



The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

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www.DillsburgBIC.org

Heal the Wound but Leave the Scar

By Naomi Smith

I recently went to visit some dear friends I had not seen since the start of the pandemic. It was a joy to reconnect and to hear about their lives, but I was reminded of the ways in which all of us have suffered over these past two years. We have come through a season of sickness and death, uncertainty and loss, isolation and frustration, and it has marked us. We carry the weight of these years in our hearts and in our bodies.

This month, the church looks toward Holy Week: toward Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. During Holy Week, we will walk the journey with Jesus as he carries his cross to his death. We will marvel at his obedience, remember his suffering and celebrate his victory over death. And we will rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus, because therein lies our hope for life everlasting and for a world made new.

In the gospels, we read that after Jesus rose from the dead, he lingered on earth for 40 more days and spent time with his friends and disciples. As amazed as they were to see Jesus, the disciples seemed to have difficulty recognizing their rabbi. We do not know exactly what Jesus' resurrected body looked like, but we know he could touch and be touched, that he could prepare and eat food. But he was also able to walk through walls and to appear and disappear with ease. In this space between resurrection and ascension, Jesus seemed to be operating in a reality greater than others could comprehend.

One thing in particular stands out to me about the resurrected body of Jesus: his scars. The God of creation could have completely and wholly healed the body of Jesus so that no scars remained, but he left them there. The first time Jesus appeared to his disciples, they were understandably surprised and frightened. Jesus said to them: "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have" (Luke 24:38-39). In that room full of confused

disciples, Jesus offered up his scarred hands and feet like an identification badge: "Here. Look. It's me."

Jesus' friends knew him by his scars. His body bore the evidence of his suffering, even as his living presence in that room bore evidence to the mercy and power of God. As we come through our own seasons of suffering, I wonder if our scars can also speak to others of the mercy and power of our God. As we share our stories and reveal our brokenness, we proclaim the heart of the gospel: that we cannot save ourselves, but Jesus can.

The music group Point of Grace released a song in 2007 called "Heal the Wound," and the chorus goes:

Heal the wound but leave the scar
A reminder of how merciful You are
I am broken, torn apart
Take the pieces of this heart
Heal the wound but leave the scar

Brothers and sisters, we live in a world where bombs fall and bodies fail, and we rightly long for Jesus to return and reign in perfect peace. But as we wait in hope in this in-between space, let's follow the example of our resurrected Lord and show up in places of confusion and fear. As we have the courage to reveal our wounds and our scars, we proclaim that God is at work in ways we cannot comprehend. May it be so!



HOLY WEEK CALENDAR

Palm Sunday

Dr. Sibonokuhle Ncube from the BIC Church in Zimbabwe will be preaching.

Maundy Thursday Service

5:30 p.m. Foot Washing

6 p.m. Meal

7 p.m. Communion

Sign-up for the meal will be available in the building foyer. Come for whatever part(s) that you are able or with which you are comfortable. If you are planning to only attend communion let us know at connect@dillsburgbic.org. If supper ends before 7, we may begin communion early.

Good Friday

The Dillsburg Ministerium is planning a time remembering the passion of Christ on Good Friday afternoon. The present plan is to process down Baltimore Street from St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Watch for more details.

Easter Sunday

7 a.m. Early Easter Service in the green space, weather permitting. Bring your own chair.

An Easter Egg hunt and light breakfast will follow.
There will be no Sunday School.

10 a.m. Main Celebration of the Resurrection



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The Doulos Newsletter Information

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Please send submissions and content for the next issue to: carolynkimmel@comcast.net or place them in Carolyn's church mailbox by 8th of this month.

Do you have a prayer request? You can contact us by email at connect@dillsburgbic.org or by using the individual contacts in the staff listing.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

*Thank you for your gift in support of Matt and Julie Walsh. Please continue to pray that God will raise up more U.S. believers who will answer His call to go. Pray for wisdom and guidance for us here in the U.S. office as we strive to be the instrument by which God calls another generation of workers to go and make disciples of all nations.

Randall Fairman, President, SIM USA

*Thank you for your recent donation to Messiah University Collaboratory operations. Thanks for supporting our students as they prepare for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.

