



Honoring My "Old Mothers"

By Esther Spurrier

When we first went to Zambia in 1975, I was a 26-year-old wife and mother. I had a lot to learn and the learning curve was steep. I had barely learned what it meant to be a wife and mother in American society.

Now I was entering an African society whose values and cultural practices were very different. I was living in a rural area, 40 miles from the nearest town. The first time I ordered a chicken and it came to me live, I had no idea what to do (when I wrote this in a letter to my folks, my father was very chagrined that he had not taught me such necessary skills). How does one keep house and feed one's family in this place? And beyond that, how does a young wife and mother act in social situations? What kinds of clothing should I wear—and what should I avoid wearing at all costs? When does one talk and when does one keep silent? When should I initiate greeting someone and when should I wait for them to greet first? When should I sit on a chair or stool offered to me and when should I join the rest of the women on the ground on a grass mat? I remember so often just feeling like a dumb kid! And so I am very grateful for the older women of the Macha community who took time and effort to teach me.

Very early in our time, we were asked by our hospital evangelist to go along to one of the many weekend multi-church Bible conferences. This meant camping in the bush for two nights. I remember the evangelist's wife, Bina Shelly (women are generally known by the name of their oldest child—so this means "mother of Shelly"), patiently showing me which pieces of wood lying around were good for a cooking fire and which were just rubbish. She was a good-humored teacher of cooking over an open fire—how to borrow sticks or coals from someone else's fire to start a new fire, when you wanted it burning hot and when you pulled most of the fire away to "turn the knob to simmer."

Sarah Mwaanga probably had the greatest influence on me. She came to me in 1977 looking for housekeeping work. She had left an increasingly difficult marriage situation in the city and returned to her rural roots at Macha (she is a granddaughter of one of the first Zambian evangelists). But she needed a job to sustain her and her old grandmother with whom she was living. Bina Moono was a wonderful cook and housekeeper. She was twelve years older than I,

old enough to feel comfortable teaching me things and to be a mentor even when she didn't know that was happening. She became my language instructor and could model for me and even correct me (with a chuckle and a sigh) in social situations. She helped me to memorize Scripture passages in Tonga, to compose appropriate prayers and testimonies. For years I walked up the hill to Monday evening prayers in her village—under the stars around an open fire. When I started to venture beyond the wife-and-mother job description, she was a huge help to me as I taught Theological Education by Extension (Bible school in the village). We studied the lessons together, and she went to the class sessions with me, helping me out with language translation when I got stuck. And she had no hesitation about asking (commandeering?) boys for help one afternoon when our vehicle got stuck in the mud four times on our way home!

Emma Moyo was another of my "old Macha mothers." She had been unexpectedly and tragically widowed shortly before we arrived at Macha. Her husband had been a strong, capable and faithful churchman—perhaps he would have become the first Zambian bishop of the church. But he had died of an asthma attack before he could get to the hospital. Bina Jay was left with seven children, the youngest a set of twins not yet in school. Understanding that she needed a way to provide for her young family,



Esther and Sarah Mwaanga

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

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administration at the hospital offered her the job of matron of the nursing school—being a mother to all the nursing students. A regular at community and church events, she was a wonderful model of Christian womanhood. Gracious and beautiful even as she aged, she taught us younger women with both compassion and concern. She sang a strong bass in the women's choir, and she sang with her family both at home and at church. One of my most powerful examples of faith in crisis happened with the death of her youngest daughter. As her sisters and the deaconesses prayed in the bedroom over the body of the deceased, we in the candle-lit sitting room joined Bina Jay and the grandchildren in singing a Tonga version of "How Great Thou Art," a hymn that had long ago become their family song.

Addie Mweetwa and her husband Frey were forces to be reckoned with in the church. They both carried leadership responsibilities, both formal and informal, and their opinions were sought and followed. A large and imposing woman, Bina Flo also had a heart that was tender and full of compassion and concern. I well remember one Saturday afternoon when we Macha women were gathered for church cleaning, Bible study and prayers. It was during the terrible years of the AIDS crisis when no treatment was yet available for those who had the virus—sickness and death were ever-present in our community. There had been 17 deaths already in Bina Flo's extended family. This afternoon, preempting the planned Bible study, she urged us to get on our knees and pray for our children and grandchildren that God would spare them from this affliction. It was a precious time of pouring our hearts out to the Lord. My Macha mothers taught me to pray.

