

# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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

Newsletter

Dearhearts,

It was a contrary wind that blew that night. That pressed in upon their course and thwarted heroic efforts to reach the other side. That pressed in on their hearts with confusion and uncertainty. And a short trip had turned into hours. Was it wind-whipped sea spray that stung their faces that night or fear? Did the Master not care that He had sent them to such a perilous brink? Was He unmindful of their plight? Unseeing of their need? Did He not care that they toiled alone?

And then came the apparition... a ghost-like visage on the waves that left them awash with fear. But suddenly... in the wind ... *His* voice.

I often wonder why it was that only Peter flung himself out onto the waves. Why the other 11 remained huddled in the boat waiting for Jesus to come to them. It's not that they were without faith...were not, even, without daring. But something kept them hunkered down in what was familiar and "safe." Maybe it was just personality. But likely it was more than that. A friend insists it was his focus. Peter saw only Christ. Saw past the waves and circumstance and his heart flung itself out to Him as the only security that mattered.

There in the confusing hours of a missing Master... there in the wearisome futility of fighting the storm...they had been left alone to face the darkness...and themselves. Who were they really? Men of faith...or men of fear? What held their focus: the storm or the Savior? This was a time when God was after something big. Yet only one was made senseless by faith. Only one challenged the sea with a gaze that saw only Christ.

Peter's experience that night was radically different from the others in the boat. His outrageous plunge created what he would later need for his destiny... a rock-like faith that would carry the fledgling church into the next century. He experienced what the others simply observed. Both were faith growing encounters...but Peter's took him to a whole new level.

I think on the storms I've weathered and the boats I toiled in. For a while my husband was my boat. I looked to him for partnership and provision. At some point my boat was the savings account, at another, a job. They were

the apparitions of security in my life...ghosts of assurance and safety. With each boat, the winds eventually carried a different voice...that bid me come. Never mind the waves...never mind what should carry me across to the other side...never mind my own abilities.

There are storms that strip us of our strength and confidence, where we toil sometimes for years against the winds and Christ falls silent or appears unmindful of our lives. Where we are stretched out in our aloneness and we cry out in fear at phantoms in our night. Then...in the moaning winds...His voice comes. Bidding us fling ourselves out on the thin ether of faith and come to Him. It is where we place our focus that will either hold us up or cause us to sink; will preserve a common faith or produce a faith of Kings.

There are times in our lives that call us out from our boat with nothing of what has always sustained us. Amid the inexplicables of life, when nothing makes sense, we are asked to fasten our gaze on Him and dare the waves. Dare the froth and spray that blurs our sight and stings our senses, but dare them nonetheless.

What we do here in these places will determine the God we know and the faith we have. It will order our experiences with Him...It will frame our lives. These are the times when God wants to create something large in us...something fit for the King's work.

I love you,

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## Sunday Morning Chapel Study

*Living in the Sacred*

8:00

511 E. Boydston, Rockwall

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## *"In-Touch Ministry" Finds Stride in Parlor*

*Being In Touch...* with others, with God and with ourselves is the niche we had hoped the parlor would fill as a reading room, a place for quiet reflection and prayer, a place for people to connect through cards or games, crafts or book studies. All of these are now happening with three crocheting classes, a Tuesday morning book study, prayer, one-on-one discipling and Wednesday morning cards and fellowship. Below is a note from one who has been "touched" by this parlor ministry.



*Dear Brenda,*

*I want to write to thank you for the ministry that game day and learning to crochet have meant to me. These things may seem so insignificant but to those who have had to deal with isolation due to physical or emotional problems it can be huge. Isolation seems like an answer when dealing with physical and/or emotional problems. Over time it becomes a problem of its own. Game morning became a fun-filled time with women I look forward to seeing every Wednesday. It was good to laugh again.*

*Learning to crochet for myself and others has become a meaningful way to pass the time. Kaye is such a patient teacher who has certainly mastered the handiwork that women of long ago used to do as part of their daily lives. Making gifts for the Love Creation Ministry is also uplifting to know that my handiwork through crocheting will lift the spirits of those receiving them.*

*Crocheting for others, spending time with other women of faith and helping to carry each other's burdens while interacting in fun activities is healing. What you are doing here is what church really is all about. You are ministering to the lost and forgotten, and I am so grateful.*

*Thank you to all who have touched my life.*

*-- Linda Loveless*

## *Parlor Book Club Notes*

I know how hard it is to carve two hours out of your schedule for time for yourself but I pray God will speak to your heart about joining the book club on Tuesdays at 10:00. In all the years I have done book club, there has never been a book through which God has not spoken and taught me His lessons in living His word and how to be joyful in each and every thing.

