



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

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Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

January 2011

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

Newsletter

Behold, I make all things new

Dearhearts,

A long time ago, in the early stages of my adult life with Christ my quest was for truth. It didn't matter what the Bible said I could expect from Him, did it actually work in the real world? Never mind what others said; if it didn't ring true in my own life, then it was just a bunch of words unworthy of selling your life for. After all, that's what He was asking for...a life sold out to Him. The credentials for such a demand had to be that the words on paper rang true in flesh.

About me, at just about every turn, I saw Christians in bondage. Anger, fear, anxiety, worry, guilt, depression, control. I saw gullies in my own personality that needed to be filled, temperament that needed curbing, perspective that needed changing. All were slavemasters to my soul. We all spoke words of peace and freedom, yet found little of it...Tragedians masquerading as Christians. Either His words were true or they weren't. If they were true why were so many of us talking as though they were but living as though they weren't? If they weren't true then what were we doing being Christian? What a hoax on the human soul if false. What a tragedy if true.

A powerless quagmire was not what I had signed up for. It forced me to jump out of the boat most of us were clustered in and test the waters beneath my feet. When His hand caught me as I sank, my life changed.

There come those times in every life when a new table is set before us; when newness is the great need of the soul. It comes in those times when beleaguered days have wearied the soul; when the life we've known no longer ignites the heart or answers its plea. When hope sags like a western star that life holds meaning and breath holds purpose, and we wait out the long days of summer for autumn's final burst...and home. Words that once struck a fever in our heart of life brimful and running over, of days of joy and winds of freedom and songs of hope now lie scattered like stale crumbs on a chipped plate.

If we want the words of an ancient text to ring true in our lives, we must place ourselves in a position where faith can flare. We must choose to eat of the table He has set before us.

So the past still haunts you? Stupid mistakes. Horrid decisions. And guilt shrouds your world like fog on the mountain? Can He make even this new? Or perhaps it was

someone else's horrid decisions that blighted your world with pain and fear and loss that still robs your soul of treasure or hardens it with bitterness. Is He still a great physician? Or has his hand become so short that it no longer heals?

Here lies your quest for truth. Who is this man that healed the blind? Can he still heal you? No one remembers the insanity of Mary Magdalene. No one remembers Paul the persecutor or the skepticism of those whom he hunted. Who enshrines Peter the coward? All were made new. Both victim and victimizer and failure. The old was passed away.

Here lies your quest for truth. Can their truth be your truth? Is He the same yesterday, today and forever? Does He make all things new? Can He? Will He? You can only know if you decide to come out of the boat you've been crouching in and dare the waves.

These are the questions of your soul and mine. If they go unanswered in our lives, then we will leave this place with a shrug, wondering what it was all about. But if these questions fuel your quest for truth...your life will change. His words will ring true in your flesh.

I love you,

Brenda

Classics Book Club

Tuesday January 25, 7:00 p.m.

Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ

Our first Classics Book Club selection of the year promises an enriching spiritual excursion into the hidden reaches of our faith and of our journey in Christ. A book that has guided the heroes of our faith (December newsletter) now holds those possibilities for us. We invite you to join our discussion of this classic work by Jeanne Guyon at 7:00 Tuesday evening January 25.

The book club meets in a home the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Call our office to register for an evening of refreshments and discussion.

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“Evening of Conversation” Series Third Tuesdays

This year’s monthly *Conversations with Brenda* cover an array of provocative, challenging topics ranging from God and history, to mysteries of the kingdom, to prayer. Included will be a repeat of one of Brenda’s power point conversations from last year on the great Moravian Prayer Vigil.

“Hanging in the Balance,” begins our year with a look at the Divine strategy to re-take this planet from a darkened Satanic hand and the role we play as critical instruments in that strategy. Join Brenda in the chapel for *an Evening of Conversation Tuesday, January 18 7:00-8:00 p.m. (with Discussion following)*

Future Conversations:

February – The Human Mystery

March – The Divine Mystery

April – The Greatest Prayer Vigil (Repeat)

August – God and History

September – “If I Had a Hammer”

October -- The Mystery of Suffering

Person of Impact Course - II Begins Sunday, February 6

The second level of Brenda’s Person of Impact Equipping Course resumes the first Sunday in February from 2:00 – 5:00 in the Dayspring Chapel. “**Core Tissue and Core Issues**” offers an understanding of what happens when emotional or spiritual injury occurs in the deepest regions of the soul and how it manifests in a person’s responses and behaviors. It also looks at the make-up of our core, those things that damage it and what the healing process looks like.

Among the topics to be covered in the second stage are: shame, boundaries, control, power, identity, belonging and enmeshment.

Though it is best to have taken the first level of the course, it is not a requirement. Whether you have previously participated or not, it is important to register your interest with the Dayspring office so we may know the number of handouts to prepare.

Due to the financial constraints of some participants, we are suspending the normal charge for the course and instead offer a **suggested donation** of \$25.00.

