



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

September 2012

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

Newsletter

Dearhearts,

Around the Florida Keys and other ancient shipping routes in the Caribbean is a watery graveyard where Spanish Galleons laden with gold from the New World sank in fierce storms encountered in the 17th and 18th centuries. Entire fleets were slammed into the reefs or swamped in deeper waters. In the more shallow waters, waves and succeeding storms have scattered the wreckage over an extended area. Those in the deep, undisturbed by even the most violent of storms that reeked havoc up near the surface, remain much as they were when first they came to rest there centuries ago.

A virtual industry, albeit small, has arisen over these ancient wrecks on the gulf's floor. Small... because it is but a few who will risk the expense and effort to discover the sites, explore the wreckage and find the treasures hidden there. Even fewer will endure the roller coaster of challenges entailed in bringing the treasures up.

Our soul is littered with wreckage of every sort from ancient storms and present winds. Winds that lash our riggings and rip our sails with fears about who God is. Waves of grief that have swamped our boat and storms of anger that batter our mast with questions about God and where He was. It is in our soul that these storms are recorded and their messages inscribed; messages believed whether they are true or not. Messages of inadequacy or entitlement, of self-contempt or self-assertion, of control or be controlled; of “win at any cost” or “make peace at any price.” Messages of faith or fear, cynicism or hope. Messages that tell us where the shipwrecks lie. Encoded in our soul is the emotional script that frames and textures our personality; the internal message board that governs how we do life and treat others, how we see ourselves... and God.

Do I trust Him here in this place? Is He good...or suspect of intent or design? How do I entrust my soul to a contrary Wind I do not understand? All these come into play as I am awash in a swirl of confusion and losses and the churn of pain and fear they engender.

In the soul is the graveyard of dreams laden with promise that were slammed against the rocks. Yet it is this very soul that Christ says must be possessed.

But by what? And how?

By a deeper place...untouched by the storms... unmoved by the waves. *It is the place of the spirit.* Our spirit is deeper than our soul. While our soul holds our personality, our spirit houses the personality of Christ. The spirit cherishes the Lord. The soul prizes outcome. The soul encrypts its own perceptions. The spirit houses truth; truth about God and His love and goodness, His grace and mercy...and His truth about us.

The Spirit is accessed as I ignore my soul's clamor and sink down into a quieter place where faith in God overrides hope in outcome. Peace visits my soul only as it yields to a deeper place, but my soul can only yield as it releases the hurt and unfairness that have breached its hull; it must surrender the logic and reason that lodge there. When I have questions about who God is or how He is, I will clench a fist – or shake one – and defy the Divine by insisting on fairness or understanding. So I have to relinquish the natural inclinations of my soul and dare to risk the possibility that, despite the evidence, God is who He says He is. Only in seeking God – not outcome – can I summons the will, and perhaps a faith, that calls forth the deep of God in me. And there, amid shards of lies we find treasures of truth.

There are not many who find the deep...not many who search for treasure there. Not many who come back time and again undaunted by failures and dashed hopes, to keep searching until the treasure is found.

Christ came to heal the brokenhearted, to set our bruised and captive places free. It is this Christ who now lives in the deep of us...in our spirit. It is this Christ who seeks to possess our soul with its possibilities...to change how we see and what we see, to change what we love and how, to heal the broken places and replace the messages there with truth and faith and then with possibilities... and then with reality.

There are treasures hidden in every shipwreck. And God is down in the deep waiting to meet us there to bring the treasures up.

I love you, *Brenda*

A Conversation on Blessing

Dayspring Chapel

7:00 p.m. September 13

Our evenings of conversations with Brenda on the mysteries of the kingdom return this fall after a break of several months. The first of these conversations is on blessing...that mysterious spoken force that charts destinies and changes how we see ourselves and how we live. Brenda will address a perplexing scene in Numbers between a prophet-like character and a king and look at what that says about how God sees both blessing and curse.

Threads of blessing will also be traced from the Old Testament through the New as we consider what "blessing" means for us in our daily lives and for us as a community of believers who are called to be a people of blessing.

Brenda will talk for an hour after which there will be a short break for refreshments and a return to the chapel for discussion and Q & A.

Future "Second Thursday" Conversations

October 11: *The Mystery of Pain and Suffering*

November 8: *A People Who Changed the World*

Stronghold Study Begins

Thursday, September 20

7:00 p.m. Dayspring Chapel

On Thursday evenings in September and October (with the exception of the second Thursday) Brenda will be teaching on Strongholds. The study will last 6 to 8 weeks and will address the nature of strongholds, how they are set up, how they are brought down and their manifestation in our lives through addictions, obsessions, phobias and other oppressive hindrances to a life of abundances and victory.

So we may better gauge the number of copies to prepare, **please contact the Dayspring office to register.**

Brown Bag Chapel Prayer Retreat
Rescheduled for Spring
To Allow for Intercessory Prayer Training
Original October Date is Cancelled

Prayer Ministry Update

Intercessory Prayer Teaching...Blessed Response

We were pleasantly surprised and blessed by the strength of the turnout to the teaching on intercessory prayer in August. Because it was on a Saturday morning in a busy, back-to-school month, we expected only a small handful of people to be able to attend. The 17 people who came was a wonderful surprise.

Teaching Available on CD or On-Line

We've received a number of requests for Brenda's teaching on Intercessory Prayer from August 11. It is available on CD and is up on our website for listening or download. Scroll down the menu on the left of the screen and click on **teachings and downloads**.

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

There is a growing response to this aspect of our prayer ministry as several individuals and intercessory prayer teams are focusing with greater intensity on critical and urgent needs. If you would like to be part of this, please let us know.

