



The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA | 717.432.3847

www.DillsburgBIC.org

On Being Priests

By Pastor Jim Spurrier

"...you are God's holy priests who offer spiritual sacrifices that please him because of Jesus Christ. " (1 Peter 2:5)

Recently a member of our small group shared that she had encouraged a friend to read the Bible and received a response that her friend's priest told her she did not need to read scripture because he was her source for learning about God.

In the past decade, it has been appalling to hear numerous reports of priests across the church abusing young people under their care. We must not allow these stories of contemporary priests who fail in their calling to hinder our willingness as followers of Jesus to embrace the clear Biblical teaching that all of us who are in Christ are now a holy priesthood.

The living beings and elders in Revelation 5 sing a new song to the Lamb that includes this affirmation. "...your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. And you have caused them to become God's kingdom and priests." If we are, indeed, called to be priests in God's kingdom we do well to consider what this means for our lives today. What privileges and responsibilities are ours as new covenant priests? The letter the Apostle Peter wrote to the early church is helpful in this regard.

First, Peter's teaching is that ALL believers, young and old, both male and female, regardless of heritage or training have become priests. "You (plural) are God's holy priests" The Bible teaches that since Jesus is now the high priest of the new covenant, all of us who are in Christ are now priests of God having been "made holy by the sacrifice Jesus." (Heb.10:10) As holy priests we are privileged to "go right in to the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him" (Heb.10:22) This is both wonderful and amazing. As holy priests we are privileged to speak face to face with God. There are no barriers separating us from his presence.

Peter also instructs God's people that, as priests, our responsibility is to "offer sacrifices that please God." (1 Pet.2:15) What sacrifices please God? Let's recall just a few from familiar scripture passages. 1) The sacrifice of a broken and repentant heart in response to sin (Ps. 51);

2) The sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving that proclaims the glory of God's name (Heb.13); (This responsibility is a good argument for the importance of being present when God's priests gather to give praise and thanks to God, but that is another conversation.). 3) The sacrifice of sharing what you have with those in need... the sacrifice of generosity! (Heb.13 and 4) the presenting of our bodies to God as living sacrifices (Rom 12:1) As holy priests we are to be offering these sacrifices continuously. When we think of what Jesus Christ has done for us this simply is not too much to ask.

Finally, Peter writes that we have been made a kingdom of priests so that we can "show others the goodness of God who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Pet.2:9) This is both a privilege and an awesome responsibility. As holy priests, we are to go about each day revealing the goodness of God to our children, our families, our neighbors, our coworkers, and everyone we come in contact with along the way. We show the goodness of God as we become more and more like Jesus and stay attentive to the nudges of the Holy Spirit within us.

We love to celebrate the truth that we have been born again into the family of God and now have a heavenly Father who knows and cares for us with unfailing love. May we also learn to celebrate that no matter who we were before coming to Jesus, we have all been made holy priests in God's kingdom. Let's embrace this truth and lean into this part of our identity, joyfully serving the one who redeemed us and made us holy.



Celebrating Life Together!



Congratulations to our
DBiC Softball Team on their
Second Place finish for the season!!



Welcoming our newest additions!!
Paul & Julie Lerew—Anna Marie
Adam & Emily Schmehl—Wesley

DILLSBURG BRETHERN IN CHRIST STAFF



Rob Douglass
Senior Pastor
rob.douglass@dillsburgbic.org



Jeff Conrady
Associate Pastor
jeff.conrady@dillsburgbic.org



Naomi Smith
Associate Pastor
naomi@dillsburgbic.org



Esther Spurrier
Pastor of
Congregational Care
espurrier49@gmail.com



Julie Lerew
Worship Coordinator
julie.lerew@dillsburgbic.org



Kathy Bennett
Administrative Assistant
office@dillsburgbic.org



The Doulos Newsletter Information

Doulos Editor: Carolyn Kimmel
Doulos Layout and Design: Anne-Marie Brandt
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.

Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church
18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA
717.432.3847
www.DillsburgBIC.org

A Journey

By Grace Holland

Lord, what do you want to teach me through this health journey of mine?

One thing I'm pretty sure God wants me to learn is compassion. I thought that I was very sensitive to others' pain and knew how to sympathize. I had much to learn! I'm sure there are levels of pain far above those I've felt, but when I wake up in the morning and **every muscle** shouts that it will not move without a wave of pain, it is a new experience for me.

