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The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2021

The Hue of Our Eyesight

By Carolyn Kimmel

Have you ever been told you see the world through rose-colored glasses?

It's generally not a compliment, as far as I can tell. It's more of a chide.

I remember when I was a newbie reporter and the old veterans of the newsroom couldn't wait to regale me with stories of gore, violence and political corruption because they loved to see the look of disbelief on my face.

Over the years, I must admit, the tint of my glasses has morphed to a darker shade. I've been taken for a ride a time or two by people who purported to be one thing but were another and been handed enough difficult situations to deal with that I have become wary—even jaded.

Lately, however, I've been on a concerted search for my rose-colored glasses because, I realize, perspective changes everything. Focusing on the rosy side of even the worst situation can make me happier and even grateful.

I've spent the past year and a half writing the life story of a woman named Ann whose mother was raped by a Nazi guard in a forced labor camp during the Holocaust. How to spin that positive?

Ann's mother, who was forced from her home in the Ukraine at age 24, managed to carry Ann to term, deliver her on her own and smuggle them both out of the camp with a band of gypsies who were entertaining the soldiers.

The pair spent the next seven years in cramped, ill-kept displaced persons camps in Austria, where her mother met and married a man who had been forced to abandon his first wife and several children when Nazi troops came through his village. He never saw his first family again, or knew their fate. Can you even imagine? Eventually, Ann, her mother and stepfather, with three other siblings in tow by then, were sponsored to come to Pennsylvania where they worked for a farmer in exchange for room and board. Ann's stepfather severely mistreated her – he abused her, tried to pimp

her and eventually threatened to kill her. At age 12, she was taken from their home and put in foster care. Eight other siblings were left to suffer similar beatings, although to a lesser extent. Eventually, Ann's stepfather was arrested and put in a mental institution, diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic. Incredibly, Ann's mother blamed Ann for his separation from the family.

Ann's teenage years were marked by bullying and insecurity. She developed a tough exterior, threatening to beat up anyone who gave her trouble. She never saw her stepfather again, and she had little to no contact with her mother or siblings for years.

Thankfully, there were people in Ann's tumultuous path who showed her the love of Jesus and became his hands of gentle care and feet of concrete actions that carried her toward a better life.

In adulthood, Ann became a nurse, got married and had her own family at last. The ghosts of her past haunted her present-day relationships, but she made a conscious decision to focus on the positive and overcome triggers for depression, anger and resentment that constantly tempted her. She repeatedly reached out to her mother, offering her something she never got in return – love.

Today, Ann says she is at peace whether the blood of a Nazi flows through her veins, or not—because the blood of Christ washes her clean. This, she says, gives her the impetus to focus on the blessings, not the burdens, to choose gratitude over bitterness and grace



Continued on Page 2

Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Staff

Continued from Page 1



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September 2021 issue to:

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over revenge. Her faith also urged her to offer forgiveness and love to her mother.

While some may question how Ann could trust in God when he seemingly was absent from so many of the events that shaped her life, Ann says the opposite. "I didn't have anybody protecting me but my dear Lord," she said. "It's people who let you down, not God. He got me out of more messes than anyone."

Ann's perspective made all the difference.

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." (Philippians 4:8)

So, now, before my feet hit the floor, I do some morning stretches while I take five minutes or less to reflect on the absolutely gracious gift of another day. It's never promised, and I want to be grateful. For the mug of coffee that awaits me. For the front porch and the hummingbirds. For health, for family, for work... I let my mind run free over whatever I can that is a blessing. Sounds hokey maybe, but the longer I do it, the more natural it feels.

That doesn't mean, however, that my attitude is always sunshine and roses the rest of day! Often, I have to rein in negative thoughts at the gate—and far down the road, sometimes.

So does Ann. Right now, she's grappling with hard words on the pages of her life story that starkly illustrate just how unlovely and impure it has been—but she is determined to do the work of bringing her perspective back around to the positive and the praiseworthy.

I don't know about you, but I often find it takes a conscious decision and lots of Jesus to see the world through a lens of trust and confidence—and sometimes, a good pair of rosy specs doesn't hurt either.



Let Them Eat Cake!

On June 30th, our DBIC church family supper was chased inside by a thunderstorm, but a change of scenery didn't affect our kids' appetites for a farewell cake for the Beers family!

We prayed for the Beers family, who are headed to Choma, Zambia, and then we ate cake!





If, If, If...

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other...

Ephesians 4:32

The best way to ruin a confession is to use words that shift the blame to others or that appear to minimize or excuse your guilt. The most common way to do this is to say, "I'm sorry if I've done something to upset you." The word if ruins this confession, because it implies that you do not know whether or not you did wrong. The message you are communicating is this: "Obviously you're upset about something. I don't know that I have done anything wrong, but just to get you off my back I'll give you a token apology."

*Taken from [The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict](#)
by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 127*

Food for Thought

How often does *if* show up in your confessions?

A great way to ruin your engine on your car? Never, ever change the oil. A sure-fire way to ruin your credit rating? Never, ever pay your bills on time. What about ruining your reputation at work? Never, ever keep your appointments. And the best way to ruin a confession? Each and every time, use the word "if."

