



# DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP



REACHING FAR

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

March 2025

## *Peace in Abundance*

*By Julie Lerew*

*Author's note: This is a version of a blog post I wrote in early 2017, while living in the Middle East. While many things have changed since then, sadly there are more refugees around the world today than there were at that time. Grateful DBIC is choosing to partner with organizations that serve them, and praying we can invite more people— whether from near, or far away— to know His peace in the year ahead.*

"They are not safe," she said quietly to me. She looked at the cushion between us, trying to hide the tears in her eyes.

She continued, answering the question I had asked at this Christmas party: *How is your family?* "The situation is uncertain... they could go to sleep one night and everything is fine, and wake up in the morning to explosions."

She named the Iraqi city where they lived. I recognized it from news reports. My friend had lived under the weight of that uncertainty, not knowing how her family survived in a conflict zone, for years before the headlines were published.

Around us, people exchanged greetings, offered hot cider and gingersnaps, and took photos in front of a ten-foot, plastic evergreen.

She changed the subject.

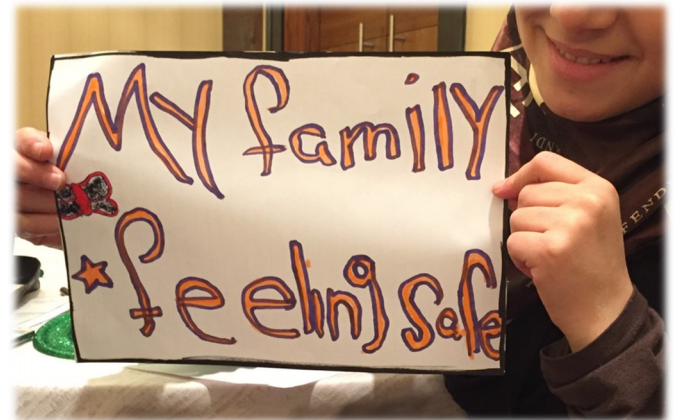
I squeezed her arm and then let it go. My mind flashed to the green eyes of one of the students in our at-risk youth program, Ramah. Her family was from another area of the Middle East that has, worldwide, become identified with conflict— Syria.

I had met her as we closed applications for the program— over 300 applicants for only 120 open spots. She stood on the other side of our community center's locked gate, five minutes too late.

I gently asserted that the teachers were all done giving interviews, but she refused to go home. Unblinking, adamant: "I was here on time, but had to go get my dad to do the application paperwork. Just let me interview. I'm not going home until you do. Please, just give me the chance."

One of the teachers offered to interview her. She was accepted on the spot.

Ramah made the most of the 18-month program, developing her English and leadership skills. Just a few days before her graduation from the program, at a Thanksgiving event, she and the other students were asked to write something they were thankful for. Ramah's answer, outlined in purple, caught my eye: *My family feeling safe.*



I asked her about her story. She told about a time in Syria, as her brother was playing outside with his friends, and explosions happened. They did not know if he was dead or alive. She repeated the details twice; though it happened years ago, the feeling and the event remained vivid in her mind.

Now, she knows gratitude for something most of the other youth take for granted, and something my Iraqi friend lives without.

With my Iraqi friend's story, and Ramah's story, reverberating in my heart, they tell me to pick up my guitar and sing the reasons we can make merry, because it is Christmas Eve. I pull wrinkled music sheets out of a worn folder and play the usual songs, familiar to my church in New York, my fellow foreigners in this city, and even many of the Arabs here in the land where I have made my home for the last three Christmases.

But this evening we add another song.

I look at the rest of those gathered, then at my Iraqi friend. *This is a song of peace, even as we think about the places, and people whom we love, who do not have that. He came to bring*

*Continued on Page 2*

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peace... Even to a place where peace and goodwill seem to have been gobbled by hate.

Where governments grasp for power.

Where families grieve.

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

As in ancient Bethlehem, so it is now. He is unwelcomed by some— at the gates of an inn, from a king in power— but unwilling to walk away until He has done what He came for.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,  
“For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

My word for the year, abundance, at times seemed to point to loss and sorrow; at times it reflected levels of laughter and love. But the chill of human pain, or grief, cannot forever keep dormant the stubborn green shoot of hope, of love, of peace— not an emotional status or a transient season, but peace in a Person.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.”

And so I put my hope in the Peace who overcomes situations and lasts every season, and choose the same word for next year.

Abundance.



