



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP



REACHING FAR

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

September 2025

Daily Bread

For the past six months or so, I have been fasting on Fridays with two friends from church. As our small group was going through John Mark Comer's *Practicing the Way* course, we talked about the discipline of fasting, which Comer advocates for practicing in community—abstaining from food with others, even if you are physically apart. So three of us decided to try it, and I have been amazed at the difference it makes to know that when my tummy is rumbling and I feel grumpy, I am not alone. We text one another prayer requests and praises, Scripture verses and confessions. Sometimes we forget, and sometimes we make exceptions, but it's been a gift to feel held to this practice. It's been a gift to go without the easy comfort of food for a time, because I am forced to look to Jesus for my daily bread.

Fasting on Fridays has brought up memories for me of our days in Tanzania. Ten years ago, our family moved to the city of Arusha in northern Tanzania for nine months. Jason had received a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct agricultural research, so he spent his days tending thousands of tomato plants and studying the effects of the *tuta absoluta* moth on local harvests. With three young children in tow, my days were filled with reading books and playing games, buying milk and produce from vendors who arrived by motorcycle at our door, and trying to navigate the challenges of being a stranger in a strange land.

I recently unearthed a blog post I wrote while living there, a post I called "our daily bread":

As I waited one recent afternoon for the electricity to come back on, and attempted to plan a dinner meal that would use up as much of our perishable food as possible, a friend texted me. Her home had been without electricity for many hours as well, and she said she would pray that our power would be restored soon. "Living here changes your prayers, doesn't it?" she said. And it's true. We often invite our children to join us in praying

the Lord's Prayer at bedtime, and I have lingered over the line, "Give us this day our daily bread." Something about life here in Tanzania—a quality of rawness, an edge of inconvenience and desperation—has kept me hungering for daily bread. I can't count on things I used to, like stable electricity and internet, or roads that are consistently repaired, or stores with re-stocked inventory, or rains that come on a regular basis. I feel more at the mercy of circumstance here, forced to dance with a fickle partner, who threatens to trip me up and keeps me on my toes.

Yet I know I am one of the fortunate ones. I am rich by local standards, rich enough to have money not only for today but also for tomorrow, enough for margin and stability for my family. As my husband and I drove home from a dinner date last week, we talked about the disparity in economic realities of people here. We had enjoyed an excellent meal at a local restaurant, and it only cost us a little over \$20. But we thought about the Tanzanian field workers who labor alongside my husband when he conducts his field research—uncomplaining mamas who work for hours in the hot sun, bending to hoe and water plants to feed their families, and eager young men and women, hoping to scrape together some extra money to attend university. And for all their hours of work they earn the equivalent of \$3 a day. Three dollars a day, which would buy a loaf of bread but only that, and how then to cover the other needs that crop up, as plentiful as weeds in a barren field? We realized that it would take a whole week of work for one of those Tanzanian mamas



Continued on Page 2

Free FALL FUN FEST

SEPT. 10 - 5:30 p.m.

DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH - 18 E HARRISBURG ST.



BOUNCE HOUSE



CHILI COOKOFF



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT



FACE PAINTING
& CRAFTS

INFO/CHILI COOKOFF SIGN-UP: OFFICE@DILLSBURGBIC.ORG

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Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church

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Continued from Page 1

to earn enough money to eat dinner at that restaurant, and we wondered: how is this anyone's daily bread?

If living here has changed the way I pray, I hope it also changes how I conceive of what I have and what I hold dear. I pray it gives me courage to face my circumstances with gratitude. I pray it gives me grace to receive as well as give, to accept invitations from Tanzanian colleagues, to feed the neighbor children who linger in our house. I pray it gives me wisdom to lift up my daily bread and be willing to bless it, to break it, and to share it, trusting that the God who is enough will be enough for me and for all my brothers and sisters around the table.

A decade later, I am still learning to practice contentment, gratitude, and generosity. But when I feel weak on Friday afternoons, I also feel a deep sense of connection with my fasting sisters, and with those all over the world who hunger for food or peace or justice or righteousness. And I pray: *Our Father who art in heaven... give us this day our daily bread.*

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WEDNESDAYS THIS FALL

SHINE: K-5TH / THRIVE: 6TH-12TH

FIND FRIENDS. PLAY GAMES. LEARN ABOUT GOD.