Listening Library On-Line (from Brenda’s teachings)

www.dayspringdiscipleship.org click on teachings/downloads on left menu tab

Incarnate Life (excerpt from Prayer of Incarnation) –

“To as many as believed to them gave He the power to become sons of God.” John 1:12

“Incarnation is not just a single event that happened 2000 years ago....Everyone who has accepted Christ as Savior experiences the Incarnate Christ.

Incarnation means Jesus came as Son of God to walk as Son of man so that we who walk as sons of man might walk as sons of God.”

Christ the Revolutionary: January 2, 2011

In response to several requests, we have placed Brenda’s recent January 2 Sunday morning teaching on our website on the **teachings/downloads** page. Since this was our first time to use a newly gifted wireless mic all the kinks were not worked out, and you will find some volume fluctuations and raspy voice tones at times.

From the Transforming Christ:

“As we look at this revolutionizing God-man who came to live among us, one of the things that’s striking to me about Him is the polar opposites that He was – the polar opposites that came together in His life:

Lion and lamb; shepherd and lamb, suffering servant yet king, the high priest who offered the sacrifice and the one who was the sacrifice...There converged in his life those divergent aspects, and what that portends for us is that He seeks to bring together the contradictory elements that we are. He reconciled that in His own life... and he does the same with us. He does that...between husband and wife, parent and child... bringing together those who appear to be irreconcilable opposites and making them one.

What we see is glimpses of something extraordinary in its effect on you and me and how we live...”

The Mystery of Time (new posting)

“As long as there was no sin...time as we know it did not exist in the Garden of Eden. Time is that which marks a beginning and an end. Here on this planet we are in a time warp. Eternity is the norm and we are the aberration...”

If we could step back from earth at this point of sin and look...we would see a mote of darkness drawing itself about the planet...a bubble of time bobbing along in a sea of eternity. It has been said time is a pause in eternity to give God the chance to retrieve His earth.”

Israel Trip First of November

Though Inspiration Tours in California continues to finalize details of our re-scheduled trip to the Holy Land, we are looking at the first 12 days of November. Though the cost cannot be established until the bid is in, we are seeking to hold it in the range of \$3800.00 per person. The price will be all-inclusive (airline ticket, taxes and tips, 4-5 star lodging and morning and evening meals.) The only expenses not included are lunch and any personal purchases.

We are also in touch with a Jewish ministry in Israel to arrange a side-trip to the possible ruins of Sodom and Gomorrah. It would occur on the Masada / Dead Sea tour day and would be an added expense for those who go.

Look for finalized details in next month's newsletter.

Ministry to Rowlett Rehab Center

We are working with the Rowlett Rehabilitation Center to create a one-on-one ministry to residents, especially those who have limited visitors. The center, on highway 66 near Dalrock road is a multiple use facility providing nursing home and hospice care as well as physical therapy and rehab.

Our particular interest, initially, will be to those most in need of personal touch including hospice, though as we get to know the needs we may sponsor group activities. Nails, reading, therapy dogs are some of the ministry opportunities available to us. This is a very bright, state of the art facility with multiple opportunities for ministry. We've also contacted the

Rockwall Nursing Home a couple of blocks from the Dayspring office, but found it to be overly-stocked with help while the Rowlett facility still has considerable areas where we can serve. **Please let us know if you are interested in participating or would like more information.**

Dear Brenda,

Thank you so very much for allowing the Post-Abortion Bible Study Closure Ceremony to be held at the Chapel. Each of the ladies were touched by the Chapel's beauty and intimate setting. On their evaluation of the class several mentioned that the Chapel and Garden Ceremony provided the release and closure memories they had longed for. Your ministry has been such a blessing to these ladies. Thank you again for providing such a beautiful place for God's healing to take hold.

Sincerely, Kristi Mase

A Few Prayer Garden Calendars Remain plus 4 Note Card Sets. We are also considering requests to make calendar pictures available for framing. Let us know if you are interested.

Thank You! Donations the last 3 months of the year have made up much of the \$1000.00 monthly deficits of the previous 9 months. **We are grateful for your response to the Lord's promptings!**

SOJOURNER'S QUILL

I Miss Our Garden



I miss the garden. I can hear it calling ever faintly in the depths of my soul, fully knowing that it is in reality, God's voice wooing me back. As I watch the progress over time in the prayer garden that I regretfully have not been able to be a part of, there have been times of jealousy for those who are able to dig in His dirt and sadness that my life and a series of events for so long have kept me from Him in such a place.

However, I am ever thankful that God has brought so many hands, healed so many wounds there, and allowed

so much of the world to be let go of there, bringing the garden to the incredibly beautiful place it is today. I want to thank all of you who have literally brought your blood, sweat and tears to "our" garden, allowing God's mysterious transformation in making good out of all that Satan intends for evil.

The garden, for me, is a spiritual foundation that was laid years ago before even one plant was put into His ground, and I see myself all over it, as so many of us do, from the early years there and beyond. I have many battle scars from thorns and poison ivy. And emotional catastrophes that only Brenda was able to lead me out of, ever so gently with her loving hand, that always has and always will be an extension of my Creator's own hand.