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Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church

18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA 17143.3847

www.DillsburgBIC.org | fb.com/dillsburgbic



On the second and fourth 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 6:30PM. If you can volunteer time to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal. Please sign up at [www.dillsburgbic.org/corner-life/](http://www.dillsburgbic.org/corner-life/)

### March 12

Baked Ham & Cheese  
Sandwiches  
Pasta Salad  
Fruit

Ice Cream Sandwich Cake

### March 26

Chicken Teriyaki  
Rice  
Broccoli & Green Beans  
Cake

**Newsletter availability: While we distribute the 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**



# SENIOR SPLASH

FEBRUARY 1, 2025  
MESSIAH LIFEWAYS COMMUNITY ROOM



## A Splash of Winter Sunshine for DBIC Seniors

*Story and Photos submitted by Carmy Hess*

On February 1, 25 DBIC seniors gathered in the Messiah Village Community Room, soaking up a “splash” of winter sunshine through warm fellowship, hearty food, and uplifting music. The afternoon began with a delicious soup-and-carry-in lunch, followed by games, singing, and time to catch up with friends.

Dave Jones shared an inspiring update on his recent ministry trip to Ghana, while Mary Ann Brubaker provided news on her husband Clarence’s health. Some attendees tested their skills in corn hole and shuffleboard, while others simply enjoyed conversation.

The gathering ended on a joyful note as Cheryl & Ray Cross led the group in singing sunshine-themed hymns and fun songs, leaving everyone with hearts a little lighter and spirits a little brighter.



On Sunday, February 16, Ray Cross invited the men to join him in singing *Blessed Assurance* as part of his musical offering.

## “Miss May”

By Timothy Lyne

*Editor’s Note: In January, Timothy Lyne shared this story as part of his musical gift. I invited him to submit it to The Doulos so everyone could enjoy it in written form.*

Miss May wasn’t with us long at Paxton Street Home because she required a higher level of care than our home could provide, but in the time that she was with us, she and I made a real connection. It was difficult to guess Miss May’s age; she may easily have been older or younger than she looked, but my guess is probably the latter of the two. By her own admission, the last couple of years in particular had been quite hard on her, and she was grateful to be in a place where she wasn’t worried about her comfort, her safety, or whether she was going to have enough to eat. Miss May was wide and creased and walked with dignity down our hallway, always humming to herself. Miss May was also blessed with a wonderful sense of humor.

Miss May had grown up in the south-central part of Pennsylvania in a very musically gifted African American family. She had many stories of her family traveling around to AME churches in the area to present gospel music programs, her father preaching, then the whole family and congregation spending the evening singing. Miss May said at one point in her early adult years, the family had recorded an album somewhere in Baltimore, but as far as she knew, they had never received any income from that. Not surprising, as that was a common occurrence for African American artists at that time. Her parents had passed away many years before, her siblings moved to distant places, and by the time she’d moved to Paxton Street Home, she’d completely lost track of them. There were times when Miss May was lonely and distant, but overall, she enjoyed the company and friendship of others in the home. Miss May would often sit in the dining room between meals and wait for someone to come and play the piano. We had several very talented pianists in the home, and Miss May would sit in the back, humming along quietly to the melody line. It was obvious that Miss May and music were old, old friends.

As was true for nearly every resident that I got to know well, our opportunity to become friends happened over mealtimes. We often sat at the same table, and it was

from those wonderfully warm times that we found that we had a mutual love of music. With excitement, Miss May shared her history with me, and I heard some great stories of road trips to Baltimore, D.C., York, and Lancaster, her family practicing new songs in the car. I shared some of mine, traveling as a duo with another musician playing clubs in the Northeast. For the most part, her stories were laughter-filled and special, though she also shared some of the difficulties her family had experienced in finding places to eat or spend the night back then. Miss May didn’t talk much about those things, but when she did, you could see her face tighten.