6:30-8:00 P.M.

MORE INFO? CONNECT@DILLSBURGBIC.ORG

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding as we bring you this special September edition of The Doulos. This issue is filled with photos, updates, and stories from the past couple of months—moments that remind us of the joy, connection, and encouragement we experience when we walk together in community.

As we look ahead, you'll notice that The Doulos will be taking on a fresh format. While some things may look different, what will never change is the heartbeat behind it: celebrating the people, stories, and faith that make our community so meaningful. Our hope is that each edition continues to be a reflection of the love we share and the ways we grow together.

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support, prayers, and presence in this journey. You are what makes this community so special, and we look forward to all that lies ahead.

With gratitude and joy,

The Doulos Team



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!





Dear Staff and Elders—Thank you so much for your ongoing support for Andi & Shauna Brubaker. They are doing a great job and are blessed by your support. We are excited about the project and looking forward to seeing how God will work.

~Push the Rock

Thank you all so much for being a church family to Ed and Marj and for the many beautiful examples of thoughtfulness and care to Mom at Dad's passing.

~ Drew and Millyellen Strayer

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 on this important project.

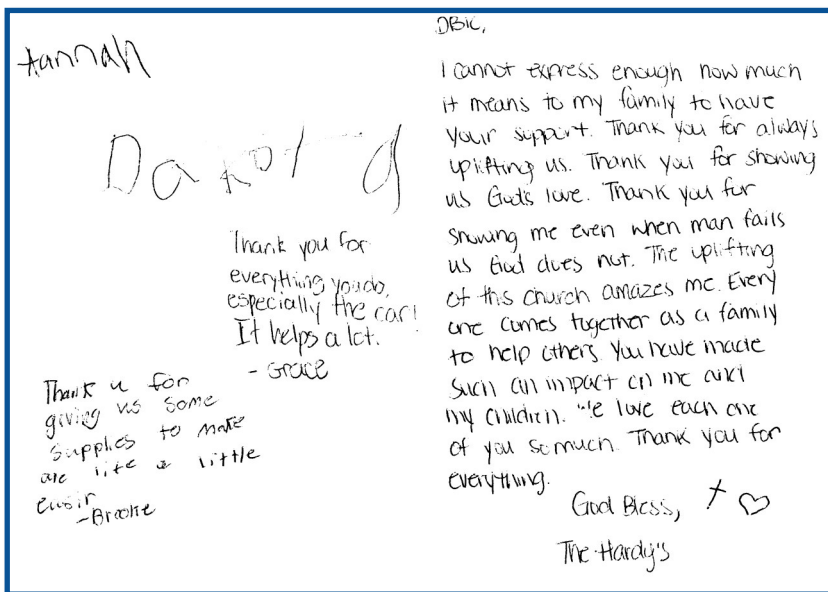
Dr. Stephen Prensner, President/CEO, New Horizons Foundation

THANK YOU for your 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.

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

Thank you for your recent gift. Your investment in these precious lives is making a real difference. 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.

~ Christie Gustafson, President of the Board, Patty Seaman, Executive Director of Client Services, Peace Promise





A young father and his three children are celebrating a home of their own. His journey began at our Dillsburg Center, where he was referred to our homeless services program. With New Hope's support, he applied for housing and was approved, just in time to move in on his daughter's fourth birthday. This photo captures his visit to our Enola Center, where he was celebrated as he begins this new chapter. **Your support helps families move from crisis to stability and into a place to call home. God Bless Your Support!**



Need help? If you know someone needs help with food or dealing with a financial crisis, please contact us. (717) 432-2087

Wish list: We need personal care items at all centers! (Toilet paper, soap, shampoo, deodorant, feminine care products). www.nhm-pa.org

We could use your help! Please prayerfully consider volunteering time at New Hope Ministries!

www.nhm-pa.org

New Hope Ministries

By Ginny Spurrier

Many thanks for all of your very generous contributions toward New Hope's "Christmas in July" event to fill backpacks for the new school year!

