



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

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Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

June 2010

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

Newsletter

It's a Matter of Convenience

Dearhearts,

I don't know if it's a matter of age or of being an American, but I've seen things about myself in the last year or two that do not play well with the ways of the spirit. Perhaps it is that I think I've paid my dues and have earned the right to call a few more shots, to exert a bit more control and bring a bit more order to my world. But with that has come a certain rigidity I have not known before. It's not all that glaring...but I notice it. I notice it with the things that blow across my path that annoy me... because they inconvenience me. They nudge me off course; they blow contrary to my more efficient model. It's this bent toward efficiency that makes me think this change in my weather is more an American wind than the winds of age.

Once, I walked with the wind...went with its eddies and swirls...and saw interruptions as God's finger tapping me on the shoulder saying, "Here I am." Once, I saw all of life as a Divine nudge and interruptions as Sacred encounters. Recently, though, I've realized they feel more like an inconvenience...a detour from all that needs doing; a distraction from more important things. Something, indeed, that bends me off course.

But whose course?

Christ was on a course once. His name wasn't Christ. Or Jesus. Wasn't even the Son of God. His name was the Word. His name was Creator. He was with God and He was God and "without Him was not anything made that was made." All that was created exists by Him. That which is created is not greater than its Creator. So a universe that is billions of light years in breadth is less than He. Smaller. Almost insignificant in light of His majesty...in measure of His Being. So He romped among the stars and played with the thunder and lightning, and He had the universe as His front yard and the earth for his footstool. The endless expanse was His throne.

And then man tinkered with a seamless gown. Ripped it to shreds. Interrupted the eternal Word and changed His course...forever. This bratty child was out of control, trashing the house. Now the Word must change His clothes, slip into human garb and go clean up

the mess. Become the flesh He had made...*become* us. No longer the Word as eternity had known Him, heaven's Voice had slipped away, becoming son of Man. Child of human birth. He who was God...creator God, Creator Word...Co-God. Now...Son. *Son* of God and *Son* of man...forever. Brother. Putting up with bickering siblings and petty followers and our temper tantrums when we think we know better than He what is good for us; when we want life and jobs and money on our timetable and our terms.

Now, forever joined with us. Co-ruler with us. Joint-heir with us who killed Him. Pierced Him. Buried Him. Sent Him to hell. He now will rule with us in the new earth when it comes. Share a throne with us. He who made all thrones and authorities and principalities and powers in eternity... receives an inheritance that was exclusively, originally His...receives it from His Father's hand and not His own. A father He never had until we vandalized the world He created and we needed a big Brother. His eternal *position*... forever altered; *forever* reframed.

So I find myself getting more annoyed these days with interruptions? I have a problem with inconvenience? I've paid my dues and deserve a bit more order and control in my world? And my course is set with important stuff, and I have miles to go before I sleep.

What course? Whose?

The Christian life is about being inconvenienced. It's about finding destiny and meaning ...and God... in the wind. In the eddies and swirls of life.

So when I don't have time to devote an hour, or four, in solitude with him, or available to Him, it's not a matter of time, it's a matter of convenience. What you and I do with our Brother...where we put this Christ in our lives... is not a matter of time, it's a matter of convenience.

Aren't we grateful we weren't a matter of convenience for Him?

I love Him,

Brenda

Prayer Garden Snippets



Face-Lift in Progress.

Caroline Doyle has caught the garden bug and is on a mission to give the prayer garden a cosmetic resurgence, replacing the weather-garbled garden guide boxes with attractive, clear, plastic boxes. She has also added a box in the sitting area by the chapel containing overview information sheets and prayer garden cards.

Elizabeth Moses has caught the chapel bug and is on a mission to keep it furbished with flowers and candles appropriate to the season and to keep the candlesticks polished. It is so nice to enter the chapel not knowing what new look we may find, but always knowing it will look great.

It is such a joy - not to mention a great help - to have these two ladies take such personal interest in these areas.

