club	19	20	21
Family Promise						
22 9:00 a.m. Classes 10:15 a.m. Worship Family Promise	23	24	25 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 p.m. Thrive 6:30 Kids' Club	26	27	28
29 9:00 a.m. Classes 10:15 a.m. Worship	30	31				