If you are looking for a way to help the New Hope Dillsburg Center and have some time there are open opportunities to serve at the Front Desk or the Pantry Desk. These positions involve greeting guests, answering phones and scheduling appointments.

Currently the Front Desk needs someone for Wednesdays from 9am - 12:30pm. The Pantry Desk needs are for Monday - Friday 9am - 12:30pm or 12:30pm - 4pm. If you are interested and available for any of these times training is provided Mondays or Wednesdays from 9am - 1pm.

Contact information:

Dillsburg Center, 99 W. Church St., Dillsburg

8:30am-4:30pm

Website: nhm.pa.org

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

Submitted by Kimberly Tucker—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 and peace “education”:

Farmers grow safe vegetables to protect health and environment

As Bangladeshi farmers carry baskets of eggplant, leafy red amaranth, cucumbers and squash of all shapes and sizes from their fields to be packaged at a local vegetable processing center, they also bring the personal satisfaction of providing healthy, pesticide-free food to their customers.

These farmers in Bogura District, northwestern Bangladesh, have chosen to learn to farm with natural pest control instead of synthetic pesticides. They have seen the negative effects of long-term use, abuse and overuse of pesticides on the health of farmers, consumers and the environment.

“We like to be healthy,” says farmer Kabir Hossain, who brought olives and ribbed gourds to the center on a Tuesday morning last October. “We would like to save our environment.” Too many farmers are harming the environment with pesticides that pollute the soil, the water and the air, he says.

In addition, farmers in the area, especially those who wear no protective gear when spraying pesticides, report eye irritation and burning, respiratory concerns, stomach acidity and renal problems. Customers too can be affected by food that contains too much pesticides, including vegetables that are sprayed on the same day they are sold at market.

Hossain is one of 700 farmers who are growing pesticide-free or “safe food,” as it is commonly called. They are using new farming techniques that they learned from MCC’s development partners Grameen Unnayan Prokalpo (GUP) or Pollee Unnayan Prokalpo (PUP). MCC’s agricultural experts in Bangladesh train GUP and PUP staff on these techniques, known as Integrated Crop Management, which also include making compost that repairs and builds soil health.

MCC support for development projects like this is based in its faith, says Gregory Vanderbilt, representative for MCC in Bangladesh. “Grounded in the unconditional love for God and for our neighbors, our faith motivates us to support development projects that accompany justice, equity and peace towards shalom -- wholeness in people and our world.”



Abdul Mojid hoes in his eggplant field, while the colorful sticky traps and the clear pheromone traps eliminate insects. MCC/Fairpicture photo/Fabeha Monir

Let's Get Tender

By Anna Vogt and taken from MCC.org

Victoria Mamani Sirpa, an agricultural technician and teacher for Fundación Comunidad y Axión visits Hilda Apaza Quispe's, 40, greenhouse in El Alto, Bolivia. Hilda built the greenhouse with the support of Fundación Comunidad y Axión, an MCC partner in El Alto, Bolivia. FCA works to improve access to nutritious food in El Alto has an arid climate and harsh sunlight, which makes growing vegetables difficult.



The greenhouses make it possible for families to eat healthy, organic foods without having to travel far on public transportation to buy vegetables that have been sprayed with chemicals.

I have vivid memories of visiting El Alto, Bolivia, chewing on dried llama meat, and listening to Oscar Rea, the director of MCC partner La Fundación Comunidad y Axión (FCA), unpack his development philosophy.

FCA works with urban migrants on family greenhouse projects, yet instead of focusing his work only on resilience or resistance or food security, Oscar told us that his approach was to encourage a pedagogy of tenderness. A pedagogy is an educational teaching method, and for Oscar, his method focuses on the recognition of the other and develops tenderness and care for oneself, others, and the earth as a fundamental part of development. Every small greenhouse we visited felt like an outpouring of that tenderness as families spoke less about their own needs and more about the connections between neighbours and the community they were growing, along with tomatoes and cucumbers.

The phrase “pedagogy of tenderness” has stuck with me. It has been especially present in the last few weeks, especially as tenderness feels like the exact opposite of what I should be doing or encouraging these days.

