



# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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[www.dayspringdiscipleship.org](http://www.dayspringdiscipleship.org)

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

April 2014 “...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” – Luke 1:78-79 Newsletter

## *Erosion*

Dearhearts,

My favorite ice cream memory as a child was the strawberry ice cream Mr. and Mrs. Brown cranked up when they came to visit one Saturday afternoon late. They stayed into the evening and I could hardly eat my supper thinking about the ice cream. Mother had made her traditional vanilla version and Dad and Mr. Brown each cranked their ice cream until it wouldn't turn any more and then “packed” it for later. And in the falling dusk we finally were scooping out the dessert, and I thought I had died and gone to heaven when I tasted the ice cream with the strawberries *in* it rather than on it.

There is something about community that stays with us for the rest of our life. The Browns and our family got together enough times a year to create a sense of belonging to a larger picture.

Church was that for us, too, with Mother often preparing a large after-church meal for the pastor and family, or other church friends. It was a huge clean-up. The kids went out to play, the men retreated to talk, and the women washed dishes...but even that (uncomfortable though I am with that scenario today), even that was a bonding time. A time for knowing each other... directly. Not through any other medium except shared work or leisure... knowing the spirit of the person, their dreams and fears...their kids.

On other Sundays, friends from nearby communities often just dropped in, unannounced, as they were out on their Sunday afternoon drives, and we wiled away the afternoon with storytelling, laughter and shared lives.

Rarely, were these seen as unwelcome intrusions to hurry through to get to the real agenda. These *were* the agenda. The moment was what we were given, and community was the experience of the moment, be it those Sunday drop-ins...or planned gatherings. Relationship was what the day was about. Whether with God or with His people.

It was another time...another era...but it is something that lingers in a collective culture...an echo that carries a message we need to hear today. Of greater simplicity...of rest. A voice of belonging. Echoes happen only in empty space between high places...

mountains or canyon walls that have been hollowed out, terrain that has been eroded with time.

When I went “home” to Duckett Cemetery for my aunt's memorial graveside service last year, the lady who arranged it took us to eat at the Wickes Senior Center. When some of the people there heard my maiden name the conversations changed. A childhood friend from 60 years ago came up...another had been in high school when Dad was principal there and told stories of him I had never heard. And another remembered the car wreck that knocked us to our feet the summer of '55 and beyond.

Those “strangers” at the senior center had no idea the treasure that lay in their common story, echoes from long ago that spoke of a distant gift, still carried... still given. Theirs were echoes in my busy canyons that spoke of something that has been lost...something important that has been eroded from our landscape. Relationships today are event-based, revolving around doing, and there is something to be said for going to games with friends...creating memories. But there is also something to be said about just being...*creating moments* through engaged presence. There is something to be said about taking time to put down roots. Emotional roots. Relational roots. Where we create a sphere that invites people to know us...akin to the “love feasts” of Acts. Not in events...but in simplicity.

Perhaps there is a Sabbath rest we are missing...that even our Christian culture has disowned, that needs to be reclaimed. Perhaps it means we say “no” to our culture...stop shopping on Sundays. Stop using it as our catch-up day to finish our weekend list. Perhaps, even, to say “no” to kids' soccer games or practice on Sundays.

Perhaps a Sabbath rest touches something deep in us and fills the empty space with possibilities that will go with us for the rest of our lives.

I love you,

## Easter Week Observances April 17-20

### Thursday Evening Passover Communion.

This is not a Passover meal but an observance of the hidden understandings of Passover and its ultimate fulfillment in the Last Supper of Christ before Gethsemane. As Passover that night led to the Christian Communion Service, so we will close this Passover time with Communion. **7:00 – 8:30**

### Good Friday Observance 8:15 – 6:15.

Please note the time adjustment from 7:30 in last months newsletter to **8:15**.

**8:15 – 9:00**

*Intermittent focus on the events through the night*

**9:00**

*Guided Focus on the Crucifixion*

**12:00 – 3:00**

*Silent Vigil / Chapel Darkened*

**3:00 – 6:00**

*Chapel Remains Open for Personal Time*

**6:00**

*Guided Focus on Christ's Removal from the Cross*

### Easter Sunrise Service 6:30.

**Dayspring Prayer Garden.** Breakfast food and drinks will be served in the Dayspring office area afterwards.

## Dinner Book Club Update

Nine people gathered around the table last month to discuss Jeanne Guyon's classic, *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*. We will be meeting again this month to conclude our discussion, and even if you were unable to attend last month, it remains open should you like to join us.

The date has not been set, so if you are interested please let us know so we may contact you regarding date and location.

## Thank You

for Your Continued Support of the Ministries of Dayspring. They cannot continue without You.

## Prayer Garden Workday

We were blessed with a strong crew of 10 men and women who showed up for our first workday, and what an amazing amount of work they turned out! Lew Adams, Galen Montanye, Mike Vlk and Regan Palmer did the heavy lifting

### Asleep on the Job?

Unfortunately, we have only this picture of the day, and while others scurried about raking and trimming and planting, Brenda cut trees out of the midst of the antique rose bush.



### Lew Adams and His Backhoe



showed up early...well, this isn't Lew exactly...but he and "Scoop" dug 2 holes in Amy's Garden and maneuvered a 65 gallon Sweet Gum and a 35 gallon weeping

willow into place, replacing 2 of the 4 large trees that were lost in that site.

Meanwhile, Galen and Mike did the finishing work around the trees and dug holes for, and planted, 4 Rose of Sharon trees and 6 star jasmine...all in the area around Amy's Garden that has been plagued with dying plants.



And across the way, Beckys Drummond and Elliston, Caroline and Leanne raked and trimmed and bagged, Teresa worked the Berm and Linda Palmer and Regan removed stones from the large central cross area to spray the grass.

We are so grateful for their help and for the blessing of community that comes when we work together in common cause. We hope you will consider joining us next time and share in the blessing.

**Next workdays: Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday, April 13, 2:00 – 5:00.**

## Pine Ridge Women's Retreat

May 9-10

"The Woman at the Well"