



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP REACHING FAR

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

May 2024

"Consumer Christian or True Disciple?"

By Rachel Pease

I attended high school at a Christian school that frequently enrolled students who were kicked out of public school for bad behavior. Most didn't want to be there, were unfamiliar with the gospel, and begrudgingly sat through Bible classes and chapel services without paying attention.

But I remember one such student who clearly experienced the conviction of the Holy Spirit while we read this passage from Isaiah 53:

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

This young man ran out of Bible class crying. Another student — raised in the church, the son of church leaders — followed him. Later, this Christian student told us all that he led this other student to the Lord by telling him, "Don't worry — all you have to do is ask Jesus to be your Savior so you don't go to hell. You don't have to change anything."

Jesus as a Commodity

In his book *The Divine Conspiracy, Rediscovering our Hidden Life in God*, Dallas Willard gives the above-described approach to salvation a startling label: Consumer Christianity. In this paradigm, Jesus is reduced to a commodity — someone we turn to for grace and redemption without doing the hard and messy work of laying down our lives and picking up our cross to actually follow him.

Willard says:

Christian Consumerism is now normative. The Consumer Christian is one who utilizes the grace of God for forgiveness and the services of the church

for special occasions, but does not give his or her life and innermost thoughts, feelings, and intentions over to the kingdom of the heavens. Such Christians are not **inwardly transformed and not committed to it**. [Emphasis mine...] They remain *governed* by or "slaves" of (John 8:34; Rom. 6:16) sin. For example, their lives are dominated by fear, greed, impatience, bodily desires, and the like, and they continue to make provision for them.

Ouch.

I would never tell someone they can accept Jesus as Savior and then continue to do whatever they want. I've never told myself that, either. After all, that's pretty blatant — disgusting even.

No, my brand of consumer Christianity is much more subtle. It's a faith that's focused on believing all the right things (which I think I do), doing all the right things outwardly (which I sure try to do), trusting in Christ for atonement (which I do), while still living in defeat in so many areas of my life (which, sadly, I do). It's going to church on Sunday and orienting much of my life around church and faith while living moment-to-moment with the same thoughts and the same habits as someone who doesn't know Jesus.

The disconnect between the freedom I profess and the sins that still entangle me (things like anger, pride, overeating, and despair) produces endless cycles of shame and self-loathing.

I ask God all the time: Will I ever truly be transformed? Will you ever make all things new in my heart, mind, and life?

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Scenes from the Early Easter Morning Sunrise Service



Photos courtesy of Joe Bennett & Anne-Marie Brandt

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 Editors: Kathy Bennett, Anne-Marie Brandt
Rhonda Hebbard
Doulos Layout and Design: Anne-Marie Brandt
Editor Emeritus: Carolyn Kimmel

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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Answering the Call to Intentional Discipleship

You may have heard that since late summer, DBIC's leaders — members of Pastoral Staff, Ministry Council, and Leadership Council — have been meeting monthly to discuss discipleship at DBIC. You may be wondering what will come out of those meetings — and in truth, we are still working through how this journey we've been on will impact church programs, initiatives, and ministries.

But what I'd like to share is what this process has meant to me personally.

Making time to go deep, get vulnerable, and be honest with a small group of fellow disciples — and carving out additional personal time to read about and study what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus — has been extremely valuable in helping me to examine just how much of my life I've turned over to Christ. And it's helped me see how much of a "Consumer Christianity" mindset I've been unintentionally ascribing to.

In *Practicing the Way: Be With Jesus, Become Like Him, Do as He Did*, John Mark Comer says that, for Jesus:

- Salvation is less about getting you into heaven and more about *getting heaven into you*
- It's not just about him becoming like us but also about us becoming like *him*
- It's less of a *transaction* and more of a *transformation*
- It's not just about what he has done for us but also about what he has done, is doing, and will do *in* us if we apprentice under him
- It's about being a person who not only is loved by God but is also pervaded with the love *of* God

I want to experience all of those things. I want the fullness of life that Jesus offers. And I want to experience a radical reformation of my character that's evident to everyone who comes into contact with me.

That means I need to become a more intentional disciple.