In times of change and uncertainty – political and economic – I should be doubling down, staying informed, getting ready to defend my way of being at any moment, as crises and potential crises become all-consuming. I need to be on

at all times. This is no time to think outside our own needs as a nation. Yet the challenge we face is how not to get sucked into the vortex, complete with anxiety, despair, cynicism and burnout, contributing to global conflict and panic by our very responses to stop it.

Journalist and conflict expert Amanda Ripely says, “Our brain is not designed to deal with this kind of illusory, rippling fear. And we are doomed to live small, confining lives if we let this fear occupy us. We will mistreat one another, sabotage our cause and miss opportunities.”

Sounds like we need the opposite of our instincts. Perhaps, even, some tenderness.

As Anabaptists, we look to Jesus as our model. When faced with a world that seemed out of control, Jesus surprised. Jesus spent time with a wide variety of people, from the poor and marginalized to religious leaders to the wealthy. He kept people on their toes, never quite doing what was expected or assumed. In the middle of a storm, he walked on water. As an honoured guest, he washed feet. He was born in a stable and received gifts of gold. He told stories instead of speeches and turned water into wine. He brought out the best in people that others considered to be beyond hope, like tax collectors and soldiers, and overturned tables in his own religious establishment.

Throughout the gospels, the refrain is the same. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid.

I am encouraging myself and those around me to stay tender. We can practice creating the conditions that allow people to be their best selves, especially those we view as beyond hope. We can allow ourselves to be surprised instead of creating self-fulfilling prophecies. Can we try being curious in those places where we feel fear? At the very least, we can name and question our fears. Let's focus on long-term goals rather than crisis responses. Let's remind ourselves that we continue to care about those beyond our borders. At our best moments, we can seek laughter and joy with those around us, rather than outrage.

In my role as director of Advocacy and Public Policy for MCC Canada, my team and I are working for policies that do the same: that encourage love for neighbour and justice for the vulnerable, at home and around the world, especially when we feel the most like doubling down on protectionist instincts. As people of faith, we believe that people can change, that we are called to love each other, and that mutual transformation is always at work. We see it happening all around us, in places like Bolivia and beyond. El Alto is not the only place teaching us to be tender and to see the world anew.

Let's open ourselves up to that tenderness as we seek the upside down, opposite kingdom of Jesus (and the opposite of our instincts) together.



Maggie Roth Macha Hospital, Zambia

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

“People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”
Mark 10:13-16



Maggie Roth is responsible for the coordination of transportation and accommodation for medical students and guest doctors at Macha Mission Hospital. But when not juggling and hosting people coming and going, making sure that they have housing, meals, water, electricity, and answers to all their needs, she follows her true passion and calling by helping families who have children with disabilities. There are almost no places in rural Zambia where such families can find help.

Here is the story of one of her “favorite little humans. They bring so much joy to the world and each one is unique in so many ways.”

Some of you have already met Miracle. Her grandmother, Martha, diligently brings her in for therapy and over the years has witnessed Miracle’s progress. She is my biggest unsolicited advocate for our program to new parents. When Miracle first started coming in, she only was able to lie on her back and smile the best smile ever. She didn’t use her arms/hands or legs and didn’t speak. She now can sit up with support and is starting to crawl, pick things up and move them, she also communicates her wants and needs through signs, pictures and some vocalizations and verbalizations. It might not sound like a lot to the average person but to us it is a miracle and she still has one of the greatest smiles.



An Invitation to Learn More about BIC World Missions

The Brethren in Christ have invested in cross-cultural missionary work outside of the United States for over 125 years. Like many other Christians, we became convinced that obedient followers of Jesus must share the Gospel of Jesus with people in every part of the world.

God's heart to bless and redeem people from all people groups can be found throughout the Bible. The movement to spread Jesus' good news to all people began with his commissioning of the apostles, described in the New Testament gospels and the book of Acts. The two-thousand-year history of cross-cultural ministry is filled with examples, both good and otherwise, of people who have crossed boundaries to make Christ known, often at great cost to themselves.

Questions to Consider

How well do you know this ongoing story?

Are you familiar with the work of Brethren in Christ U.S. World Missions as we partner with local congregations to send out men and women called by God?

