



The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

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Lessons of Light

By Carolyn Kimmel

Every year as I take the Christmas ornaments off the tree, I wonder to myself what will change in our lives before I unpack them to readorn next year's tree.

Never would I have imagined what would change in 2022.

In May, we lost my brother-in-law, Brady, a part of our family since he and my sister Andrea began dating in high school, to a tragic drowning. Impossible, we thought – Brady grew up on the ocean, and no one was more cautious when we were out boating than he. We later learned from their backyard camera footage that he was attempting to untie the boat at their dock to retie it more securely when the wind caught it, and it began to float away. He made a split-second decision to try to jump onto the boat and made it to the railing. As he attempted to hoist himself onboard, he fell into the early spring, icy waters and became hypothermic right away.

In what initially seemed like a miracle, a passing policeman on the nearby bridge saw him thrashing and immediately launched a rescue effort, and he was pulled from the water and resuscitated. After a scan showed his brain had suffered too much damage to live any sort of normal life, Andrea made the excruciating decision to take him off life support. As we each took our turn at his bedside to whisper our good-byes, I fervently prayed for a miracle. None came.

Still reeling from that loss, two months later, after two weeks of random stomach pain, I went to my doctor and was told I likely had a gallstone. A scan showed something much worse – advanced pancreatic cancer, related to an inherited gene mutation. Shock. Tears. Wrestling to understand. My daily life – and our family's – as we knew it was over. Multiple complications and chemo toxicity early on landed me in the hospital three times in two months.

Spiritual darkness, the likes of which I had never experienced, set in. Twelve years ago, when I found

out I had inherited the same gene mutation that apparently claimed my mother's life when I was 9, I felt tilted off my axis. Then I prayed with dear Marlin Zook. I had an encounter – a vision – with the Lord in which I clearly heard and received a promise that this lifelong threat of cancer – and the irrational fears it had visited on my life – were over. It was life transformational, blessing me with a new peace and confidence. This cancer diagnosis was a huge gut punch.

Next, in October, Mark's brother was diagnosed with esophageal cancer, the same cancer that claimed the life of his oldest brother. My poor husband – how could he shoulder anything more? I remember crying out to God, "Do you hate us?"

One night as I lay awake in the hospital, my left leg twice the size of my right and throbbing from a blood clot, I was trying to pray... pleading with God. Was he even there? Had he abandoned me? Then these words came into my mind: Are you willing to suffer for my glory? I knew immediately this was the Lord speaking because this would never be a thought of mine. I paused... well, what kind of parent would want their child to suffer? I didn't have to think long though – "Yes, Lord, of course," I whispered.

The words "for my glory" caught in my mind. They were so familiar to me because I always say my mission with my writing is to use it "for God's glory." I was



reminded of words written by Oswald Chambers: “Are you in the dark just now, in your circumstances or in your life with God? Then remain quiet... when you are in the dark, listen, and God will give you a very precious message for someone else when you get into the light.” Could it be that the best story I would write to showcase God’s glory would be my own? Is this what this is all about? I was filled with a wondrous peace that sustains me as I head into 2023.

These days, I have come a long way since one day early last fall when I told Mark to put me on hospice... I had lost all hope in the midst of intense physical suffering. Recently, I heard myself telling a friend that I was actually thankful for that suffering because when I am having a bad day now, it still is better than my best day back then.

You know that verse in James 5 – the one that says we rejoice in suffering because we know it produces endurance, which produces character, which produces hope? I’ve always hated that verse. I never could make the connection between suffering and hope... but now I see. Remembering the suffering that I endured and moved past gives me hope for the future – and deep gratitude for today. Sometimes I feel hesitant to declare the hope I have, especially to my oncologist who quotes me stats on mortality rates, but this verse also tells us that our hope doesn’t put us to shame because it’s rooted in God’s love for us. I like that.

