



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP



REACHING FAR

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

April 2025

I Have Come Home

By Naomi Smith

When my husband Jason and I were in college and newly dating, we took a class together on the writings of the Oxford Christians—a group of authors based in Oxford, England that included such notable names as J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. A lesser-known author of that group was a woman named Dorothy L. Sayers, a novelist and playwright whose series of mystery books featuring Lord Peter Wimsey became her most popular works. During the class we read one of Sayers' novels called *Busman's Honeymoon*, and a year and a half later, as Jason knelt in the snowy woods to propose marriage, he invited me to read a quote from that book, in which Lord Peter says:

"And what do all the great words come to in the end, but that? I love you. I am at rest with you. I have come home."

One Christmas, I decided to paint the words "I have come home" on a small circle of wood as a gift for Jason. A few years later, he had an inspired idea: to hang that circle of wood on a string in the garage, at the exact spot that lets him know how far to pull his car into the bay. Now every time his vehicle comes to a stop in our garage, the wood gently clicks against the windshield to declare: "I have come home."

Throughout the Biblical narrative, the idea of God being at home with his people, and they with him, pulses like the heartbeat of the story. The children of God face exile because of sin, and they wander, and they struggle to carve out a home, and then when they get so comfortable in that earthly home that they forget that God is their home, they face exile once again. So God in human form comes to dwell with his children, to live and die and be raised to life so that they can at last be at home with him.

The gospel of John tells us that early on Easter morning, a woman named Mary Magdalene wept in the garden outside the tomb of Jesus. She had come to anoint the body of her rabbi but found that even that fragile connection had been severed. Mary was in exile, separated from the one who rescued her from the kingdom of darkness and gave her a home in the kingdom of light. Then from across the void, Jesus appeared with a question for Mary: "Who are you looking for?" Thinking Jesus was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Then Jesus said simply, "Mary."

At the sound of her name, Mary's confusion and despair melted into surprise and wonder. She turned toward Jesus and cried out "Rabboni!" Yet as she reached for him, Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Like Mary, I would have wanted to hold tight to Jesus—this is what we do when lost things are found. When Mary encountered Jesus in the garden, however, his mission was not yet complete. He stood there as the triumphant messianic king, but he had not yet been crowned king. With his death and resurrection, Jesus defeated the forces of evil, but until he ascended to take his rightful place on the heavenly throne at the right hand of God the Father, his reign had not yet begun.

Even now, nearly two thousand years after Jesus rose to life and ascended, we live in the tension of the already-but-not-yet. Jesus is reigning, and his Spirit has been poured out, and hearts all around the world continue to turn toward him. But we still weep with Mary at the separation of death and the evil that seems to run rampant in the world. We long for the day when Jesus will return to bring heaven and earth together.

Until then, we look for signposts along the way. As we journey here, by God's grace we find people and places where we can say, "I am at rest with you. I have come home." As we love and are loved, we discover in the beauty and brokenness of human relationships our own longings met and unmet. Then we turn together to Jesus our king and invite him to lead us on, further up and further into the home we have in him.



Easter Events



COMMUNITY EASTER PARTY

Wednesday, April 16 - 5:00 p.m.

Supper & Dessert - Stories & Songs
Bounce House & Balloon Animals
Egg Decorating Contest with Games & Prizes for All Ages

MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL & COMMUNION

Thursday, April 17 - 6:00 p.m.

Please RSVP at office@dillsburgbic.org

SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE

Sunday, April 20 - 7:00 a.m.

Scripture - Songs - Pastries - Hot Drinks

EASTER SERVICE

Sunday, April 20 - 10:00 a.m.

Featuring Choir & Martin Brass

DILLSBURG BIC STAFF



ROB



JEFF



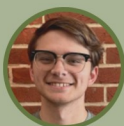
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CORNER LIFE MEALS

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 6:30PM. If you can volunteer time to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal. Please sign up at www.dillsburgbic.org/corner-life/

April 9

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

Salad

Garlic Bread

Dirt Pudding



Celebrating Life Together!



Martin Brass Ensemble plays at Messiah Lifeways

Submitted by Cheryl Cross, Photo by Doug Miller

Martin's Brass performed at Messiah Lifeways on February 23 as part of their church service, providing uplifting music for the congregation. Their performance added a rich, vibrant atmosphere to the service, enhancing the worship experience for residents and attendees.

We enjoyed special music performed by Gloria, Reuben, and Miriam Smith, and Victoria Hoover in February.



