



# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

"...the ministry of the Word" - Acts 6:4

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Teaching - Equipping - Training - Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

April 2011

"...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness..." --Luke 1:78-79

Newsletter

## *The Power of His Resurrection*

Dearhearts,

When the angel troubled the waters of Bethesda, they were ready for healing.

When our waters are struck, it comes not so much by the hand of angels as from the blows of man and circumstance. Painful situations stir our hearts with grief. Losses of dreams or hope, trust or friendship, predictability or security trouble the deepest places in us and suddenly our waters churn with fear and uncertainty. And we pray for rescue or peace.

But it may be that these very waters are teeming with new possibilities...ready to bring healing to our soul...to create something new in us. Sometimes we do not see the hand of angels hidden in the waves, but it is in the frothing places of life that we are jolted from our comfort and shot through with resurrection power.

It was from Peter's brokenness that the powerful life of an emboldened apostle rose up. It was from the desolation of prison that Charles Colson became a voice of God in our times. It was from the debris of a life of self-righteous legalism and abuse, that Saul was transformed into Paul. It was from the turbulence of a fractured marriage that a friend's marriage was made new...not restored...made better. That is the power of resurrection. The life of Christ after the grave was more expansive and boundless than His life before the grave.

The great yearning of Paul's heart was that we might know Christ and the power of His resurrection (Phil. 3:10). But how is that to look? How does it work? It has to do with what we do with our smitten waters. Do we resist them...or do we step into them as at Bethesda trusting that something new and healing is hidden there? It has to do with what we believe about resurrection. Do we believe resurrection is a one-time event of antiquity or does its power span the centuries to enter any grave we might find ourselves in?

Before raising her brother from a putrefying grave Christ spoke to Martha "I am the resurrection and the life. *Do you believe this?*" Not just doctrinally or futuristically, but do you believe it for **now**, Martha? Can He bring life back into a heart broken by loss...a

spirit ruptured by abuse? Can the power of resurrection find its way into the deep craters of a soul hollowed out by abandonment? Can something new be formed even here? Does it carry the power to transform suffering into the Sculptor's hands...to resurrect in us His image that died eons ago at Eden's arbor?

*Behold, I make all things new.* Newness is the signature of God in a broken land. From the beginning He took what was void and formless and fashioned it, then breathed into the sculpted clay a living soul. This original creative act is metaphor for all of life east of Eden. Every movement of God among mankind is about bringing beauty from the ashes; finding treasures in the darkness; taking that which has been marred by loss and hurts, by despair and disillusionment and breathing life into clay again.

Christ calls us out from our graves, but he asks us to help remove the grave clothes from those still hobbled by guilt or bitterness, anger or anxiety or a dozen other things; to partner with Him in redemption. Every point of friction or pain offers that possibility. Forgiveness creates a new thing...taking that which was broken of relationship or trust and re-fashioning it. Such is the stuff of marriages transformed and relationships healed. When we relinquish into His hands dreams that have died, peace is created.

*Behold, I make all things new.* This is the glory of Easter...that we might know Him and the power of His resurrection.

I love you,

*Brenda*

So far we are below the minimum number required for the trip to Israel. If we do not have at least 12 definite responses before the end of this month, the trip will have to be cancelled. The time is now for decisions to be made.

## Ministry Up-Date

### Nursing Home Ministry

Every once in a while something comes along in a ministry, or for us personally, that carries the Lord's hand upon it so powerfully we can just take our hands off the wheel and watch it go down the road. Such is the case with our newly launched nursing home ministry. We are hoping to make a tangible difference in the community that makes their home at the Senior Care Center in Rowlett and would love your participation in doing that. Last month's newsletter carried numerous ways in which you can become involved either from a distance or up close. There is much we can do to lift spirits and brighten the days of those who are there and we are grateful for those who already have joined this work. Below are comments from three of them.

#### **"No Way!! Who Wants to do That???"**

This used to be my normal response to going to a nursing home. But the Holy Spirit had other plans for me. He has absolutely given me such a desire and a joy that I can't help but look forward to going and visiting with our new friends, getting them a Dr. Pepper, looking at their scrapbooks, or putting up Christmas ornaments. But the biggest joy I have is seeing the absolute delight in their eyes when they see Bravo and Kit, the little dogs that Elizabeth and Teresa bring with them each week. When we walk in and the residents see the dogs (not us), their eyes light up like Christmas tree lights as they reach out to shower them with love and adoration! I'm sure the dogs probably think they are "rock stars" as they walk in the door because that's how they are treated! Their owners probably have a job de-toxing them back to reality when they go home to their normal humdrum lives!!!