It started with great weakness and progressed to pain everywhere. I talked to the Lord about it. My family came and prayed for me. Two visits to the Emergency Room and two days in the hospital revealed a blood clot - and Covid. When both cleared up, the only verdict was "after-effects of Covid." The treatment? Tylenol. There was no let-up.

I asked to be anointed and prayed for at the end of church one Sunday but then was unable to attend. Prayers and get well wishes flowed in. Many, many prayers were being offered up for me and I was grateful. Who knew that this would last for months? My wrists swelled up and took turns being unable to function. People offered to come and visit, but I felt I would have no energy to respond.

My insurance company sent a home health care nurse and an occupational therapist. The nurse was young and talkative. The therapist was surprisingly elderly with an inherited tremor like mine (another whole story in the making). He at least gave me some exercises to work on.

It seemed the Lord wanted to teach me new levels of dependence on him and others. There were moments when I felt totally helpless to do anything. I asked God to speak to me and show me his all-sufficiency. He gave me strength to command some muscles to move. Groaning helped a little when there was no one else around. It took me half an hour to get dressed in the morning.

Family members were willing to help, but I refused to be an invalid. It seemed God wanted me to develop courage - courage to make joints and muscles that hurt function anyway. Sometimes I decided that I was just a wimp and that others would not be making such a fuss. But people began to encourage me, stating that some of them had experienced similar effects of Covid, and the blood clot and Covid had taken a special toll on my 90 years of life. I would exercise courage.

Not much changed. This was going to take perseverance, something the Lord would have to help me with. What if I never recovered? I did not dare to dwell on that thought. Words of hymns played constantly in my mind. I asked God to help me focus on Scripture and Isaiah 43:2 came to mind: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

I thought of Scriptures about suffering. Was there any chance at all that through Christ, we are showpieces to Satan like Job was? If so, I pled with God that in his mercy he would grant me the patience of Job to endure the suffering and not dishonor him!

I remembered Peter's words to struggling Christians in 1 Peter 4:12-13: "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed." What a thought - that I was supposed to take this all in stride!

One day I asked God simply, "What shall I do next?" He reminded me again of James 5:14-15, I asked Pastor Rob if he would come with some "elders" and anoint and pray for me. Obedience to Scripture was another good lesson to learn. It was encouraging to note that as we prayed, my sins were forgiven too. The "prayer of faith" would raise me up. That afternoon it seemed that the pain decreased. Next morning it was back.

However, I began to see a little strength building in my muscles as I exercised each day. My wrists began to swell less and the binding pain of the morning loosened as the day progressed. This gave me hope that things could change. I was faithful to do all the exercises three times a day, even when it hurt.

On the last visit of the occupational therapist, he mentioned that his tremor was worse and noted sadly that if this continued, he would have to retire. I sympathized with him. We talked about how I would continue the exercises and I told him that I was learning so much. I was surprised at how the words tumbled out of my mouth. "I am learning compassion, dependence, courage, perseverance, obedience, patience, and faith."

"Thank you," he said. "I needed to talk to you today."

Two months out, I have just taken my first walk outside - with a cane. I am told that I must use it henceforth. It will be hard on my pride, but no doubt that is one more thing I need to learn.

My answer: Yes, Lord.





*THANK YOU for your recent donation to Messiah University, and helping us maintain a posture of gracious Christianity, rooted in intellectual and spiritual humility as we model servant leadership and responsible citizenship. We appreciate your generosity.

Jon Stuckey, Vice-President for Advancement, Messiah University Collaboratory

*We are grateful for your recent support of Paxton Ministries. Thank you for helping us provide a safe, comfortable home for adults in need. Your donation makes a big difference!

Amy Starr, Director of Development, Paxton Ministries

*Because of you and with you, we share hope and love for our neighbors in need. Your investment in our day-to-day work fuels our mission to make sure people have their basic needs met when they walk through our doors. Words just cannot adequately express our sincerest thanks for your kind blessing! Your support of our life-changing programs makes an impact right here in our community. Thank you for partnering with us in this meaningful work as we share help and the hope of Jesus with our neighbors in need!

Molly Helmstetter, Director of Development, New Hope Ministries



The Local Outreach Commission was delighted to distribute two scholarships totaling \$24,000 in June. The recipients told us how much stress this removed from their first year of college, in both cases meaning they did not need to take out significant loans to start their college journeys. Please pray for the young ladies as they leave for college soon!