Prayer E-Grams carry Brenda's insights on prayer, articles on great men and women of prayer, plus advance notice of up-coming ministry offerings on prayer. Condensed versions of our prayer grams are on our ministry web-site on the prayer page (on the left menu tab). We will also be sending out hard copy prayer grams by regular mail to those who prefer that.

If you would like to be included in the regular mail or the e-mailings, please contact us and be sure to give us your email address for the e-grams.

Saturday Meditation on the Word

September 8, 8:30 – 8:45

Chapel and Prayer Garden

Using Scripture to --

Increase the Sense of God's Presence

Grow His Peace

Still Our Own Voices

Gain Insight and Guidance

*Letting ourselves be drawn out to a place apart
 from the rush of our lives and the press of our world
 to a place of quiet
 in which we may hear things of the spirit
 and whispers of Heaven.*

Sunday Morning Chapel Study

We are grateful for the faithfulness of those who attend our early morning Sunday study in the chapel. We began four years ago with about eight regular attenders and currently are welcoming at least 20 regulars that include 5 or 6 couples.

We have just begun a new study on the *book of Numbers*. Brenda leads this study on a somewhat obscure Old Testament book that contains many of the great themes of the Bible, insights into Revelation and the end times, as well as illumination on our personal journey with Christ.

Sunday morning chapel is always open and we invite you to come join us at anytime.



Parlor Book Study Interest Grows

As the Parlor Book Club begins its second selection, *Spiritual Rhythms* by Mark Buchanan, the original three have now become 6 or 7 ladies. We are excited about the ways in which this book club is drawing together not only in study, but in fellowship and support and prayer for one another.

The study meets on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 – 11:30 in the Dayspring parlor in our office building, and it remains open.

Monday Evening “Emmaus” Study

Gay Bostick is teaching volume I of the Road to Emmaus Bible Study on Monday evenings. The group of 12 men and women continues to increase as they begin the first unit of the first volume. It meets from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. every Monday in the Dayspring Chapel.

Words cannot totally express how incredibly life-giving your Emmaus Road 1 study is to me. The more I get into the study, the more I feel my heart opening up to the Spirit of God...I have become intoxicated with each nugget of truth that jumps out at me each time I read the brilliant way you have of piercing my heart with truths about who Jesus is and how God works with us and how we are to respond to Him... Our Monday night group is on fire with the Holy Spirit under Gay's wonderful teaching! Caroline

Web Site News

Mike Vlk is working hard to get some of Brenda's most recent studies up on the website on the **listening and download** page (**Intercessory Prayer** and **Sunday Chapel Series** sub-pages). You can listen on-line or download to your computer or ipod.

New Teachings Now On-line:

- Intercessory Prayer (3 hours)
- Book of Numbers (1st two lessons)
- Initial Lessons of “Living in the Sacred”

Other Studies/Talks Already Up:

- Conversations on the Prayer of Communion
- Conversations on the Mysteries of the Kingdom (*Mystery of the Universe/ Mystery of the Earth/ Mystery of Creation/ the Human Mystery*)
- Incarnate Life Bible Study

“I have been listening to your Incarnate Life teachings on your website and have found them to be absolutely fascinating. I particularly liked the Prayer of Communion teaching in that series and have listened to it six times now!”

Prayer E-Grams. Condensed versions of the first two prayer e-grams have been posted on the Prayer page of the Dayspring website. These include insights on intercessory prayer and some biographical articles on great men and women of faith. Future e-grams will also be posted.

Pilgrim of the Soul speaks of the different aspects of our journey in Christ: *the Interior Journey; the Winged Life; Abundant Life ; Deeper Life*

See page 4 for an excerpt from “Pilgrim of the Soul”



“I have been in churches and chapels all over the world, but when I came into your chapel I felt a peace and presence of God unlike anywhere else I have been.”

(From a soldier explaining why he and his fiancé had chosen the Dayspring chapel for their wedding)

Pilgrim of the Soul

(excerpt from Dayspring Web Page)

For those who seek to follow Christ, who listen for His voice, these pages may be a guide and a friend. "Pilgrim of the Soul" is for those who have come to a place and time on their journey here of searching out the deeper possibilities of God in their lives. It is for those upon whom a sacred longing rests and draws them to something more...

For the spiritual pilgrim there are many tipping points...many thresholds...that attend the way; places in which hard decisions are required but great blessings received. At times, it is an arduous course this irrational God charts for us, defying logic and reason and bringing us up against our own instincts for survival amid the crags of life. The journey ever is toward a holy mount...a place of mystery and foreboding at times...a place that demands decisions about what we will do with the looming clouds and where we will pursue the God who seems hidden there...



...As we go deeper with Him, we discover a powerful, abundant living; we discover his principles for liberation and freedom and we embark upon an interior journey where His Spirit and ours converge and we find there the fruit of His Spirit waiting to be birthed in ours.

Brenda Cox

"A Gathering of the Faithful"

Notes from the Nursing Home Art Class



The nursing home art ministry has continued now for a year and a half. One of the classes taught is a watercolor painting class. These ladies and one very sweet and funny gentleman have been regular attendees from the start of the class.



The painters have progressed so far. They are now using watercolor pencils to add definition and have learned and are applying the technique of shading.

As you can tell their favorite subject matter is flowers but they also love to paint landscapes.

The lady that painted this flowering cactus was right handed but a stroke left her only using her left.



A drawing made by my 92 yr. old regular painter as a gift to her art teacher!

from Elaine's Notebook

Intercessory Prayer Training Retreat
Target Date is Toward the End of October.
As plans become final Details will be in our next prayergram and in October's newsletter.