

# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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“...the ministry of the Word” – Acts 6:4

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

February 2016 “...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” – Luke 1:78-79 Newsletter

## *From this Frail Soil*

Dearhearts,

How is it that Christ left the past as though it never was? The pain of denial a few days before...now gone on the Galilean shore as if it had never been. Affirming His forlorn disciple with no mention of the massive breach of friendship, the colossal failure of character. Returning to Peter his destiny and his dreams. Restoring friendship. And His other friends who had slumbered through Gethsemane’s hour...He now sought out, prepared food for them...served them; including them, still, in the fellowship of His heart as though it had never been lanced by their hand. How is it that He left the past as though it never was? How did He deal thus with the failures of relationship?

How do *we* deal with those breaches that create deep losses when we entrust our hearts to human frailty? There are erosions that cannot be recouped. Our landscape will never look as once it did...the gullies are too deep. How do we recover from such places and salvage ourselves much less a relationship?

What does Christ’s life say to us here? How do we leave the past as though it never was? It has to do with what He saw.

### **He never lost sight of the human condition.**

The cross declares the reality of human failure...the inevitability of it. He never operated from the illusion that we were better than that.

**He never lost vision of His purpose.** He was dealing with a bunch of wounded hearts, at best, and He knew it. That reality was His destiny. His purpose was redemption...was calling us forth from our dying places into resurrection life.

**He always had the real Enemy in His sights.** He always knew who He was fighting. The real enemy was not crippled humanity, it was the great Crippler who ever prowls seeking to destroy. Christ did not look at the betrayal. It did not matter. What mattered is that one day He would be proclaimed ...not for His own glory but for the redemption of souls. Christ saw His purpose...not to avoid suffering, but to transform it and defeat Satan with his own weapon.

**His gaze was always upon His Father.** “*What I see my Father do...I do.*” He and His father were one, and they were about transformation. Life here was not about performance. Is not about the fewest number of mistakes. It is about transformation. All that He offers to us – and asks of us – has to do with transformation: Grace, mercy...forgiveness. Turning the other cheek. Going the second mile. Loving those who hate us. Praying for those who abuse us. It is about accepting the harsh realities of this world and preparing the best soil for new growth; for transformation from the dirt of failure.

We live in a world that can shrink wrap our soul and squeeze us down to its smallness. The Holy Spirit lives in us not so we can shrink Him down to our size but so He can draw us out to His. He calls us out to a larger place. So how do we resist the gravitational forces of an eye for an eye world? The only way is to believe in resurrection.

In the midst of Martha’s heartbreak when Christ Himself seemed to have more important things to do than hasten to her brother’s deathbed, Christ’s question was, “do you believe in resurrection? Do you believe in *Me*...I am the resurrection.” “If only you had been here”... her anguished heart despaired...Here in the rubble of an unfathomable “failure”...He was asking her if she believed in Him...still. He knew resurrection was not just something *He* did. Resurrection had come to man...not just at the end of life, but in the midst of life. Resurrection has been offered to us in the midst of our daily deaths. Transformation is our reality now if we believe.

“If only” is the lament of every broken heart...the voice of a grave.

Forgiveness and grace and mercy are the voices of transformation. The anthem of resurrection. And they are how we leave the past as though it never was.

I love you,

## Ministry Update

### Martyr's Bridge Study

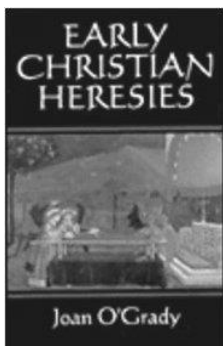
Connecting  
us to Lives  
that  
Changed  
our World



The lives of those little known figures who passed the torch of the Apostles' faith on to us can guide and inspire us to see their sacred charge as our own. They took seriously the call of Christ on their lives...took seriously the weight and burden of handing to future epochs a faith that resembled that of Paul and Peter and John. We study these "Apostolic Fathers" because their lives and times have much to say to us about how we are to live and what we can be.

Because each class stands on its own, it does not matter if you have not yet attended. Join us and enter into the lives of so many who died that our faith might live. Getting to know our faith in its infancy will challenge and hopefully inspire those who attend to take the torch they hold out to us...and pass it on.

**Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**  
**February 4, 11**  
*Dayspring House*



**Follow-up Book Discussion** of Joan O'Grady's work has been moved to accommodate scheduling constraints **from Thursday to Tuesday evenings February 16 & 23 at 7:00**. Three copies remain at the ministry office. Please reserve your book if you are interested in participating.

