



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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

What are you hungry for?

Dearhearts,

It's a familiar place...staring mindlessly into the refrigerator trying to decide what I'm hungry for...what to do about this indistinct hunger that brought me here. Nothing sounds good in these moments...and nothing satisfies. Often, I'll just start eating, hoping that the buffet line will produce something that satisfies. It almost never does. I finish the quest full...yet still hungry.

So is the soul to our spirit. It has no idea what it is hungry for, so it stuffs itself on a smorgasbord of the world's cuisine...busyness, shopping, drugs, drinking, television...facebook. Always trying to find what will satisfy this distant longing. But nothing in the soulish realm will do that because this is the longing of the spirit. *The only longing the spirit has is for God.* And yet Christ said in John 3...*We* are spirit now. The longing of our deepest - our truest parts - is for holiness. But our soul does not know.

There are many who stand at the refrigerator door, and they know what they are hungry for. For some, it is belonging. Rejection or abandonment visited them early and all their lives they have felt on the outside looking in. For others life has been such that behaviors done to them or by them have so contaminated their soul so that all they want is to feel clean. For some, cataclysmic events have cratered the landscape of the soul with gullies so deep they can never fully climb out...never feel whole or complete...not really.

For these their hunger is not some indistinct yearning, but a perpetual, searing pain that is never slaked. And holiness is not the issue here. Or is it?

Holiness speaks of a state of being that is complete... without blemish or lack. Wholiness... Wholeness. Our spirit is a relic of Eden and is the only place in us – east of Eden - that is compatible with God. Eternal. And of a nature that can receive God...even be one with Him and in Him. When we accept Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit of God merges with our eternal spirit and makes it holy; makes us...at the core of our being...spirit. Alive. Eternal. Holy. The rest of our lives - if we are following Christ – is spent with the Spirit in transit across the soul...claiming it...possessing it. (Luke 21:19)

So when things befall us, either by our own hand or by another's, when fellowship with the spirit and in the spirit is breached...a longing is birthed. It is the longing of our deepest parts for something it does not understand. It is the longing for God and His wholeness. (Matt. 5:38). The longing for belonging is an echo of that breach. The longing for cleansing is the voice of a soul that knows its loss of holiness. The longing for reconciliation is the voice of broken fellowship...of brokenness within.

All our longings emanate from the soul's cry for its true need. Its true need is spirit...is for God. For the wholeness, the holiness, found only in Him. All our hunger is for sacred Bread, the holy Wafer of communion our High Priest put to our lips when first we said yes to Him.

In those rarest of moments when we have somehow been transported to a burning bush...we are so overcome we can hardly speak. And suddenly in that pristine air where we are bowled over by a Presence we do not understand...planted on our face hardly able to breathe... we finally know what we are hungry for. We are standing on holy ground and all human hunger has ceased. We are completely satiated by God alone.

I love you,

Some of the above appeared in Brenda's post on facebook. Below is a response from one who saw it.

I so appreciate these words of yours! They take me to places I did not know existed . I have thought about today's post all day trying to connect the dots with longing, holiness and these rare moments with God. I look at my longing to connect, belong, be seen and heard, accepted . Then thought about those rare moments and they are usually after some big failure, something I cannot overcome no matter how hard I try. So what do I feel? Forgiven! As I still am trying to connect the dots I realized my greatest longing is to be forgiven and free!

Omg. That connects! Now I get it . That would be holiness! It has driven me all my life to perform and work to be good and hope against hope I could look Jesus in the face one day! Trying to undo those words spoken to me so long ago, "there is no hope for her." Now I get it!

Reflections on Prayer Garden Anniversary

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon, much as a decade earlier when the garden was dedicated, as sunny skies broke through clouds that threatened rain and 45 people picnicked on the grounds. Gay Bostick, Patrice Grant and Caroline Doyle shared stories that traced the history of God's redemption and provision the past 10 years.

Gay reminded us that this garden has been created as the Lord took one mistake after another and redeemed it,



making resurrection a perpetual theme of the garden, not just in theory but in reality. The culmination was in the purchase of the property 5 years ago by Ruth



and Doug Kaufmann for the express purpose of preserving the garden.

We are so grateful for those who shared the late afternoon cookout with us. Some were present 10 years ago while many others have joined us since.



