



“...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

A Common Loaf...Broken and Blessed

Dearhearts,

As I studied, again, the Moravian prayer vigil that continued uninterrupted for 100 years I was awed by the impossibility of what they did. The magnitude of their commitment... the entirety of surrender that seized an entire community and held them in its grip for over a century. They had to be some sort of spiritual giants not seen since the New Testament church. They literally laid down their lives to get the gospel of Christ to remote parts of the world. And yet...

They started as a bickering flock of religious grackles. Having fled the religious persecutions, they sought the peace and safety of the promised refuge of “Herrnhut” in eastern Germany only to create there a world like the one they had fled. Harsh. Harping. Fractious. They could do nothing for five years except quarrel theologically and split doctrinal hairs.

It was this group that emerged from the summer of 1727 as a force that would change the world through their prayers and through their lives. Their praying began in May of that year, but they were not prayers of intercession as one might expect when mountains are moved. Not prayers for revival. Or healing. Or miracles. Not prayers of Divine intervention amid the impossibles of life...prayers summoning signs and wonders sure to snare the world in holy upheaval. No. Theirs were simply prayers of repentance. Prayers baptized in tears from hearts broken by their own pride and prejudice. Hearts that no longer sought doctrinal rightness and the contention that comes with that. Those things were dimming as night fades into dawn. Increasingly, they sought only Christ, and they found themselves overtaken that summer by a new theology... the theology of love. By the end of summer their driving prayer was that the Lord would “bless their witness,” their witness to Christ. That their lives would show His love. And as they prayed...the entire community of 300 people was engulfed with an unstoppable love that eventually spilled out on a contentious and stuporous world to contaminate it with something Divine... something that cannot be conjured by the human soul.

When John Wesley saw it he exclaimed, “Oh when will *this* Christianity cover the world!”

It was this Christianity that infected millions of people over two centuries who were drawn to Christ through their love, their prayers, their lives...their legacy. And yet, these weren’t some sort of spiritual giants. They were just a ragtag group of disparate refugees from the religious wars of Europe who brought with them their own arsenals of war. What, alone, made the difference was God’s movement upon them as they sought Him with bended heart. And He tuned their religious swords into plowshares. What was irrelevant was transformed. What was good became what was best.

I am struck, in our journey with the Lord, that the very things that seem most noble and good and right, often deflect us from a greater purpose. Our passion for an empowered prayer life, for example, may be our greatest hindrance to it. As our focus rivets on results it may subtly drift from the Lord to fix on the lesser gods of healings and miracles. Our quest for provision or change - our zeal for results - may lead us to intense intercession but it may deflect us from God. We will know it when unanswered prayer becomes a source of anger or doubt about God or we engage in a quest to get prayer to work better. And suddenly my focus is on answered prayer rather than the one who is the answer.

The Moravians were never after powerful prayer and yet, on my, how they found it! They first were humbled and then they clung to Jesus. Their focus, during this “golden summer,” and beyond, was not on results...it was on Christ. The impact of their lives, the power in their prayers, did not come as they prayed for results, it came as they yielded to Christ and asked Him to bless what they gave to Him. When they did, *they* became the result of their prayers. They became the bread broken and blessed by the Savior...Bread that fed the unseen multitudes gathering upon the hills of earth.

I love you,

"The Ancient Paths"

February 5 - 7:00 p.m.

"First Tuesday" Study

Last month we called it a "conversation" and this month a "study." Brenda's monthly Tuesday evening will be a mix of the two that looks at how things are set up between God and man and why they must be that way. These ways between man and God were set up at the beginning of time as man exited the Garden. It is from these "ancient paths" from Eden and before that our most perplexing questions find their answers... questions of pain and suffering and a loving God, of why God deals with us as He does, of why Christ is the only way by which man can be saved. We will look, as well, at the nature of the two mysterious trees in Eden and of a third tree planted at Calvary and what that means for how we are to live.

Come prepared for personal study and conversation regarding the great mysteries of our faith.

"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." Jer. 6:16

Saturday Meditation Changed to February 16, 8:30 – 11:30

*Dayspring Chapel
Please Note New Date*

Art at the Nursing Home

As you can see, the weekly classes at the nursing home are well attended. Elaine Souder's ministry through art continues to bless and be blessed. With the number who have been attending, there has been a real need for someone to assist her, and Anne Morton has come in to fill that gap in wonderful ways!

We are grateful for this special area of ministry in the nursing home.

Elaine provides all art supplies. If you would like to help with those expenses we will be happy to pass on the donation to her.



New Opportunities to Serve

Neighborhood Touch Team.

As we caroled through the community around Dayspring in December, we were once again reminded of the needs that exist there. A few years ago we began trying to address some of those needs, but given our limited manpower, it was difficult to maintain the consistency of effort. It seems this may be better timing for us overall as a ministry for outreach into our neighborhood.

There are some with health issues in the neighborhood including one or two widows with multiple needs, especially with yard and minor home repairs. Our first step is to gather a crew of people we can call on to help on a workday with yard clean-up and some repairs or other unexpected needs that might include such things as transportation for doctor visits.

If you would like to be available for this neighborhood outreach you may fill out the enclosed form or call the office.

Crises Fund.

For many years we had a crisis fund for families and individuals in need. It had been funded by a tithe from a life insurance policy. Once it was exhausted we were unable to set back money to continue it. Recently, a couple who supports the ministry has asked us to take monthly payments we were making to them and put it into a crisis fund...which they would match! So we now have a small, but growing fund to help people in crisis as the needs arise. If you would like to contribute to this fund, you may do so by making a payment to Dayspring with a designation at the bottom to Crises Fund.

Website Updates

Brenda's most recent teachings are now on-line: **A People Who Changed the World**, the story of the greatest prayer vigil in Christian history, as well as the most recent Sunday morning lessons on **Numbers**. (Can be downloaded to iPhones.)

Future Dates/Offerings

Classics Book Club to be revived beginning Tuesday evening March 26 at 7:00. Call office for details.

Easter Week Observances March 25-31 – includes Thursday Vesper Service, all-day Good Friday observance and Easter Sunrise Service.