Ken reminds us of the power of this little two-letter word. Too many times, it leads to an empty confession. All the words may be right and proper (I'm sorry), but the heart is missing. And anything without a heart is usually dead, good for nothing. The word "confess" means "to agree with" -- you're agreeing that you've done something wrong. If you're not ready to agree, then don't confess. Because that ruins everything.

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Leadership Council Report

By Avis Whitesel

Highlights from the July Leadership Council meeting:

- Some Financial reports of note:
 - Loan Balance - \$35,235
 - Expenses are on track or less than budget while ministry council expenses are very low.
 - We are praising God for the financial report.
- The motion was made, seconded and passed that when we go inside either planned or unplanned, all existing restrictions can be lifted.
- The motion was made, seconded and passed to approve ministry council's recommendation for an after-school program.

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, Pastor Rob Douglass, Phil Engle, Randy Fish, Ray Knepper, Sharon Miller, Rachel Pease, Heidi Tucker, or Avis Whitesel.

VBS 2021



We had a fun, adventurous time at our "Treasured" Vacation Bible School, July 19-22. Although rain chased us inside on Monday night, the rest of the week was spent in our green space.

We had over 45 children join us during the week. The children and families enjoyed a light meal before the beginning of each night. They enjoyed songs, crafts, games, and learning about the lives of Biblical characters like David, Hezekiah, Esther, and Peter.

THANK YOU to all the families that joined us, and to our wonderful organizers and volunteers throughout the week.

Scenes from the week

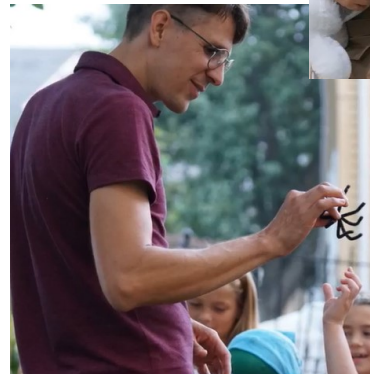
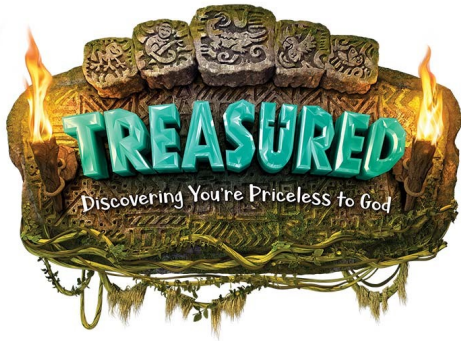


VBS 2021



VBS 2021

Scenes from the week continued...





WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES


Jim & Beth Shelly	August 2
Mark & Sarah Renard	August 3
Steven & Rachel Miller	August 5
Jim & Jill Poole	August 7
David & Ariela Vader	August 8
Adam & Tanya Moesch	August 8
Tom & Susan Hatch	August 12
J-Lynn & Harriet Conrady	August 14
Tim & Becky Horst	August 20
Wendell & Nina Hoover	August 30
Jeremy & Nicole Rank	August 31
Mark & Carolyn Kimmel	August 31



Magnolia Kanazawa	August 1	Veronica Beers	August 19
Matt Walsh	August 1	Daunte Gard	August 20
Lloyd Sowers	August 2	Chad Brubaker	August 21
Clover Sell	August 2	Jay Smith	August 21
Jessica Raboci	August 4	Becky Kimmel	August 22
Kay Gasswint	August 6	Laura Austin	August 22
Jane Mylin	August 9	Jack Leach	August 24
Randy Zwally	August 9	Jake Heck	August 24
Lorelai Renee Delp	August 16	Mel Brough	August 24
Tom Renard	August 16	Karly Heck	August 24
Chuck Hill	August 16	Charlotte Thuma	August 25
Sarah Weiser	August 16	Rosie Stoner	August 27
Jo Reichard	August 17	Elaina Pease	August 28
Cindi Brubaker	August 18	Gloria Lebo	August 31
Ruth Anne Engle	August 18		



August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am Worship	2 6:30 pm Youth Girls Bible Study	3 7:00 pm Women's Book Club	4 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	5 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm ZOOM Prayer	6	7 
8 Doulos Deadline 10:00 am Worship 6:30 pm Dillsburg Arts Council Concert	9 6:30 pm Youth Girls Bible Study	10 7:00 pm After School Program Volunteers meeting	11 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	12 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 6:30 pm ZOOM Human Trafficking Meeting 7:30 pm ZOOM Prayer	13 9:00 am ZOOM Local Outreach	14
15 10:00 am Worship	16 6:30 pm Youth Girls Bible Study 7:00 pm ZOOM Ministry Council	17 7:00 pm Deacon Meeting	18 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	19 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 6:30 pm ZOOM Leadership Council 7:30 pm ZOOM Prayer	20 6:30 pm ZOOM Global Outreach	21
22 10:00 am Worship	23	24	25 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	26 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm ZOOM Prayer	27	28 9:00 am Prayer Walking
29 10:00 am Worship	30	31				

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