SHINE BEACH NIGHT JANUARY, 2025



On January 29, the kids and adults in the Shine program enjoyed "beach night." This evening of indoor fun-in-the-sun included a scavenger hunt, mission impossible games, a beach-themed craft and snack, and a Bible lesson about our lifeguard and rescuer.

Submitted by Naomi Smith

Editor's note: This was submitted in time for last month's Doulos, but was omitted by mistake.



Thank you for your generous contribution to support our life-saving work with refugees and immigrants. We appreciate it more than ever in these challenging times. Your action in giving to CWS helps us to reaffirm our efforts. You have lent your voice to the call for welcome and acceptance. Thank you for being part of this movement. Your generosity is a step towards building a better world for all of our neighbors. We deeply appreciate your support and look forward to our continued partnership in the days and weeks ahead. May God bless you for your kindness.

~Rick Santos, President and CEO, Church World Services

Thank you for this gracious gift. God is using your faithfulness together with SIM cross-cultural workers and partner churches to demonstrate the goodness of Jesus in many places where people otherwise live and die without having a single Christian who will be their friend. We are compelled to keep going so that all may experience the goodness of Jesus in human form! We are grateful to be in ministry with you. Thank you for magnifying the Lord with SIM as we exalt His name together.

~SIM, Matt and Julie Walsh

Thank you for your recent gift. Your investment in these precious lives is making a real difference. 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 of Client Services, Peace Promise

On behalf of Messiah University, I want to extend our **deepest gratitude** for your generous donation. Your support plays an invaluable role in helping us maintain our commitment to Christ-centered liberal and applied learning. With your contribution, we will remain a distinct and compelling witness to the essence of a Christ-centered education. Your generosity enables us to engage in constructive learning alongside our colleagues and students, demonstrating civility and compassion in all our endeavors. We are dedicated to actively mentoring our students, encouraging them to think critically and guiding them away from the extremes of polarization and division that challenge our world today. Together, we are shaping future leaders to make a meaningful impact on our world.

~Jon Stuckey, Vice President for Advancement, Messiah University

50TH AMERICAN ANNIVERSARY

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025: 6PM-9PM

FUN & GAME NIGHT!

COME CELEBRATE ANNE-MARIE'S GOTCHA DAY!

Drop in to say "hello" or bring a snack and game to play.

No gifts, but optional: dog toys or treats for Canine Rescue of Central PA.

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Thank you to everyone who joined me on March 7th to celebrate my American Anniversary/Gotcha Day Game Night! I am incredibly grateful for my DBIC family who attended, as well as Kenji Kanazawa for the delicious cake and Rachel Pease and Rob Douglass for their beautiful performance (which can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/426mKDv>).

A special **THANK YOU** to everyone that brought donations for Canine Rescue of Central PA. When I dropped off the treats, toys, and monetary contributions a couple weeks ago —Bleu was more than happy to 'inspect' everything. Our beloved Nick Nack was an alumnus of this wonderful rescue, making this cause especially close to my heart.

~ Anne-Marie Brandt

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

Submitted by Kimberly Tucker

At Thrift on Purpose, every purchase is a gift to the world!

Since children from Shine are putting together school kits and sending them to MCC, I decided to focus this month’s “Whys” of Thrift on Purpose on how your purchase allows MCC to assist in education by giving out school kits.

What are school kits? School kits are new school supplies that are “distributed in a useful double-drawstring cloth bag.” (MCC.org) Contents of the bags are: 4 spiral notebooks, 8 unsharpened pencils, 1 ruler, 12 colored pencils, 1 large eraser, 4 black or blue ballpoint pens, and 1 all-metal pencil sharpener.



Gabriel Gol Makoi, Peter Mathiang, Rebecca Amok Marial, and Hellena Nyandur Marial, students at Saint Mary’s Primary School, Thon-Aduel, [South Sudan] with school kits provided by MCC. (MCC photo/David Lomuria)

“Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families who struggle to access or afford school supplies. MCC school kits are often requested after disasters as they help bring a sense of normalcy to children whose families have been forced to flee their homes.” (MCC.org)

“Last year [2024], MCC shipped 81,048 school kits to communities in Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Sudan, Ukraine, the U.S. and Zambia.” (MCC.org)

Thank you *Shine* and Thrift on Purpose shoppers, donors, and volunteers!