I was on schedule to lead community devotions one week, and I thought it would be fun to have Miss May sing a song or hymn with me. She was pleasantly surprised when I asked her, but she agreed only on the condition that she be allowed to pick the song. “Sure! What song would you like to do, Miss May?” “I’d like to sing, ‘By and by when the morning comes’; that’s always been one of my favorites.” I suggested that we get together after lunch that day and run through it so we’d be ready later in the week. I had to finish some paperwork, so I was running a bit behind when I went to my office and picked up my guitar, but Miss May was waiting for me in a sunny spot in the dining room beside the piano. I asked her what key she’d decided on for the song, and after hitting a couple of keys on the piano, she suggested we try it in E. She said she used to sing it higher but believed her voice would do better in E now. I had run through the song a few times earlier that day to get familiar with it, so I was pretty confident when I grabbed my flat pick and started playing. We got about four measures into the song, and Miss May quit singing. I looked up, and she had a sour look on her face. “Miss May, what’s wrong?” She leaned over to me, smiled, and whispered, “Well, Mr. Tim...you’re playing that song



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like a white man.” We both burst out laughing at that! I asked her how we could overcome such a seemingly insurmountable challenge; her suggestion was that I “Put those metal things on your fingers like you do other songs and try it like that.” So, I laid down the flat pick and put on my finger picks, and we went to work.

After several starts and stops—and copious amounts of suggestions on Miss May’s part—we got it together. The last time through, I had tears in my eyes as I listened to this wonderful woman sing. Miss May had a voice that

sounded like it started deep in the ground beneath her. It traveled up through her body...muscle and bone...so that by the time her voice hit your ear, it had picked up momentum like a rocking train. It was rich and deep with joy and sadness, sweet memories and trials. It was meaningful, sincere, and absolutely beautiful to my ear.

When we finished, we both sat there quietly for a moment. Then, with tears in her eyes, Miss May leaned over, patted my arm, and whispered, “Mr. Tim, do you know what? You ain’t white no more.”

## We’ll Understand It Better By and By

Charles Albert Tindley, 1905

Charles Albert Tindley

$\text{♩} = 100$

1. We are tossed and driv'n on the rest - less sea of time; Som - ber  
 2. We are often desti - tute of the things that life de - mands, Want of  
 3. Trials - dark on every hand, and we can - not un - der - stand All the  
 4. Temp - tations, hidden snares oft - en take us un - a - wares, And our

skies and how - ling tempests oft suc - ceed a bright sun - shine; In that  
 food and want of shelter, thirst - y hills and bar - ren lands; We are  
 ways that God could lead us to that bless - ed prom - ised land; But He  
 hearts are made to bleed for a thought - less word or deed; And we

land of per - fect day, when the mists have rolled a - way, We will un - der - stand it bet - ter by and  
 trust - ing in the Lord, and ac - cord - ing to God's Word, We will un - der - stand it bet - ter by and  
 guides us with His eye, and we'll fol - low till we die, For we'll un - der - stand it bet - ter by and  
 won - der why the test when we try to do our best, But we'll un - der - stand it bet - ter by and

*Refrain*

by,  
 by,  
 by,  
 By and by, when the morn - ing comes, When the saints of God are ga - thered home, We'll

tell the stor - y how we've o - ver - come, For we'll un - der - stand it bet - ter by and by.





## Global Updates

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

*This month, we're sharing a few excerpts from CF, a seasoned nurse preparing for service in a new location in the Middle East. For security reasons, only initials are used.*

In my last update, I had progressed to Phase 3 of language, and now I'm happy to report that I'm in Phase 4. Perseverance and progress continue to be a prayer request.

One teacher asked me to make a recording on Christmas traditions. I talked about going to church on Christmas Eve, reading the Bible, and singing Christmas songs. My teacher insisted that at my Christmas Eve service, we don't read the Bible—we "intone" the Bible. After some discussion, I realized I should ask a Christian friend outside of the school because either I was misunderstanding the word or my teacher was imposing her culture. It was later confirmed: she took something that happens in her own culture and imposed it on mine.

Her misunderstanding of me made me curious about times I've misunderstood others without realizing it. It's so easy to assume that you see the world the same way and miss where you're talking past instead of to the person. Even being told ahead of time what differences to expect can never fully encapsulate all of them. It's been a reminder to withhold judgment, stay curious, and ask lots of questions—even if those questions make me seem dumb. You can only learn so much from other people's mistakes; you have to make your own as well. And hopefully, God will humble me enough to be okay with being misunderstood.

I'm currently taking a calligraphy class to improve my reading and writing! Calligraphy is a crucial part of this culture—I see it every time I walk out the door but struggle to decipher it despite knowing all the letters. Even after one class, I had a better time figuring it out! And though I've been mimicking the shapes as I write, this class has taught me so much about how to actually write each letter.

