



## Dayspring Discipleship Institute

505 E. Boydston, Rockwall, Texas 75087

972-722-1905

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

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

June 2012

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

Newsletter

### *It's a lot easier to do than to be*

Dearhearts,

Though I'm not Catholic, the Vatican's recent reprimand of American nuns highlights something fundamental to our faith we are in danger of missing...and losing. It seems that American nuns spend too much time helping the poor and needy and not enough on moral issues of abortion, gay marriages and contraception. This controversy is parable for a disabling shift in the American church that bends us from people to causes. That substitutes doing for being.

The deadly enemy of the American church today is moral legalism, an alluring elixir that draws us into issue-based Christianity. That calls on us to invade moral issues with our rightness... and prevail...no matter what because the stakes are so high. The problem with this is it puts us on a doctrinal track that subtly, but surely, takes us away from Christ, and we wind up with man-centered theology in which we are the judge and enforcer both of the law.

When the disciples wanted to call down fire upon a community that would not receive Christ, Jesus rebuked them. “You do not know what spirit you are of. I have come not to destroy but to save.” Then they wondered who had sinned... “the blind man or his parents?” Who messed up? Christ never went to those places. He had come to give sight to the blind...not judgment. There was no such question with the woman and her container of expensive ointment...what an irresponsible waste; or the woman at the well... everyone knew what kind of low-life both were. But behavioral code wasn't the issue here...human need was. He had come to seek and to save the lost. His was to serve. Ours, He said, was to be the same.

He has not called us to fix America and shape up the sinners. He calls us to be servants. We are not called to be zealots where we crucify people for believing the wrong things. That happened 2000 years ago. Moral legalists used the letter of the law of God then for their own purposes. Never mind the servant's towel, they walked around in their religious robes being right...yet somehow utterly wrong.

They were the only ones Christ ever condemned.

The danger with issues is that they become our standard for righteousness and lead to cataloging issues and people not only into right and wrong but good and evil. Since we are right, we are good and “they” are evil...by virtue, only, of the issues we excel in.

Strangely, once we are focused on moral issues, we no longer are focused on Christ. Yes, we champion the issues in His name, but so did the Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition, the Salem witch trials and a host of other causes that left millions of bodies strewn on those battlefields ... all in the name of God. We lose ourselves in such wars...lose our light. We fight to make people believe and behave the way we think they should. And in the fighting and the winning, we lose what is most precious...our witness of Christ. Our theology stands victorious but no one sees the one for whom we fought. And so who has won, really?

And suddenly we find ourselves slipping into a political Christianity that champions doctrine over people. That fires our indignation and fuels our resolve. And political messages bend our thinking: Maybe the poor *are* a drain; maybe they *are* parasites; maybe it *is* their own fault. And so the nuns visit those in prison, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick... because in doing so they feed the hungry Christ, visit the sick or imprisoned Christ...clothe the naked Christ. Christ-centered theology draws them more to the lost and forgotten than it does to dogma.

It is a lot easier to do the rules than it is to be who we are called to be: to be light...to be healers...to be life-givers. To be Christ.

I love you,

©2012 Dayspring Discipleship Institute

## *Prayer Ministry Update*

### *E-Mail Prayergram*

A couple of years ago Brenda and Sarah Merritt put in at least a hundred man-hours trying to create an email prayergram through the website that had a designated section for such items. They finally gave up on trying to get it to work. Recently, Brenda has returned to the task and we are reviving the effort after having figured out a way through regular email to make it work.

Occasional prayergrams have been sent by regular mail for a number of years, but it seems important to add this as a regular feature of the ministry. Our present intent is to produce a prayergram at monthly or six week intervals, via email or regular mail as preferred by those who sign up to receive it.

#### *What's In It?*

- Focus page on prayer including Brenda's reflections on various aspects of intercessory (as well as other) prayer
- Answers to prayer
- Stories of great men and women of prayer
- Advance notice of upcoming prayer offerings
- Notices of special teachings for Prayer Partners

Though the prayergram will have some of the same information to be found in future Dayspring newsletters, it will also carry much that will not appear in our regular newsletter.