So you see, the Holy Spirit has caused my cup to overflow with joy in such an unexpected way - a way that I never would have believed possible in going to a past-dreaded nursing home! --Caroline

#### **"When He puts forth His own, He goes before them"**

It feels as if the Lord is going before us. (John 10:4) Each week we visit, there's more blessing. This past week, the nursing home's "popcorn social" was transformed. From the week before, residents dully looking at the floor, listening to songs on a radio, to this week, heads up, singing along to Caroline's piano playing and Melvin leading hymn singing. It felt like life invaded a depressing place. Also, faces lit up when introduced to the visiting dog of the week as they stroked him. Others told the Activity Director how much our short visits meant to them each week--it made their week, they said. And there's the inspiration of those residents who, in the face of such difficulties, stated how good God was and how much they are blessed." --Teresa

#### **"Bless You for Coming"**

I guess it's one of those things you have to see to understand. I saw people transformed right in front of me. I witnessed people come alive. Heads, hands, and feet were moving, people singing, and people pausing on the dining room threshold *curious* as to what was happening. We gathered the residents in and invited them to sing. As in all aspects of this ministry, as we sought to minister we also received. Like the resident who grabbed my hand and sang the hymn to me with a smile on her face and a sparkle in her eyes. When the hymn finished, she pulled me closer and said, "This is what it's all about. Praising Jesus." It's no wonder that we look forward to Tuesdays. Where else can a smile, a pat, a "Good afternoon," make a difference in another person's life? --Elizabeth

#### **Growing Response to Ministry**

Several people are wanting to contribute to the musical aspect of our ministry to the nursing home. Karen Rash, Gay Bostick, Patty Stefani and Anne Morton all are seeking to add their voices to the music roster.

Elaine Souder, co-leader of our Art Workshop, is working with Teresa Box and the nursing home activities director to create an art class there as well.

Linda Loveless is creating personalized birthday baskets and Terry Lancaster will be sending birthday cards, initially, to those who have only limited family contact.

Please check last month's newsletter for the many ways, both directly and indirectly, that you might help.

**Previous newsletters can be read on our website.  
Current editions go on-line by mid-month.**

## ***Easter Week Observances*** **April 18-24**

### **Noon Devotionals**

*Scriptural reflections on days leading to Calvary and opportunity for personal communion*

**Mon-Thurs 12:00-1:00pm**

### **Thursday Vesper Service** **“Gethsemane’s Hour”**

*In Gethsemane, Christ invited His closest friends to enter with Him into the fellowship of His suffering. Join us as we reflect on this evening and its meaning for Christ...for the world...and for us personally. Let us not slumber this night. Let it matter to us that we spend this hour with Him. His was a reasonable question...not only for His disciples, but for us...*

***Can you not watch with me one hour?***  
**7:00-8:00 pm (Communion 8:00-8:30 pm)**

*“Thursday evening was beyond words.”*  
-- Karen (2010)

## **New Teachings on Website**

### ***Christ the Revolutionary***

You may now listen to the complete series of Brenda’s Sunday morning teachings on the life of Christ on the **Teachings/Download page** of the website. The lessons include: The Fullness of Time, Revolution of the Heart, Revolutionary Focus, Where No One Dares to Go, Inside Out, The Transforming Christ, Wind-Walker, The Mark of Christ, The Hidden Kingdom, Revolutionary Love...

All Brenda’s Conversations are on line including January and February’s ***Hanging in the Balance*** and ***Thy Kingdom Come***. The **Mysteries of the Kingdom** series is available for listening on-line: ***The Mystery of Earth, the Mystery of the Universe, the Mystery of Eden, the Mystery of Time***, and most recently, ***the Human Mystery***.

Three of Brenda’s Conversations on Prayer are also on line.

### **Additions to “A Temple in Eden?”**

Additional pictures and information have been added to our new page on the archeological discovery in Turkey that has some non-religious scientists linking to Biblical accounts of the Flood or the Garden of Eden. Check out this fascinating information on our **Bible and History page**.