I can't remember when I first met Esther Mwaanga. She lived three to four miles from the hospital. Though she walked with a limp, she was one of the most faithful of hospital visitors. I soon learned that Bina Ezra was also evangelist and church-planter without portfolio. Entirely on her own initiative she often visited a neighboring village where there was no church, gathered together a group of people and had a church service with them. After such a group was somewhat established, she would begin pestering a pastor from somewhere not too far away to visit, preach and teach this group until their own pastor could be assigned. She had known sorrow and hardship in her own life, but she did not focus on those things. As she grew older and increasingly unable to walk, Elaine Thuma and I used to ride our bicycles to visit her on a regular basis. We learned much from her about the virtues of courage, persistence and joy.

Many of you remember my biological mother, Ruth Dourte. She was a wonderful woman, and I learned much from her, consciously and unconsciously. As Mother's Day approaches and I am on the other side of the pond from my old Macha mothers, I find myself so thankful for these women, who continued and expanded my education into womanhood. *Twalumba kapati, no-Bamaama*.



*Did you know you can download and listen to past
sermons on our website?
<http://www.dillsburgbic.org/media>*



VBS is Coming Soon!

June 18-22 from 6-8 PM

We need your help!

You could be a Tribe Leader, Shop Keeper, Decorator, Greeter, Prayer Warrior or work in the food court.

Sign up on the Volunteer List in the foyer or call/text
Jaylene Shannon (717-756-5243) or Emily Sowers (973-459-8650).

Leadership Council Report

By Avis Whitesel

During our March Leadership Council meeting, we worked on final plans for the March 18 congregational council, and we approved using Universal Christian Studio to do an updated directory.

We spent time talking about a preliminary design for a possible expansion project. We also discussed the possible priorities for the basement update.

The full minutes of the Leadership Council meeting are located on the bulletin board in the lobby.

If you would like additional information or to follow up on any items, please contact a Leadership Council member:
Mike Beachy, Clarence Brubaker, Pastor Rob Douglass, Phil Engle, Christie Gustafson, Gary Lebo or Avis Whitesel.

SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES

SERIES: A MONTH OF REMEMBERING

- | | |
|--------|---|
| MAY 6 | THE POWER OF REMEMBERING
JOSHUA 4: 1-9 |
| MAY 13 | REMEMBERING MOTHER: MOTHER TERESA AND OTHER GUIDES AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE JOURNEY
HEBREWS 12: 1-2 |
| MAY 20 | REMEMBER FOR THE LONG HAUL: A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE ROAD HOME
LAMENTATIONS 3: 19-24 |
| MAY 27 | REMEMBER THE COST: THE END OF THIS JOURNEY
HEBREWS 12: 3 |

~ STOP TRAFFIC ~

By Marj Strayer

We have two opportunities coming up to support Peace Promise and Change Purse.

Spring is finally here and with the change of seasons comes thoughts of new clothes for some of us. If you are planning on replacing some of your old, gently used purses with this year's newer models, please consider donating them to Change Purse. This is an organization that resells gently used purses and gives 100 percent of their sales to organizations such as Peace Promise and others that fight sexual exploitation, including human trafficking. It is as easy as placing your old purses into the basket located in the lobby.



The other opportunity, which is in the works, is the opportunity to volunteer to work a four- hour shift at Paulus' Orchard, which will then make a donation of \$60 to Peace Promise. There will be more than one event when this is possible. I will have more details coming.

Thank you for considering these ways that you may help in the fight against human trafficking!



MAY EAT 'N RUN MENUS

Anne-Marie Brandt and Sarah Hoover are co-leading and looking for assistance in setup, meal prep, serving and clean up.

Serving time is 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to allow reset time before the rest of the evening's activities. Helpers will eat together at 4:30 p.m.

The meal is free and open to the community.

