



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

Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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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

Dearhearts,

I just finished watching “The Help.” My daughter kept asking me if I had seen it yet, as had friends. So tonight I watched it with a friend, and at the end she asked “is that the way it really was?” I lived in Mississippi at the time depicted by the film. Ross Barnett was governor and though, as a freshman in high school, I wasn’t aware of some of the things spotlighted in the film, it brought back a flood of memories. Segregated water fountains and public restrooms – if there were any for blacks. There were even “black” windows and “white” windows at the Dairy Freeze. I had seen enough to know something was desperately wrong in my beloved South...seen enough to ignite a deep inner commitment, to summons words from my heart I still remember to this day, that I would “confront prejudice wherever I found it.”

There was a sense at the time that something big was brewing just beneath the surface, so when it began to break out the next year I was miffed. We had moved to South Dakota, and I felt something akin to Patton’s lament upon being removed of his command: “the entire world is at war and here I am on the sidelines!” That next year George Wallace defiantly blocked entry of the first black student to the University of Alabama and my junior year I watched from afar on television as whites and blacks marched in solidarity to Selma, Alabama. We had moved from the epicenter of something historic only to watch from the sidelines?!? I daydreamed about being in that march...being part of righting a nation’s wrongs. Though my parents never would have let me go, my heart envisioned it...and it raised the bar. It caught me up in something greater than myself.

The great legacy you and I can leave our children and grandchildren is the vision of something greater than themselves. If our lives are to have a sense of purpose...a sense that life has meaning and that we matter...we must be a part of something greater than ourselves.

Not every generation has such moments that call us out of ourselves...that sweep us up into a larger

wave. Ours seems a small world now, a place shrunken by a milieu of options: gadgets to get, things to buy, people to text, places to go...and money enough to have most everything we could want or imagine. But these have caught us in the undertow of a smaller world that wants more and more for itself and thinks less and less of larger things. Having everything money can buy leaves purpose and meaning photo-shopped out of the picture because neither can be purchased. They must be discovered. But how in this monetary, inundated world do we find this gift for ourselves, much less offer it to others?

The larger wave, frothing with purpose and meaning, washes upon every Christian because our faith has put us in touch with something greater than ourselves. Christ’s words speak of this larger place: *go the second mile...love those who hate you...pray for your enemies...do good to them who spitefully use you...give to those who ask of you...forgive...heal... seek the lost.* The great need of the human family is found in these words. The great wave He asks us to surf with Him is found here as well, waiting to crest and catch us up in something big... inviting us to pass the adventure on...to children...to family...to others.

This life is not to be found through a trip or planned adventure. It’s about finding it in the life we live. No matter how mundane or small our life or era may seem, we are part of a larger moment that transcends time and place and circumstance. Only the smallness of our belief or the disruption of our focus keeps us from it.

I love you,

Looking Back at a Year of Blessing

This time last year we initiated some new aspects of our ministry that have proven to be a blessing to others and to us. We hope to continue many of these and add a thing or two for 2012 as well.

Keeping "In-Touch"

The Parlor has become the hub of the wheel of our "In Touch" ministry, serving as a gathering place for visiting, small studies, prayer and reading or just fun. One group of 4 ladies meets weekly to play cards and visit. Others meet for Bible study and discipling, and another meets for prayer. The parlor is becoming increasingly popular as a quiet nook with its bookcases, comfortable chairs and game table and soft Christian music playing in the background.

"In Touch" is about bridging loneliness and isolation to keep people in touch and connected with others and for us to stay in touch through notes and intercessory prayer. Exciting new things are being planned for the Parlor this year. See page three for details.

From one who has already benefited from this "parlor ministry":

"How wonderful Kaye was to me on Wednesday. She ignored the tears and sudden puddling up and gaps and we played cards. We talked and she shared some about her life. Then Gay walked by and popped in and we talked some too. How blessed I am to have those around me who understand without explanations...Angels everywhere."