I'm working on reviewing the Public Health Course for Nurses International. Unfortunately, the initial resource is very U.S.-based, so I'm slowly making progress filling in the global health gaps—so important to any curriculum, but particularly an international one. Pray that as I find resources that address global health, these resources will also spark curiosity in students as to what motivated so many of these particular people to participate in global health.

## THE BOOK NOOK

Explore and Discover our Church Library  
Free to Borrow From!!

The DBIC church library is being graciously tended by Ginny Spurrier (who is reshelving books) and Ariela Vader (who is processing new books). If you have suggestions for books to be added to the library, contact Ariela at [ariela.vader@gmail.com](mailto:ariela.vader@gmail.com), but we kindly ask that you find a different place to drop off unwanted books. Thank you!



# STOP TRAFFIC

*By Marj Strayer*

## FOR LOVE AND FREEDOM

March 14, 6:30-9:00pm

**Location:** Parmer Hall at Messiah University  
(Calvin and Janet High Center for Worship & Performing Arts)

**Tickets:** \$35 each

**Group Sponsorship (8 tickets):**  
\$250 (use discount code FLAZFGROUP)

More info at [peacepromise.org/for-love-and-freedom/](http://peacepromise.org/for-love-and-freedom/)



It is time for Peace Promise's annual "For Love and Freedom" fundraising banquet. The venue has changed to Parmer Hall at Messiah University, and instead of a meal they will offer hors d'oeuvres, beverages and desserts with general seating.

This year we are excited to have Flora Posteraro as our emcee. For those who may not know her, she was a former abc27 Emmy Award winning news anchor and reporter. She is now Co-Host @Chick2ChickUSA podcast, and Senior Multi-Media Specialist PennWatch Media. She has long been invested in issues impacting women.

Other speakers will include women survivors of the sex industry who are a vital part of the Peace Promise team who will speak about their journey to wholeness.



**244 S 17th Street  
Camp Hill, PA 17011**



**VISIT US**

Monday	7am-4pm
Tuesday	7am-4pm
Wednesday	7am-4pm
Thursday	7am-4pm
Friday	7am-4pm
Saturday	8am-4pm





[www.goodgroundcoffeecompany.org](http://www.goodgroundcoffeecompany.org)  
Email: [goodground@peacepromise.org](mailto:goodground@peacepromise.org)



**Thank you** for your confidence in the New Horizons Foundation, Inc. Your generous support has enabled the beneficiaries of your gift to continue the work they have been called to do. We appreciate the opportunity to co-labor with you on this important project.

*~ Dr. Steven Prensner, President/CEO, New Horizons Foundation*

**Thank you** very much for your gift to Paxton Ministries! We deeply appreciate the love and care you are showing to our residents through your support. Our residents can look forward to this new year with hope because of YOU! In 2024, we focused on "Community: Together in Purpose" and the ways residents, staff, volunteers, and donors like you experience the warmth of Christ's love and the blessing of belonging. Through shared meals, celebrations of life events, and the quiet moments that make our community special, we work to build a place where everyone belongs. And we couldn't do it without you. **THANK YOU** for your kind and meaningful gift! You are making an impact for good in the lives of precious people who have faced many challenges in life. We are so grateful for your support!

*~ Amy Starr, Director of Development, Paxton Ministries*

We are thankful for your kind and incredibly generous gift! As you know, thousands of families rely upon our programs and services every day. From our food pantries to youth programs to budget classes, your generous donation ensures that every guest has to their need met on any given day. **Thank you** for joining with us as we share God's love and hope with more than 26,000 people every year. Words just cannot adequately express our sincerest thanks for your lovely blessing!! You bring our mission to life! Thank you for partnering with us in this work as we share help and the hope of Jesus with our neighbors in need!

*~ Molly Helmstetter, DFRE, Director of Development, New Hope Ministries*

A new year...the chance to begin again! That's just what many of our clients need and that's the business God is in. He's the Almighty, the Savior/Redeemer of the world...the God of second chances! Recently you sent us a generous gift... Thank You! We will use gifts like yours to give the good news of second chances... whether its with an unplanned pregnancy or the consequences of a bad abortion decision... God is there AND He is able. We have literally the most important message... the finished work of the cross and the ability to have a personal relationship with God. We also provide counseling and material aid to these precious ones. You're now our partner in spreading the good news!