Galen Montanye grilled burgers and hot dogs supplied by D'Ann and Dave Bohrnstedt. Susan Raines, Patty and Kim Stefani, Betsy and Dave Williams, Leanne and Mike Vlk, Shirley Montanye and Gay and Jack Bostick provided drinks, desserts and other dishes to compliment the grilling. Linda Palmer, Elaine Souder, Becky Elliston and



Patrice Grant labored to get the garden ready while Mary Lou Vandergriff worked behind the scenes.

Gay, Teresa Jacks and Caroline Doyle were recognized for their sacrificial service that has sustained

the garden over the years. Teresa and Gay, particularly, have devoted themselves to the garden since its inception.

A Prayer for Blessing

The informal observance concluded as Brenda prayed that we would be an instrument of God's blessing for the surrounding community as well as Rockwall. She prayed also for two additional blessings.



A Blessing of Presence. Her prayer was that the Blessing of His Presence would rest upon the garden and come upon those who enter it. That the sense of the sacred here would draw people to seek the Lord in new ways.

A Blessing of Healing.

We have always seen the garden as a place for emotional and spiritual healing. As we enter our second decade, our prayer is that a special blessing - a "double portion" - of healing rest upon the garden that would bring deeper experiences of restoration for heart and soul and body.

The original dedication that began our journey was for His Peace to rest upon the garden, and "peace" is the word we have heard over and over from those who have visited the garden. God counted as holy that dedication...as He does anything that is devoted to Him. Our *re-dedication* is for the sense of His Presence to be such that it would draw people to the Lord whom we know and would change how they seek Him and how they know Him.

Blessing

There is something mystical about blessing we don't understand. When Balaam was asked by the king to curse the Israelites from the mountain as they passed below, God's instruction to this quasi-prophet was not just to refrain from speaking a curse into the air it was to speak a blessing. These were not words anyone but Balaam and the king would have heard, but God's way was not just to refrain from evil, but to bless...a blessing none for whom it was intended would ever hear. This implies a power to spoken, or prayed, blessing beyond what we know. The only way we will begin to understand is if we engage it in new ways. So from now on, we faithfully pray the blessings above and wait to see what God does.

Letter to the Prayer Garden

Sunday, June 8, 2014 2:25 PM

Dear Prayer Garden,

I'm sorry I can't be at your anniversary party today as I am still out of town. However, after reminiscing for several days, I wanted to tell you how much I appreciate you. How? First, there's the weed pulling. Not a chore as some might expect but a blessing... a time to stop thinking and just BE. No whirling thoughts, just stillness inside my head. And when I had cleared a patch, I could look at it and say, "There. I've started and finished something." Yes, I knew the weeds would spring back, but for that moment it was done, complete.

And the critters. Watching squirrels jump from tree to tree and wondering how they knew they would make it. The bobcat. The squirrel that lived over the swing and dropped nuts on the arbor. The hopping mockingbird ... Watching Kit (Brenda's dog) complete two circuits of the garden at full speed.

Taking off my shoes and socks and walking the stone path as a kind of labyrinth in meditation, reading

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the signs and passing the garden areas, remembering, thanking, and praising.

But especially the swing. [My friend] always said that if the swing went missing, she'd know where to look first. How many hours, how many miles did I put on that swing? Early morning, late evening, in summer's heat, in my coat in winter, with an umbrella in the misty

rain. The time or situation didn't matter. I remember a time after an upsetting event when I drove directly to the garden instead of home, all the while thinking, "If I make it to the garden I'll be okay." I knew I would find a balm for my soul there.

So many memories are there. Sitting silently, watching the birds and butterflies and squirrels. Sobbing from my heart, kicking the dirt under the swing in

frustration with myself, with life... all seemed to calm itself in the gentle swaying back and forth.

I know there are more memories but these were the ones that welled up last night and I wanted to share them with you. I do plan on seeing you in a few weeks and to make my re-acquaintance with the swing. But in the meantime, Happy Anniversary!