Jon Stuckey, Associate Vice President for Development, Messiah University



Leadership Council Report

By Avis Whitesel

Highlights from the February Leadership Council meeting:

- Some Financial reports of note:
 - Excess funds \$82,000
 - Portion of excess funds sending outside of the church - \$17,222.65
 - Susquehanna Conference Benevolence Fund - \$10,000 (sent in 2021)
 - BIC Common Ministry - \$3,552.65
 - Beacon Clinic for Health and Hope - \$2,670
 - Van for FGA Bible College - \$1,000
 - Portion of excess funds to be allocated inside of the church - \$65,000, will be discussed at our next meeting
 - Giving has been low, but it has caught up in the last couple of weeks
 - Spring in-gathering will be held April 9/10 during the Missions Conference
- Pastor Rob's report
 - The number of children attending the after-school program has increased
 - Regional Youth meeting led by Paul Lerew is scheduled for February 27
 - The first support group went well
 - Received Ray & Cheryl Cross into membership
 - Several others have expressed interest in membership
- Congregational Council Review
 - We will have another Congregational Council meeting on March 20 to elect/approve someone to serve as our delegate to General Assembly
 - Concern was raised about using LC members to count ballots so we will do that differently in the future
 - We are looking into ways for congregational input of elders to serve on LC

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, Sharon Miller, Rachel Pease, Heidi Tucker, or Avis Whitesel.

STOP TRAFFIC

By Marj Strayer



There are some new developments with Peace Promise, reported here by Director Patty Seaman in their latest newsletter.

"Peace Promise is now part of the newly forming Dauphin County Human Trafficking Task Force. They will be inviting us into cases to help with women and provide life skills, support, etc.

"The team is working with some judges to create the court diversion program that we have dreamed of, where women who have been arrested for crimes related to their exploitation can work with the program, can avoid prison time, have their records cleared and receive the help they need. Peace Promise would play a huge role in that by creating individualized plans, with the team, for each woman and by attending follow-up hearings for compliance with the women.

"There is also the possibility of being called in in an immediate crisis to try to help a victim. The District Attorney's office sees value in the Peace Promise ministry because they acknowledge that even though they are on the victim's side, the victim still sees them as part of the judicial system. With the help of the ministry team from Peace Promise, the victims are able to understand the desire of the DA's office to help them and not prosecute them. This is a huge step forward in helping the plight of the exploited and trafficked women. We are very thankful to God for this answer to prayer."

To find out more about Peace Promise, consider attending a dessert banquet on April 1 at 7 p.m. at Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church.



APRIL 1, 2022

For Love & Freedom

peacepromise
BENEFIT EVENT

We are excited to announce our annual "For Love and Freedom" benefit event. This year's event will be held on April 1, 2022, at 7 pm at Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church and also streamed live via Facebook for those who want to attend from home. This yearly fundraiser is an opportunity for you to enjoy some delicious desserts, hear what's new with Peace Promise, and partner with us in our ongoing fight against sexual exploitation. Join us for our guest speaker *Lisa Michelle* and to hear from our Peace Promise team to find out what you can do to offer hope to exploited women right here in Central PA who need our help.



This month, we continue to anticipate our upcoming seminar with Jay Smith!

Compiled by John and Esther Spurrier, DBIC Global Outreach Commission

Partnering with BIC U.S. world Missions, Dr. Jay and Judy Smith have served as full-time missionaries to the muslim world for almost 40 years, including emphasizing Brethren in Christ distinctives in their engagement with Islam.

Jay Smith reports on his worldwide ministry:

- In 2021, more than 2.9 million people watched the 138 Pfanderfilms episodes uploaded, averaging about 20,000 people per film, which is almost four times more than any other year to date.
- The number of people subscribing to Pfanderfilms has increased unabated, and subscriptions increased by 17,000 in 2021, so that the total number of subscriptions has surpassed 62,500 subscribers!
- Even more exciting, the total number of people who have viewed the Pfanderfilms videos is now more than 11 million!



In addition to the above, Jay this last year traveled to El Salvador, Nicaragua and Speaker's Corner in London. He continues to conduct research and write, and he is about to teach his 10th course in the two-year old MAPI course (Master of Arts in Apologetics and Polemics to Islam), which has grown to around 150 students.

He states: "I'm not sure if I've ever been this busy, or ever been this excited!"