Our year ended with the happiest of news – Our oldest daughter, Olivia, got engaged to a caring and wonderful man, Fabian. He is the answer to a prayer we have prayed for each of our girls since they were born – that God would bless them with godly, devoted husbands. Turns out God was also planning to bless me with Fabian – he is my on-call house doctor and has advised and cared for me with true compassion and expertise in my darkest of days.

When you undergo cancer treatment, every care team member advises, “Stay in the day.” Don’t let your mind wander too far down the road. Pretty hard for a planner like me... but there is also great relief and peace in being utterly at God’s mercy. Every day I approach the Throne of Grace with boldness, asking God to save my earthly life. And I cling to words of the old hymn, “Be Thou My Vision.”

*“Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.”*

May he be your light in the new year too, no matter what happens, good or bad. He’s got you.



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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.

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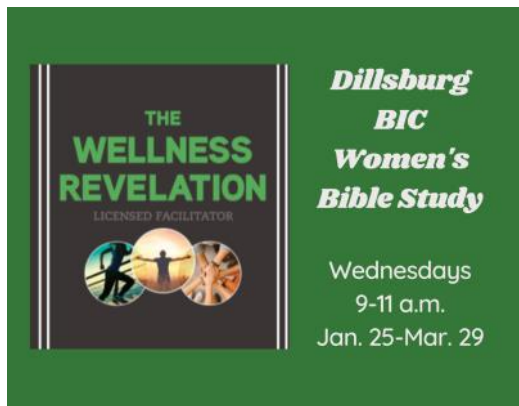
Wednesday women's Bible Study ushers in New Year with focus on wellness

Are you ready to lose what weighs you down?

Emily Wingert (a former staff member of DBIC) is returning this month as a certified instructor for a program called *The Wellness Revelation*.

Using videos featuring fitness professional Alisa Keeton, Emily will encourage us to love God, get healthy and serve others with courage, confidence, kindness, and freedom.

This 10-week Bible study will happen on Wednesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m. starting on Wednesday, January 25. Come join us!



You are invited to... Shine!



Starting on Wednesday, January 11, all elementary-aged kids (K-5th grade) are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

We will meet Bible characters, sing songs, play games, make crafts, enjoy snacks, and more. We hope to see you there!

Want to Grow Your Perspective? By Grace Holland

The world is in terrible shape! God is doing marvelous things to win the world to himself! Both statements are true and it's hard to hold both views at once, but holding one perspective without the other gives a false impression. If you feel in despair about the world, your perspective needs to grow. If you are blind to the lack of knowledge of God in big areas of the world, you need a little shaking up.

Africa has long been considered the dark continent. Today, many African countries have a high percentage of Christians. Muslim nations are in some ways considered the last frontier of missions. Today, thousands of Muslims are disillusioned with their religion and are turning to Christ.

One of the clearest prayer requests in the Bible is in Luke 10:2 where Jesus said that the disciples should pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out workers. God is that Lord, and missionaries are the workers. I understand that the original word means he should *thrust* them out! The reason for this is that there is such a big harvest and so few workers.

Has this changed? No! More than a third of the world's population still needs to hear about Jesus. That's the harvest that needs to be reaped. Compared to the need, the missionaries are few. What can we do? We can take the opportunity to learn about this need and we can ask God to help us be involved.

The Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course is being offered nearby again this spring. Seasoned missionaries will teach what is happening from the perspectives of the Bible, history, culture and strategy. The Dillsburg BIC Commission on Missions would love to help you take this course. Please talk to Esther, John, Eleanor, Judy, Julie, Chou, or me.

God is thrusting workers out. Don't miss the action!



Perspectives™

Mark Your Calendars!

Congregational Council will be held on Saturday, February 4. Potluck breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. Meeting begins at 9:15 a.m. Check the church bulletin and weekly emails for more details.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

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THANK YOU

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*For all the ways that you bring joy and love to the guests of Family Promise whose lives have been afflicted with heartache and trouble, we are truly grateful to you, this caring community. Priscilla Shirer in her Bible study, "The Armor of God," makes this statement: "Listen, the greatest threat to the proliferation of the kingdom of darkness in our culture is the expansion of the kingdom of light. When we carry this message to others and the community of faith grows, the enemy will be pushed back." Thank you again for dispelling darkness by being a congregation, full of light!!