We have reached out to last year's recipients and hope to update you soon on how they are doing. We know Mitchel has been attending church with us and is evaluating whether to change gears and look at vocational training rather than college courses, and we will be able to continue to help him no matter which avenue he pursues. It is exciting to contribute in significant ways to these young people.



Stop Traffic

Marj Strayer

I would like to make you aware of upcoming events where Soaps by Survivors will be featured. As you know the soaps and lotions are made with the help of women survivors of exploitation and sex trafficking served by Peace Promise. This is a great way to get involved in fighting this battle leveled against some of the most vulnerable in our society.

As I write this one of our women has slipped back into prostitution and is in a very dangerous place. She is currently being trafficked by a cold, calculated and evil man from her past. Much needs to be done to find her exact location and the best way to rescue her from this situation. This will most likely include travel and other expenses. Please pray for Jessica. This is just one of the several examples of the work Peace Promise is engaged in, in meeting the needs of these women. They provide housing, job training, care of their children, food, legal expenses, transportation, help with rehabilitation, counseling just to name a few of the many services. The foundation to all of this is continuous passionate prayer, seeking the help of our all powerful God.

The following are events where you could purchase their Soaps by Survivors:

- Peach Festival on August 12th from 7-1pm at Mt. Airy Orchards, Dillsburg
- Mum Festival on September 16th from 8-3pm at Smucker Gardens, Millersburg
- Fall Fest on September 30th from 10-3pm at Route 174 Roadside Market, Boiling Springs
- Peace Promise Run for Freedom 5K Your Way October 7-22 check on PeacePromise.org

Soaps are also available at Camp Hebron in Halifax, Roots Salon in Camp Hill, and Route 174 Market.



Thank you cards: Have you used the thank you cards in the pew racks? If so, could you let the office know if they help you cultivate a habit of being thankful? Have you received one of them from someone else? We would love to hear from you about how it made you feel! Please email or call the office to share your input!

Do you have a prayer request? Would you like: To receive emailed prayer requests? To receive the weekly DBIC email? A church mailbox? Offering envelopes? You can contact us by email at connect@dillsburgbic.org with your request.

Support Group for Christian parents of LGBTQ+ children. (Meeting time shared as needed to protect privacy) Do you want support in your efforts to love your child and have a good relationship with them? Do you have questions or fears about your child's future? Are you questioning your parenting? We are not trying to change your child, the church, or the world. We are here to support and honor each other in our efforts as parents who love their LGBTQ+ children. If you would like to join us in judgment-free conversation, please contact Rob at freshhope@dillsburgbic.org or 717-432-3847.



This month, we get an update from Matt & Julie Walsh

*Compiled by John and Esther Spurrier,
DBIC Global Outreach Commission*

We usually include good things that happen to our missionaries, but, frankly, sometimes life is difficult for them. Here is a letter from Matt and Julie Walsh written on July 11th. Hopefully by the time you read this the situation will be greatly improved. But please pray for them during this discouraging time.

Last night a big storm hit Shiloh and ripped the back porch roof off and took about a quarter of the house roof with it. There was a lot of rain which damaged about 30% of the interior ceiling. The house was flooded, and some of our stuff that had already been moved over was damaged. We were less than a week away from moving in, but now we have to re-evaluate what is possible. We have already given notice to our current landlord and have to be out by the end of the month.

We are very tired and very discouraged. We have been pushing so hard to get finished and moved in, and this is a major setback. We praise God for our wonderful team who worked all day to remove the damaged roof sheets and cobble together enough to close back up the main house roof. We spent a lot of time reinforcing the remaining structure so that it won't happen again.

- Please pray for our family and our team. While this has been the biggest challenge so far, it is not the first discouragement that we have dealt with over the last few months. The rainy season can be unpredictable and we are not yet ready to handle all the additional challenges that it brings.
- Please pray for our discouragement. We know that God is in control and do not question Him or His timing, but it is still difficult as you go through the trial.
- Please pray as we try to figure out what needs to be repaired and how we are going to get it done before the end of July and get moved in.
- Please pray for the Effler family as they prepare to go on home assignment in two weeks. While they have moved in, not everything is finished or ready for their departure yet either.
- Please pray for all the remaining station work at Shiloh. There is still a lot to do to get the station ready for the rains. We need to prepare the drilling rig for storage, add gravel to the hangar so that it doesn't turn into a mud pit, install the backup generator to help on the cloudy days, and gates and gates and gates around the station, etc.



