



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

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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

God's Lullaby

Dearhearts,

Stillness does not come naturally to us; neither, in this day and age, does silence. We avoid it as if it were a deadly pox on the soul. Yet it is here, in the stillness of our own heart, that God most often whispers to us of His love. It is here that he whispers the secrets of His ways. It is here that we can most know Him. Guidance is less frequent a visitor to stillness than is His love.

It was in the garden - in the cool of the day - that God walked with man. It is in the stillness of such a place that man most may sense the stirring of an ancient wind. God called Elijah out from the human cacophony to the mouth of a distant cave. There, in a remote aloneness, Elijah heard the whispered voice of God and received his remaining mantel of destiny.

In the stillness of the night God called to Samuel in a voice he did not recognize. To Eli's credit, he did not try to interpret God's voice for his boy charge; instead he told Samuel to listen again and if the voice came... answer; listen to what the Holy whispers in the night.

I often think that for us, as Americans, part of our set-apartness from our culture, must be about the noise. In a culture that obliterates silence, what are we to do? Spiritually, we are so Americanized that even as Christians we have tossed the canticles of silence into a cacophonous bin. Church is noisesome. Christian music ever plays in our cars...or Christian talk radio: Neo Moses-guides who have been to the mountain and return to tell us what God has said. "You speak with us, and we will hear," the people implored of Moses. "Don't let God speak with us." We listen to the voices of man so we don't have to make the time or the effort - or take the risk - to hear directly from a holy mount.

It is as though we fear something will be lost in stillness; something will be missed in silence. Yet it was in the stillness of exhaustion that Elijah was nudged by a Divine hand...and empowered for a long

journey. From the bitter silence of personal failure Peter finally heard the words of dreams restored... *feed my sheep*. It was in the stillness of the upper room, in prayerful waiting, that the power of heaven burst forth upon man. In the silence of 400 years God prepared earth to receive heaven in swaddling cloth.

What if we took the time to move into the mysterious darkness of God? To let stillness settle upon us and silence come into our soul like a mourning fog? What if we dared to listen and not settle for another's interpretation? What if we decided to step aside from our frenzied world and seek God on His terms - in a garden place in the cool of the day?

Perhaps this is the "called-out-ness" for our time. Perhaps it is not just moral uprightness we are set apart for. Perhaps we are called out from the raucous swirl...called to the mouth of the cave; called to be still and know Him. Stillness is God's lullaby that cradles us in the arms of His love and swaddles us in the dreams He has for us; it comes to us in a hymn of silence.

Our spiritual bobber today on the American lake breaks the water to bob to the rhythms of surface currents and winds. Yet we are called to the more placid rhythms of the deep to listen for the secrets whispered there. To know Him and recognize His voice when he speaks. To not be frightened of the darkness because, with Moses, we have journeyed there and heard His voice.

I love you,

Brenda

"I've grown accustomed to the noise in my place of work, to the raucous sounds of the city, to the inner disquiet stirred up by busy thoughts and earnest projects. Silence can be an escape from the functional responsibilities and physical demands of listening and conversing with colleagues, friends, and family members. But it can also be an opening to God."

From *Pathways of Spiritual Living*
by Susan Annette Muto

MINISTRY UPDATE

Gratifying Response to our First Conversation on Prayer

At least 26 people showed up for Brenda’s first in a series of talks on the prayer of communion. We are encouraged at the unexpected size of the response, our largest thus far to any of Dayspring’s prayer offerings. In a casual setting, Brenda addressed scriptural pictures of this more intimate form of prayer, focusing particularly on David and Solomon as pictures of the difference between other forms of praying and that of the more contemplative approach.

Future Conversations...

will address different scriptural pictures of this prayer form and each will offer 20 minutes of a guided time of silence at the end. Some of the future scriptural points of focus will include: Christ in Gethsemane; Moses and the burning bush; the prayers of Christ; Elijah in the mouth of the cave...

Comments from some of the participants:

“I loved the prayer [talk] and look forward to the next one. I hope you don’t have it before I get back from my trip.”

-- Ann A.

