



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP



REACHING FAR

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

May/June 2025

All in One Day

It was a very hot day in February, 1982. The sun rose boldly and poured brightness on the coal mining town of Hwange, Zimbabwe, where Fred and I were to assist in the growth of the small church already started by Maria Tshuma. She had gathered some Brethren in Christ members who moved there for work.

We did not feel so much brightness in our hearts that morning. We had come back to Zimbabwe, the first missionaries to return after independence was achieved, with a desire to train urban church planters. There was some difficulty in agreeing on a place for us to work, but finally we had been sent to Hwange where we were staying in the small house of a mine worker on vacation. Hwange was at low altitude and was known for its heat. We had hoped that the worst would be over by February, but we were wrong. It was almost 100 degrees each day and we were struggling.

Furthermore, although we had laid various kinds of groundwork, now that we thought all was ready, we were stuck. The leaders of the church planting had just informed us that they could not take the training or help with visitation that week because they were teachers and were busy with the opening of school.

Besides this, even if people had been able to work with us, we had no way to get to the targeted area because the effects of the war were still in evidence and the town was literally out of gas. There was no "petrol" to be found anywhere and our tank was on empty.

The church appeared to be at a standstill because they were worshipping in a very old assembly hall and people were not attracted to the services. Church members had tried to get the managers of the mine, which literally owned the land on which the town was built, to grant a plot of land for a church. These men had even been known to donate used building materials for construction at times, but so far the contacts had been very discouraging and the people had quit trying.

With doors closed every way we turned, Fred and I sat and looked at each other that morning feeling there was not a thing in the world we could do. We prayed and thought and

perspired. Since we could not do training or visitation, we had arranged for a couple of older people to come later that morning to visit the mine authorities with Fred and ask once more about a site to build a church.

Eventually they came, and the little delegation walked to the mine office. To their surprise the official they talked to picked up a phone, talked to someone under him and directed that the Brethren in Christ immediately be given a plot on a certain street in Section A of the compound. He then picked up another phone and directed a different supervisor to have the bricks from the demolition of a certain building delivered to this plot for the building of the new church.

The church delegation looked at each other in amazement, thanked the officer, and left the building laughing and talking. Back at the house where Maria Tshuma came to share the good news with me, she and I agreed that we would walk several miles to the police compound where the local policemen and their families lived. We would ask permission to visit and invite people to church. We trusted that the Lord would not let us expire in the fierce midday heat. The Chief of Police smiled broadly as we spoke to him.

"Does Mr. Holland still drive his motorcycle fast?" he asked. Puzzled, we asked how he knew Fred.

"Oh, I was a student at Wanezi Mission when you were there 15 years ago," he answered. "I used to love watching him



Continued on Page 2

FREE

BLUEGRASS

CONCERT

JUNE 4, 6:00 P.M.

DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH
(OUTSIDE, WEATHER PERMITTING)
18 E. HARRISBURG ST.
DILLSBURG, PA 17019

QUESTIONS? CONTACT INFO@DILLSBURGBIC.ORG



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Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church

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ride the motorcycle out to the churches and schools.” In the end, he sent his wife to accompany us to all the homes in the compound. We guessed that a little “official approval” would not hurt our invitation to church.

While we were gone, Fred looked up the street and saw the petrol truck unloading fuel at one of the stations. He ran and got the car, drove to the station and was allotted five liters (something over a gallon) of gas. He quickly drove to another station with the same result. A visit back to the first station this time yielded another ten liters—altogether about five gallons. Now we had some gas to get around. We could hardly believe how things had turned out that day.

Later that evening when we had time to put two and two together and turned to thank God, we saw that we had been the subject of prayer in the Mission Prayer Challenge that day. We would not doubt again that God answers prayer. We had gas, a church site, free bricks, and help in an open place for visitation. This was going to be a fruitful experience.

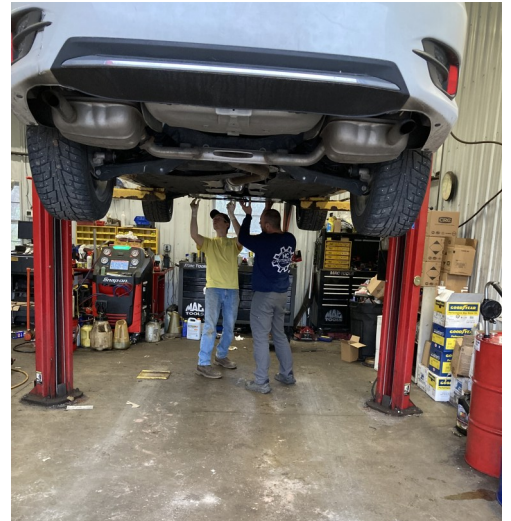
2025 Annual Oil Change

By Kimberly Tucker

Jon Gustafson, owner of Happy Cars Automotive, once again graciously sponsored and hosted our annual oil change on April 5th. I was happy to have an indoor site due to the downpour that we had! The rain reminded me of when we first started the Car Ministry. The oil was changed in DBIC's parking lot—rain or shine! Nathan Hoover not only got slightly oily, he got wet!

