



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP REACHING FAR

18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA | 717.432.3847
www.DillsburgBIC.org

April 2024

"The Power of Mentoring"

By Julie Lerew

One January afternoon, I received the call that a dear friend and mentor had unexpectedly passed away.

Dr. Martin Sanders was a professor at the graduate school I attended about 15 years ago. He went from a family dairy farm in Ohio to a decades long career of teaching, speaking, and developing leaders around the world.

During my first significant conversation with Dr. Sanders, I apologized for "taking his time." I was a new student, in my mid-twenties, and not even in one of his classes. "Now let's get this straight. No one takes my time," he said. "If I'm talking to you, I am investing my time." Then he added, with a rather serious look, "Never say that again."

If I had been intimidated before, this certainly did not help.

One evening a few months later, I was working at the graduate school's front desk. Dr. Sanders came by on his way home for the night, asked me if I needed anything-- then, in response to my puzzled look, offered McDonald's. What he did not know was that I was a few hours in to a 10-hour shift, bemoaning the fact that I had forgotten to bring any food. I asked for a cheeseburger.

Before long, he came back into the school, limping from an old injury, and dropped off my burger before getting on with his evening. It felt like a gift not only from Dr. Sanders, but from God.

But very quickly I was struck with a strange, disproportionate guilt. I had heard that Dr. Sanders was paid hundreds per hour as a consultant, and here he had used that incredibly valuable, un-payback-able resource— time— not even to talk with me, but to deliver a cheeseburger. I should have said no, I worried. I started thinking of ridiculous ways I could help him recoup some time, to repay what I owed.

Finally, I came to him. "Dr. Sanders, your time is a resource I can't repay." He nodded— he was never one to question his own value. "But if I can't accept a

cheeseburger from you without feeling guilty, maybe I have a bigger problem with accepting grace from God."

He had me grab a friend, and the three of us processed and prayed through some of the not-so-helpful beliefs I had about earning love, protecting myself, and being a "good daughter." It was the beginning of a spiritual healing journey for me... and the beginning of a relationship in which Dr. Sanders would affectionately embrace the title "Dr. Cheeseburger."

After I graduated, "Dr. Cheeseburger" offered my struggling church his services as an interim pastor. Soon he and I were both on staff there, me in my first role as worship coordinator. Things I had previously heard him teach came alive as we served together:

It was the way he treated staff. For the church custodian's birthday, for example, he had the congregation sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," and bought him tickets to see his favorite team.

It was the way he handled conflict. "Talk to people, not about them," he would say, and he did it.

It was the way he empowered. He would give input if needed, then let go. He modeled setting people up for success, and then trusting them to carry things out. He taught me the art of "brief but meaningful" check-ins.

It was the way he gathered young staff and interns at his home to connect and mentor. It was the way he created an environment for us to learn not only from him, but from each other. It was the way he-- and his beloved wife Dianna-- showed their love for us with food, hospitality, listening, and generosity.

It was his willingness to push the church out of our comfort zones, regarding God and each other and ourselves and the community. We began to be known as a place to connect deeply with God, and to have fun with each other.

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Dr. Sanders— who by now I knew as Martin— followed through. When I moved overseas to do community development work, he texted me daily to encourage, bless, and remind me I was loved by him and God. Later, when I was temporarily living in New York again, he invited me into a developmental mentoring group— an experience that continues to influence me. Martin even came to the Middle East right before my son was born, and helped to launch a mentoring group with me and my Arab colleagues.

In the past few years, since my family and I returned from the Middle East, we would still meet up with Martin when we could; he would still text or call just to check in. And in the weeks after his death, I found myself still wanting to text him. To honor his investment in my life by telling him how I was passing it on.

Our last significant conversation (over text messages) was about DBIC's "Worship and Wonder" art show in December; at the church where he and I served together, we had done an art show for Easter. He loved hearing about the way DBIC's art show made space for fun, highlighted art as worship, and helped us to learn new things about one another. "Honouring people is uniquely valuable & appears to be a bit of an art form," he commented.

While I miss my mentor, I have begun to realize that the best parts of him— the love, affirmation, wisdom, exhortation, compassion, and generosity— are all from Jesus. What Martin got from Jesus, he shared with me. And I honor Jesus when I pass them on. Jesus, who gave what I could never repay— His time, His body, His blood— to show His love for me.

May we all take from what Jesus, and the good examples in our lives, give us. And may we share it with our neighborhoods, communities, and the world.