About the Course

We have developed a brief, self-paced, online course that includes:

- God's heart for the people of the world
- The "what? why? and how?" of cross-cultural ministry
- Blessings and challenges of cross-cultural ministry
- The global BIC church
- BIC U.S. WM Priorities and how we work
- Our current global workers
- Local congregations and cross-cultural ministry
- How to get involved
- Additional missions-related resources



Scan for more info

This course is available to anyone who would like to understand what "missions" is all about, how BIC U.S. WM pursues cross-cultural ministry, or how they can increase their involvement in fulfilling the Great Commission.

How to Access the Course

If you would like to take this course, which can be completed in less than two hours, visit <https://bit.ly/3VqYuJe> OR scan the QR code above.

It is delivered through the Pathwright platform. If you have not used this platform before, the link will allow you to create a free account at bicus.pathwright.com and take the course. Once begun, you will be able to complete the course as you have time; it is not required to finish it all at once.

If you need assistance, you may send an email to Tammie Gitt, Administrative Coordinator for BIC U.S., at tgitt@bicus.org.

Final Encouragement

Together as members of the Brethren in Christ Church, we continue to prepare and send out people called and gifted by God. By God's grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we continue to make disciples of Jesus in our local communities and around the world.

Thank you for answering the call of God in your life!

Thank you for your part in making disciples and encouraging them to follow where God leads.



On the evenings of July 7-11, a brave group of explorers entered the Alaskan wilderness to learn more about Jesus, our True North in a wild world. Throughout the week, 41 kids and 26 volunteers gathered together to sing songs, see dramas, eat snacks, read Scripture, play games, do science experiments, and engage with Bible stories from the life of Jesus.

Whether the kids were talking with their crew leaders, running through an obstacle course, learning about the Northern Lights, or playing "lost sheep" in the Sanctuary, the atmosphere was full of energy and joy.

Thank you to all who participated, volunteered, and prayed for our VBS event this year!

Blessings,

Pastor Naomi



Photos courtesy of Joe Bennett

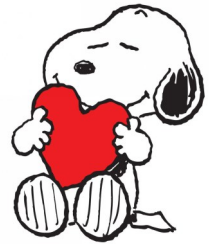


Celebrating Life Together!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Phil & Ruth Anne Engle
Scott & Cindy Raboci
Tariq & Angelina Waris

September 5
September 9
September 20





HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Colin Patterson
Ginny Spurrier
Cheryl Cross
bj Martin
Nathan Hoover
Robert Pomeroy
Nevin Engle
Stan Eyster
Tom Hatch
Victoria Hoover
Debbie Wertz

September 2
September 3
September 4
September 5
September 8
September 8
September 9
September 11
September 13
September 13
September 15

Heidi Tucker
Andrew Douglass
Ron Engle
Tracy Emig
Julianne Douglass
Allie Focht
Judy Smith
Nina Leister
Sawyer Carlson
Treyson Moyer

September 15
September 20
September 20
September 21
September 21
September 22
September 24
September 25
September 28
September 28

| September 2025 | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 1  | | 2 | 3 | 4 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 6:30 pm Martin Brass Rehearsal 7:30 Prayer (Zoom) | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:00 am Update with the Walsh family 10:00 am Worship | 8 | 9 | 10 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm Fall Fun Fest | 11 6:30 pm Human Trafficking mtg (Strayer home) 6:30 pm Martin Brass Rehearsal 7:30 Prayer (Zoom) | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship | 15 | 16 6:30 pm Leadership Council | 17 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Missionary Update | 18 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 6:30 pm Leadership Council 6:30 pm Martin Brass Rehearsal 7:30 Prayer (Zoom) | 19 | 20 8:30 am Men's Breakfast |
| Family Promise Hosting | | | | | | |
| 21 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship | 22 7:00 pm Deacon Meeting | 23 | 24 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm Comer Life 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer | 25 6:30 pm Martin Brass Rehearsal 7:30 Prayer (Zoom) | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship | 29 | 30 | <div>  <div> DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH GROWING DEEP REACHING FAR 18 East Harrisburg St. Dillsburg, PA 717.432.3847 www.DillsburgBIC.org </div> </div> | | | |