Oh, Be Careful Little Mouth

*"Even a fool is thought wise...and discerning if he holds his tongue."
Proverbs 17:28*

Reckless words, spoken hastily and without thinking, inflame many conflicts. "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing" (Prov. 12:18; cf. Prov. 13:3; 17:28; 21:23; 29:20). Although we may seldom set out deliberately to hurt others with our words, sometimes we do not make much of an effort not to hurt others. We simply say what comes to mind without thinking about the consequences. In the process, we may hurt and offend others, which only aggravates conflict.

*Taken from [The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict](#)
by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 121*

Food for Thought

What have you said recently without thinking?

The word "reckless" usually conjures up images of someone driving a car with no concern for the people around them. A reckless driver can cause havoc on the highway, putting his or her life, as well as the lives of others, in harm's way. If we spot someone driving recklessly, we usually grab our cell phones and alert the police. But what about someone speaking recklessly?

Simply saying what comes to mind can be looked upon as being authentic and honest. People admire the plain-speak quality and often promote folks who can do it. But it can also be looked upon as not thinking, or reckless. The lives of the one speaking and those hearing then are caught in harm's way. And if you're caught in harm's way, the result is usually some kind of harm. Oh, be careful little mouth what you say.

PeaceMeal is a publication of Peacemaker® Ministries. Copyright 2012. Reprinted with permission.



DBiC Vacation Bible School July 31-August 4





Celebrating Life Together!



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Beth Shelly	August 2	Tom & Susan Hatch	August 12
Mark & Sarah Renard	August 3	Tim & Becky Horst	August 20
Art & Donna Bert	August 4	Wendell & Nina Hoover	August 30
Steven & Rachel Miller	August 5	Jeremy & Nicole Rank	August 31
Jim & Jill Poole	August 7	Mark & Carolyn Kimmel	August 31
David & Ariela Vader	August 8		



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Magnolia Kanazawa	August 1	Chad Brubaker	August 21
Matt Walsh	August 1	Jay Smith	August 21
Lloyd Sowers	August 2	Becky Kimmel	August 22
Clover Sell	August 2	Laura Austin	August 22
Jessica Raboci	August 4	Jake Heck	August 24
Jean Thau	August 5	Mel Brough	August 24
Kay Gasswint	August 6	Karly Heck	August 24
Randy Zwally	August 9	Rosie Stoner	August 27
Tom Renard	August 16	Wilder Sell	August 28
Sarah Weiser	August 16	Elaina Pease	August 28
Jo Reichard	August 17	Gloria Lebo	August 31
Veronica Beers	August 19		

Celebrating Life Together!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES





Scott & Cindy Raboci September 9
Tariq & Angelina Waris September 20



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ginny Spurrier	September 3	Debbie Wertz	September 15
Lilliana Beers	September 3	Heidi Tucker	September 15
Cheryl Cross	September 4	Andrew Douglass	September 20
bj Martin	September 5	Ron Engle	September 20
Nathan Hoover	September 8	Julianne Douglass	September 21
Robert Pomeroy	September 8	Lincoln Hill	September 22
Nevin Engle	September 9	Judy Smith	September 24
Stan Eyster	September 11	Nina Leister	September 25
Tom Hatch	September 13	Sawyer Carlson	September 28
Victoria Hoover	September 13	Treyson Moyer	September 28

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						
3 10:00 am Worship	4	5	6 6:00 pm Missions Night/ Picnic	7 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 pm Prayer gathering (Zoom)	8 Doulos Deadline	9
10 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	11	12	13 6:30 pm Worship & Prayer (Zoom)	14 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 6:30 pm Human Trafficking meeting 7:30 pm Prayer gathering (Zoom)	15 9:00 am Local Outreach	16
17 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	18	19 7:00 pm Deacon meeting (Zoom)	20 6:30 pm Worship & Prayer (Zoom)	21 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 6:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting 7:30 pm Prayer gathering (Zoom)	22	23 Dillsburg Clean-up Outreach (time TBD)
24 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	25	26	27 6:30 pm Worship & Prayer (Zoom)	28 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 pm Prayer gathering (Zoom)	29 	30