"MENTORING IS A BRAIN TO PICK, AN EAR TO LISTEN, AND A PUSH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION."

~ JOHN C. CROSBY

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The Doulos Newsletter Information

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Please send submissions and content for the next issue to: newsletter@dillsburgbic.org by the 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.

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DBiC Car Ministry News

By Kimberly Tucker



Jon Gustafson hosted another annual oil change where he “makes cars happy”! Dan Brandt, Chad Brubaker, and Nathan Hoover volunteered their entire Saturday morning of March 16th to complete safety checks and change the oil and oil filters for 13 of our neighbors. Two more neighbors had signed up, but unfortunately were not able to make their appointments due to illness and work. Only 1/3 of our neighbors had previously attended our annual oil change. The oldest vehicle was a 2006 Lincoln Zephyr. The owners had done a lot of mechanical maintenance themselves to keep it on the road!

We had some entertainment as we waited this year. One family brought a 9 month old infant and another brought an 11 month old infant. They both liked to use their voices! It made for an enjoyable morning!

Thank you, DBiC, for making this happen! You are keeping people safe as they drive to work, to the doctors, and to the grocery store!



The Church at Work... or PLAY?

February, nine people from DBiC joined friends from two other churches at our home to help clean up storm-damaged tree limbs. In addition, some also went across the street and cleaned up a very appreciative single, older neighbor's property. They sawed down limbs, stacked, carried, dragged, and raked them up. This was a wonderful gift to us, especially since Bob's activity was limited. We pray special blessings on each one.

~ Bob & Carmy Hess



Prayer for Healing

Brent Whitesel

As you may have heard, I've had a calling to share my knowledge and experiences on "Praying for Healing." We will be offering this as a series during Sunday School beginning April 28 and concluding on June 30.

Many don't understand the concept of why we need to 'learn' to pray for healing, others may be indifferent to the idea. You are not alone. In fact, I have experienced both of those thoughts, so as we start this journey with DBIC I am feeling extreme excitement with a healthy dose of trepidation.

Let me tell you a bit about my journey to get to today. In 1997, while attending McBIC we had multiple conferences where teachers from across the US trained on the spiritual gifts and movement of the Holy Spirit. While not focused on the gift of healing per se, these sessions opened my heart to the concept. I began seeking out additional information, and reading books where they would mention new believers asking, "when do we get to do the stuff that Jesus did" and it made me ask the same question.

For the next 26 years I would start and stop pursuing the gift of healing. Looking back, I think there were two main reasons why this occurred. The first was that I didn't have a mentor or anyone to approach with the many questions I had. The second was that I would read books on the topic, but they often left me either asking more questions or their teaching not sitting well with me (that doesn't necessarily mean it was wrong teaching though).

However, I started to feel this draw again last year, and when it was time for MC to be submitting our budgets for 2024, I submitted two. One that was to keep the prayer ministry as is and one that included us being able to get some outside training on how to pray for healing. The second one was approved so I decided to start researching how we might be able to get some training.

God has guided this process, leading me to books, videos, and YouTube sessions. One leads to many others. There is suddenly a plethora of authors and resources that make sense, that offer clarity, that are providing the guidance and direction I've been seeking on this topic for 26 years. God's healing is a mystery and doesn't always happen, but we now have good principles and procedures to use as a base for Praying for Healing.

A concept of Praying for Healing is that often physical issues can be a side effect to another issue, and we need to deal with the root cause first. There are four main categories that cause physical issues: sickness of spirit, sickness of our emotions, physical sickness, and demonic oppression. The Sunday School lessons will focus on these topics.

Here is a quote from John Wimber's book, "Power Healing," that has been an issue I struggle with and maybe some of you do, too. "I always believed God wanted to heal people, but I never believed he wanted to heal them through my prayers". The book also addressed upfront the fact that there can be issues with a healing ministry, and they explained views that are counter to a lot of the issues I have seen. I plan to discuss these on April 28th and hear your questions as well. The number one goal that all the authors have stressed is that a healing ministry is done with love. Individuals that are prayed for should leave knowing God loves them regardless of what they may have experienced physically.

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In Matthew 10 Jesus sends out the 12 disciples and in 7 and 8 it says this: “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy,[a] drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.”