Scott and Cindy Raboci, DBIC Family Promise Coordinators

*Thank you so much for taking the time to send me the very thoughtful package! It is greatly appreciated, and I am extremely grateful you reached out to me. I have decided to change my major from media production to dental hygiene. The dental program is definitely more academically challenging and very competitive. I would love for you to pray for me and ask God to give me strength when I feel defeated with my studies. I never underestimate the power of prayer. Thanks again for everything!

Allyson Maylock—2022 DBIC Scholarship Recipient

*Thank you for your recent gift. Your investment in these precious lives is making a real difference.

Susan Vigliano, President of the Board, Peace Promise

*That you for your precious gift. Please join us in praying fervently for God to raise up more U.S. believers who will answer his call to go and make disciples of all nations. We are grateful to be in ministry with you.

Randall Fairman, President, SIM USA

SECRET PAL TIME!!!



Attention all post-high school ladies. It's time to plan for our annual Ladies Secret Pal Dinner Party, where we reveal who we had as a secret pal this year.

Mark you calendars for January 17, 6 p.m. and plan to attend. You do not have to have a secret pal this year or pick a secret pal for next year to attend the party.

Watch for your personalized invitation in your church mailbox. If you do not have a mailbox, please see either Nina Hoover or Susan Hatch and one will be provided.

If you have any questions, see Nina or Susan.

Looking forward to having you attend.

CORNER LIFE

On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, come to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious free meal served from 5:00-5:45 p.m. Everyone is welcome to linger after the meal for songs and activities for all ages including Thrive youth group which will begin at 6 p.m. If you can volunteer time to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal, here is the [sign-up sheet](#), and thank you!

Menu is subject to change :)

January 4th
Taco Rice Bowls
Tortilla Chips
Fruit
Dessert

January 18th
Homemade Soup
Rolls
Veggies
Dessert

Scenes from the Christmas Season...





Grounding Grace

By Chou Gabikiny

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”
Isaiah 43:19, NIV

New beginnings. They are exciting and refreshing. We all want that new (fill in the blank). Be it a new car, a new home or a new job, the idea of newness can be very appealing. However, what we often don’t consider is the cost of the new beginning. Something usually has to die in order to give way to the new.

A seed needs to be buried and die in order to give birth to a new plant or tree. The caterpillar needs to relinquish its identity at that stage in order to become a butterfly. Snakes cyclically shed their old skin to make room for a new one, and start a new cycle of life, a new beginning.

Have you considered what you must leave behind in order to enter a new season in your life?

It’s so easy to pray, “God give me this!” or “God make this happen!” but have you noticed what you need to do to embrace the new thing? I once heard a preacher say, “Blessings in one area can cause burdens in another” and I am finding that to be more true with each new season of my life.

I wonder what the children of Israel imagined their journey would be when God told Pharaoh, “Let My people go!” (Exodus 5:1). My little mind would think of a sprint to the finish line. With every plague that hit Egypt, I would have thought for sure God is demonstrating His power, so surely He can just transport us from Egypt to Canaan. After all, He is the Almighty God, isn’t He? This might sound very cocky as I am writing it or as you are reading it, but I have found myself in situations where I expected God to give me a nonstop ticket from point A to point B. I believed in His power enough to think it, but missed that I had a part to play.

The Israelites still needed to go. Even after Pharaoh finally agreed to let them go, they had to decide to leave Egypt. Then pack their belongings and finally start walking. They had a huge part to play in this. God gave them Moses. He made a promise to bring them to their promise land. He powerfully demonstrated that He was and still is able to fulfill all His promises. Yet, the Israelites still had work to do! Their new season was promised and even guaranteed, but they still had to make investments to make it happen. And it all started with the resolve to leave; that internal decision and motivation to leave the old behind and embrace the new is hard, yet vital for each transition in life.

