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The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2021

No appointment needed

By Peggy Knepper

Around the year 1998 I found myself on a journey that is still in progress today.

Following many trips to the emergency room and appointments with the medical doctor, I met with a gastroenterologist. After having all sorts of tests, I was diagnosed with gastroparesis – delayed emptying of the stomach – which led to other health issues. This disease affected me emotionally and physically. I was unable to do daily activities without pain and weakness. Life was no longer enjoyable. I retired early from nursing.

During one of my low days, I saw God's hand reaching down to me saying "I am with you."

Over the next years, several specialists were involved in my care: rheumatologist, gastroenterologist, surgeon, urologist, dermatologist and nutritionist. For some years after that, I was functioning fairly well by following instructions of what to eat, taking prescribed medications and getting exercise.

At the beginning of 2020, a decline in my health returned. After all the years of ups and downs, I had become discouraged. Romans 12:4 says that each of us has one body with many parts, but not the same function. If all these parts are not functioning properly, it causes problems.

This past year in particular has been very difficult. One night when unable to sleep, I realized I was feeling sorry for myself. I was tired of waking up every morning and not wanting to get out of bed because of the way I was feeling physically. It was draining going to all the specialists who were giving their advice as to what I was to do to improve my health—while at the same time warning me that this is a difficult problem to manage.

It was then I realized I have "The Great Physician." Jesus says, come to me and I will give you rest. I can call on him anytime, day or night. I don't have to make an appointment. The appointment won't be cancelled. He understands how I feel, is a great listener and I'm never alone. It is comforting to be reminded that the Lord provides the needs for my situation. When I come to Him in prayer, He can be trusted to handle my frustrations

and pain. Our life group and others are faithful in praying for me. I have the assurance that God will never leave me. So now, even though my physical problems are still with me, I know that my emotions are in a better place.

At some point we all go through difficult times—emotionally, physically or with loss and loneliness—that affect the whole person, body, mind and spirit. Jesus understood this and viewed the individual as an

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The Joy of Easter

By Pastor Rob Douglass

British journalist and literary critic Dame Rebecca West tells a story from her childhood in her work, "Family Memories."

She writes about being a child in London around 1900 and an experience with conkers, which is what many Brits call horse chestnuts.

"I remember so well that autumn afternoon when my father came into the garden down the steps from the French window and found me busy at a flowerbed which I had cleared from the yellow hands of leaves cast by the chestnut trees.

"What are you digging up?" he asked in alarm...

"I'm digging up conkers," I said.

"I doubt if there'll be any conkers in that flower bed," he objected. "Lettie and Winnie have been clearing them off each morning because of the spring flowers. Are you sure you're not digging up bulbs?"

"I'm sure they're conkers," I told him. "I buried

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

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essential unity that allowed healing to be approached in a wholistic manner. In the Gospels, Jesus accepted people as they were and stressed the healing of the whole person—totality of body, mind and spirit. Besides physical illness, he paid close attention to brokenness in a person's life.

Since I first penned this article, I met with my gastroenterologist, and he reported the results of my CT scan showed no acute or concerning abnormalities, and all my blood work was within normal range. It was determined that all the health issues I was experiencing were caused by gastroparesis. The doctor discontinued a medicine I had taken for years, added a new medicine and gave a strict diet. After starting these new orders, I began to have more energy, less pain and discomfort. Life for me now looks a lot brighter. And it is comforting to know my Heavenly Father is right by my side walking this journey with me.

We all desire to maintain good health. It gives us the energy and vitality to serve and love others. In the old brown BIC church hymnal is a hymn entitled "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." If we remember to lean on Jesus, we can have fellowship, peace, joy, no fear, feel safe and secure. I am claiming Deuteronomy 33:27: The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms.



It's back! Join us on Wednesday nights this spring for another round of Corner Life!

Come to our green space for dinner and stay for songs, games and family-friendly devotions. A no-cost meal will be served from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and eaten picnic-style, with activities to follow.

The Corner Life events will happen on **April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26 and June 9**. Bring something to sit on and a mask to wear while moving about. These are fair weather-only events, but the meals will be available on a drive-through basis if the weather keeps us from gathering on the lawn.

If you have questions about the events, contact Naomi Smith (naomi@dillsburgbic.org), and if you are willing to help with cooking, serving food or cleaning up, contact Jaylene Shannon (localoutreach@dillsburgbic.org).

April 14

Chili
Cornbread
Veggies
Dessert

April 28

Chicken Alfredo
Veggies
Fruit
Dessert

Gluten-free options will be available. Menu is subject to change.