Thrift On Purpose
AN MCC THRIFT SHOP

5218 E. Trindle Road | Mechanicsburg
Shop Hours: 10:00 AM-6:00 PM
Monday-Saturday



Letter from Mark and Maggie Roth

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

How are things in Africa?

This is a question we hear often these days especially with the president's executive order to hold USAID for a period of 90 days. Shortly thereafter Zambia received a waiver for medically necessary support. The republic of Zambia has worked hard to have a sustainable model of governance under the Minister of Health and partners with religious and other non-governmental organizations. Zambia has made it a priority to make sure these funds are used appropriately. Therefore, our stock of medications for HIV treatment remains intact and patients continue to receive the care they need, but there is some uncertainty about what is next.



I am pleased to say that we continue to have good rains. We should see a good harvest in the next couple of months. The church and hospital have partnered together to help this past year during the time of drought. Through donations from the BIC Global Compassion Fund and other individuals, we have given out 26 hundred 25kg bags of roller meal so far and plan to continue this through the end of March or when the harvest is secured.



Other projects from last year are wrapping up nicely. We have completed our female ward renovations and the patients will move back in this week. The labor suite has been refurbished and is back in use. We have received a grant through the World Bank and a large donation from Messiah University to build a new neonatal intensive care unit, which should begin later this year.



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I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the huge upgrade to the water system last fall. For the first time ever our 80,000 liter tank has been full and running over with clean drinking water, providing water to the hospital and compound 24 hours a day.

We are so thankful to the many individuals who have given generously to make all these programs happen. Through your generous support we have weathered a famine worse than 2019 but with less hunger and despair. We have been blessed to share your love in a tangible way to those here in need.



April Donation Item

**Toothbrushes
Toothpaste**



Give Local York is May 1 & 2!



Mark your calendar for **May 1 & 2, 2025**, and be part of something amazing! **New Hope Ministries** is participating in **Give Local York**, a special opportunity to come together and make a difference for our neighbors in need. Your support changes lives!



STOP TRAFFIC

By Marj Strayer



MARCH | 14TH | 2025

PARMER HALL, MESSIAH UNIVERSITY



Friday's fundraising event, *For Love and Freedom*, supporting the women served by Peace Promise, was a great success. With over 350 guests—the largest turnout we've ever had—we are grateful for the overwhelming support. It is our hope that God was glorified and that attendees left inspired by the program. We also hope this event will encourage more volunteers, donors, and partners to join Peace Promise in its mission. Additionally, we trust that our guests gained a clearer understanding of how Peace Promise serves women trapped in the sex industry as they journey toward freedom.

Some of our friends at DBIC attended the event. When I asked one of them, Rosie Stoner, about her experience, she shared the following observations. She was especially moved by the story of a truck stop owner who is part of *Truckers Against Trafficking*. He noticed a young woman in his truck stop who appeared to be hiding in the restroom. Recognizing the signs of trafficking, he stepped in to rescue her from her trafficker. He then paid for her bus fare to Harrisburg, where she met with Patty Seaman, Director of Client Services at Peace Promise. Today, that young woman is taking leadership classes to help other survivors of trafficking.

Rosie was also deeply impacted by hearing from four of the women who were interviewed at the event. She expressed how meaningful it was to see the very women she prays for. These women are currently receiving counseling and participating in the Economic Empowerment Program, which equips them with the skills needed to support themselves and their families. Through this program, they receive job training in safe environments, such as *Good Ground Coffee Shop* and *Soaps by Survivors*, where they earn a salary while developing essential workplace skills.



Another aspect that stood out to Rosie was Peace Promise's commitment not only to the women but also to their children. The organization fosters a sense of community, where the women support, encourage, and uplift one another.

Rosie found the event to be a powerful and meaningful way to learn about the mission and impact of Peace Promise.



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

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6  9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 3:00 pm Choir Rehearsal		1 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	2 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	3 6:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	4	5
13 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm CWS meeting 3:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 6:30 pm Deacon Meeting	8 7:00 pm Ladies' Zoom Bible Study	9 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm Corner Life 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	10 6:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Human Trafficking mtg (Strayers) 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	11	12
20 Easter 7:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Worship	14	15 DOULOS DEADLINE 6:30 pm Leadership Council 6:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal	16 5:00 pm Easter Party	17 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	18	19
27 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	21	22	23 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	24 6:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	25	26 8:30 am Men's Break-fast
	28	29	30 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	 DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH GROWING DEEP REACHING FAR 18 East Harrisburg St. Dillsburg, PA 717.432.3847 www.DillsburgBIC.org		