MAY 2, 2018

MEXICAN RICE BOWLS STUFFED WITH
CHICKEN OR BEEF, RICE, BEANS
FRESH VEGGIES
FRESH FRUIT
ECLAIR CAKE

MAY 9, 2018

SLOPPY JOE SANDWICHES
POTATO CHIPS
FRESH VEGGIES
FRESH FRUIT
JELL-O POKE CAKE



*I want you to know how much I **appreciate the oil change you sponsored** at Happy Cars Automotive. It was a real blessing. I was way overdue on the oil change for my car. Thanks again and may God bless you.
Patricia Hicks

*It is because of the generosity of donors like you that we may continue to go where the Lord leads. **Thank you for your specific role in helping us care for those** who need it most.
David P. Walton, President, Push the Rock

*On behalf of Luz, Alegria y Esperanza, I **thank you for your quarterly offerings in support of our ministry** last year. We saw several decisions for Christ this past year, with two baptisms and four new members. Our church plant in Mechanicsburg (started May 2016) has around 20 people attending regularly. In February 2018, we started Spanish Bible studies with Pastor Fernando Bedon under Pathway BIC in York. We could not continue without support like yours!
Pastor Mike Holland, Luz, Alegria y Esperanza (Church)

***Thanks for your support** of Matt and Julie Walsh. You are part of something exciting! You are critical to our mission . . . and I never underestimate the completeness of our Father's full-circle plan to use all of us in this work—His work.
Bruce Johnson, President, SIM USA

***Thank you for your recent gift** to Messiah College Collaboratory Operations. We continue to be grateful for your investment in Messiah College as an educational community profoundly committed to worshipping, loving and serving God.
Jon C. Stuckey, Director of Development, Messiah College

***Thank you for being part of the work** of Paxton Ministries. Together we can offer hope with Christ-like love to our neighbors in need.
Jodie Smiley, Executive Director, Paxton Ministries

*You are a fantastic blessing to us! **Thank you for sharing your gifts** with your neighbors in need!
Eric Saunders, Executive Director, New Hope Ministries

*We were **overwhelmed by your recent generous donation**. It is in these donations that Family Promise is able to continue to provide support, resources and respond to the many needs of families within our community experiencing homelessness.
Lisette M. Gonzalez, Executive Director, Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region



the Book Nook

by Harriet Conrady



Listed below are the new books recently added to our library collection. You will find the new books on the cart (made by Eber Dourte) just inside the library entrance.

NONFICTION

- ***The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi***, by Kathie Lee Gifford. Have you heard any of the televised accounts of Kathie Lee's tributes of Billy Graham? They were very moving and very meaningful. She has just released this book. With her family, she recently traveled to Israel and writes of how she was blessed by newly experiencing the Rock (Jesus), the Road (the Holy Land) and the Rabbi (the Word of God).
- ***The Write Vision: Building a Nation of Faith through Mainstream Media***, by Carolyn Kimmel. Carolyn writes a tribute to Jim Russell who initiated the Amy Writing Awards named after his daughter. The awards are for those who could place faith-based writing that appears in the secular press. You could learn more about Carolyn Kimmel's involvement in the Amy Writing Awards on page 127 in the author's "Afterword."

FICTION

- ***Isaiah's Daughter***, by Mesu Andrews. Ishma enters the prophet Isaiah's home as a household servant. Her quick mind and lively spirit gain the friendship of Prince Hezekiah. When Isaiah sees their relationship mature, he adopts Ishma, giving her a royal pedigree and a new name – Hephzibah, which means "delight of the Lord" – and the servant girl becomes Judah's queen.
- ***Under a Cloudless Sky***, by Chris Fabry. In the mining town of Beulah Mountain, West Virginia, two young girls form an unbreakable bond. Coal dust and old hymns fill their lungs and hearts. Despite the opposing forces of their fathers, one a mine owner and the other a disgruntled miner, the two girls thrive under the tender care of Bean's mama, unaware of the coming tragedy that will tear them apart. A decade-old secret will change everything for these people and their town. At some place during the reading of this book, you will be singing:

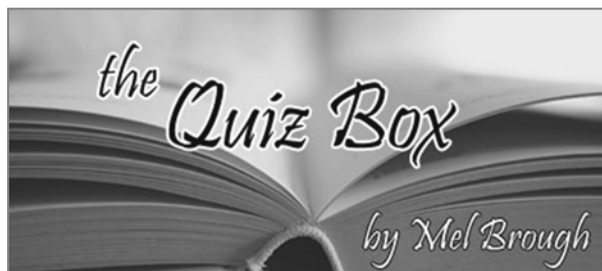
*"I'm living on the mountain, underneath a cloudless sky,
I'm drinking at the fountain that never shall run dry;
Oh yes, I'm feasting on the manna from a bountiful supply,
For I am dwelling in Beulah Land."*

FOR CHILDREN

- ***When God Made You***, by Matthew Paul Turner and illustrated by David Catrow. Children need assurance that they are deeply loved. This book will help them understand that they are deeply loved and will encourage them to spread their wings and fly.
- ***When God Made Light***, by Matthew Paul Turner and illustrated by David Catrow. "In the beginning space became bright, 'cause God filled it with twinkles of yellowy white. And all that light – every bright golden hue – is the very same light that God put inside you."