Communion Table Donated.

John and Julie Wardell have generously donated a communion table for the Chapel. Their timing was perfect as it came just before our Easter week observances in which we have communion available daily. Following Holy Week this year we decided to continue offering personal communion in the chapel during open hours. God's provision through John and Julie before we even knew we needed it is a special blessing.



Labor Donated.

We have been humbled and excited by the donation of a thousand dollars worth of labor in the prayer garden by the owners of the office complex that houses our ministry. They have also donated five hundred dollars worth of office supplies of our choosing. Labor is our scarcest commodity. What an amazing help this is. How grateful we are for such generous hearts.

Two Summer Weddings Scheduled in Garden.

The donation of the labor is particularly helpful in getting and keeping the garden in shape for two upcoming garden weddings.

One bride in particular has fallen in love with the prayer garden and she and her fiancée are donating a thousand dollars worth of landscaping design and materials for the late summer garden.

Book Club Blurbs

Hind's Feet on High Places

The daytime book club led by Pat Townsend from her home continues its study of *Hind's Feet on High Places* by Hannah Hurnard. Seven women have registered, with four or five regularly in attendance.

We are gratified by the response to our first effort to extend the reach of our book club ministry into the community through the daytime venue.

Dinner Book Club / Classics Book Club

Because of potential scheduling constraints in the fall we are looking at the possibility of creating a hybrid version of our two clubs by taking a Classics book study and placing it in a Friday evening dinner book club format. Brenda is considering teaching a Tuesday evening Bible study (see below for details) which is our traditional night for the bi-weekly Classics Book Club. Details on all this should be fleshed out by July's newsletter.

Release of the Spirit Fall Classics Selection

Regardless of which format we land on, Watchman Nee's small but profound book will be our fall Classics Book Club selection. It offers fresh and powerful insights into the Christian experience. Unlike the Bonhoeffer marathon, we anticipate this discussion-study to take 4-5 sessions and invite you to join the fellowship and discussion.

If you are interested, please contact us. To assure uniformity, we will be placing the orders for this book and will call you when they are in.

"In His Image" Possible Fall Study

For your fall scheduling considerations, we want to let you know of a Bible study Brenda is considering teaching Tuesday evenings this fall in the chapel. "In His Image," a study she wrote more than 25 years ago, was the basis of her Kaleo Lodge Bible Conference *Mysteries of Eden*.

This six-week study would begin in mid-September with lessons on: *In the Image of God; The Ruptured Image; The Image Removed; The Image Returned; The Image Restored; The Image Released.*

How we understand the events of Eden, and beyond, determines how we do life.

Look for a final determination regarding this study in next month's newsletter.



The Sojourner's Quill

Prayer of Communion

My experience with this kind of prayer came to me through a Fellowship that my husband and I were attending not too long after I was saved in the early 70s. We were invited to "Get to know God" by spending 12 hours once a week in a member's home in a third floor room overlooking the foothills of the Shenandoah Mountains in Virginia. My husband immediately signed up for himself--and ME! I could not imagine what I would do for so long a time! I was a very busy mother of 3, but I certainly wanted to 'get to know God'. My time was from 6pm to 6am. Upon arriving, I entered by a private stairway to the balcony outside a cozy room...a sitting room with a sofa and chairs, warm lamplight with available coffee and tea in the hallway. I began by reading my Bible, but so many things popped into my mind--inane happenings at home or chores to be done--BUT, a big plus, I could not *see* things that needed dusting or such, as I did when I had quiet time at home! I realized that there was a lot that 'popped into my mind' and so I just sat and let the Lord guide me through these things--having *time* to think and sort out what was prayer-worthy and what was either settled or something that I could not, or should not, concern myself with. (In the weeks that followed, I continued this pattern and realized that we bring a lot of the cares and frustrations of the world into our 'prayer closets' that God is really not focusing on.) I also realized that I did very little 'intercession' as I knew it during these times--only as I felt led by Him.

