

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

Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

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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

Decisions...decisions

Dearhearts,

He was the founder of the towering church of the 18th and 19th centuries and was a leader in the holiness movement. He led scores of his members to the New World to evangelize the Indians. His commitment and passion for the Lord were legendary and yet, when faced with peril at sea on one of those missionary voyages, his fears told him something was deeply unfinished in his soul. Upon his return to England John Wesley penned the following words in his diary, “I can talk well...when no danger is near. But let death look me in the face, and my spirit is troubled...I went to America to convert Indians, but oh, who shall convert me?”

Though it would not seem so to him, next to his conversion, this was the great moment of his life. A night of bitter weeping. It was his plunge into that desperate humility of reckoning with who he really was - a reckoning essential for spiritual integrity. We all have unfinished business in our soul. Yet we all want to be Don Quixote and Sancho, strong and noble and fierce for right...or at least we hope to be seen as such. Outwardly he and his brother were perfect Christian specimens. But both were snared in their own noble efforts, and neither could see what lay hidden in them.

It was a storm at sea that revealed what he could not know of his own soul. As with Peter, John Wesley emerged from his bitter night poised for transformation. It only awaited a vision of what was possible and a decision to press on toward a higher mark. The vision came from people who walked to a rhythm greater than their own. He had seen what he was. Now, through them, he saw what he could be.

We all live in the illusion of our own souls, thinking ourselves to be other than we are. And yet we all have had storms at sea; all a spate of light that causes us to see our true selves. All moments that demand a decision. Will I glance away and pretend I didn't see or will I, like Wesley, let it disturb me? Wesley let the painful truth emerge. Conviction does not come without discomfort. And change does not come without conviction. The change for Wesley was that the noble but frail quest of his soul became infused with the Spirit. Had he and his brother both not looked squarely at their own

deficiencies and faced what it meant, there likely would not have been a spiritual revolution in the Methodist church or a great awakening in Europe and America. Some years later, Wesley initiated a New Year's Eve “watch” with his church in which they renewed their covenant commitment with God each new year.*

Two dreams are needed for transformation in any soul...a nightmare and a vision. A nightmare awakens us to the frailty and impotence of our own noble aspirations. A vision shows us what is possible in His Spirit. Both demand a conscious decision. In every generation God needs a remnant of His children who will decide to step forth from the common cloth and press on toward the mark of the high calling of Christ.

On the last Sunday evening of January, I will be telling the story of the people who were not only instrumental in the spiritual transformation of the Wesley brothers but who were Divine instruments in changing the world for two centuries. These people were both the spate of light that exposed the frailty of the Wesleys' faith and the vision of what could be. Afterwards, though it is not New Year's Eve, there will be a time for a personal and communal renewal of our commitment to Him for this new year.

There is a need for you and me to take inventory of where we are and of who we are. To stand in a light that exposes the blemishes of our life with God. It is easy to look pretty good on the outside. But how do we look within? What kind of commitment do we carry? Is there a need for renewal? And what new thing might await your choosing this year?

We have been placed in times that require large decisions of us...to let a blade of light shine in our hidden patches or to be that for someone else. These times call for God's people to walk to a rhythm greater than our own and be transformed by it.

I love you,

*See page 3 for more information including Wesley's covenant prayer

Ministry Year in Review



"In Touch" Parlor Ministry Flourishes

Begun just over a year ago, the Dayspring parlor has surpassed our hopes for its use. Arranged as a reading library and prayer room, it is being used as an instrument for keeping people in touch with themselves, with others and with the Lord.

- **Parlor Book Club** has consistently held attendance at 7-10 women as they have discussed "A Thousand Gifts," and "Spiritual Rhythms."
- **Wednesday Games** meets more inconsistently now but offers a place of fellowship and connection.
- **Needlework Classes** have seen over 20 people producing almost 100 blankets for families and individuals with special needs.

Touching Lives in the Nursing Home

Our Touch Team continues to minister faithfully in the nursing home and, by the responses of the residents, is reminded of the importance of what they do.

"Though it is very painful to see our bedridden friends get weaker each week, Barbara told us a week ago that she is ready and can't wait to see the Lord! What an encouragement her faith is to me... Ramona asked Elizabeth if she would be with her and hold her hand when she died. We all felt honored she would ask that of us. It tells us somehow what we're doing really matters." -- Caroline

Elaine Souder's nursing home **Art Class** continues to be faithfully attended. She is assisted, now, by Anne Morton.

Chapel and Garden Weddings

Our chapel and garden are becoming increasingly popular for weddings. Thirteen couples took their vows here in 2012.



2012 Ends with A Night of Caroling Thanks to so Many who Made it Possible

We saw our largest turnout yet for our annual Christmas caroling as nearly 30 people walked and sang through the neighborhood around the Dayspring office. The night was clear and pleasant and many families were sitting outside waiting for us. We normally have 15 bags to give out to those who greet us, but your response this year in providing for the gift bags was beyond our expectations and allowed for a record 26 bags to be given out. This considerably lengthened our caroling time so we were particularly grateful for Jack Bostick's brightly lit trailer that ported us around the neighborhood for an added bonus of a hayride.



Afterwards, those who could stay topped off the evening with wonderful home-made hot chocolate and cider and desserts.

Several girls from Polly Rash's class personally designed the gift bags and included personalized, hand made cards in each.

We are so grateful for all who came and for so many who funded the bags, made the bags, organized and provided the food and hayride.

"My husband and I received a true Christmas gift of joy when we went caroling with the Dayspring group. The group distributed 26 beautiful, well-needed baskets of hams and gifts to the surrounding community. It touched my heart and is humbling to see how tearfully grateful these people are to receive these gifts that I take so for granted. This experience blesses me each year and I won't miss it for it reminds me of what is truly important!"