We had a full schedule of 16 cars with 2 waiting in the wings in case of a cancellation. Chad Brubaker and Nathan Hoover volunteered as our “mechanics” this year. Everyone was so grateful for the service. Two people even brought their own oil to save us money! Several gave more than the suggested donation of \$5.

We had a new experience this year. One car had a dog in a crate in the back seat. He caused no trouble as he rode up and down in the car lift! Our oldest car that was serviced was a 2002 Chrysler Town & Country. Thank you, DBIC, for giving your tithes to fill a need in our community!



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding as we bring you this special combined May and June edition of *The Doulos*. Sometimes life presents unexpected challenges that momentarily pause our routines, and these past months have been one of those times. But through it all, we've been reminded of the incredible grace, support, and encouragement that defines our Doulos family.

In this issue, you'll find a double portion of celebration! We've included birthday and anniversary lists for both May and June—because every life and milestone in our community is worth honoring.

We've also added some joyful snapshots from our Easter Party and Easter services. These moments of laughter, worship, and connection remind us of the hope and renewal we celebrate together.

As we look ahead, may this season be filled with renewed energy, faith, and joy. Thank you for being part of what makes this community so special.

With gratitude,
The Doulos Team



Dear DBiC Family, **Thank You** so much for the beautiful flowers and for your prayers and support as we grieve my father's death.
~Kathy & Joe Bennett

Thank you for your consistent investment in the ministry of the Collaboratory. Your frequent gifts continue to make a difference for students, educators, and friends of Messiah University. This year our 18 Collaboratory projects are working with many partners around the world to increase hope and transform lives. As May is coming up, please pray for our 45 students traveling on 6 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, Messiah University

Thank you for giving help and HOPE to the people we serve at New Hope Ministries! We are grateful for your kind and incredibly generous gift. 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!
~Michelle Zemba, Development Coordinator, New Hope Ministries

You are part of something exciting! **Thank you** for your 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 grateful to be in ministry with you.
~ SIM Missionary for Matt & Julie Walsh

Thank you very much for your gift to Paxton Ministries! We are sincerely grateful for the love and care you show our residents through your support. Your gift is helping us build a strong community where residents like Drew can thrive. "As a Christian living with a disability, it helps my faith to have a long-term option for safe and supported housing," states Drew. Your generosity allows residents to take comfort in God's provision, and empowers those like Drew who are "determined to bless others with the compassion he has received." We deeply appreciate your help as we fulfill our mission to provide affordable housing and support services to adults in need with Christ-like love!
~Amy Starr, Director of Development, Paxton Ministries

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, Giant gift card, food, and visits! I'm making progress though be it slowly. It is a blessing to be a part of Christ's body with you!
~ Kimberly Tucker

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 Foundations

THANK YOU for your recent generous gift! We use gifts like yours to introduce the clients God brings through our doors to the One who can make the negatives of life work for good. Our clients tend to only see the dark side of their present situation. God can change that. Many times we hear how an unwanted pregnancy turns into a precious son or daughter. Please pray we will have more opportunities to introduce our clients to the God of the "good and bad."
~ Rev. John Schaffer, Executive Director, Life Choices Clinic

It was great to share with you all on May 7th. **Thank you** for welcoming me so warmly. I wanted to take a moment to share my heartfelt appreciation for the seed down into my ministry in Ecuador. These seeds sown into the Kingdom of God will produce a great harvest. Because of your prayers and generosity, lives will be changed and the good news of God's love will be shared in places that have not yet heard. I am so thankful to have your partnership in this mission. I pray the Lord blesses each of you individually and as a church for your generosity in time, resources, and prayer. With deep gratitude...
~Krista

I want to thank everyone from Dillsburg BIC. You have truly been the body of Christ to Ed and I and our family. The celebration service which came together beautifully in less than a week speaks of your dedication and dependence on God. Many of my extended family were touched by the service, the music and the message. The outpouring of love has encouraged my spirit more than you can know. Your cards expressing sympathy and encouragement I have read and reread. The celebration meal with some specialties from our own congregation touched my heart. The meals you so kindly prepared for me saved me from many nights of cold cereal. Your display of love, I know pleases the Father. So for all of this, **thank you** from my family and I. Love you all,
~ Marj Strayer

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

Submitted by Kimberly Tucker— By Linda Espenshade | Courtesy of MCC.org

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)



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

“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.