**Person of Impact Lay Counseling  
Training**  
**6:30 pm Friday February 26**  
**8:30-11:30 am Saturday February 27**

### Dusting off the Touch Ministry

In recent weeks we have been re-framing the Touch Ministry from one primarily associated with our former nursing home outreach to a "paraklete" ministry - one that "walks alongside" those who are in hard or lonely places: Staying *in touch* with those who are in long-term challenges or keeping people in touch with life and community, and *touching* those in need of urgent or emergency help.

In serving those hit by the storm - or other crises - we will stay in touch with them and their needs and walk along side them until those needs are met as a mid- to long-term ministry approach.

Bobbie Gillette is coordinating the Touch Ministry, particularly the "*in-touch*" teams that bring meals, buy groceries and minister in any number of other daily ways. Caroline Doyle writes of a recent experience.

**Smiles greeted me when I pulled up to my neighbor's house across the street a few weeks ago as Linda Loveless and I delivered groceries. Two adults and two children ran out to help get the groceries out of my car and, once inside, they kept thanking us and hugging us continuously. They, like a lot of us on the street, had no electricity for a week after the tornado hit and we all had to throw away our refrigerated food. So the food we brought was exactly what they needed at that time.**

**They were not only feeding their family of five, they had also taken in their neighbor next door who had her roof destroyed along with most of the things in her house when it rained the day after the tornado. She had no other place to go but God opened the door (literally) to her neighbor's house. I thought that may have been a burden to them but much to my surprise, the lady told me that taking in her neighbor was a blessing from God! She said they had just moved in 6 months ago and she was depressed but because her neighbor needed her, she found a new purpose and energy and looked forward to each day.**

**They weren't the only ones who received a blessing that day. I received one, too, by sharing in the joy of what true giving is all about!!**

## An Open House that Also Opened Doors

*"The love of our Lord Jesus is so complete and arrives only at the perfect time for His glorious purposes."*



When my Grandchildren play school in their driveway with the neighbor's children they always request I teach history and Bible. So while searching for quaint locations for their Christmas family photo, Dayspring's front porch enticed their curiosity. In God's timing and purpose it was not meant for them but for their Grammy. The timing was just right, it was open house. As they looked at the library they knew I would love the books; they even recognized my friends Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Jeanne Guyon.

*Dayspring and the vision of an Antiquities library is an answer to my prayers now and long ago.*

My search through history has been a hop scotch event; starting with the Bible, then my interest of politics and current events and the craziness of this age prompted me to work backwards to understand why people are the way they are. In fact that was my prayer as a nine year old, living in a cauldron of dysfunction. I asked God every night to bless Mommy, Daddy, Sisters, the people on the moon and Mars and by the way God could you teach me why people are the way they are! Amen. I did not know then what I asked Him for was wisdom and that He would teach me why I was the way I was.

As the scroll of history has rolled back and I met Charles Spurgeon, D.L. Moody, The Wesley's, Oswald Chambers and prayed Puritan prayers and devotions, I longed to know who's shoulders these passing souls stood upon:

*Blow away the ashes of unbelief by the Spirit's breath and give me light, fire, and warmth of love.  
I need spiritual comforts that are gentle,  
peaceful, mild, refreshing,  
That will melt me into conscious lowliness before thee,  
that will make me feel and rest in thee as my All.  
"The Valley of Vision" - Puritan Prayers*

The Spirit began to whisper names even the church has forgotten, Guyon, Fenlon, Nee, Clement of Alexandria, Polycarp, Ignatius of Antioch.

Dayspring and the vision of an Antiquities library is an answer to my prayers now and long ago. Not only has the Good Shepherd brought me to a collection of early Church Fathers but to like-minded friends who desire to know and follow our friends sent out by Christ Jesus so that we might all understand why people are the way they are and the Who that holds the key to our Hearts. Sandy Sayre