I'm still learning what apprenticeship to Jesus means. I still have a long way to go to fully reorient the daily rhythms of my life to practice Jesus' way.

But I'm experiencing glimpses of real change. I'm hearing from God in uniquely personal and beautiful ways. And I'm having deep, honest conversations with people farther along on the journey than I am — people who know my struggles, who speak words of love and blessing over me, and who help me keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith.

God's work in our lives tends to be gradual — slow and steady — rather than immediate. But though He does the work, we have a role to play too. And I want to play it.

I'll close with one final quote from Dallas Willard:

The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who are identified as "Christians" will become disciples — students, apprentices, practitioners — *of Jesus Christ*, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.

If we want to be salt and light in our world and reach our friends, family, and neighbors with the gospel of Jesus, it's time to ruthlessly eliminate any hint of a "Consumer Christianity" mindset in our own lives and at DBIC. Let's be a community that embraces and participates in authentic discipleship.



We cannot express how much we appreciate all of you that volunteered during our Family Promise week. To see you use your gifts to ease the transitions for these families is such a wonderful representation of what the body of Christ looks like. You switched out meals, had meaningful conversations in Spanish, jumped into vans at short notice, labored over numerous car seats, calmed stressed parents, and so much more! This week was filled with sicknesses, changing schedules, and so many little ones! Thank you for your patience, your flexibility, your compassion, and your love for these families. At the end of the week, one of the little girls was asking questions about prayer and baptism. We were able to give out Bibles and answer her earnest questions to the best of our abilities! What a beautiful privilege it is when God allows us to be part of what He is doing, and each of you did just that! Thanks so very much!

~ Scott & Cindy Raboci, Family Promise HCR Coordinators

Thank you so much for your recent donation! Your gift helps survivors here in Pennsylvania find freedom. We appreciate you! Blessings.

~ The Peace Promise Board



May Collaboratory Trip to India

By Ray Knepper

On May 17, 2024, Ray Knepper will be traveling with a team of 20 students and advisors in the Collaboratory at Messiah University on a multi-faceted trip to India! They will help install a water purification system for Rays of Peace, located in southern India near Bangalore. Rays of Peace is actively involved in church planting, training pastors, operating a children's home, and rescuing women from temple prostitution.

There are three actual Teams involved. Dereck Plante, an Engineering Professor, will be leading the first Team (Solar) that plans to install solar power to help with the lack of reliable power. A second Team (Civil) will work with implementing layouts for sport activity areas. This Team is led by Professor Michelle Lockwood, who is also leading the Water Team (Clean Water Accessible Solutions). Ray will be helping the Water Team which will work on the water issues at Rays of Peace and install two water purification systems at the children's home of approximately 40 kids. The drinking water at the children's home is currently brought in by motorcycle from a distant town. They have wells with water at Rays of Peace, but it is not good to drink (E.coli) and is very hard water (high calcium hardness). So the Collaboratory mission is to provide pure drinking water for the total daily needs and to soften the water needed by the solar heat exchangers on the building roofs that supply hot water for showers.

The kids happen to be on summer break at the same time Ray's team will be there and will undoubtedly be eager to 'help' all day. Grampa Ray (to the Collaboratory students) will be Great-Grampa Ray with the local children. Prayers would be appreciated for this long trip, safety and good health for the Teams, and that they build great relationships as they show the love of Christ with these projects.

May Collaboratory Trip to India

By Randy Fish

A few years ago, I was working in Northern Ghana on a Collaboratory project to help bring clean water to the local people. Northern Ghana is a predominantly Muslim region. On several occasions, our truck would have to squeeze between the local Mosque and a nearby tree to get to the hand pump previously installed by World Vision so that we could install the Collaboratory developed system which was intended to make these pumps more reliable. At one site, a local man observed that it was interesting to him that while all of the people who would be helped by the pump were Muslims, it was the Christians who were there trying to help the Muslims. I was able to tell him that we were both children of God and that Jesus had put it on my heart to come and share his love with the people in that small village.