#### *The Advantages of Email:*

- It will be much more visually attractive including color pictures.
- It can be easily forwarded to others who might want to receive it.
- It saves on cost.
- It provides a simple way for you to respond with your own thoughts or comments.

*The First E-Gram* has already been sent as a trial run to a few who had received past prayergrams.

*Future prayergrams* will carry articles on the difference between intensive and passive intercession and when each is called for.

*If you would like to receive a prayergram (email or regular) give us your information on the enclosed card or email us at: [prayergram@sbcglobal.net](mailto:prayergram@sbcglobal.net) and the first one will be sent to you.*

**Be sure to provide your email address if you prefer the email (E-Gram)**

### *Answered Prayer Update*

Last month we told you of "*hopeless case*," a young woman labeled that by the addiction treatment center she was court ordered to enter. Our prayers had been precisely for that and for her salvation...which came within three months of her stay there.

*But then came the word* that she had been hospitalized with an incurable, contagious, life-threatening disease which at the least meant an end of her participation in the treatment program. The prayer team and partners plus Sunday morning chapel began praying that the Lord would invade her body with complete healing. She was sent to a specialist who ran further tests. Upon his return to the room where she waited, he said, "Well, you're our miracle. There is no such thing as a cure for this disease, but you no longer have it...your tests have all come back negative."

We celebrate God's miraculous intervention in her life and what He continues to do through prayer.

### *Prayer Partnership*

In seeking to create a network of those committed to pray for urgent and critical needs, we are partnering with God in accomplishing His ends here. We seek, as well, to be willing instruments through which His power may flow unhindered by our own agenda or our own complacency.

Our **Prayer Partners** will be invited to focus on certain needs that require more diligence because of the nature of spiritual warfare involved. Additional scriptural awareness will be needed to be most effective, so Brenda will lead a chapel teaching retreat over the summer on understanding this kind of intercession and how it looks. Other special teachings on prayer will be interspersed throughout the year.

Please let us know if you want to become part of our Prayer Partnership. *Our first Prayergram carries additional details*

Page 4 carries an excerpt on Brenda's reflections on Intercession coming in our next prayergram.



## *With Love Creations Knits Several Threads Together*

**Blankets to Prison Families.** WLC is crocheting baby, toddler and children blankets of any size to be delivered to Inner Faith Prison Ministry in Louisiana that ministers to families of those who are imprisoned.

**Ribbon Embroidery Class.** Contact Kaye below to sign up to learn this beautiful creative skill! If you would like to learn something else, let Kaye know. **She is open and flexible.**

**Teen Crochet Class begins June 11. What? Did we say Teen crochet class?!?** Believe it or not, 4 kids from 9 – 17 are already set to take a class from Kaye Sinkule beginning Monday morning June 11 at 9:30 in the Dayspring Parlor. For further details contact Kaye at 214-562-6044.

**Craft Day Saturday Morning June 16.** If you would like to share your crafts, bring your own knitting or learn some new things from Kaye Sinkule, Shirley Montanye's home is the place to be Saturday morning at 11:00. Stay for pot luck lunch, enjoy fellowship, share ideas.

**RSVP:** Text Shirley 214-454-0744/ Call 214-772-8636

## *Parlor Book Club Continues Tuesday Mornings 10:00*

Patty Stefani continues to lead a discussion of *A Thousand Gifts*, a beautiful, inspiring book by Ann Voskamp. It remains open and will continue through the summer. You can just show up with your book to enjoy hot tea, breakfast pastries and fellowship.



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

**Thank you for your faithful support.**

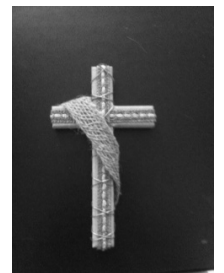
## *Art Therapy Workshops*

The Art Creativity Workshops taught by Elaine Souder are continuing through this summer with a wide variety of opportunities for personal discovery through art. The classes are designed to cover a variety of mediums including watercolor, acrylic, clay, drawing, paper, journal making, and other crafts. Due to Elaine's background in art education and belief that God empowered us all with the ability to create, the classes include an on-going study of the elements and principles of design with an emphasis on self-expression. The projects are designed to encourage both an exploration of self and more importantly a connection with God through the creative process.