*~ Rev. John Schaffer, Executive Director, Life Choices Clinic*





## DILLSBURG SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER, INC.

P.O. Box 51 - 1 North Second Street  
Dillsburg, PA 17019  
(717) 432-2216



Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church  
18 E. Harrisburg St.  
Dillsburg, PA 17019

January 2, 2025

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for choosing to partner with The Dillsburg Senior Center. In the past year, you have helped us in many ways. The donation of chairs has been very beneficial with our increasing attendance, and we appreciate the donation of  to use on additional furniture for the center. Your members have also been supportive of their personal time and talents over the past year, more recently with replacing the door and cabinet pulls in our kitchen.

Our number of members at the Senior Center has been increasing over the past two years and Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church has had a big part in rejuvenating our center as we work to accommodate these growing numbers and to be able to offer more for the seniors in our community.

The center is thriving, thanks in part to the church's contributions. Our board of directors, members, and staff are extremely appreciative of your contributions to this ongoing effort. We look forward to continuing this partnership to support the older residents in Dillsburg and surrounding areas.

Sincerely,



Heather Oyler  
Dillsburg Senior Center



## The “Whys” of Thrift on Purpose: A Mennonite Central Committee Thrift Shop

*Submitted by Kimberly Tucker*

(MCC.org; Linda Espenshade; December 28, 2022)

At Thrift on Purpose, every purchase is a gift to the world! Here is how your purchase allows MCC to work with partners in development:



*Ntombizodwa Mapfacha stirs a pot of beans as she cooks on her fuel-efficient stove. The fire was just lit. The flames will soon subside, leaving the heat of the fire focused on the pot. With the fire contained, the stove cooks more efficiently and requires less firewood. (MCC.org)*

“The fuel-efficient stove in Ntombizodwa Mapfacha’s dirt courtyard in Mwenezi District, Zimbabwe, doesn’t look like a life-changing piece of technology. It looks like a 2-foot high, round metal can.

Nevertheless, this sturdy stove not only cooks a traditional, family-size meal of sadza (thick cornmeal) and beans. It also is empowering Mapfacha and other women in Mwenezi District.

No longer does Mapfacha have to walk six miles every other day to find firewood in the mountain, where she is wary of poisonous snakes and men who could take advantage of her in the remote area. The new stove cooks with just a few pieces of wood and dried corn cobs, which she can gather close to home.

No longer does she need to stay by an open fire, her lungs and eyes burning from smoke, tending and feeding it for the two to three hours it takes to cook a meal.

She only needs to peek into the stove periodically to make sure the fire’s direct heat is keeping the beans simmering in the pot. And the stove is portable, giving her freedom and time to pursue work that generates income for her family. She grinds groundnuts into nut butter to sell and collects fruit to sell or eat. And she spends more time working with her husband in the field, increasing the amount of produce they sell.

In 2021, MCC’s partner, Score Against Poverty (SCORE), introduced a clean energy pilot project designed to empower women while addressing climate change. The project provided 50 fuel-efficient stoves to women.”

 **Thrift On Purpose**  
AN MCC THRIFT SHOP

5218 E. Trindle Road | Mechanicsburg  
Winter Hours: 11:00 AM-6:00 PM  
Monday-Saturday

# Celebrating Life Together!

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Sam & Rosie Stoner	March 22
Tim & Cathy Lyne	March 24
Joe & Doris Lerew	March 26





HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Esther Spurrier	March 1	Conrad Weiser	March 18
Phoebe Miller	March 1	Audra Sieber	March 20
Tom Austin	March 4	Dan Brandt	March 20
Marj Strayer	March 8	Molly Van Dyke	March 22
Andi Brubaker	March 9	Tammy Leister	March 26
Al Darbrow	March 10	Rebecca Emig	March 27
Allie Engle	March 10	Georgia Nash	March 28
Phil Engle	March 13	Lydia Horst	March 29
Riley Miller	March 13	Sarah Renard	March 30
Terry Bachmann	March 15	Annika Pomeroy	March 31
Mark Renard	March 18		



# March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH</b> GROWING DEEP REACHING FAR 18 East Harrisburg St.   Dillsburg, PA   717.432.3847 www.DillsburgBIC.org</p>						<b>1</b> 8:30 am Potluck Breakfast 9:15 Congregational Council Meeting
<b>2</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm ZOOM Ministry Council Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Daylight Savings Time begins 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:40 am Zoom Ladies' Bible Study	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm Corner Life 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Human Trafficking mtg (Strayers) 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
Family Promise Hosting						
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:40 am Zoom Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Leadership Council	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm Corner Life 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <div data-bbox="1393 65 1555 317">  </div>