## **Good Friday Observance** **Chapel open 7:30 am – 7:00 pm**

***Intermittent Scriptural Guided Focus***  
***throughout day. Major Points of Focus:***

**8:20:** *events during the night*

**8:30:** *events preceding crucifixion*

**9:00:** *the time of crucifixion*

**12:00 – 3:00:** *chapel is darkened in silent vigil*

**3:00:** *the last words of Christ*

**6:00:** *Christ is removed from the cross*

We invite you to come as you can through the day or stay the entire time in reflective meditation on this time of His suffering for us.

**“I had planned to be at the Chapel at 8:30 a.m., leave at 9:30 to have coffee with a friend, be back at the chapel at noon for a silent vigil and then home by 3:00. I ended up not saying a word, and literally not leaving my seat for six and a half hours...it was one of the most incredible experiences I’ve ever had.**

Reflecting on what Christ was going through that Friday gave Easter a whole new meaning... I will be forever changed because of it.”

--D’Ann (2010)

**Personal Communion** can be observed at any time through the week and on Good Friday. Chapel will be open daily from 7:30 to 7:00.



**Thursday Vesper Service Communion** will be a modified **Passover Communion Observance** led by Brenda.

Please Let Others Know of the Easter Week Observances offered by the Ministry of Dayspring

**Easter Sunrise Service**  
**6:30 a.m. Sunday, April 24**  
*Dayspring*  
*Community Prayer Garden*

## Prayer Garden News

### Memorial Service in Garden of Unborn

A recent Sunday afternoon gathering in the **Garden of the Unborn** memorialized a miscarried baby. We are always honored and blessed when those in our community come to find quiet and blessing, comfort and prayer in a place prepared for them.

Blue and pink ribbons often are found in the guide box, left by those in the Lake Pointe Church abortion recovery group as part of the closing ceremony for each new group. The Crisis Pregnancy Resource Center's abortion recovery group also uses the garden and chapel.



*"I love the prayer garden,"* a man said recently as he came up to the chapel from the area of Riley's Berm. *"It is so beautiful out there... so quiet and peaceful. It is like an oasis in the middle of Rockwall."*

### Pretty in Lavender

**Amy's Garden** is adorned in lavender this spring, the color for cleansing. Amy's brother planted glorious alyssum around the statue in honor of his sister.



**"Amy's Garden is my favorite place** in the prayer garden. It feels so sheltered there...I can be alone."

Stones along the concrete wall of the **Tabernacle Alcoves** mark the burdens, both small and great, laid before the Lord by those seeking a deeper walk and greater intimacy with Him in prayer.



Go to [www.dayspringdiscipleship.org](http://www.dayspringdiscipleship.org) to view these and other garden pictures in color.

### Much Mulch Needed

Last year, funds did not allow us to mulch the azalea beds due to the increased need for mulching in the large area that had mistakenly been cut. This year we are shifting to the less expensive pecan shell mulch in all places but the azalea beds, which require a special mixture. If you would like to help with the purchase of mulch, here is a breakdown of the **minimum** amount needed to cover all garden areas.

**Pecan Shells:** \$26.00 per yard. Needed: 6-9 yards (3-5 pick-ups) for entire garden (not including azalea beds). Total: \$156.00 – \$234.00

**Azalea Mulch:** \$41.00 per yard. Needed: 3 yards (approximate). Total: \$123.00

We welcome any help with the garden you may be prompted to offer and are grateful to all who have been so faithful over the years in every way.

### We Have Been Blessed...

...by so many in so many ways. **Caroline Doyle** has created a Dayspring Chapel and Garden facebook page as well as brochure and cards and is Event Coordinator for the small chapel and garden weddings we now offer. A local photographer has created a video presentation (on our website and facebook). **Sue and Bob Almond** are offering their photography service to the ministry for brochures and other on-line needs. They have made two beautiful wedding candelabras for the chapel as well as matching style window candle stands. Sue and Caroline have teamed to select the new chairs donated to the chapel as well as selecting two rugs and a runner to complete needed improvements for wedding concerns. These were possible through your extra donations. **Elizabeth Moses** continues to caretake the chapel needs and, as ever, **Gay Bostick and Teresa Box** remain the workhorses for the garden itself. The garden would be a weed lot if it weren't for Gay's untiring efforts.

### Tuesday Evening "Conversations" Conclude

Because Easter week observances occur the third week in April, there will be no "Third Tuesday" Conversation this month. **"The Human Mystery,"** occurred on the fifth Tuesday evening in March and will be the last of Brenda's conversations. As of now, a *monthly* series is not planned for the fall, though Brenda is considering having an evening Conversation once a quarter.