We are studying "A Thousand Gifts" right now. At first glance I just knew I was going to be bored with this one, but instead, God has worked a landslide of answered lessons in me, for me, and through a deep questions brought me doubt about very long time my purpose in two study times and fellowship. He is the great "I AM." What a blessing this has been. Patty Stefani is the facilitator for this study and just like God blessed Brenda to best convey His word, so has He blessed Patty.

I am praying that you, too, will give up just two short hours a week to be nurtured and blessed by Him who feeds us. You will definitely be filled by the Spirit.

*-- Kaye Sinkule*

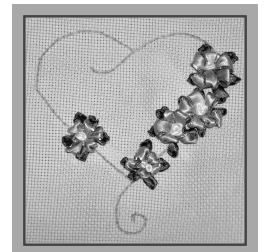
### *With Love Creations...*

...has finished 21 crocheted footwarmers for nursing home residents and is now on to its next gift creations...baby blankets.

This ministry is open to anyone who already does needlework or, for those who want to be part of blessing others but don't crochet, Kaye Sinkule offers lessons.

Five to seven women are taking Kaye's beginning classes in crocheting. Two others have "graduated" and are learning ribbon embroidery. Above is a picture of Karen Rash's pink and green ribbon embroidery in progress.

For anyone who is interested, you may join Kaye at any point. Just let us know and we'll plug you in.



**Our May Newsletter typically is one in which we review many aspects of our ministry from the spring and previous fall so you may better understand the nature and scope of our work. Where possible, we use the perspectives of those who have participated or have been affected by what we do; you will see many of these throughout this newsletter.**

## Kaleo Roundtable Review

We are concluding our 3rd year of Roundtable that began as an experiment to provide a forum for those seeking a deeper life in Christ to look at what God is getting at in their lives through their circumstances. Meeting twice monthly, the focus is on transparency and honesty in looking at where our struggles are, what hinders His work in us personally and what He is asking of us in order for this work to be accomplished. Roundtable has been an important instrument in facilitating a deeper experience in the lives of those who have participated. Following is one person's account.

I had a longing; a deep, almost painful longing to have someone hear me. To be able to talk in an abstract way spiritually...To confess freely and not feel judged. To talk about Jesus, my friend, my brother, in a way that came close to how I felt about Him. To be able to stumble in my emotions, my words, and feel safe at the same time. This safety, this openness, this understanding of my growth was a missing piece in my

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journey. A huge hole actually, one that I was aware needed filling. Several years ago Brenda asked me to be a part of a discussion group she was calling Round Table. There were a handful of us, maybe six or seven faithful.

We began talking about where we were, where we had been, and where we wanted to go spiritually. This became a sanctuary of freedom. Some people have left,

and the Lord chose new friends to join in. I balked at the changes but as always, the Lord knew exactly what he was doing.

Placing myself in a position to do what the Bible tells us to do, and do it freely stimulates growth in a supernatural way. Of course it does. This is how He designed it.

We share, we confess, we open up, we become real. And we are blessed for this.

Having a chance to truly be ourselves and openly talk about our growth is a gift we all treasure. It is a necessity I believe for growth in knowledge and understanding. A quote I read sums it up nicely. *"Their strength given to them by God, becomes our strength, and our joy, given to us by God, becomes their joy".*

--Christy

## Prayer Ministry

Our Intercessory Prayer Team has met weekly since January 2008 with but few exceptions. Recently, due to scheduling conflicts, we have taken a break in meeting together though we have continued to pray for needs that are presented to us. You may have noticed that it has been a couple of years since we have reported clear answers to prayer. Though there have been many answers during that time, they have not been such that we could easily write of them. But three have occurred recently that are so bold we want to let you know. Space allows us to share but two of them.

The doctor calls Royce "**Our Miracle Baby.**" Born from a complicated pregnancy with a heart defect that required immediate surgery after birth plus multiple surgeries down line, a brain bleed at birth plus water on the brain delayed surgery for a month. While Royce remained in NICU awaiting surgery prayers were offered repeatedly for his healing, for the doctors and their skill and wisdom and that the Lord would use this to bring his father to Christ. When the surgeon emerged from the 8 hour operation he told the parents there wasn't anything that remained to be done. The defective parts of the heart that meant further surgeries were no longer there. Over the month's delay Royce's heart had somehow healed itself. Additionally, the blood and water on the brain were simply going away and would require no

further procedures. He now is home with his mother and father. And oh yes...in the middle of it all Royce's father became a Christian.