"Cross - Life"

*from Brenda's Emmaus Study
Begins Thursday January 19, 7:00 p.m.
Dayspring Chapel*

Brenda will teach this 6-week study lifted from the first volume of her *Road to Emmaus Bible Study*. "Cross-Life" explores the cross as "the Power of God" (I Cor. 1:18). Experiencing the cross as a powerful reality in our daily lives changes the way we live and how we recover from life's blows. It is the most powerful unit of the entire 4-volume Emmaus study and carries life-changing possibilities.

Call the Dayspring Office to Register.

The Touch Ministry

The nursing home ministry begun last year has been a source of many blessings. The team started out with three ladies and has grown to six or seven who minister weekly through visits, music and art. Activities director, Judy Mushonga, has written of our team in her newsletter.

The **Art Class** is so well attended there is no more space in the room for anyone else. Creative ways continue to be explored to enrich the lives of the residents.



Art Therapy Workshops

The following note from a participant in our art workshops summarizes the positive ways in which this effort, under the leadership of Elaine Souder, has affected those who have come. See page 3 for details on two new workshops slated to begin in January.

"I just wanted to drop you a note to let you know that making our "journals" in art class has been such a cathartic release... Working through each art project each week brought us so much closer to God and gave us an outlet to express those feelings we have had buried for so long. It also allowed us to share with others so we have become a closer group. I never want this to stop. Thank you so very much for providing this avenue... Praise God for your connection with Elaine."

Parlor Book Club

Windows of the Soul by Ken Gire is a rich and beautiful book that will lead off our Parlor Book Club year starting **10:00 a.m. January 10** – the **second Tuesday** in January. It is scheduled for 3 weeks but can be extended if the group chooses. Seven women have signed up for the discussion of Gire's wonderful work, but we have an extra copy or two of the book if you are interested but have not yet registered.

Patty Stefani will be leading the discussion and has great plans for bringing it to life in new ways. Please let us know immediately if you have not already registered your desire to attend.



"With Love Creations":

Knitting Lives Together

If you have ever thought you'd like to learn tatting or crocheting, quilting or knitting, our ***In-Touch Ministry*** offers a unique opportunity to learn while at the same time ministering to others.

Kaye Sinkule brings her many talents to the Parlor to teach these and more in a series of classes beginning with **crocheting on Thursday, January 19 from 9:30-11:30.**

The 10-week class will cover everything from needles and threads to finishing and accents.

"By the time you complete it," Kaye says, "you will not only know every crochet stitch but you will learn many tricks of the trade, how to read several different patterns, how to change patterns, and how to create your own patterns. You will also learn how to insert other items in your crochet, such as ribbons, and other threads as well as jewelry."

Class size is limited to 6 or 7 persons. A second class will be offered if needed on Thursday afternoons from **1:00-3:00.**

Each class will be divided into two 1-hour sessions. The first hour will be instructional for beginners to learn all there is to know about crocheting as they create something for themselves while the second hour entails making items for others, hence "With Love Creations." It is the opportunity to *"take what you have learned and create items that will be donated to the less fortunate,*

nursing home residents, hospitals, or any other need we find. The first offerings may be baby blankets for hospitals or hand warmers for nursing home... whatever the group decides to do. These creations will be based on the current class offering. If you are learning to crochet, we will be creating crocheted items for

donation. If we are learning to quilt, we will be creating quilted items for donation. If we are learning counted cross stitch, we will create such items for donation."

For the first class you will need to bring a size G aluminum crochet hook and a 5 oz. skein of **acrylic** crochet yarn (color of your choice). In this class you will decide on your first creation and additional supplies you will need.

To help compensate Kaye for her time, we are suggesting a

donation of \$40.00 for this ten-week course to be paid up front to Dayspring if possible. Partial or complete scholarships are available for those who cannot pay but still want to participate.

If you already know how to do these things but would like to be part of the fellowship and ministry you are welcome as long as there is room. **Register** soon by completing the registration form on the back of the enclosed donation card or calling our office **with your time and interest preferences.**



The Artist Within – A Journey of the Spirit

New Semester of Art Therapy Workshops Begins This Month

We are excited to offer two new weekly workshops this spring that afford unique opportunity to use art as a medium for personal discovery. Both cover the same material and are scheduled to begin

Monday, January 23, from 4:00 - 6:00
and

Friday, January 27, from 1:00 - 3:00

According to workshop creator, Elaine Souder, these classes will be comprised of "two one-hour sections.