See you in the library!



On Saturday, April 14, the quiz team traveled to New Hope church for the Allegheny Open Tournament. There were eight teams, so we quizzed each team one time before lunch. After lunch, we entered the double elimination round. We lost in the final quiz to Nappanee. Tyler Whitesel was second top quizzier and Ryan Brubaker was fifth top quizzier.



Allegheny Open Top Varsity Quizzers



Allegheny Open Second Place Quizzers

The Charlie Crider Memorial Bible Quizzing Tournament will be **Saturday, May 5 at Elizabethtown BIC church**. This will be an all-day event. We will be quizzing on 1 Corinthians Chapters 1-16 and 2 Corinthians chapters 1-11.

Please mark your calendars with this important date:

Friday, July 13 – Monday, July 16 – Denominational Finals at Messiah College

NOTE: Susquehanna Regional Conference finals will not be held this year since there are only two teams in the Susquehanna Conference—Dillsburg and Grantham. Both teams are planning to participate in Denominational Finals at Messiah College.

Verse of the month: 2nd Corinthians 4:7 - "But Now we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this surpassingly great power is from God and not from us." - BSB (2016)

UPDATE ON ADULT BIBLE QUIZZING at General Assembly at Messiah College – Quizzing will be either July 14 or 15. It will cover 1 Corinthians chapters 8-15, using the **Berean Study Bible**, which is available on line at <http://bereanbible.com>

You can form a team or enter as an individual and be assigned a team. There are several Scripture portions available. Please contact Mel if you would like one.

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

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Brent Whitesel

432-9048

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Glen & Cindi Brubaker	May 7
Robert & Karen Pomeroy	May 8
Shelby & Audra Sieber	May 23
Rick & Charity Miller	May 25
Joe & Doris Lerew	May 26
Bob & Gail Brubaker	May 27
Eric & Corie Thuma	May 29
Dwight & Annabeth Rotz	May 30



Happy
Birthday



Grace Spurrier	May 2	Gary Lebo	May 14
Kimberly Tucker	May 2	Reece Thuma	May 17
Levi Sowers	May 2	Krista Reitnour	May 18
Taylor Conrady	May 5	Jessica Hatch	May 19
Dave Murtoff	May 6	Faithe Spurrier	May 20
Kathy Renard	May 6	Charity Miller	May 20
Paul Cathro	May 6	Garret VanDyke	May 21
Spencer Sieber	May 6	Meredith Engle	May 24
Ellen Hoover	May 9	Nina Hoover	May 28
Ruth Zook	May 9	Wendy Zwally	May 28
Tammy Straw	May 9	Jason Brubaker	May 29
Scott Raboci	May 10	Miriam Smith	May 29
Helen Leach	May 11	Amy Kimmel	May 31
Levi Pomeroy	May 11	Preston Owens	May 31
Sohni Waris	May 13	Samuel Walsh	May 31
Jim Shelly	May 13		



May 2018

May 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 5:15 pm Eat 'n Run 6:15 pm Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive	3 6:00 pm Renew Dillsburg (NHS)	4	5
6 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship 9:00 am Children's Church 10:30 am Classes 12:00 Impact	7 3:00 pm Middle School Monday	8 Doulos Deadline	9 5:15 pm Eat 'n Run and Congregational Council Meeting 6:15 pm Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive	10	11	12
				Directory Photos		
13 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship 9:00 am Children's Church 10:30 Classes	14 3:00 pm Middle School Monday 6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers')	15	16 6:15 pm Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive	17 6:30 pm Leadership Council	18	19
20 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship 9:00 am Children's Church 10:30 am Classes	21 3:00 pm Middle School Monday	22	23 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive	24	25	26 9:00 am Prayer Walk
27 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship 9:00 am Children's Church 10:30 am Classes	28	29	30 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive	31		