“I am so thankful for your teachings. I never realized how important the quiet time with God was until I attended your prayer ‘conversation.’ The four hours of prayer time was an experience like I have never had before. The closest I have ever felt like God was speaking to me was during this time.

Thank you so much.”

-- Brenda H.

Next Conversation on Prayer
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 21
Dayspring Chapel

Invitation to Quiet Moments with God

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
July 24-25

We invite you to begin the journey – or to deepen your journey – of spiritual intimacy with the Lord by carving out four hours to spend in silence with God in the Chapel (or prayer garden) Friday or Saturday July 24-25. If you don’t have four hours, we ask you to consider at least an hour with Him.

Guide sheets are available in the chapel to assist in the use of this time of prayer and meditation.

Please reserve your preferred time for the chapel by calling our office.

“Conversations” to be Monthly

Brenda’s talks on the prayer of communion will be regular monthly events with each session carrying a different emphasis and approach. Most talks will be scheduled on Tuesday evenings.

“We have learned to migrate to the surface of our lives and live there and, for the most part, pray there. The place where our true heart beats - where our true selves belong - lies in the inner reaches of our soul, in our spirit. Our spirit is God’s home in us. It is the place - in the beginning of time itself - which He prepared for Himself. God yearns for this intimacy with us... yearns for it because He knows how much we need it. The false self, which our fallenness has constructed around our spirit, bends our prayers toward it. If we stay on the surface of our needs, praying our understanding or our wants, we will wade only in the shallows of life with the Him. We will have missed the great need of the human soul...to know the Heart from whence it came and be bathed in the blessings it longs to give.” Brenda

Consider visiting with Brenda monthly on the language and nature of this journey.

“Hasten unto Him who calls you in the silences of your heart.”

Thomas R. Kelly

We ask your continued awareness of the financial challenges that come with summer for ministries. The Lord has been faithful to provide operational needs through your giving. It is always creative and never the same, but it is always through you and we thank you in advance for your faithful help this summer.

PRAYER GARDEN WELCOMES LABORERS OF LOVE

Young Life Kids Provide Transforming Touch

About a dozen Young Life kids marshaled by Rockwall YL Director Lou Gill and his wife, Misti, arrived at the prayer garden on a Saturday morning late in May. The result is a significant transformation of the garden. A

group of girls teamed to lay a double row of beautiful Oklahoma stone around the hibiscus garden, thoughtfully tackling the many problems inherent in



Building stone border around hibiscus bed.

creating a smooth look to the rows. Every major bed in the garden was lined with double, and sometimes triple layers of stone by the time they were finished. Once the



Mulching azalea beds.

beds were lined, two boys spread a truckload of mulch in the azalea and hibiscus beds. Another group of two boys and two girls took on the project of raising the

flagstone sitting area to the right of Riley's Berm. It has been gradually vanishing due to run-off from the large spring rains. It was a major undertaking requiring both physical and mental energy to uncover and take up the stones, dump several wheelbarrow loads of sand and level it and then replace the flagstone pieces keeping them evenly spaced and level.



Raising sitting area at Riley's Berm.

With no previous experience in the kind of work these kids were called upon to do, the quality of their work is really quite remarkable. We are indebted to them and so grateful to the Young Life leadership who were so willing to work like Trojans and create a lovely transformation of the garden.

Two others not associated with the Young life bunch, Becky Elliston and Megha Joshi, arrived the same day to lay a triple layer of stones around the statue inside Amy's Garden.