What new season are you entering in? Have you resolved to truly leave the old, so you can embrace the new?

As I navigate different transitions in my life, I am learning that every new season comes with a price tag of the old. I made

Just a Closer Walk With Thee my anthem, and everything and everyone disappeared. And I had no choice but to hold on to Him harder, to cling to Him tighter, to lean on Him more intensely. When I prayed for faith, one incident after another forced me to remember who I was in Christ and what I believe and stand for. Be careful what you pray for, right? But more seriously, I have come to understand that God uses transitions to grow me into His likeness, but each time I have to choose to die to myself, so I can reflect His image a bit more clearly.

When they are first discovered underground, diamonds are pretty but need to be polished to reveal their full beauty and be functional for sale and/or use. You are beautifully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14) from the moment you were conceived. And before time began, God had already given us everything we would need to live a godly life (2 Peter 1:3). Yet, He instructs us to diligently add to our faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness love (2 Peter 1: 5-6). We are saved by grace and not by works, so that none will boast (Ephesians 2:8-9) and faith without work is dead (James 2:14). It’s not either or; it’s “and”. It’s not this or that, it’s this and that!

It took 40 years for the Israelites to get to their promise land. This was no express way trip. No direct flight! This was like riding the public bus in a metropolitan city and it feels like it stops at every street corner, even when nobody is standing there. The forty years were necessary. Many people died in the wilderness (Numbers 14:29) due to their disobedience, but there was a lot of spiritual rebirthing as well. Those who remained were strengthened in their faith. Complacency, envy, complaining and more also died in the wilderness. As painful as that journey was, God Himself brought them to that wilderness (Ezekiel 20:10) and we know that He makes ALL things work for our good (Romans 8:28) and for His glory.

What things, old habits and attitudes, is the Lord wanting you to let go of so you can fully enjoy the blessings of the new season?

My prayer is that instead of adopting the culture’s approach to New Year resolutions, we would prayerfully consider ways that we need to decrease, so He can increase in us. (John 3:30)

As we enter this new season, may we find in Him the grace to move **FORWARD:** Forsaking Old Rituals & Willingly Accepting Righteous Directions!

New Hope Ministry Musings By Ginny Spurrier

3,000 Families!

New Hope Ministries fed 3,000 families for Thanksgiving this year across all our center locations in Adams, Cumberland and York counties! What a miracle! The families received turkeys and all the usual fixings for a beautiful meal for their families. There were smiles on the faces of staff and volunteers, and tears of joy on the guests we serve. God bless you and thank you for being part of this blessing!!

God's richest blessings on all who so generously donated gifts for the Christmas Blessings Express, too! (You can look for more details to come regarding this event in the February Doulos!!)

A New, New Hope Center! Red Land Opens!

New Hope Ministries' 9th Center opened on Wednesday, November 30th! We are so excited to help our neighbors in need in the greater Red Land, Lewisberry, Etters and Fairview Township area!

We could use some volunteers - if you are interested please complete a volunteer application today on our website at www.nhm-pa.org.



Is There Someone You're Trying to Change?

Whenever you are trying to show someone his fault, remember that there are limits to what you can accomplish. You can raise concerns, suggest solutions, and encourage reasonable thinking, but you cannot force change. God may use you as a spokesperson to bring certain issues to the attention of another person, but only God can penetrate the other person's heart and bring about repentance. Paul clearly describes this division of labor in 2 Timothy 2:24-26: "And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, *in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth*, and that they will come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will" (emphasis added).

Taken from [The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict](#) by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 182.