Don't miss Jay Smith's Teaching Forum at DBIC on April 23, with this schedule:

- 9:00 - Welcome and introduction
- 9:15 - Session 1: Basic tenets of Islam and theological conflicts with Christianity
- 10:30 - Break (drinks and snacks provided)
- 11:00 - Session 2: Answering questions most often asked by Muslims; questions to ask Muslims
- 12:15 - Lunch (provided by the church)
- 1:00 - Session 3: Best methods for engaging publicly with Muslims in the U.S.; Q & A

New Hope Musings



By Ginny Spurrier

Greetings DBIC family!

Here are a few updates regarding the staff at the New Hope Center here in Dillsburg.

Jethro Christopherson, the long-time former food program manager, retired as of March 25. He was already considering leaving sometime soon because he could no longer physically do the job, but then his landlord told him he had to move out by April 1. He and his wife, Patti, are moving back to Missouri to be closer to his mom and Patti's mom.

Andrew Strauss is taking Jethro's place as the new food program manager here in Dillsburg, but he still has some responsibilities in Hanover that he must do weekly until they hire his replacement there. Please pray for Andrew and his wife, Cindy, during this transition and also that someone will soon be hired to replace him at the Hanover New Hope Center.

Sheri Hosterman is replacing Jethro's wife, Patti, as the new kitchen coordinator in Dillsburg. She, along with other volunteers, are preparing and serving free hot meals every weekday from noon to 1 p.m. at the New Hope center. Sheri has a great heart to serve and will be a good addition to the New Hope family.

In March, Autumn, the former center manager, left to pursue a different career outside of New Hope, a dog grooming business. Please pray as they seek for a new center manager to take her place in the Dillsburg Center.

Our DBIC donation for the month of April is **dish detergent**. Thanks so much and blessings to all who donated shampoo and deodorant for the past few months. Your generosity is much needed and appreciated!!

I thought I would share some words of wisdom and encouragement from an email that Jethro sent to the volunteers recently:

"We are another year closer to Jesus' return. That can either give you peace, pain, or maybe a sense of urgency. For me it's an urgency to keep doing what God has asked us all to do, reflect Jesus in all our doing so the world will know how good God is. I love when a new guest comes through our doors so I can show them how gracious our God is and how much God blesses our pantry with good food and great volunteers.

"Even with all the confusion going on around us in almost every area of our lives, God remains constant. His word told us all this was going to happen, and He also gave us guidelines for how to react to the chaos. God's word tells us to remain faithful to Him and our family in Christ. Our love for each other will show the world what our God is like. We can stand on God's word, His promises and love.

"A promise I read this morning is in James 1:5, 'If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.' Did you get that? He gives liberally and without reproach, which means He gives generously and doesn't condemn us for asking. That means we can ask God to remind us what the code to get into the building is when we forget. That means we can ask for the right words in any situation and He will provide. We just need to be intentional in our listening for the answer. We keep our eyes on Jesus and we won't be led astray.

"Our lives are fragile, but our eternity is determined and our peace through it all is certain. All of this is guarded and held by God. We have only to lay hold of this precious gift through Jesus our Lord and Savior. Stand firm in the faith. Never give up, never surrender!"

In the Pew Next to You...

Meet Kallista Scharf

Born and raised in

I was born in Charleston, S.C. Since then, I have lived in Langley, Va.; McGuire, N.J.; Elizabethtown, Pa.; Springfield, Va.; Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal; and, finally, I am back to living in Elizabethtown.

A bit about my family

I live with my parents and my two brothers.

I spend my days doing

I teach sixth grade at Hershey Christian Academy.

How I became a Christian

I was raised Christian.

A time I really saw God work in my life was . . .

I had head trauma when I was 11 that should have caused a concussion and brain damage, and I ended up with only some staples in my head.

I spend my free time doing

I spend my free time crocheting, making balloon animals, and baking.

Favorite Bible verse

Romans 8:38-39: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

My favorite thing about Dillsburg BIC is

I feel welcomed and cared for by everyone.

Something that might surprise you about me is

I can make balloon animals while riding my unicycle.

My favorite song is

"What If," by Matthew West

A prayer request I have is

My teaching job is recent, so prayers would be appreciated for me adjusting to the new job and the students adjusting to having a new teacher.



The men issued a singing invitation for more men to join them at their monthly breakfast meetings.