Emmaus Church Also Lends a Hand

A new church in the Dayspring community has fallen in love with the prayer garden and several members showed up recently to help. They have also offered to help restore many of the weathered scripture signs around the Path of Peace. The upkeep of these signs is labor-intensive and we are thrilled to have their help and expertise. Gay Bostick writes of her time with them:

"I met Jesse at the last work day we had in the garden. Six folks from the Emmaus Church came to help put out a load of mulch. Jesse (pictured below) came in the parking lot in his motorized wheel chair with a hoe laying across his knees, pulled up to me and said 'Where do you want me to start?' I was speechless. Our first task was to just get him into the garden. Once we accomplished that he went to work. He took his metal crutches, strapped them to his arms and started walking to the azalea beds. Once he was there, he took the crutches off and crawled every place he needed to be. He put the finishing touches of clean up and sweeping off the rock so that the beds looked wonderfully clean. He spent hours crawling around those



beds. At one point we took a break for drinks and as I talked to him;



he spoke of how good God was to him and how blessed he was. I still don't know how long he has been in the chair or why, but it doesn't slow him down at all. As we finished up about 3 hours later, he rolled up to me and gave me his number and told me to call him anytime we needed something done in the garden. He loves this place. As for the other five members of the Emmaus church, they are equally wonderful. There is a gentle, refreshing spirit about these folks. They are like a fresh new wind that is blowing through the garden. I am humbled to be around them."

Excerpts from Website

From *Safe Notes*

The core of a person is that deep place in us that contains the essence of who we are. It holds our identity, our sense of value and dignity, our sense of belonging and specialness, our capacity for emotional intimacy. Our core determines how we see ourselves and others. It is the filter that colors our perceptions of our environment and determines how we interpret events and circumstance. It is key to our emotional resiliency and governs our approach to life and how successfully we engage its challenges...

The Damaged Core

When the core of a person is breached, it carries profound implications for how that person is able to navigate life and deal with its challenges. Our ability to effectively engage life with consistency is compromised. The degree to which we are hobbled is directly related to the extent of the core wounding...

Regardless of how a person's core has been damaged, it will signal itself, inwardly and outwardly, in some predictable ways. Life will be an inconsistent mix of excitement and struggle; a paradox of boldness (even brashness at times) and persistent, gnawing insecurities. Abrupt swings in behavior or emotions will

occur often without warning...creating extreme responses that seem way out of line to those on the receiving end of these reactions. Those whose core has been pierced by deep hurts will frequently wonder *if everyone struggles the way they do? "Is this normal? Is life this hard for everyone or is it just me?"* There is the sense within the person that something is wrong, though they're not sure exactly what. The discouraging thing for these wounded warriors is that no matter what they do to cope with the fallout from such battle scars, breakthrough never seems to happen. Inconsistencies abound. Any sense of breakthrough is short-lived at best. The patterns of coping are often inconsistent and erratic. The person's heart may truly long for change and growth, but the feet don't seem to know how to get there.

The Losses that come...

with a damaged core...leave empty places within the person that yearn to be filled. They produce an insatiable appetite that is expressed in addictions and obsessive-compulsive issues including enmeshment, anorexia or bulimia, alcohol or drug abuse, panic or anxiety attacks, sexual addictions, rage, phobias, cutting...

Compulsions and Addictions are simply the heart's way of attempting to fill its hollows.

Sunday Morning Chapel Study

8:00 – 9:00

The Beatitudes

The Sunday morning chapel study led by Brenda always remains open to all comers. Each lesson stands on its own, and we invite your visit at any time.

There is a gradual but steady increase in regular attenders that totals 16-20 people and includes at least six couples.

On-Going Work...

- **Intercessory Prayer Team** continues to meet in the chapel every Thursday a 6:30 p.m.
- Kaleo **Roundtable** meets every other Tuesday at noon
- Scriptural / Spiritual counseling and support groups
- **Christian Dinner Book Club** to resume in fall – look for details in August newsletter

In Grateful Acknowledgement

Please know how grateful I am to all who have called or written notes of encouragement or sent cards of condolence regarding my mother's death. I cannot begin to tell you how blessed I have been because of your loving expressions.

I have been moved by the donations to Mother's memorial fund that continue to come in and I remain prayerful regarding their best use.

My sense is they will likely be used in some significant way in the prayer garden.

When that becomes clear I will let you know.

I'm also realizing I never let you know regarding the memorial fund for my Dad. For several months it was unclear how best to use it until the expenses arose around the publishing my book, *Song of Christ*. Since the book was dedicated in memory of my Dad, it seemed a fitting use of his funds.

In love - Brenda