After I cleared my mind of the things of this world, I asked the Lord to show me His heart. Sometimes I would be impressed to read in a certain book of the Bible or to look at a particular passage of scripture;

other times I just sat and thought...of scripture, of His ways, of what He has done, is doing etc. His ways are easy to find out when you sincerely seek. So often, I would find that His heart wanted me to focus on things that I had scarcely thought about--sometimes I did a study on a word or a thought (a concordance had been placed there for our use). It was unbelievable how fast the time passed; I felt so unhurried and rushed and I really felt that I was having a long 'visit' with the Lord. Many times in the wee hours of the morning I would grow sleepy and napped for a short period; what was so amazing was that I never slept for very long and I never felt guilty for a quick nap. Occasionally, I had wonderful thoughts when I waked; other times I merely felt refreshed and eager to 'visit' more.

The most wonderful thing about this exercise is that I learned to know His voice. Before, I would question: is this God or is this me? or Heaven forbid, is this the enemy? There is a knowing when you hear His voice that comes from somewhere in the core of your being, actually near your physical heart! After several weeks of 'visits', I would hear from the Lord when I least expected to; just a sentence or an instruction or a prompting at times when I wasn't particularly thinking heavenward. Divine appointments began to happen from listening and obeying those messages! I understand why Jesus said to 'enter our prayer closets and close the door'.

The Christian life truly is exciting when we are in communication with our Lord and things (and thoughts) that we could never devise unfold as naturally as sunshine lights our days!

-- Ann Allen

Listen to "Conversations on Prayer" on Website

Three of Brenda's conversations on the *prayer of communion* are on the ministry website. If you plan to participate in Friday-Saturday prayer hours, you may find these conversations helpful. Listen on-line or download to your computer or ipod or order a CD of all three from the ministry office at a minimal charge.

There are many avenues through which to quiet your own spirit and enter into His presence. These conversations simply cover some of those ways.

Let the Lord lead you to what works best for you.

"...To Get to Know God" Carve Out Time for Him

Friday or Saturday June 18-19

Spend time Stilling your own voices and seeking God on His terms, not yours.

We invite you to devote 2 to 4 hours to be alone with God, stilling your own world so you may better enter into His world. Should you want time alone in the chapel, please call our office. If you don't know what you'd do for 4 hours, we will be happy to help.

Scouting Out the Website

For those Looking for ~~God~~ God...



...who have friends or family who are not convinced He's out there, these pages may be a valuable resource: The **Reflections of God** pages are packed with evidence: photos, fingerprints, facts and figures... scientific investigations...that are causing even professional atheists and skeptics to realize there is a Creator.



For those on a Journey Seeking a Better life...

Pilgrim of the Soul: The Winged Life / Abundant Life
Daily Focus / Soul Matters



For those Seeking to go deeper... to Explore Uncharted Realms...



Pilgrim of the Soul: The Deeper Life / The Interior Journey
S.A.F.E pages
Book Clubs

For those Interested in Stories of Epic Struggles and Heroic Figures...

The Bible and History, Faith of our Fathers, Bioportraits



For those wanting to Listen in...

on Brenda's teachings:

The **Incarnate Life** Bible Study

- The Prayer of Incarnation
- Deep Calls to Deep
- Into a Deserted Place
- The Thunder of God
- The Alabaster Box
- Praying the Incarnation



Conversations on Sacred Mysteries

- The Mystery of Earth
- The Mystery of the Universe
- The Mysteries of Eden

Conversations on the Prayer of Communion

Eavesdrop on-line, download to your computer or ipod or order CDs at minimal charge from the Dayspring office.



For those Dreaming of winter fun...

... You can daydream about it on **Ski Rockwall** and the **Prayer Garden in Spring**

For those who have a Thing or Two to Say...
You can register your comments on our **guestbook page**.