## Tornado Survivor Support Group Meets Tuesday February 9

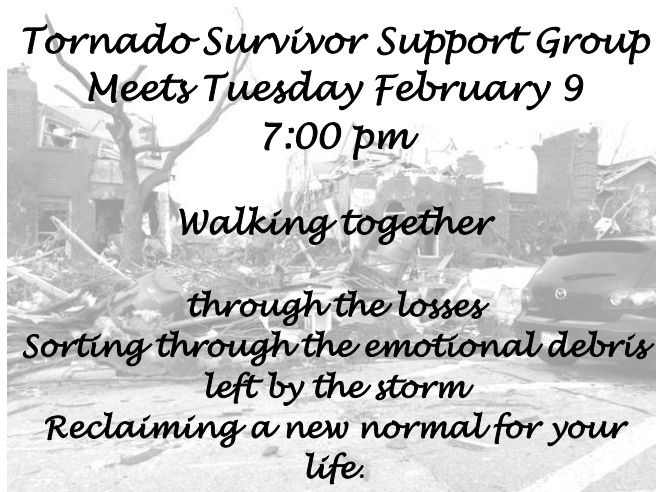
7:00 pm

*Walking together*

*through the losses*

*Sorting through the emotional debris  
left by the storm*

*Reclaiming a new normal for your  
life.*



If you or someone you know is startled by sudden sounds, if road noise reminds you of the roar of the tornado, if you are wanting to isolate or if tears still come too easily, this group may help you.

Our first gathering will be a time of introduction and brief sharing. We will also determine the best options for a permanent meeting time.

*Both daytime and evening options are available!*

*Tuesday or Friday mornings  
Thursday evenings*

If you are interested but can't attend Tuesday night please contact the ministry office with your information.

Brenda will facilitate the group, with Tanya Magnus assisting as her schedule allows. If multiple groups form, other facilitators will be added.

The group will meet in the Antiquities Library at the Dayspring house at 302 S. Fannin.

*If you know of anyone who might benefit from this, please let them know.*

## Touch Teams Reach out to Tornado Victims



It was a raw, blustery Saturday morning early in January that greeted our team of Galen Montanye and Kim Stefani, Susan Raines and Jaynie and Robert Lamb as they worked beneath the old Rowlett water tower helping Lupe move from her damaged home. Seventy something, this delightful Hispanic woman was

working alone moving damaged things out of her trailer as Susan, Jaynie, Mary Jane Brawand, Linda Loveless and Brenda had driven into her area the day before. With a single text on Friday Galen and Kim dropped plans and showed up the next morning.

There were others we have been able to help as well, and Jaynie fills in the gaps below.

***“I had been praying that God Would Lead me...”***

*The tornado in December has been on television, in newspapers and certainly the subject of many conversations. I had been praying that God would lead me where he wanted me to go to help in any way. Little did I know that morning in January, that as Brenda, myself and three other wonderful women set out to see if we could help, that my life would be forever changed. As we drove around I was so sad for all those that lost everything, but until I met some families and heard their plight firsthand, I had no idea how our lives would be intertwined. Our little group didn't know where we should go but God did and He led us right to them.*

*The first was a sweet lady who was in her mobile home trying to clean it and told us she really had no way of moving what was left of her things to go to her daughter's house. Behind her house was another family whose trailer was tilting badly, with no steps to get in it, so they had to use a chair to climb in. They had 3 dogs and 4 cats they had to leave in the trailer because they had no where for them to go. The family had a little insurance but no money had come yet and they had no where to stay until it did.*

*Brenda promised all would be taken care of and early Saturday morning, several men from Dayspring and another church group from Richardson that unexpectedly showed up to help. Lupe was able to get her*



*things moved that day and the Tune family was able to get a hotel for themselves and the pets went to a vet not far from them, at no cost to the*

*family. [The real story is that Jaynie went home determined to find lodging for this family and their pets and for two hours called 40 hotels before finding a vacancy in Richardson which she reserved for two weeks and then found a vet who provided free boarding as long as needed for all the animals.]*

*The next week we met Donna and Demarcus and their son Chris. Again the story was similar. They had no renter's insurance and both had just been laid off from their jobs. The continuing phrase, God is good was repeated by all of them. Even though their lives were changed in a moment, their faith in Him never wavered! Today, Lupe is happily living with her daughter, but still on the lookout for a place of her own. The Tune family has found a home in McKinney, and Donna and Demarcus are still going to school and trying to find part time work.*

*These weren't just "tornado victims," these folks have become family to me! I thank God I met them. Things can be replaced, but people can't and I am forever changed.*

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### ***Thank You for the Crisis Fund***

A few months ago we informed you of our long depleted crisis fund that a woman on limited income had begun to contribute “seed money” to, believing her sacrifice would be blessed by God with harvest.

And so it has. Several of you began to contribute with the result that we had more than \$3,000.00 to help many tornado victims and to reimburse some who need income for the work they normally give to us and others for free.

Because of her seed money (which continues) and your contributions we were able to pay for groceries and gas, for utilities and other needs that have arisen from the tornado devastation. Money still remains in this fund, but we thank you for what you have done and ask your continued consideration as we seek to be a bridge that carries people from where they are to where they need to be. Your contributions to the crisis fund have immeasurably facilitated this “bridge work.”