The first hour will be watercolor journaling. Journaling is used to encourage an awakening of the heart and the

mind. It takes time and often courage but it creates in us a sacred space where God can meet us.... This class will be an exploration using a combination of personal journaling and watercolor techniques. This process is designed to unite visual images with our written words and thus create a new experience and a greater self-knowledge.

The second hour of each class will be devoted to the study of the elements and principles of design. This study is called ***The Eye of the Beholder***. Participants will work through a variety of art projects involving various mediums, including photography. This series is

developed to encourage the seeing of our world in a different way and taking time to notice God's personal design in creation.

After the conclusion of the design study, the second hour for each class will be devoted to working through a series of clay projects entitled *The Potter's Hand*. Future newsletters will carry more detailed information as we near the beginning of this second workshop unit on clay.

Each project completes in 4 weeks, making it easy to opt in or out. Fees are \$20.00 monthly (\$5.00 per session) to be made payable to Dayspring with scholarships available if needed.

Elaine's list of needed Supplies: Watercolor Journal or spiral, any waterproof inkpen, Radiograph or Zig Pigment Pen. *"I have used all three and all work well. My personal preference for journaling is the Pilot G-2 ink pen (which can be found at Walmart), and a set of any type of watercolors. I have used basic Prang or*

Crayola oval pan watercolor sets as well as expensive watercolor tube sets. I encourage creativity, not the purchasing of expensive supplies. As you become more involved in any medium, particularly watercolor for this class, you will develop a liking of various types of paper, watercolors, and brushes, but for now an inexpensive set of supplies is the best option. You will be given the opportunity to experiment with various papers, paints, and brushes as we go through the class. I am asking that you purchase these supplies so that you will have access to them at any time that you wish to journal." A camera or camera phone that is capable of emailing or downloading images to your computer. All other supplies will be provided.

Space is Limited and Registration is Required. Please fill out and return the registration form on the back of the enclosed donation card or call the ministry office.

Saturday "Meditation on Faith" ***January 28, 8:30 – 11:30***

The fall offerings of "Saturday Meditations" have proven to be a valuable tool in helping people draw closer to God. Encouraged by the enthusiasm of those who participated, we have decided to continue them this spring. If you have not yet attended, we encourage you to carve out the last Saturday of this month and spend a morning with God through His Word.

"The November prayer time at the chapel turned out to be far more than I expected. I only got through half of the verses suggested for meditation during the hour and a half we were to spend with the Lord. I experienced God in a remarkable way. The time flew and God flooded me with personal meaning of the Scriptures as I very slowly chewed on them. I began with thanksgiving and having had difficulty being silent before God, the Scriptures ushered me into His Presence and it was a glorious time. This has changed how I spend time with Him, letting Him do what He wants as I take my time with Him. I can't wait until the next one. Something about being in the chapel I often feel His Presence.

Teresa

Dayspring's January Schedule

January 10: Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.

Windows of the Soul Parlor Book Club / Patty Stefani

January 19: Thursday – 9:30 a.m.

"With Love Creations" / Kaye Sinkule

January 19: Thursday – 7:00 p.m.

"Cross – Life" Bible Study / Brenda Cox

January 23 & 27: Monday / Friday

Art Therapy Workshops begin / Elaine Souder

January 28: Saturday – 8:30 a.m.

Saturday Meditation / Brenda Cox

Monday Study Group – 7:00 p.m. / Gay Bostick

Sunday Chapel – 8:00 a.m. / Brenda Cox

See Complete Spring Calendar on our Website

Refer friends or family to our on-line Newsletters if they do not receive them by mail. Current newsletters are up around mid-month.

Thank You for Your Continued Financial Support that allows us to bring Christ to others through teaching, through ministering and inner healing...through love.