Although classes are sequential in nature, they are set up in such a way that a person can join any time and work at their own pace. The atmosphere of the class is very important and thus begins with a quiet time of reflection and writing, much of which is done in hand-made journals and gratitude books made in earlier classes. The remainder of the class time is spent on creative projects in the various mediums with emphasis on self-awareness and contemplation through their artwork.

Classes are offered on Wednesday and Friday 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. The Friday class is currently full with 10 – 13 participating but classes can be added if interest warrants. At right is a beautiful light blue and brown fabric cross with peach color sash made in class.



Most art supplies are provided but students are encouraged to purchase a watercolor or art journal to work in and record their personal journey through this study. There is a \$20.00 art fee required at the first of each month in order to purchase supplies for the upcoming projects and to hold your position in the class. Coffee, tea and refreshments are usually offered and fellowship is an important part of our gatherings.

Please contact Elaine Souder at 214-404-9113 with any questions and to sign up for the creative workshop.

## *Roundtable Breaks for Summer*

In May we concluded a year of Kaleo Roundtable that saw much personal growth and introspection. To facilitate a safe environment for open sharing of our spiritual journey and struggles, Roundtable normally remains closed for 2 to 3 years before it is opened again for new people, but we share with you a recent note from one who participated this year so you may have a better sense of its purpose and desired impact.

“Brenda... *Reflecting* on this past year of Round Table and I am so grateful that I have had the privilege to be encouraged in my faith and challenged in my pursuit of Christ! ... *Reminded* to be humble and to tell you Thank You and can't wait to be *Reloaded, Recharged* in this process of *Regeneration* where we gather around the Round Table once again in the fall!”

“Each of us has the Seed of Christ within him. In each of us the amazing and the dangerous Seed of Christ is present...

It is very small, like the grain of mustard seed... But if we dare to take this awakened Seed of Christ into the midst of the world's suffering, it will grow...in suffering Christ will be more and more fully formed within.

As the grain of mustard seed grew so large that the birds found shelter in it, so the man who bears an awakened Seed into the world's suffering will grow until he becomes a refuge for many.”

Tomas R. Kelly - *Quaker Spirituality*

Matthew 13:31-32

## *Excerpt from Next Prayergram*

“We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Eph. 6:12

### *Aggressive Intercession*

The key words above are “wrestle” and “principalities and rulers.” Powers...principalities... rulers...identify who our enemy is: unseen spiritual forces that hide behind physical costuming to distract us with irrelevant issues and divert us from the real issue.

These forces carry the weight of authority in the spiritual realm. They are spiritually powerful. The only viable response to such an enemy is a fight of great intensity and ferocity. Paul's use of the word “wrestle” tells us that. A Greek athletic term, it refers to a contest between two wrestlers intent on throwing the other. The contest was decided when one of the combatants was able to press and hold down his opponent usually with a hand upon his neck. It is hand-to-hand combat of which Paul speaks, and it is of particular ferocity. The loser in Greek wrestling had his eyes gouged out, rendering him permanently blind.

When Paul used this language, the people understood the desperate magnitude of spiritual warfare and the demands it placed on them.

In a non-believer's life, Satan is the ruler of the darkness of their world and *prayer is the essential spiritual tiller that loosens the soil that keeps him rooted in Satan's turf*. Satan does not have this commanding authority in a Christian's life so he works to secure whatever soulish turf he can in order to disable a believer's life or witness. Satan has prevailing authority in a non-believer's life. His hand is on the throat of the non-believer. Though His hand is not on the throat of a believer in the same way, it will grip whatever regions of the soul (as opposed to the spirit) we cede to him...

- from Brenda's reflections on intercession

## *Fall Preview*



Plans are still being finalized for fall, but we *will* be reviving a couple of things. Our monthly *Third Tuesday Conversations* with Brenda will return for the fall and spring semesters, though they may be moved to Thursday evening. The first of the Fall Conversations will be on the *Mystery of Blessing* and the other two will be on prayer.

The *Dinner Book Club* will also return in October.