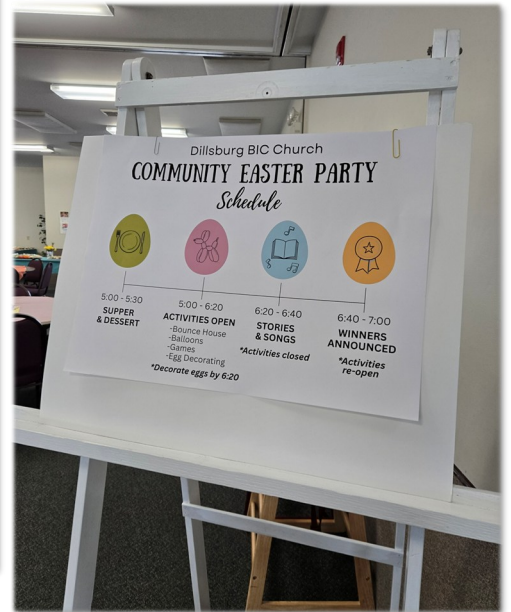
No longer does she need to stay by an open fire, her lungs and eyes burning from smoke, tending and feeding it for the two to three hours it takes to cook a meal.

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



Celebrating Life Together!



Celebrating Life Together!

EASTER 2025





Letter from Don Pratt

Compiled by John and Esther Spurrier,

DBIC Global Outreach Commission

Don Pratt is a retired Messiah University engineering professor at who once attended DBIC and is now part of New Life Community. He has been part of a team working on a device to find, deactivate and destroy land mines and other unexploded ordinances, thousands of which are left over from past wars. He and his wife Kathy recently travelled to Cambodia for a field demonstration of this device. Below is a report of their efforts. We rejoice that a BIC engineer is able to contribute to helping many people around the world stay safe from after effects of war.

“Our first day at the range was challenging - the equipment kept shutting down after only 20 seconds because of the heat, which wasn't long enough to fully destroy some of the targets.

But we were praying (and we know many of you were too!) and God gave Don some ideas to try. We hadn't brought a lot of extra parts, but that night we were able to modify the electronics in the main control box to better handle the heat.

The second day at the range was quite an improvement - the HTL worked beautifully! They have CCTV at the range and it was very cool to be able to set up everything at the target, arm the system, then return to the bunker where we could watch what was happening on a computer screen.

Turning the key on the remote starts the process: a small flame as the HTL ignites, followed by a shower of sparks as it penetrates the steel case, then lots of flames as it pushes fire into the hole. The idea is to quickly burn a hole through the wall of the munition (which can be over an inch of solid steel) then burn up the trigger mechanism (so the thing can't go off), followed by a controlled burn of the explosive.

We've done many tests on pieces of steel in the backyard at our home in PA, but this was the first time trying it on actual live targets and it was deeply gratifying to see it take something so dangerous and render it completely harmless. We were able to destroy mortars, artillery rounds, rocket grenades, and even a huge anti-vehicle mine - pretty exciting!”

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, but we kindly ask that you find a different place to drop off unwanted books. Thank you!



STOP TRAFFIC

By Marj Strayer—excerpts from May Peace Promise Newsletter

Update on our Survivors

By: Executive Director of Client Services,
Patty Seaman



Relational challenges can always be hard. The immediate instinct of most of the survivors we work with is to run as soon as uncomfortable situations erupt. However, over the past few weeks, we have had first hand opportunities to choose to do things differently and push through the painful emotions and relational challenges with a goal of restoration. As we continue that journey of relational healing, we ask that you continue to uplift our survivors.. Your prayers are felt on a daily basis.

This month, we have also started our journey through the book *Keep Your Love On* by Danny Silk to begin looking at healthy communication, building connections and setting boundaries.

The highlight of the past month for me was sitting at the theater with our survivors and their children, popcorn and sour patch kids in hand, and watching the *King of Kings* movie that shared the story of Jesus with them as they kicked the chairs of the people in front of us and wiggled excitedly.

We have also celebrated two of our survivors being released from parole. One of those survivors was granted early release, 2 years ahead of time. Congratulations on the hard work.

