



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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www.dayspringdiscipleship.org

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

October 2012

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

Newsletter

Loom of Redemption

Dearhearts,

What is it about fall that draws me? That braces my senses with wonder and makes me feel more alive? That seems to awaken something in me neither spring nor summer has touched? Its winds carry a different feel, not of approaching tempests but of something vivid...an azure dome pulsing overhead as some silent voice calls a continent of geese and ducks and monarchs south.

Spring anticipates what is to come. Bursting forth from winter's vault, it charges into summer's heat and storms, its drought and sun, and then drags itself, spent, into fall. Fall seems to swell in full crescendo of all that has been before, now synthesized in one exultant anthem. It is as though fall has found a rhythm the other seasons have been pressing for. A rhythm that ushers in a fullness of sights and sounds and smells...a palette of glory...a loom that weaves new textures and colors into the fabric of our lives...and we are warmed against the chill...we are awakened to new beauty.

Even the trees have drawn from the soil in which they are rooted, pushing water into the leaves to mix with what the leaves are pulling from the air about them. And then, their heave offering sunward to create summer's green. And as the light wanes and the darkness waxes and temperatures fall, summer's green fades to reveal the glory of fall hidden there all along.

Fall lures me to the possibilities of a way of living that swells in fullness with all that has been. That synthesizes all the dark and light, the heat and cold, the wind and rains and creates an anthem of the soul. Fall signals the culmination of what we have done with what we have known.

Every once in a while you find a person of fall. Someone who swells full with life...who is lovely yet bracing; who carries all the textures of strength and tenderness, the colors of love and grace. Who wears the garment of redemption. They have sorted through their lives. Discarding what is irrelevant, they so fully embrace the moment people want to be with them. Their lives are a palette of vibrant colors...colors of joy and adventure...peace and strength...commitment and faith.

And you wonder how they got there? Did they rise from the soil of their birth that way...or did something in their spring and summer bend them thus?

It is these who are rooted in something that is not of them. And they have embraced the winds and rains because of it. They have kept what is worthwhile and dropped what is not. They have not lost sight of their roots.

My dad was a person of fall, I think. Many storms lashed his world...leaving losses that could have left their mark of resentment or bitterness. Yet that was never there. He kept what was worthwhile from those storms, but he dropped what was not. He was rooted in holy soil, and I saw woven into the fabric of who he was new textures and colors, and he was warmed against the frigid winds and awakened to new possibilities. His life was a loom of redemption.

When he went home to glory he was escorted by a burst of glory that had emblazoned his life for many years and muted the sharp corners and rough edges of earlier times.

Fall people reassure us of the possibilities of our own lives...of weathering the storms and emerging...of taking what is there in the soil and air...in the elements beyond our control and producing the vibrant foliage of grace and beauty.

I love you,

We are grateful to all who support the ministries of Dayspring through your payers, your participation, your time and talents and your finances. This ministry is dependant upon the Lord's nudging and your obedience. May God's blessing be upon you this day!

The Mystery of Suffering

"Second Thursday" Evening Conversation

October 11 – 7:00 p.m.

Only a redeeming God could transform what seems senseless or devastating into something redemptive... even empowering. This is the mystery of suffering in the hands of a mysterious God in a broken world. We invite you to explore this mystery on Thursday evening October 11 at the Dayspring chapel.

As always, at the close of Brenda's talk there will be a short break for refreshments followed by discussion.

Intercessory Prayer Event

Saturday, October 27 – 8:00-12:00

Dayspring Chapel

This intercessory prayer event is the next step in our desire to offer opportunities for people to engage in intercession and experience it in new and dynamic ways. It will combine new teaching on intercession with small group and individual prayer for critical or urgent needs.

An expanded experience of this nature is planned for next year in late February or March as a weekend retreat. Attendance at this month's event is an important preparation for the larger retreat in terms of commitment to, and understanding of, intercessory prayer.