EASTER SCHEDULE

Join us as we celebrate
Easter at Dillsburg BIC:

Thursday, April 1:

6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship
(Zoom)

Sunday, April 4:

7 a.m. Sunrise Service
(Green Space)

8:45 am Sunday School
(Zoom)

10:30 am Worship
(in the church and by livestream)

"Joy of Easter" continued from Page 1

them myself."

"Why did you do that?"

"I am God," I exclaimed, "and they are people, and I made them die, and now I am resurrecting them."

"Oh, you are, are you?" said my father, and sat down on the iron steps and watched me, drawing on his pipe. Presently he asked, "But why did you make the people die if you meant to dig them up again? Why didn't you just leave them alone?"

To that I replied, "Well that would have been all right for them. But it would have been no fun for me."

Now, there are all kinds of theological problems with this story. Most fundamentally, there is no life for God to leave alone, if God doesn't will to create in the first place. I also do not think that God makes us die as part of some kind of power trip on his part. So, this story is not good theology, but it touches on an aspect of Easter that we seldom address, the joy that Easter brought God.

We focus on the joy of Easter, as we should. But is almost always our joy – the inner smile and contentment that we can know because Christ rose again.

But think of it another way. The Great Magician, the one who invented magic in the first place, has performed the greatest trick imaginable. No one knows how he did it. Well, that's not exactly true. He knows. He knows exactly how it happened, and just like a magician, he finds joy in the awe and wonder that it stirs in us.

His joy is not because he fooled us or proved that he is smarter than us. God's joy in Easter is the explosive exponential expanding of the horizons of human imagination and possibility. Is that really possible?

It should not surprise us that God takes as much joy in this as He does. When Mary is invited to be a part of God's trick, by giving birth to Jesus, Mary tells the angel that it is impossible for her to have a child. And the angel replies,

"Nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1.37)

For those who have experienced God's magic, no longer does sin and death get the final word over our lives. No longer do fear, hatred, and isolation get to define what could or will happen. No longer are we in doubt whether there is an end and an answer to evil and suffering.

Instead, God's trick has exposed us to life, love and light. And as we see it, as we try to make sense of it, as we wonder if it is really possible, our mouths open, just like the entrance to the tomb. And God smiles.

It is his joy in Easter that is the source of our joy. We smile because he is smiling. We live because he is living. We love because he is loving.

Let me conclude with another Brit whose life covered the same era as Rebecca West's; in fact, they were born the same year. At the end of Tolkien's "The Return of the King", things are set right and evil has been vanquished. One of the central characters, Sam, awakens surprised that he is still alive and says to the wizard Gandalf, "Gandalf! I thought you were dead! But then I thought I was dead myself. Is everything sad going to come untrue? What's happened to the world?"

"A great Shadow has departed," said Gandalf, and then he laughed and the sound was like music, or like water in a parched land; and as he listened the thought came to Sam that he had not heard laughter, the pure sound of merriment, for days upon days without count."

There are things that were once true; we may even still be experiencing them as if they are true, but because of Christ's Easter victory, things are changing and they are becoming untrue. May you ponder His great trick again, may you know the joy He has taken in performing it and may your mouth open wide in wonder. Joyful (better than happy) Easter!



The church has an email address which you can use for needs, issues, concerns, or suggestion related to the coronavirus outbreak: connect@dillsburgbic.org

Please use this address to connect with the church leadership about any needs you may be experiencing during this time.

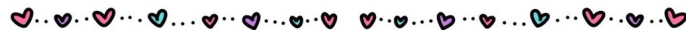


***Thank you** for the amazing ways you all show the love of Jesus to those in need! You are helping to make a lasting and positive impact in people's lives!
 ~ Joel Giovannetti, gift officer, New Hope Ministries

***My name is Darren Hercyk, and I am the new director of the Collaboratory. With this note, I want to thank you** for the Dillsburg BIC support of the Collaboratory and students. This year has been challenging without being able to travel, but most of the students are on campus and we are still able to have a global impact. **Thank you** so much!
 ~ Darren Hercyk, Director, Messiah University Collaboratory

***Thank you** for your recent gift to Peace Promise. Your investment in these precious lives is making a real difference.
 ~ Susan Vigliano, President of the Board, Peace Promise

***Thank you** for your gift to MCC in 2020. We could not have expected that in MCC's centennial year, the world would be hit with a disaster of the magnitude of the coronavirus pandemic. We appreciate your support through it all and the life-changing ministries that you made possible during this extraordinary year.
 ~ Ann Graber Hershberger, U.S. Executive Director, Mennonite Central Committee



New Hope Ministry Musings...

by Ginny Spurrier

As we flip the calendar over to April, enjoy this encouraging word from Jethro Christopherson, coordinator of the Dillsburg New Hope Food Pantry:

The cardinals in the trees next to New Hope are singing as if spring is here, same with the robin in the tree next to the church Saturday. God sure has a way of bringing our focus to the new resurrection life we have through Jesus. I pray you are all rejoicing today.

