



## The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

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[www.DillsburgBIC.org](http://www.DillsburgBIC.org)

### *Barefoot before God*

*By Pastor Rob Douglass*

For some reason, my mind has been drawn to see what I believe to be some miracles recently. For the sake of space, I will only share one of them.

They aren't the kind of miracles that you might first think of when considering miracles, nothing like opening the eyes of someone born blind or deliverance from the demons of life-controlling addiction. In fact, once I share one of them with you, you will wonder whether I know what a miracle is at all.

The miracle I want to share with you occurred a couple of weeks ago. My family was returning from our vacation with Chris' folks in Florida. For some reason on the return flight, I was struck by the question, how are we in the air?

The average mid-sized commercial aircraft weighs about 90,000 pounds when it is empty. The Airbus A320 that we were flying on has a maximum take-off weight of just under 172,000 pounds (airplane + people + cargo/luggage + fuel).

This means that at the time of my question, I was strapped to a metal contraption that weighed about 170,000 pounds moving at several hundred miles per hour at a height of 35,000 feet above the earth. Behold, the miracle of flight!

It is tempting to say that flight is not a miracle at all, but rather merely a result of science – pure physics and engineering. While I don't want to take anything away from engineers, especially since we have so many of them at DBIC, I am not convinced that they should get all of the credit.

As I have been thinking about it, I believe that we have been able to learn how to fly, ultimately because of God. So, he should get at least some of the credit. Let me share some of my reasons for this assertion.

First, we live in such a finely-tuned universe, where both life exists and science is possible. The statistical improbability of complex sentient life is staggering. The odds against life in our universe, combined with the reality of cause and effect are foundational elements of science. We all assume cause and effect continually, but

what if the world were completely random? If A and B combine to make C today but can never be relied upon to regularly make C again in the future, science would be impossible.

In his book *Miracles*, C. S. Lewis states, people "became scientific because they expected Law in Nature, and they expected Law in Nature because they believed in a "Legislator" or law-giver." We frequently hear about the battle between science and faith. While there is certainly often friction between the two in our day, it is not the only way science and faith can relate to one another. In fact, throughout history many of the greatest scientists were people of faith. People often mention Galileo's unfortunate clash with the church, but they tend to ignore the fact that Galileo was and remained a devout Christian. Other examples of major scientists with faith would include Kepler, Newton, Clerk Maxwell and Faraday.

Secondly, God should get at least some credit for flight because we humans have been created with sufficient curiosity and reasoning to be able to penetrate and understand (at least to some extent) what is happening in the world. Humans have the capacity to observe, make inferences and draw conclusions about what we experience.

Thirdly, despite the ways our culture seems to have rejected all notions of absolute truth, science remains one of the last bastions of objective truth. I am grateful that the airline I was on, in their desire to make a few extra dollars hauling cargo did not feel that "their truth" was that the plane could take off weighing 250,000 pounds rather than Airbus' stated maximum take-off weight of 172,000. I am happy that the pilot did not decide that he only needed to fly 68 miles per hour to get off the ground or that he was free to ignore the path indicated on his flight plan.

My point in sharing all of this is simply to say I was



grateful to have my eyes opened for a moment to the miraculous aspects of a rather dull, uneventful, non-miraculous flight.

The experience reminded me of some lines from Elizabeth Barrett Browning:

“Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God,  
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;  
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.”

May we all increasingly find ourselves barefoot before God.



Calling all kids age 4 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade: come join us on **July 31-August 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** for the Jerusalem Marketplace VBS. We will dive back into Bible times, dress in costume, go to synagogue school, play games, sing songs, eat snacks, and explore the marketplace every day. Feel free to register at [dillsburgbic.org/vbs](http://dillsburgbic.org/vbs).

Calling all youth and adult volunteers: contact Pastor Naomi if you would be willing to help in any way, big or small. We need tribe leaders and assistants, marketplace vendors, synagogue teachers, game leaders, and people to pray over the week! Thank you.

## DILLSBURG BRETHREN IN CHRIST STAFF



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## The Doulos Newsletter Information

Doulos Editor: Carolyn Kimmel  
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Please send submissions and content for the next issue to: [carolynkimmel@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:connect@dillsburgbic.org) or by using the individual contacts in the staff listing.