Grounding Grace

By Chou Gabikiny

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
(Hebrews 11:1)

Whoever said that we live in a “microwave society” did not lie. We have drive-thrus for everything in this country and more options for “speedy” deliveries than anywhere in the world, from same-day shipping to pizza shops that will refund you if your pizza arrives cold (hence, not delivered quickly enough). A few years ago, Jackson Hewitt tax service had a commercial stating “It’s my money and I want it now!” This was used to encourage people to take advantage of the tax advance package, so they can get their tax refund immediately after filing their taxes instead of waiting for the IRS to deposit the money in their bank account. Instant gratification has become our way of life.

Waiting is hard, especially when we seem to have easy access to everything else. Recently, I have been pondering Proverbs 12:13 (Hope deferred makes the heart sick). I have been wrestling with lot of emotions these days... grief, sorrow, worry, you name it. The more I sit with those feelings, the more I realize that most of them stem from things I do not yet have, things I have prayed for, fasted for, longed for, waited for, and yet... nothing. I did all the right things and did not receive a return on my investment. Then frustration sets in, and despair starts to creep in. In other words, the longer I wait, the sicker my heart feels.

Then I am reminded of this:

“Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God” Psalm 43: 5 (NIV)

I could try to defend myself and say that I do hope in God – and in some ways, I do. Yet, I also find myself needing to purge these remnants of my charnel nature and my need for instant gratification. One does not necessarily negate the other. Hoping in God is what helps me endure and persevere. It’s in hoping in Him that I can rise from the ashes of despair, recognize my need for His grace and strength, and then ask for it in prayer.

A friend recently told me that when the Bible talks about faith, it’s referring to an earnest expectation and not simply a wish or wishful

thinking, as we often refer to it in our conversations. If faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen, then if God satisfied our need for instance gratification, we wouldn’t need faith. Faith is built in the waiting. But we don’t wait like the world waits; we don’t wait in wishing that things will come to pass. We wait with an earnest expectation that God’s promises are yes and amen (2 Corinthians 1:20). We wait trusting that His plans are not to harm us but rather to give us a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). We wait knowing that even in our troubled minds and mixed emotions, He is still Lord of all. His ways are better. His plans are better. His thoughts are better. He knows best and we can rest in the fact that He always, always, have our best interests at heart.

Perhaps, when our hearts become sick due to deferred hope, we should invest our dreams and desires into the Master’s hands. Then we won’t have to defer hope but rather hope in His perfect plans for us. By faith, we already have what it is that we need because He provides to all our needs according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19). When we walk by faith, our hope is not deferred. Faith is hope in action. When we defer hope, we feel stagnant and barren, but when we activate hope through faith, we are always in motion and bearing fruit ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). I don’t know about you, but I want to bear fruit ... even in the waiting.

Oh, Lord, give us grace to hope some more!

Reflection:

- 1) How is instant gratification impacting your faith?
- 2) In what ways to you seek shortcuts rather than wait on the Lord?
- 3) When despair creeps in, how to you find strength to hope again?

By His grace,

Chou



Fresh Hope for Billsburg

One thing Christians need to know about dealing with a mental health crisis is that advice that “you just need to have more/stronger/real faith” or “you just need to pray it away” is NOT the answer.

In his free resource for pastors called Rick Warren’s Ministry Toolbox, Warren included some good, faith-filled advice on how to deal with stress as a Christian.

Since we’ve all had some extra stress these past couple of years, I thought I’d share some of his thoughts with you. The following is a shortened version of his article.

In Psalm 23, David outlines seven stress-busting habits that will make us happier and healthier.

1. Depend on God to meet your needs. *“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need”* (Psalm 23:1 NLT). Rather than putting your trust in other people to meet your needs, base your security on something that can be taken away from us. When you realize God will meet every one of your needs, it calms you down. He will never disappoint you, either.

2. Obey God’s instructions about rest. *“He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters”* (Psalm 23:2 NIV). So much of the stress you face comes from being in a hurry and working too much. Rest is the antidote to that stress. Rest is so important, God included it in the Ten Commandments. It doesn’t matter which day of the week you take your Sabbath. You need the rest, just as Jesus did. When you study Jesus’ ministry, you see how often he took time to relax. Jesus didn’t feel guilty for taking time to rest and neither should you.

What do we do on a Sabbath? We can rest our bodies by taking a nap. We can refocus our spirit by spending some time in worship. We can recharge our emotions by taking part in a recreational activity.