\* \* \* \*

"Just give me a felony," the defiant young woman told the judge. "I'd rather go to prison than to a Catholic drug rehab run by a bunch of Italian nuns!" But the judge eventually ordered Erin to the rehab center in Florida and though they have over a 90% success rate with addictions, they labeled her file: "**Hopeless Case.**" For months we had been praying that the Lord would intervene in her life to get her to that treatment center if that is what she needed, and to bring her into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When her Aunt Patty and her mother first went to see her 3 months into her time there they didn't know what to expect, but when they arrived they found a young woman on fire with the love of Christ and unable to get enough of the Bible. She was overflowing with joy. "It does not matter what happens to me," she told her mother. "I am the Lord's and He can do with me as He will."

We are adding "**Prayer Partners**" to our Intercessory prayer ministry as an extension of our prayer team. While the team meets together to pray, the "partners" pray individually from their homes for those needs. Should you feel a draw to this partnership for committed prayer contact our office.

## Prayer Garden Snippets

The garden seems particularly beautiful this year following last year's heat and drought. Water lilies and snap dragons adorn the garden of gratitude in anthem to their creator. Don't miss this time in the garden before summer's heat dulls the vibrancy of spring.

*Saturday May 19*

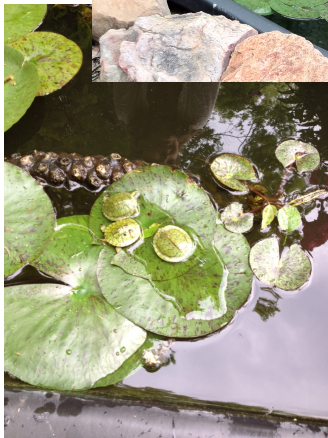
*our next Workday.*

Though many individuals come and go as they work their adopted garden patches, much work remains for the garden as a whole: sowing fescue, general trimming and mulching... things that require little if any expertise.

Please call if you can help.

The day begins

at 8:30 and ends when we're through! Or you may just come and keep our baby turtles company by the lily pond.



## Another Large Tree Down

Add a fourth large tree to our storm casualty list. In what appears to be a potent combination of summer drought, which loosened the soil around the roots, and heavy windstorms we have found another tree that has toppled. Though it has not fallen to the ground, it is tilted at a severe angle with its bulk supported by substantial trees skirting Amy's Garden. At this writing, work is progressing to cut it down in pieces to minimize damage to that area of the garden.

Two of the three other large downed trees were also at that spot causing us to wonder if a strong "downburst" of wind must have occurred there.

**We Continue to Ask  
Your Prayerful Consideration  
in Helping Defray Some of the Unexpected  
but  
Sizable Expenses Associated with Last Summer's  
Drought and Ensuing Wind and Rain Storms**

*Dayspring Discipleship Institute  
is a non-profit organization  
wholly supported by your tax-deductible  
contributions.*

**Thank you for your faithful support.**

## Reflections on Easter Week

Responses to our Holy Week Observances were overall very strong this year. Noonday devotionals, typically our weakest link (with a daily average last year of 3) saw anywhere from 7 to 11 people in attendance daily. Thursday evening vesper service was down somewhat from previous years with 14 in attendance while our daylong Good Friday observance saw between 15-18 people through the day, down just slightly from prior years. Our Easter Sunrise Service saw perhaps the best turnout ever with 31 people present.

We thank God for all who took time out from their daily routines, either with us or privately, to remember Christ's life in His final days and to honor the sacrifice He made for us so that we might be saved. We've included comments from one who attended several of these offerings.

*"Easter 2011 I discovered the Good Friday Service too late to take off work. So this year I put a leave slip in back in January, not to miss it this time. I am so glad I did. I did not know what to expect.*

*I wanted to at least go through the timeline of Christ's death and get a better understanding of the events and what Good Friday was about. I wanted to honor the Lord, by remembering His life and death. I received more than I ever expected. I learned so much about the events surrounding the Lord's last few days here on earth as a man. For a tiny, but very vital moment, I experienced an overwhelming feeling of Christ's purity in comparison to our human filth. For the first time, I got a tiny glimpse of the cost, and that only He could pay. Jesus (God in flesh) a carpenter counted the cost in the garden. Christ's love displayed, in that He knew the price and agreed to pay it all...He said we were worth it. I encourage everyone to come next year, with hearts expecting, to participate and experience the power of Good Friday." -- Shirley*