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# Celebrating Our High School Graduates!



**Joey Hecker**

*Mechanicsburg High School*

**Erika Pease**

*Northern High School*

**Samantha Brandt**

*Commonwealth Charter Academy*

**Spencer Sieber**

*Northern High School*





\*Dear friends at DBIC, **thank you** so much for your hospitality at Bible Adventure. We are thankful for your partnership. To our knowledge, 357 people began a relationship with Jesus this past school year. Thank you for your part in this! May God bless you abundantly.

*Kim Sanger, Assistant Director, Joy El Bible Adventure*

\***Thank you** for your recent gift. Your investment in these precious lives is making a real difference. We're making a difference, and we couldn't do it without you.

*Susan Vigliano, Board President, Peace Promise*

\***Thank you** for your support of Matt and Julie Walsh. We are grateful to be in ministry with you.

*SIM USA*



## Our Scholarship Recipients



**Thank you** to the entire congregation [for Alyssa's scholarship.] Alyssa and I are overwhelmed with extreme happiness and love. I haven't been in church since my mother's funeral, and it was hard to control my emotions. My heart is full.

Thank you and much love,

Lisa and Alyssa Witters



I want to say **thank you** to every one of you. Many of you I know, since I grew up in this church, and some of you I'm not familiar with. Regardless of who you are and if I know you, thank you. The scholarship I was able to receive because of all of you was such a blessing. It was more than I could've asked for or imagined. Because of your willingness to give, I no longer have to worry about money for college this year. I know the University of Valley Forge is where the Lord wants me, and I just want to thank you all for your support. May God bless every single one of you.

A'Marie Gard



If you're looking for a fun weeknight activity, come out and watch the DBIC softball team. Bring a lawn chair and cheer them! Games begin at 6:00 P.M.



July 10 DBiC vs. Grantham @ Grantham BIC

July 17 DBiC vs. CCC @ Grantham BIC

July 24—Division Playoffs

July 25—Championship Game



*Have a fun, safe Summer!*

The church nursery is open during the 10:00 A.M. service for children ages 0-4 (any kids not yet in kindergarten). You can sign in your children in the nursery room (next to the library) and pick them up after the service.

**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](mailto:connect@dillsburgbic.org). with your request.



**This month, we get an update from  
Chris and Marlys Book  
serving at Macha Research Trust.**

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

This month, we hear from Chris and Marlys Book, who are finishing 13 years at Macha Research Trust, which was founded in its initial form by Phil Thuma in the 1990s. Phil and Elaine and Chris and Marlys will be with us on July 23 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to tell a part of the story. Meanwhile, read a portion of Chris's latest letter:

We don't often share much about the results of some of our research projects, or what difference they make in this country and around the world. Many research institutions measure their success by the number of publications resulting from their research. For instance, of about nine projects that we were involved with in 2022, I counted about 20 articles in various journals and publications that named at least one of our employees as a co-author, although some of that research took place in other institutions within Zambia. However, it is not often that a project gets as much publicity in global media as has resulted from a publication last week in the Current Biology Journal.



In 2018, I was involved with colleagues from Johns Hopkins University in designing and building a 20-by-20-square-meter structure that we called the Flight Cage. The intended purpose was to study in a large scale the odor preferences of mosquitoes. It was and still is the only structure like it in the world. Well, after all the data was captured and analyzed at MRT and JHU from the subsequent study that took place in 2019/2020, the results were accepted for publication.



Of course, the media loves a good story, and the hypothesis that mosquitoes are more attracted to some human odors over others is big news not just for scientists, but also for backyard BBQ evening

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conversation. Our scientific director, Dr. Simulundu, and Dr. McMenemy at JHU were contacted from multiple media outlets, resulting in on-camera interviews and written articles on CNN, Washington Post, Al-Jazeera and perhaps others. We're now collaborating with JHU on drafting a grant for a much larger study. [If you'd like to read these articles, contact John Spurrier.]

With love,  
Chris and Marlys

### Did you know...?

The Brethren in Christ (BIC) has a Global Compassion Fund that has provided thousands of dollars to help people in need!

Motivated by the love of Christ, for more than 45 years we as the BIC family have come together to address international natural disasters, humanitarian aid crises, and extreme poverty.