3. Recharge your soul with beauty. *“He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside peaceful waters. He renews my soul”* (Psalm 23:2-3 GW). One of the reasons that Psalm 23 is the most beloved Psalm is because we can visualize it. Having beauty in your life is an incredibly important part of stress management. Beauty inspires, encourages and motivates. Ways to get more beauty into your life include getting outside every day and observing God’s creation. Try starting your day with God, not the media. Intentionally put beauty around you by surrounding yourself with pieces of art and music that inspire you.

4. Go to God for guidance. *“He guides me along the paths of righteousness for the sake of his name”* (Psalm 23:3 GW). The most common source of stress in your life is indecision. That’s why the declaration of God’s

Don’t “just pray” but...

By Kathy Bennett

guidance in Psalm 23 is so important for stress relief. God will guide us at the right time and in the right way. Rather than looking for guidance from the latest ministry fad or a pundit, depend on God’s guidance.

5. Trust God in the dark valleys. *“Even though I walk through the dark valley of death, because you are with me, I fear no harm. Your rod and your staff give me courage”* (Psalm 23:4 GW). We all go through the dark valleys. In fact, we’ll go through many of them in our lifetime. Loss is particularly painful, whether that means loss of life, job, or health. Our response to loss tends to be either grief (which is good) or fear (which is bad). Grief is a godly emotion. Fear will paralyze you.

6. Let God be your defender. *“You prepare a banquet for me while my enemies watch. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows”* (Psalm 23:5 GW).

David spent much of his young life running from Saul, hiding in caves as he was being maligned and demeaned by the king. Yet rather than say anything bad about Saul, David let God become his defender.

It takes a lot of faith to trust God and let him defend you. When you’re attacked, you want to defend yourself. You want to correct the lies of others. But you are most like Jesus when you remain silent while under attack. It’s what he did when religious people attacked him. He never retaliated. When you remain silent under criticism, you usually end up with more influence, not less. Your critics usually end up helping you in the long run.

7. Expect God to finish what he started. *“Certainly, goodness and mercy will stay close to me all the days of my life, and I will remain in the Lord’s house for days without end”* (Psalm 23:6 GW).

Another reason we face stress is we fear the future. We’re always asking, “What if?” But notice how David writes of his certainty that goodness and mercy will continue in his life. We tend to look at our future in one of two ways. We either expect everything to go wrong or we look at the future and say: *“Certainly goodness and mercy will stay close to me all the days of my life.”* You lower your stress with the second option.

(“By Rick Warren. Originally published on Pastors.com. Used by permission.”)



Celebrating Life Together!


APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jack & Helen Leach	April 2
Nathan & Sarah Hoover	April 16
Jon & Diana Dale	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
<i>(Jay and Judy's son)</i>		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
Kayce Heck	April 12	Luca Thuma	April 25
Shelby Sieber	April 12	Ray Knepper	April 27
Chou Gabikiny	April 13	Elijah Carlson	April 27
Thomas Walsh	April 14	Travis Moyer	April 30
John Reed	April 15		

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						
3 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	4 3:45 pm Encircle	5	6 9:00 am Zoom Ladies' Bible Study 3:45 pm Encircle 5:00 pm Corner Life 7:00 pm Youth (FH)	7 5:30 pm Brass Rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	8 Doulos Deadline 9:00 am Local Outreach Commission (Zoom)	9 7:30 am Pastor Rob's Prayer Team 9:00 am Susquehanna Regional Conference Annual meeting
10 Palm Sunday Global Missions Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	11 3:45 pm Encircle	12 7:00 pm Zoom Ladies' Bible Study	13	14 5:30 pm Footwashing service 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Meal and Communion	15	16
17 7:00 am Early Easter Service and Egg Hunt 10:00 am Worship	18	19	20 3:45 pm Encircle 6:00 pm Youth (FH) 6:30 pm Zoom Gathering	21 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 6:30 pm Leadership Council (FH) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	22	23 9:00 am Prayer Walking 9:00 am Jay Smith Teaching Day
24 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	25 3:45 pm Encircle	26 7:00 pm Zoom Ladies' Bible Study	27 3:45 pm Encircle 5:00 pm Corner Life 7:00 pm Youth (FH)	28 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	29	30 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Pastor Naomi's Prayer Team