If you would like to participate but were unable to attend Brenda's teaching on intercessory prayer in August, let us know so we can work with you to get the information you missed.

Breakfast coffee, fruit and pastries will be provided from 8:00 – 8:15. Please register by contacting our office at 972-722-1905.

Strongholds Study Continues

We continue our study on strongholds on Thursday evenings in the chapel. The first two classes have laid the foundation for understanding strongholds and how they get set up. Remaining classes will deal with how strongholds are brought down. Attendance has hovered around 20 for each class.

"I have heard of strongholds all my life. I knew I had them but didn't know how they got there and certainly didn't know how to get rid of them. Brenda's teaching has answered all those questions with great clarity...It is a life-changing study."

Prayer Garden News

Workday Saturday, October 13

Fall carries its own set of caretaking needs for the prayer garden including trimming, raking, pick-up and some small tree and rose bush planting. Please let us know if you can help on our workday – or any other day for that matter.



Last year marked the first time we had dressed the garden in pumpkins for fall. It was so festive and fun we will do it again this year but in a larger version if you would like to help.



A Pumpkin Pitch-in?

It's just a thought... but if you would like to pitch in by bringing a pumpkin for the garden, great or small, we might be able to make the garden a

festival of pumpkin colors... a special place for family pictures or picnic fun surrounded by the feel of fall in the prayer garden.

We obviously can't do this on our own. The little we were able to do last year stretched our personal resources, but if you would like to see what we might be able to do together in community, we will start accepting pumpkins right away and will use however few or many might come in to add to the beauty that is already here.

New Teachings Now Up On Web Site

www.dayspringdiscipleship.org

Brenda's most recent teachings on **Strongholds**, the Conversation on the **Mystery of Blessing**, and the first 5 lessons in the Sunday morning chapel study on **Numbers** are currently available for your listening or for download. They are in mp3 format and can be downloaded to your computer or Iphone. Scroll down the menu to the left and click on teachings and downloads.

Should these minister to you please consider letting others know whom you think might benefit as well.

See page 3 for a full listing of teachings on-line.

Monday Evening Emmaus Study

Gay Bostick leads a lively group on Monday evenings at the chapel in a study of the first volume of the Road to Emmaus Bible Study. For more information contact Gay or Caroline Doyle who assists Gay in the study. The group meets every Monday at 7:00.

"Being involved with all the studies offered and what Gay teaches of Brenda's study has stirred my soul like never before. Taking me to a higher level of understanding God's love for me by breaking down the facade of who I wanted everyone to think I was to shedding light on who it is He wants me to be. Although the process can be tough - it can be downright painful - He is uncovering wounds I have hidden from myself for so long, he reveals to me what He is coming after, and I am learning to give it to Him!" Jamie

Two Events Rescheduled

October 13 – Brown Bag Prayer Retreat

has been rescheduled for spring.

November "Second Thursday" Conversation

has also been rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts.

On-line Teaching Ministry

(from Brenda's Bible Studies and Conversations)

Bible Studies

Incarnate Life
Christ, the Revolutionary
The Beatitudes
Galatians
Living in the Sacred
Numbers

Conversations on the Mysteries of the Kingdom

The Mystery of Earth
The Mystery of the Universe
The Mystery of Eden
The Mystery of Time
The Mystery of Blessing
(Others to come: The Human Mystery;
The Divine Mystery)

Conversations on the Prayer of Communion (3)

Intercessory Prayer

Strongholds

Excerpt From Our Website Prayer Page

Does Prayer change God's mind? Does it affect overall outcome...or is God going to do what He wants to, anyway?

Christ's entire life was a monument to the power of prayer. Yet, in Gethsemane, His petition for the cup to be removed from Him was not granted. David's prayers for the life of his son went unheeded. Paul's requests that the "thorn" be removed from him were answered only with a promise of grace. Our own prayers are hit and miss. Some "work," some don't.