Elizabeth

Blankets for Pine Ridge

August marks the beginning of fall in South Dakota, so our September mission outreach there is pressing into fall and blanket weather. Shirley Montanye is mounting a drive for blankets to be taken when we go in September. New or gently used blankets of every size are welcome. Contact us if you need your donation to be picked up. Kaye Sinkule and her crocheting ministry, *With Love Creations*, will be crocheting blankets as well if you would like to participate in this way. If you would like to learn to crochet blankets or participate in creating them please contact Kaye or the ministry office.

Dr. David Celella to Lead Horse Care Team

Rockwall veterinarian, David Celella, will be taking his expertise in horses to the center of the reservation in Kyle the week following the retreat. He will hold a 1 day horse care workshop at the Kyle Youth Center followed by 2 or 3 days of horse treatment.

Other Opportunities

If we can field teams, we will also lead a *canning workshop* at the same site as well as *facility repair work*. *Sewing classes* are also a possibility. Whether these are on our agenda or not simply depends upon the response we get. Interest doesn't seem to be quite as high this year as last, but God is in control of this and He will bring whom He will.

**Due to an Array of Conflicts from Office Remodeling to Medical to Family and Untold Items in Between,
Brenda is Taking the Blessing Teas off the Calendar for the Summer and will re-do for fall. She has decided she lives in the Dark Ages in Thinking that Summer is Somehow Slower.**

Project Hope Update



Girls Volleyball Camp

Our volleyball middle and girls on the a great everyone. thirty attended



second, annual camp for high school reservation was experience for More than Lakota kids and reaped the Emily Tarter's

great coaching and Katlyn Drummond's assistance. The 17 year old niece of Camp coordinator, Rebecca Drummond, Katlyn plays on a club team from the Kansas City area that has been ranked 11th in the nation. She has assisted the coaches for both years.

Part of the goal of our coaching team is not only to hone skills but to speak to the possibility of college scholarships available to those who work hard and who have the skills of several of the girls that attended camp.

Creating caring relationships and giving hope of a way up and out undergirds the purpose and mission of our volleyball outreach.

Here, some of the girls are enjoying ice cream with Emily and Katlyn (front right) at the end of the last day.



Neon green camp shirts, worn here by four of the girls, were made possible by a supplemental donation from an interested couple.

Productive Meetings on Reservation

While in Pine Ridge for the volleyball camp, Brenda had several meetings that proved to be very helpful. One of these was with tribal council member Jackie Sears.

Dental Possibilities May Not Be Dead Yet.

As reported last month, the Mid-Level Dental Professional program and clinic initiative we were hoping to assist Oglala Lakota College with is no longer on the table. But in a discussion with Ms. Sears,

Brenda inquired of the space that had been offered previously by the tribe for the clinic. We still have access to free equipment (including delivery and installation) for a full dental office of 3-4 chairs. Brenda asked about the possibility of using that space for rotating dental teams from spring through early fall. She said the council had been discussing other possible uses of that space but would check to see where things stood and would find a back-up space should that no longer be available.

Though this possibility would not be as transformational as the original plans, it could still offer valuable dental services for a community in which childhood as well as adult caries is widespread.

Our prayer is that, if this is important, the Lord will open this door.

September Women's Retreat. In meeting with the Sharps Corner Baptist Church retreat coordinator, Amanda Hadden, it was mentioned that most of the women of the congregation are either not Christian or are very new Christians. The opportunity for presenting Christ at this retreat to those who may not be in relationship with Him is exciting.

We ask your prayers for the Lord to bring those to the retreat who need to hear from Him. We could have 15 or we could have 5. Reservation culture makes attendance at any event unpredictable.

We are looking as well at unique retreat gift baskets that are both nice and practical. With that in mind, our "gift baskets" will be a crock pot for each participant filled with items for the kitchen. Amanda suggested that a personal touch might be a hand written crock-pot recipe in each pot. These recipes would need to be simple because they only have basic spices.

If you would like to share a recipe (with optional personal note) **to be included in the crock pots, please put it on a nice recipe card and get it to us. You might also add spices you think they might need. Other items for the crock pots: Bear Cabin soup mixes and dried onion soup packets. For Potato Soup, please include a package of real bacon bits. If we have too many spices, soups or other items, we will create a crock-pot pantry in the church.** If you would like to help with the expense of the crock pots, we thank you in advance.

The Woman at the Well is scheduled for the weekend after Labor Day, **September 5-6.**