I will be having the opportunity to do that again at the end of May. I will be traveling for about two weeks with a team of six Messiah engineering students to Lusaka, Zambia. We will be installing a new and more reliable hand pump bearing developed by a team of students working in the Collaboratory under the guidance of David Vader. We will also be installing the latest prototype of a system that Collaboratory students and I have been developing which reports to the pump maintenance personnel on the status of these hand pumps so that they can be properly maintained and quickly repaired. The maintenance personnel are members of the Campus Crusade for Christ in Zambia. Pump maintenance is one of the ways that, like my experience in Northern Ghana, they communicate God's love by meeting a practical need while sharing the Gospel.

I would ask for prayers that the technical aspects of the projects will be successful and also that we will have the chance to make it clear that we are being the hands and feet of Jesus as we work with those we meet in the villages. While there, students will also be visiting the local universities to join some of the in-country Campus Crusade workers to speak to students on the campuses and offer to pray with them. This will be a new experience for most of the students I will be traveling with and will take them out of their comfort zone even more than eating Nshima. Please pray that they will catch a bigger vision of who God is as they see him at work with college-age peers who have grown up in a culture so different from their own.



INDIA • MAY 2024

Clean Accessible Water Solutions, Land Development, and Solar PV Teams

Back L to R: Micah Clark, Cassie Gehenio, Regan Meals, Sam Dykes, John Steele, Caleb Hilton, Nate Binko

Middle L to R: Dereck Plante, Jady Martin, Adam Dressler, Cooper Willoughby

Front L to R: Caitlin Ross, Emma Rice, Candace Forry, Liv Allbee, Autumn Derstine, Abby Clough, Michelle Lockwood

Not pictured: Ray Knepper, Sam Lockwood

Celebrating Life Together!

Rain could not stop around 150 people from coming to this year's Easter Party on Wednesday, March 27. Many from the community joined regular DBIC attendees, and Shine participants and their families, for a night of delicious food, games, and the story of the Resurrection.

In addition to an incredible meal, highlights included the kids' active participation in the video about Jesus' sacrifice and victory over death, the energy of the bounce house and game areas, and the creativity poured into decorating eggs.

This celebration of Jesus' resurrection was joyfully brought to fruition by many individuals and groups:

- those who made/served the pulled pork, Mac n' cheese, and cole slaw
- those who contributed delicious cakes for dessert
- the youth who helped to set up/tear down, cover hallways in purple crepe paper, and make prize bags for the kids
- the small groups who organized "lawn" games and ran the egg decorating station
- the ever-patient adults who kept the bounce house running safely in the Narthex

... and MANY more who helped to serve, invite, welcome, and clean up. We seek to let our community know that Jesus is worth celebrating, and that our church is a fun, safe place to learn and to connect deeply with God and other people.



~ Julie Lerew



Scenes from Easter



Celebrating Life Together!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES




Robert & Karen Pomeroy	May 8
Shelby & Audra Sieber	May 23
Rick & Charity Miller	May 25
Al & Connie Darbrow	May 29
Dwight & Annabeth Rotz	May 30
Isaac & Heidi Tucker	May 31



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Grace Spurrier	May 2	Jim Shelly	May 13
Kimberly Tucker	May 2	Barb Miller	May 17
Raelyn Brubaker	May 4	Faithe Spurrier	May 20
Kathy Renard	May 6	Charity Miller	May 20
Paul Cathro	May 6	Garret VanDyke	May 21
Spencer Sieber	May 6	Abraham Waris	May 21
Bob Hess	May 7	Nina Hoover	May 28
Ellen Hoover	May 9	Wendy Zwally	May 28
Ruth Zook	May 9	Xayvion Tucker	May 29
Scott Raboci	May 10	Miriam Smith	May 29
Pip Weiser	May 10	Brooke Hardy	May 30
Helen Leach	May 11	Amy Kimmel	May 31
Levi Pomeroy	May 11	Samuel Walsh	May 31
Shekinah Waris	May 13		

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	2 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	3	4
5 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	6	7	8 Doulos Deadline 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	9 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Human Trafficking mtg (Strayers) 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	10	11
12 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm LC/MC/Staff Discipleship Meeting	13 7:00 pm (Zoom) Ministry Council	14	15 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	16 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 6:30 pm Leadership Council 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	17 9:00 am Local Outreach Meeting	18
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	20	21	22 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	23 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	24	25 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
26 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	27	28	29 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	30	31	