Yet, history is strewn with golden nuggets of humble prayers answered greatly. The Battle of Dunkirk in World War II was most surely a miraculous deliverance as a result of prayer. Dwight Moody's European ministry was launched on the back of 10 years of devoted prayer by a humble, invalid woman in London. The King James version of the Bible was scripted from the final, prayerful words of a martyr burning at the stake that the King's eyes would be opened to the need for an English translation of the Bible.

Are these just bright and shining moments of prayer at Dunkirk and with Dwight Moody? Or are these available to us on a consistent basis?

What is the nature of prayer.....fundamentally? And what is it all about in the trenches of our lives?

Does He *need* our prayers?

God does not *need* our prayers, but He *chooses* to make us partners with Him. He has always used human instruments for the carrying out of His purposes. He used Moses to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt. He used Joshua to bring them into the Promised Land. He used Phillip to speak to the eunuch. "How shall they believe if they do not hear; and how shall they hear except they preach. And how shall they preach except they be sent?" Romans 10:14-15.

God's purposes are hindered if we do not hold up our end of the deal in this Divine partnership. God gives us the Gift of Partnership with Him. He honors us by inviting us to enter into the ministry and service of prayer.

A Ministry of Connection and Communion

With Ourselves, with Others and with God

Dayspring is a ministry that seeks, fundamentally, to put people in touch with themselves, with others and with God in deeper, more meaningful ways. As the Dayspring ministry grows, it seems a good time to provide an overview of how we see this purpose unfolding as the Lord leads. As a discipling ministry we seek to meet people at their point of connection with the Lord and, through our Bible studies, book studies and Conversations encourage a deeper communion, or fellowship, with Him. The articles and quotes on previous pages speak to this aspect of our ministry.

Through our In-Touch Parlor Ministry we provide a place of connection and fellowship with others. Through the Touch Ministry we minister Christ to those in the Nursing Home, and With Love Creations threads its ways through both the Parlor and Nursing Home Ministries.

"In Touch" Parlor Ministry

The parlor invites people to connect and fellowship and develop a sense of community through cards and other table games, lunch or book studies.



I would like to say how special the book club *is to me. **Spiritual Rhythms** speaks to many seasons of life we can all identify with... Patty is wonderful...makes everyone feel so comfortable with her tea...Being a part of this group of ladies is something I look forward to. It's always a blessing.*

Linda

Crocheting classes and their *With Love Creations* gifts have provided an unexpected array of blessings...a place for some who do not ordinarily get out to comfortably connect and learn and minister.

One 84 year old young woman has begun coming. "My daughter says I need to get out of my house...all I want to do is stay home and watch tv," she told us when she called the office. "Someone told me you might have something I can be a part of." She now is learning crocheting from Kaye and has joined in the raucous card crew that gathers on Wednesday morning for fun and fellowship. Her birthday is the first week of October and her new-found community will be celebrating with her.



The Touch Ministry

Nursing home residents continue to be touched by the laughter and love of the ladies who faithfully visit.

Recently, they have given 20 hand warmers (crocheted by Kaye's ladies and "With Love Creations") to delighted residents whose faces lit up when they learned they were free gifts. Most put them on their arm, so we have decided that instead of one hand muff per person, we need to crochet two arm sleeves for each person.



"Touch is one of the basic needs of life. The craving for touch to communicate affection, comfort, and reassurance is present the day we enter the world. Touch can reach through the fog, confusion, and fear of dementia. Reassuring touch grounds those who are spatially disoriented, brings people back to their bodies, and increases their awareness in present time and space. One touch can affirm that they are not alone and they are valued by the person who is beside them...."

*Honor me with touch...Comfort me with touch...
Value me with touch...Love me with touch"*

From Creating Moments of Joy by Jolene Brackey from chapter written by Teresa Stecker

Touching with Art

Elaine Souder's art class...a favorite draw for those who have been faithfully coming for many months. Given their physical limitations, their talent is quite remarkable.