God has been answering your prayers. I have given new volunteer training to several people during the last couple weeks, yay! And just to make me scratch my head, we have fewer guests coming in daily. Hopefully the hungry will start shopping here so we can be busy, so our newcomers will stay awhile. It's a catch-22, I'm thankful for volunteers, but I'm also thankful people don't need to come here for food. Kinda puts me out of business. But I rest on God's Word, which tells me we will have the poor with us always and, whenever we wish, we may do them good. (Mark 14:7) So, I'll bring in my Scrabble game and wait for our neighbors to come and get the food God has so graciously given us.

We have a new grocery store pickup. Weis markets on Bumble Bee Hollow road would like us to pick up their donations on Monday and Friday morning. If you would like to help me do that, let me know. It would probably just be a few boxes of food. I will do the first pickup just to learn where to pick up the donation and when is a good time to do it. It's a long process for the information to filter down to store level. Right now, it is at corporate level talking to Central PA Food Bank.

As always, please continue to pray for our New Hope family, our neighbors experiencing tough times and our nation. Be the blessing you would like to see.





Listen and Learn

"I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Luke 18:17

Good listening is particularly important for a peacemaker. It improves your ability to understand others, it shows that you realize you do not have all the answers, and it tells the other person that you value his or her thoughts and opinions. Even if you cannot agree with everything others say or do, your willingness to listen demonstrates respect and shows that you are trying to understand their perspective.

Taken from The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 165.

Food for Thought

Kids hear everything--things under their beds at night, an animal in distress blocks away, whispered conversations between Mom and Dad. There is something about childhood that invites listening. Maybe it's a feeling that we might miss something if we don't listen, and we surely don't want to miss anything. But often as we grow up, we put away childish and childlike things in the same trip to the curb. And we're not as concerned about missing something anymore; we've pretty much seen it all. At least we think we have.

We've pretty much got it all figured out, and so we make judgment calls on everything from political policy to personal motives. We never pause to consider the limits on our perspective; we just go right on in, where angels fear to tread.

But to walk humbly with our God means realizing that we don't know everything and we don't even want to; figuring everything out means the story is over. It also means approaching each living, breathing soul in our lives with wonder, for they have been fashioned by the hands of God himself. It means stopping and looking and listening, but maybe listening even more than looking.

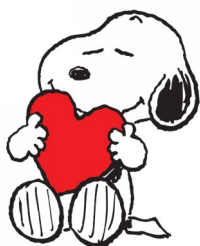
A little more listening might open the door to peace between feuding spouses or church members. It could even begin the sowing of seeds of peace in the body of Christ. Open the ears of our hearts, Lord; we surely don't want to miss your voice!

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Jack & Helen Leach
Nathan & Sarah Hoover
Jon & Diana Dale

April 2
April 16
April 29




Tim Horst	April 1	Tony Monko	April 17
Erika Pease	April 4	Ariela Vader	April 17
Jason Smith	April 4	Ed Strayer	April 17
(Jay and Judy's son)		Patti Miller	April 18
Ethan Beachy	April 9	Amy Austin	April 19
Tyler Monko	April 10	Josh Weiser	April 20
Garrett Sowers	April 10	Connor Engle	April 21
Corie Thuma	April 10	Hope Gabikiny	April 22
Mary Reed	April 11	Chris Eyster	April 23
Shelby Sieber	April 12	Luca Thuma	April 25
Chou Gabikiny	April 13	Ray Knepper	April 27
Thomas Walsh	April 14	Travis Moyer	April 30
John Reed	April 15		





April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			3/30 NO ZOOM Gathering	1 6:30 pm ZOOM Maundy Thursday Service	2 Good Friday	3 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
4 7:00 am Sunrise Service 8:45 am (Zoom) Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	5	6 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm ZOOM Men's Book Study	7 9:00 am ZOOM Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	8 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement)	9	10 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
11 8:45 am (Zoom) Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	12	13 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm ZOOM Men's Book Study	14 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	15 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement) 6:30 pm ZOOM Leadership Council	16	17 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
18 8:45 am (Zoom) Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	19 7:00 pm ZOOM Ministry Council	20 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm ZOOM Men's Book Study	21 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	22 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement)	23	24 9:00 am ZOOM Prayer Walking 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
25 8:45 am (Zoom) Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	26	27 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm ZOOM Men's Book Study	28 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	29 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement)	30 6:30 ZOOM Deacon Meeting	

These events subject to change. Stay tuned for information from DBIC on any canceled or rescheduled events.