Saying Goodbye

It is with a very heavy heart that we say goodbye to our dear friend and longtime volunteer, Ed Strayer, who went home to be with the Lord on Monday, April 28, 2025.

He and his wife Marj have been with Peace Promise for well over a decade and his life was a blessing to so many. Our prayers are with our sister, Marj, and the rest of their family.

Well done, good and faithful servant.



Volunteer Corner

There are many ways to get involved with Peace Promise!

Volunteers Needed at Good Ground Coffee!

We have some openings to help cover volunteer shifts at Good Ground Coffee. If any of these time slots might work for you, please contact Rachel Ferrence (goodgroundcoffee@peacepromise.org) to learn more about the process of how to get involved.

Mondays - 7-10am (occasionally 2-5pm)
Tuesdays - 2-5pm
Wednesdays - 7-10am
Thursdays - 2-5pm
Fridays - 7-10am, 2-5pm
Saturdays - all days and all combinations, but most often 8-11am, 11am-2pm, 2-5pm (Saturdays are typically a once per month commitment)
*other dates as needs arise

Current Needs

Childcare Needed!

We are looking for a few volunteers to commit to volunteer for an hour and a half block once per month to provide childcare for our survivor support groups. This small monthly commitment would be a huge way that you could support our survivors in their healing journey and ensure that they are free to focus on their own healing during support groups knowing their children are safe and cared for by our loving volunteers. For more information, email rebecca@peacepromise.org



For more information, email volunteer@peacepromise.org

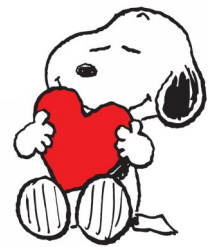
Don't forget to check our Peace Promise Volunteers Facebook page for upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Celebrating Life Together!

MAY

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!

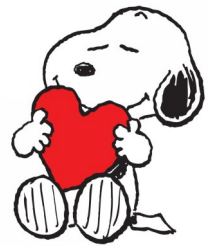
Grace Spurrier	May 2	Jim Shelly	May 13
Kimberly Tucker	May 2	Barb Miller	May 17
Jayden Moyer	May 3	Faithe Spurrier	May 20
Raelyn Brubaker	May 4	Charity Miller	May 20
Kathy Renard	May 6	Garret VanDyke	May 21
Paul Cathro	May 6	Abraham Waris	May 21
Spencer Sieber	May 6	Meredith Engle	May 24
Bob Hess	May 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
Helen Leach	May 11	Brooke Hardy	May 30
Levi Pomeroy	May 11	Amy Kimmel	May 31
Shekinah Waris	May 13	Samuel Walsh	May 31

Celebrating Life Together!

JUNE

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Rob & Chris Douglass	June 1
Zach & Brittany Carlson	June 4
Adam & Emily Schmehl	June 10
Chad & Em Brubaker	June 11
Jason & Naomi Smith	June 11
Joe & Kathy Bennett	June 11
John & Esther Spurrier	June 13
Bob & Carmy Hess	June 14
Mark & Cindy Burkholder	June 16
Randy & Sue Fish	June 16
Scott & Chris Eyster	June 16
Dave & Joyce Jones	June 17
Kenji & Meghan Kanazawa	June 20
Randy & Wendy Zwally	June 22
Tony & Deb Monko	June 25



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jim Spurrier	June 3	Brianna Eyster	June 17
Jill Poole	June 4	Sue Lawver	June 19
James Kanazawa	June 6	Brent Whitesel	June 22
Oswald Miller	June 8	Joyce Jones	June 24
Krishana Brubaker	June 10	Em Brubaker	June 28
Carmy Hess	June 12	Karen Pomeroy	June 29
Brittany Carlson	June 13	Tim VanDyke	June 30

June 2025

1 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	2	3	4 6:00 pm Bluegrass Concert	5 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 pm Prayer (Zoom)	6	7	
8 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	9	10 6:00 pm Softball (Hope Grace) 6:30 pm Leadership Council	11 6:30 pm Prayer (Zoom)	12 6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers') 7:30 pm Prayer (Zoom)	13	14	
15 July Doulos Deadline 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	16 6:00 pm Softball (Grantham)	17	18 6:30 pm Missionary Update	19 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 pm Prayer (Zoom)	20	21	
Family Promise Hosting							
22 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	23	24 6:00 pm Softball (Grantham)	25 6:30 pm Prayer (Zoom)	26 7:30 pm Prayer (Zoom)	27	28 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	
29 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	30						



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