We work hand in hand with international BIC churches — together meeting needs restoratively. Our close relationships with local churches and partners, in some cases spanning more than 100 years, enable us to quickly and effectively aid people who need help most.

In the last four years, the BIC has provided nearly \$400,000 for immediate, life-giving resources to people in 21 countries, including flood relief, food for refugees, COVID-19 relief, food assistance for vulnerable people in Africa, India and the Amazon Rainforest, assistance for Macha Hospital and much more.

See the full list with amounts and a description of each donation go to the web site: <https://partnership.bicus.org/project/global-compassion-fund/>



### **Taking Time to Be Wrong**

Agreeing with others, especially when they are pointing out your faults, is not easy, but it can play a crucial role in peacemaking. When you are talking with another person, first listen for the truth, resisting the temptation to defend yourself, blame others, or focus on points of disagreement. Ask yourself, "Is there any truth in what he or she is saying?" If your answer is "yes," acknowledge what is true and identify your common ground before moving to your differences. Doing so is a sign of wisdom and spiritual maturity. "Let a righteous man strike me--it is a kindness; let him rebuke me--it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it" (Ps. 141:5). "He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise" (Prov. 15:31; cf. 15:5; 17:10; 25:12). By agreeing with the other person whenever possible, you can resolve certain issues easily and then focus profitably on matters that deserve further discussion.

*Taken from [The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict](#) by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 168-169.*

### ***Food for Thought***

Think back to arguments you've had. Can you recall a single instance when quickly defending yourself from the criticism of another brought peace? In contrast to a quick defense, James exhorts us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (Jas. 1:19). Consider the beginning of Proverbs 15:31: "He who listens to a life-giving rebuke..." Simply put, listening requires time--and reflection on what's been said. You have literally nothing (except pride) to lose and everything to gain by listening and not responding quickly when someone points out what they believe to be a fault of yours.

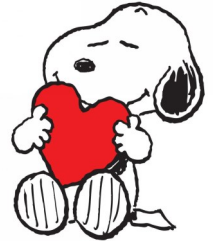
The next time someone brings a rebuke your way, restrain yourself from offering your verdict on their rebuke--whether that verdict be positive or negative--until you've had time to check in with the Lord about it. Tell the other person, "That's hard for me to hear, but I know I need to be quick to listen and slow to speak. I'd like some time to think deeply about what you've said." If it turns out that you still disagree with the other person, at least you'll both have the benefit of knowing that you're not responding at the jerk of a knee.

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# Celebrating Life Together!

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES





Paul & Julie Lerew	July 1
Ron & Betty Engle	July 10
Mike & Sue Lawver	July 15
Travis & Jordyn Moyer	July 23
Dave & Patti Miller	July 23
Ed & Marj Strayer	July 26



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mark Kimmel	July 1	Bob Garlin	July 16
Ray Cross	July 1	Gloria Smith	July 18
Dwight Rotz	July 3	Rachel Pease	July 20
Samuel Brubaker	July 5	Marilyn Smith	July 21
Zach Carlson	July 5	Daphne Rank	July 24
Cindy Raboci	July 7	Meghan Kanazawa	July 26
Sherry Eyster	July 13	Joe Bennett	July 27
Rick Miller	July 14	Don Prowell	July 28
Deb Hill	July 14	Dee Maxwell	July 30
Bobbi Delp	July 16		

# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 am Worship	3	4	5 6:30 pm Prayer and Sharing (Zoom)	6 6:30 pm Worship & Prayer (In-Person) 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room)	7	8 Doulos Deadline
9 9:00 am Membership Class 10:00 am Worship 12:00 Joint LC/MC/Staff planning meeting	10	11	12 6:30 pm Prayer and Sharing (Zoom)	13 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	14	15
16 9:00 am Membership Class 10:00 am Worship	17	18 7:00 pm Deacon Meeting (Zoom)	19 6:30 pm Prayer and Sharing (Zoom)	20 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	21	22
23 9:00 am Membership Class 10:00 am Worship 6:30 pm Missionary Update	24	25	26 6:30 pm Prayer and Sharing (Zoom)	27 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	28	29 
30 9:00 am Membership Class 10:00 am Worship	31 6:00 pm VBS					