I remember one of the many tasks she assigned to me. "Task" being the spiritual understatement of the year, (better yet the century!). I was to write a letter to each of my two children in heaven, those who were

aborted when I was basically still a child. The first was planned and forced on me by my mother at barely age 15...A shameful secret it became, one that stayed with me until the day I released it into the garden's soil. The second was simply what I had been taught from the first, still not understanding what life is really about. Having been raised with the emotional abandonment from my father, I sought out that attention again and again, and twice found it in a tragic way. Those children haunted me for years, and now...it was time to deal with it. I tried over and over, cried myself dry trying to force myself to sit and write. Every week Brenda would say "the time will come Patrice you just need to wait on Him."

Soon after, I awoke in the middle of the night. Covered in sweat and heart racing, I looked at the clock...3:00 a.m. God spoke so clearly I could almost hear His audible voice in the darkness, "It is time." I jumped out of bed and sat at my desk that I had struggled at for weeks, and now I knew it really was time. The words came easily, the pain, the search for forgiveness from my child and my Creator, the tears flowed freely and then it was over. I felt such a relief, only those who have been cleansed of such debris can empathize the feeling of freedom that overcame me.

In excitement I reached for another card, but the words did not come. Start over, scratch out, not working, try again...I must have ruined 4 or 5 cards in my attempt to "be done" and write to my second baby. Suddenly I felt such an overwhelming draw to sleep that I could not sit up any longer. I had to lay down.

I shared my praise as well as my frustration with Brenda that week. She told me again...be still, be patient. Exactly 7 days later God woke me again and I was brought to tears when I looked at the clock. 3:00 a.m. I could hardly believe it. A beautiful touch from God...He was meeting me in this secret place.

I could go on for hours but suffice to say that God created 2 divine appointments for me. Two babies, two different types of heartaches and piles of guilt and grief, two letters for use as a conduit for God to release me from all that haunted me, set in the course of time, exactly seven days apart, each at 3 a.m.

At my next session Brenda wanted me to read them out loud, something she had me do before, only I did not feel right reading them in the office. I asked if she thought I should go to a cemetery maybe, to the infant section? No, that did not feel right...Could she come to my home and I could read them outside and plant rose bushes for them? Yes she could but even that did not feel right to me. It was then that I looked out the window letting my thoughts trail, and I will never ever forget this, a butterfly flew past the window ever so slowly and I knew. I asked her if we could walk outside, and we went out to brave the suffocating Texas heat together.

She had just moved into this place on Boydston, and we were so excited about the chapel that I thought maybe that was it. As I walked along with my 2 notes for my 2 babies, I mindlessly picked up a piece of flagstone to use as a marker. We stood in front of the chapel and at my feet is another piece of flagstone. I decided to use it as well, to signify the two separate events. I did not feel the chapel was the right place either. The wind grew stronger and I remember thinking such a silly thought... "I can feel the trees calling me!"...Ha! "The trees calling me...Patrice you are losing it" I told myself. When I picked "my tree" where I would lay this great and painful burden, we sat at the base of it and with trembling hands I read each letter agonizing over each one, with gut wrenching tears. When finished and again completely spent, I placed the second letter under the second stone, and my breath was literally taken from me. The two stones together, waiting out there all this time for me, formed the shaped of a butterfly. A butterfly...He already had planned for the Garden of the Unborn (whose symbol is the butterfly). I just did not know it.

At that time God had already begun to reveal His desire for the garden to Brenda. It has now gone through many transformations, mirroring our walks. As each soul passes through and places their mark, and as those faithful ones remain and always carry onward, so do we transform into a deeper spirituality with it. In the ebb and flow of life and of our journey with Him, digging ever deeper to run the race and know the fullness of Christ, we find the serenity that has bloomed there.

It was a year or two before I moved the marker for my babies into the Garden of the Unborn now ready for them. And the huge tree that I had chosen was now behind Riley's Berm. I had to cut my way in the overgrowth was so thick. Yet there they were, under leaves and debris, those two wing shape stones forming the new creation in me. It had taken a lot of digging, great pain, deep cleansing tears and courage that I thought I did not have. Yet through Brenda's support I made it. And when I gathered the stones, the letters to my children in heaven had disintegrated, nothing left but the shape of the paper on the back of the stone. Seeds in my journey.

He created this journey for my restoration in a very personal and specific part of my life, and He will do the same for you dear ones. He knows the innermost pain, the shameful secrets and guilt we carry, and He has freedom waiting. There is nothing which cannot be restored. Our Dayspring Garden affords a special place for any and all of it. We bury our pain there, leave it for God to transform, and from it grows great beauty -- through Jesus Christ.

Much love and with my forever heartfelt thanks for all those who have carried out the work in the Garden. One day, I'll be back alongside you.

In His service, Patrice Grant. 12/30/2010.