Art Therapy Workshops

Elaine Souder's popular classes continue on multiple days. Contact her at 214-404-9113 if you are interested in participating.

Anticipating the Year to Come

A Special Evening With People Who Changed the World 6:00 p.m. Sunday, January 27

Mark your calendars for a return of Brenda's power point talk on the great Moravian prayer vigil and its worldwide impact through to the 20th century. It's a gripping narrative, punctuated by pictures and graphs, of a ragtag group of disparate people who found a common unity in Christ.

John Wesley was particularly impacted and the eventual result was a yearly personal and church-wide re-commitment to the sovereignty of Christ. Every New Year's Eve he led his congregation in that renewal for the coming year. It was followed by a meal, patterned after the "love feasts" of the first century church and then ended with observance of the Lord's Supper.

In keeping with that tradition, following Brenda's power point presentation, for those who wish to do so, there will be a time of personal and corporate re-commitment. Wesley's words (top right) will be used, or if you would like to use your own wording we will incorporate that into your time. We will close with observance of the Lord's Supper.

If there are but a few who come, we will also include a meal in keeping with the New Testament church tradition.

If you have an interest in this personal and communal re-commitment of this year to Christ, it will be important to let us know so we may better plan the evening.

Sunday Morning Chapel Study Continues in Numbers

We are past the half way point in our study of the book of Numbers and anticipate another month before concluding this study.

Brenda is considering a study of *Revelation* for the next chapel study. It will take at least a year to complete and should begin toward the end of February.

See next month's newsletter for final details.

Wesley Covenant Prayer

The prayer below reflects a heart that comes to God on His terms. That trusts God regardless of the circumstances of his life and who yearly re-enlists in that covenant relationship.

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

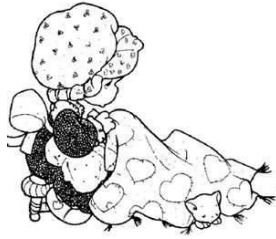
"East of Eden" First Tuesday Conversations Return February 5

Though the format will be slightly different, we are reviving our Tuesday evening conversations. The content for this monthly series will draw from Brenda's Road to Emmaus III with the format being a mix of lecture and Bible study and with the time expanded to an hour and a half. This series will examine the two mysterious trees in the Garden of Eden and their implications for us. It will also look at the nature of God and Satan, of man and of the world and why God must work with us as He does. It is here, East of Eden, that we may better understand pain and suffering in our lives.

This will be the only topic for the 2013 series and will be held in the chapel from 7:00 – 8:30 the first Tuesday of each month.

Quilting Classes to be Offered

Starting Monday, January 21st and Thursday, January 24th I will be offering quilting classes that will consist of instruction on: Design, Piecing, Appliqué, Embroidery and Stitching. We will begin a project, which I am calling the Dayspring Quilt Project, to create a quilt representing all of the Dayspring ministries and what they have meant to you. Even if you can't participate in the classes, if you would like a block to be included in the quilt that represents something of Brenda's ministries that has particularly blessed you just let me know. Here are a few ideas of blessings you might have received.



- Prayer Retreats or Kaleo Bible Conferences
- Wedding in the Chapel
- A Bible Study or verse taught by Brenda
- A Book Club (Classics/Dinner/Parlor)
- A stroll in the garden / a flower in the garden
- Listening to the birds or watching the squirrels in the garden
- Solace in prayer in the Chapel
- Emotional or spiritual healing from counseling
- Fellowship in the parlor
- Caroling

Classes will be held weekly for ten weeks to complete the blocks. An additional group of classes will be held after the blocks are ready for the completion of the quilt and learning how to quilt. A guest from the Quilter's Guild will be attending occasionally to assist us.

To secure a spot (or to let me know of a "ministry block" you would like to have in the quilt), please call Kaye Sinkule at 214.562.6044 or the Dayspring Office. An initial donation of \$40 for costs for the class is suggested.



Parlor Book Club

"A group of 7 women gather in a comfortable, peaceful surrounding to seek God's wisdom... The book study will begin again on Tuesday, January 8, at 10:00 a.m. We are studying 'Spiritual Rhythms' by Mark Buchanan. Come join us for an uplifting morning with a cup of tea, fellowship and award winning authors who are hand picked by Brenda."

-- Patty Stefani

Prayer Ministry Targets 4th Saturdays

Our traditional Saturday morning prayer focus remains this spring but with a shift in emphasis to teaching for the first hour on entering into the prayer of communion. The remaining 2 hours of each "Saturday Meditation" will be allocated for application in personal prayer time. This may be done either by using what has been covered in the first hour OR by using scripture as has been done this past year on our "meditation Saturdays."

Because the technique of meditating Scripture has been so helpful for those who attended the prayer Saturdays last year, we don't want to do away with that approach, but will be adding additional ways to still our own voices and enter more deeply into His presence.

When prayer changes how we experience God, it changes everything else in our lives. Whether it is a gentle presence of peace that presses in on us with comfort or calm or an overwhelming sense of the supernatural that knocks us speechless our soul is forever scathed and we are left to exult with Jacob... "surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it!"

Please Consider a Different Kind of Adventure
and Mark Your Calendar for the Spring

"Fourth Saturday" Meditations Begin
February 23, 8:30 – 11:30
Dayspring Chapel

WEBSITE UPDATES

Mike Vlk continues to up-load Brenda's most recent teachings on Sunday morning to the website, often on the very day they are taught. You may listen on-line or download to your computer or ipod.

We are so grateful to Mike for working out all the kinks and making it work so seamlessly for the rest of us.

Check the **Website Calendar and Bulletin Board** for the ministry schedule including changes and additions as they occur. We will be more diligent this year in keeping up-dates current so you should be able to check on line for the latest information.