Food for Thought

Is there someone you're trying to change? Here's some biblical counsel: Stop! You may want to take a moment to write these words down on a note card and tape it to your mirror so that you see it every morning:

MY JOB: To speak the truth in love

GOD'S JOB: To change people

Our sense of what's "workable" or "practical" may be our biggest enemy in biblical peacemaking. God doesn't call us to be peacemakers in a given situation because it "works" (though often it does--even in ways we can never imagine); God calls us to be peacemakers so that people can see Christ in us. So next time you're in a conflict and in thinking about peacemaking you find yourself tempted to say, "Well, that'll never work in this case!", remember the difference between God's job description and your own.

Fresh Hope for Dillsburg

By Kathy Bennett

Each of us carries a story that's ours alone. Sometimes our story feels intensely private; sometimes we want to share it with close friends or beyond. It's up to us. Sharing widely can bring vulnerability and sometimes, unjust judgement. But again, it's up to us.

The following blog post by Marilyn Gardner from "Communicating Across the Boundaries of Faith and Culture" spoke to me, and I want to share it with you.

She writes:

Some things are not for public consumption. In a world that more and more demands our every thought, our every hurt and pain spewed out through whatever public means possible, it feels important to say this.

Yet, too often, people insist on the story. They seemingly can't give grace without the details. It makes me wonder how we can grow to be the kind of people who can honor the silent stories, giving grace for behavior and actions that don't reflect what we know about the person's life. How can we honor the stories behind the silence, knowing that people must feel safe in order to share? How can we become people who don't operate off a sort of voyeurism, insisting on the hard ingredients instead of offering unconditional comfort?

It was a number of years ago when I first discovered the difference between outside circumstances and silent stories. It was in trying to figure out how I could help a friend. Her outside circumstances were seemingly ideal. A "put together" family - the kind that takes pictures of all their kids with blue jeans and white shirts on a pristine beach - a good job, beautiful kids, talent beyond believability. But behind her perfect smile was an undefinable sadness. At first, I was impatient and frustrated. Of all the people I knew, she was the last person who seemed to have a reason to be sad. It was in the midst of frustration, that I felt a strong rebuke and challenge to look beyond these seemingly perfect circumstances. I realized that there must be more to the story than

her observable beautiful life.

In truth, I should have been quicker to identify this. I say this because I too have been judged as one who has "nothing to complain about." Judged for being a baby who can't cope with the perfect life I'd been given. There were silent stories behind my observable "good" life. Stories that were difficult to share, and even more difficult to live.

The stories remained silent until I trusted a friend enough to reveal them.

Whether others give us freedom for silence or not, there are time honored and tested verses from the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes that offer space for these seasons of silence:

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

May we strive to be people of the seasons. People who honor all of the times in our lives, including the stories behind the silence - may we be people who offer the gifts of grace, comfort, compassion, and hope, all given without expectation, without insisting on details. And through these gifts may stories be heard, silence give way to a voice, and above all, the seasons of hope and healing be restored.



Celebrating Life Together!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



None (Really!!)



Naomi Smith	January 1	Marian Hoover	January 18
Joe Zwally	January 1	Jeremy Rank	January 20
Kyle Leister	January 2	Hannah Hardy	January 20
Gabriel Gabikiny	January 9	Stephanie Walsh	January 23
Seth Miller	January 9	Dave Miller	January 26
Terry Stoudnour	January 9	Steven Miller	January 26
Scott Eyster	January 13	Rachel Miller	January 27
Jeff Conrady	January 14	Charlie Miller	January 28
David Vader	January 15	Sarah Hoover	January 29
Noah Austin	January 17	Art Bert	January 31

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am Worship	2	3	4 6:00 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer (Zoom)	5 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	6 9:00 am Local Outreach	7
8 Doulos Deadline 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	9	10 7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study (Zoom)	11 6:00 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Shine! 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer (Zoom)	12 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers') 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	13	14
15 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	16	17 6:00 pm Secret Pal Dinner Party	18 6:00 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Shine! 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer (Zoom)	19 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 6:30 pm Leadership Council (Zoom) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	20	21
22 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	23	24 7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study (Zoom)	25 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:00 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Shine! 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer (Zoom)	26 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	27	28
29 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	30	31				