We still believe in the need to proclaim the Gospel but somewhere along the way we seem to have forgotten the need to heal the sick and drive out demons (or at least really expect it to happen). I have read many quotes from people saying it is hard to evangelize, but it is easy to evangelize after you pray for someone, and they are healed. Healing and evangelism go hand in hand. The books also talk about different attitudes towards praying for healing (we will look at these during Sunday School) but the general agreement is that "Healing is ordinary and normal but does not always take place".

I feel so excited to be on this journey as I believe God has called every believer to pray for healing and he wants us to start this journey as a body in 2024. However, I also feel very inadequate to be teaching on it. I am only a step ahead at best.

Everyone is encouraged to come to class, learn and ask questions. I make no promises of having answers, but it will be a great learning experience for all of us. It won't be easy, and we will make mistakes, which is why we need an atmosphere of love and grace. Our goal is to follow Jesus and listen to the Holy Spirit. I have sensed that for us to move forward in this area we desperately need the Holy Spirit to give us discernment and a greater ability to love each other. We have a better chance to see someone healed if we pray for them than if we don't. There is much more to share, which is why we need nine weeks in Sunday School just to get the conversation started. Please pray for wisdom in my topic selection for these nine weeks.

Corner Life Meals

On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, come to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious free meal served from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to linger after the meal for songs and activities for all ages, including Thrive youth group and Shine which will begin at 6:30 p.m. If you can volunteer time to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal, please sign up at www.dillsburgbic.org/corner-life/

APRIL 17

Mini Meatball Orzo Soup
Rolls & Salad
Sheet Cake

**** Menus are subject to change. ****



Thank you for your recent donation to Messiah University. With God's faithfulness as our anchor of hope, we thank you for investing in our students to be enriched, equipped and encouraged to meet the challenges that will face as future graduates of Messiah University.

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

Thank you for your recent gift. Your investment in these precious lives is making a real difference. We hope we can count on you to be a monthly Hope Giver through your generous donations. It takes consistent and tireless work on behalf of our Peace Promise team to forge relationships of trust, hope, and safety with these individuals. We're making a difference, and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you for helping to release these precious souls into freedom and restoration so they might live lives of endless opportunities, meaningful relationships, and enduring peace.

~ Susan Vigliano, President of the Board & Patty Seaman, Executive Director, Peace Promise

Thank you for your consistent investment in the ministry of the Collaboratory. Your quarterly gifts continue to make a difference for students, educators, and friends of Messiah University. This year our 20 Collaboratory projects are working with many partners around the world to increase hope and transform lives. As May is coming up soon, please pray for our 39 students traveling to 5 international site team trips this summer. You are an essential member of our team! May God bless you for your continual generosity.

~ Collaboratory Staff & Students

Thanks so much for praying for my healing from the back surgery and back pain. Also, thank you for the pretty garden bouquet of flowers.

~ Sherry Eyster



In the Pew Next To YOU: Meet: Cameron & Julie Holman

Born and raised in...

Cam: Springfield, MO

Julie: Ashland, OH

A bit about my family...

Cam: My family moved around a lot when I was a kid due to my dad being a pastor. We went from Missouri, to Ohio, to Indiana, to Pennsylvania, and back to Ohio a few times before they ended up settling down in Missouri.

Julie: Cameron and I have been married for a little over a year now. In June of 2023, we adopted a cat named Cowboy to complete our family of three. As far as the other members of my family go, there's not much I could say about my parents and siblings that would be breaking news to anybody :)

I spend my days doing...

Cam: Working in fundraising at my job and listening to music in my free time.

Julie: Working in the tax department at Hamilton & Musser!! When I'm not working, I enjoy drinking chai and connecting with friends.

How I became a Christian...

Cam: I grew up in a Christian household and came to my belief early on as a child.

Julie: I grew up in a Christian household and accepted Jesus into my heart at a young age, but it wasn't until college that my faith started becoming a more central part of my identity.

My biggest passion is...

Cam: Music.

Julie: Music.

I spend my free time doing...

Cam: Listening to music and trying new recipes.

Julie: Visiting coffee shops (if anyone has any recommendations, let me know!), cuddling with my cat, listening to music, and watching cooking shows with my husband.

Favorite Bible verse...

Cam: Revelation 22:20: "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

Julie: Isaiah 41:13: "For I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."

My favorite thing about Dillsburg BiC is...

Cam: The community

Julie: The people :)

Something that might surprise you about me is...

Cam: I'm a tech guy.



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Julie: When we were younger, my siblings and I would spend our summers outside catching toads.

My favorite song is...

Cam: Up and Up by Relient K

Julie: I could never pick just one... A few of my all-time favorites are Strays by Hem, Roses/Lotus/Violet/Iris by Hayley Williams, Passerine by The Oh Hellos, and Words by Gregory Alan Isakov.

A prayer request I have is...

Cam: Safety and peace for my family.

Julie: That this busy season will pass smoothly and quickly.



STOP TRAFFIC

by Marj Strayer

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the Peace Promise banquet a success this year! We successfully raised over \$32K towards our \$50k ongoing goal, all going towards supporting survivors in finding their freedom. It was incredibly inspiring to hear firsthand stories of hope from our survivors, and together, we had a blast celebrating an awesome year!



**peace
promise**

*Photos courtesy of
Peace Promise Facebook page*

General Announcements:

Sunday School for all ages begins at 9 a.m.

Here are the locations for all Sunday School classes:

- Preschool: Room 105
- Grades K-2: Room 103
- Grades 3-5: Room 201 (note change of location!)
- Youth (Middle/High School): Room B-6
- Young Adults: Orange Room
- Adults: Fellowship Hall

Service Livestream: We will continue to stream the church services for those who do not attend in person. You will receive a link via email each Sunday. You can also join the livestream by going to the website (www.dillsburgbic.org) If you view the service using the link in your email, you will not need a username or password; however, please note that a username and password will be needed to access services from the dillsburgbic.org website due to privacy and copyright issues. The username will ALWAYS be: dbic and the password will always be: "sermons" (without the quotes). Feel free to share this information with anyone you know who would like to join us virtually as we worship!

Fresh Hope for Mental Health: First and Third Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Orange Room. This is a peer-to-peer group, meaning that everyone attending is affected by a mental health challenge of their own or of a family member or close friend. It is not necessary that you be in treatment with a therapist or doctor to attend, but our meetings are not a replacement for treatment when needed. We incorporate faith practices with psychological information or science-based information about mental health and share information, support, and encouragement with one another. The privacy of individuals who attend is important, so we are asked to keep our conversations confidential.

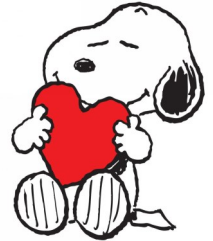
Support Group for Christian parents of LGBTQ+ children. (Meeting time shared as needed to protect privacy) Do you want support in your efforts to love your child and have a good relationship with them? Do you have questions or fears about your child's future? Are you questioning your parenting? We are 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.

Newsletter availability: While we distribute the monthly newsletter by email and it is available on the website, we also realize some people prefer having a paper edition. If you would like a printed copy in your mailbox each month, please call or email the office and let Kathy know!



Celebrating Life Together!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Jack & Helen Leach	April 2
Nathan & Sarah Hoover	April 16
Jon & Diana Dale	April 29




HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Tim Horst	April 1	Josh Weiser	April 20
Erika Pease	April 4	Paul Matthew Lerew	April 21
Jason Smith	April 4	Chris Eyster	April 23
<i>(Jay and Judy's son)</i>		Ray Knepper	April 27
Jason Emig	April 9	Elijah Carlson	April 27
Kayce Heck	April 12	Travis Moyer	April 30
Shelby Sieber	April 12		
Thomas Walsh	April 14		
Tony Monko	April 17		
Ariela Vader	April 17		
Ed Strayer	April 17		
Patti Miller	April 18		
Amy Austin	April 19		



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	4 5:30 pm Martin Brass 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	5	6
Family Promise Hosting through April 7						
7 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	8 Doulos Deadline 7:00 pm (Zoom) Ministry Council	9 6:40 pm Ladies' Bible Study	10 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	11 11:00 am - 6:00 pm Blood Drive (FH) 5:30 pm Martin Brass 6:30 pm Human Trafficking mtg (Strayers) 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	12 7:00 am Susquehanna Conf. Prayer and Worship	13 9:00 am Susquehanna Conf. Annual Meeting
14 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm LC/MC/Staff Discipleship Meeting	15	16 6:00 pm Ladies' Secret Pal Dinner	17 5:30 pm Corner Life 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	18 5:30 pm Martin Brass 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 6:30 pm Leadership Council 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	19	20
21 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Carry In Meal after worship	22	23 6:40 pm Ladies' Bible Study	24 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	25 5:30 pm Martin Brass 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	26	27 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
28 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	29	30	31 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer			