



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

505 E. Boydston, Rockwall, Texas 75087
972-722-1905

www.dayspringdiscipleship.org

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

April 2010

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

Newsletter

"If my kingdom were of this world..."

Dearhearts,

He was a swashbuckler at heart. Brandishing his sword, staring death in the face to protect his king. Two of his compatriots, brothers known as "sons of thunder" by the locals, were cut from the same ruffian cloth. Heady with the power recently granted them as the king made his way to the walled city to assume his throne, they stood poised to call in air fire on those who rejected the king. Only his restraining command averted the carnage. "You do not understand what spirit you are of," he had admonished. "I have come not to destroy but to give life."

And therein lies the difference between all the king's men and the king. They would have chosen a white steed for his triumphal procession into the capital city. He chose a donkey. They would have driven out the hated Romans. He subdued a greater kingdom by how He lived. We keep score by how we fight and whom we slay. He keeps score by how he died and whom he saves.

If his kingdom were of Roman kith, he would have turned plowshares into swords and irrigated the valleys with blood. That will come one day when he takes earth back by force...but first it must be won by choice; we must be wooed with love. With love because the enemy is evil. The enemy *is* evil. The enemy is hate. Only love can defeat hate; only good can overcome evil.

His is a kingdom we do not see, hidden inside an army of Trojan horses. We have been dispatched to live as one of theirs but to love as one of His; to let Him slip out into their night bearing His torch. Remember, the enemy is not the evil ones "out there"; it is the evil out there. It is the "evil one." Only weapons of the spirit can defeat an enemy of the spirit. The ballot box won't. Politics won't. Arguments won't mean nothing to a spiritual foe. In fact, these may be but alluring traps that draw us into a peat bog and bury us there.

So how do we fight such wars? How, as citizens of a democracy, do we render unto Caesar what is his, and unto God what is God's? We must arm ourselves in truth and carry ourselves in light.

We do this by speaking truth in love and confronting sin...first in our own lives, and then by loving the sinner. There is no permission in Christ to hate sin if we do not love the sinner. If we hate the sinner while hating the sin, we ourselves are sinning and are blinded by the log in our own eye.

Be informed and involved in our elections but, once rendered:

"Honor the President and Pray for all in authority."

"Honor all men."

"Love believers."

"Submit to the laws and ordinances of government."

We are to be a gracious and kind people; a people who turn the other cheek, not slap the other cheek with meanness of word or spirit. If His kingdom were of this world, then would we fight as the world fights. Though we bear their likeness, there is a treasure in our earthen vessels, and we bear a love that is not our own. We carry a light that is not of earth, and we are asked to let it shine, uncovered, so that men may see our good works ...and glorify God.

I love you,

"First of all, prayers and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

I Tim. 2:2-4

"Have your conversation honest among unbelievers that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall see, glorify God.

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king as supreme...or unto governors... for this is the will of God, that with well doing you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men..."

I Peter 3:12-17

The Mystery of Longing

Concludes our "Mysteries" Series

Nearly twenty men and women attended the last of Brenda's year-long conversations on *Mysteries from a Sacred Hand* on April 6. We are so grateful for the faithful support so many have shown for this series that began a year ago this month. Because attendance has not held as steady overall as have the conversations on prayer, it has seemed appropriate to shift to monthly conversations on prayer in the fall.

Thank you Teresa Box and Gay Bostick for your faithful work behind the scenes with refreshments and clean-up.

Next Conversation on Prayer

"Prevailing Prayer"

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 4
Dayspring Chapel

Daytime Book Club Led by Pat Townsend

Hind's Feet on High Places

Our first effort to extend our evening book clubs into a daytime venue begins in May as Pat Townsend leads a discussion of Hannah Hurnard's classic in her home. In an effort to make our book club ministry more accessible to more people, we are seeking to expand both the dinner and classics clubs into daytime home discussion groups.

These books open new vistas into our life in Christ and invite us into an adventure with Him. *Hind's Feet* paints a picture of our spiritual *journey* with its ups and downs and confusing twists and turns. Hurnard's insights open windows of understanding into our own life with Christ.

At this point the roster is full, but if you would like to be a part of Pat's home group discussion, please call our office and we will place you on a waiting list. Frequently, there are last minute cancellations.

Teaching Tours of the Garden

To show how the Garden can be most fully utilized, and to open its use to more people, Brenda will be conducting hour long teaching tours of the Garden beginning in April. The Tabernacle Alcoves can facilitate a personal, intimate prayer experience in the Lord as people come to understand its use and purpose. The Garden of the Unborn is intended to facilitate healing and forgiveness from abortion or miscarriage, while Amy's Garden is designed to reassure of the possibilities Christ holds for healing from profound childhood issues and to encourage movement toward that.

It is our desire that the Dayspring Community Prayer Garden be used by the community. If you would like to learn more of the workings of the prayer garden both for your own personal understanding or to help others in its use, please let us know.

Big Push in April with Prayer Garden

The call is going out for all hands on deck for our traditional April workdays in the prayer garden. We ask your thoughtful consideration regarding help in putting a new spring face on the garden. A great deal of clean up is needed, which requires no green thumb, just a willing heart and a body that works reasonably well.

Our normal March start-up has been delayed this spring due to the unseasonably cold weather. This means we need as much help as we can get and hope to have teams out in the garden every weekend in April except for Easter weekend. Following is a list of just some of the ways people may help.

Azalea Beds in need of a Coffee Break.

Coffee grounds are a great boost to azaleas. If you can donate grounds or put them into the azalea beds please let us know.

Picking up Limbs.

Raking the Garden Pockets.

Sewing Fescue Grass in Garden Pockets.

Treating Fire Ant Mounds.

Financial .

It takes at least \$2,000.00 to keep the prayer garden going each year. This normally comes out of the pocket of two or three people who also do most of the work in the garden.

Reflections from Easter

The last week in the life of the Lord is, for the ministry, a week of reflection and focus on Christ and the immensity of what He did for us. Though attendance was somewhat down this year, we offer on this page reflections from some who attended the various offerings.



Thursday Evening

“David and I were both deeply moved by the Thursday evening Vesper Services. The message Brenda gave was outstanding, to learn about the *true* Gethsemane and what communion holds in the cup and in the broken bread for all. We will never look at communion the same....Again, you leave us wanting to love and know Christ more. This quote by Isaac Watts sums it up for us, ‘Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.’” Bobbie

“I was so choked up that I couldn't sing for the last hymn.” John

“I crossed the path that led to the garden and the chapel. As fresh new green buds burst forth on the trees in the garden, candles glowed softly within the chapel from logs recently cut from my dear friend's tree. The Lord's Supper was simply and beautifully displayed in remembrance of Him. Like 1st century Christians, we held hands, sang sweet hymns of praise and thanksgiving, and shared friendships that were bound by the love of Jesus. The sacred teachings of our Lord, His agony and sacrifice, His love were magnified in my heart. I am so grateful for the Holy Week services provided by the Dayspring ministry. The setting...the simplicity... the sacredness.... He lives!” Becky E.

“Thursday evening was beyond words.” Karen

Noon Devotionals

“I come each year and enjoy so much attending the week before Easter services in the chapel. It helps me focus on Christ's last week. Monday's service especially spoke to me, as I hadn't considered Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, that that era for her to bear God's fruit was

coming to an end. I saw another aspect of Jesus and his grief over our lives when He puts so much into us and we fail to bear the fruit He has equipped us to bear.” Teresa

“My walk with Christ has been one of introspection and education. Brenda's Holy Week chapel devotionals provided me and my friends with both. Quiet meditation interspersed with an education on "this week in the life of Christ" was better than I could have imagined.

I would strongly recommend the Holy Week services as both educational and inspirational. Time alone in the middle of an ordinarily hectic day changed my perception of where importance really lies. Thank you Brenda! Doug Kaufmann

“This week of Easter was brought to life with not only the historical timeline but also the holiness of Jesus' last week. The experience became very personal for each of us!” Patty & Kim

Good Friday

“Good Friday this year took on a whole new meaning for me. I had planned to be at the Chapel at 8:30 a.m., leave at 9:30 to have coffee with a friend, be back at the chapel at noon for a silent vigil and then home by 3. To make a long story short, Jesus had a different idea! I ended up not saying a word, and literally not leaving my seat for six and a half hours. With that said, it was one of the most incredible experiences I've ever had. I told Brenda afterwards that spending time reflecting on what Christ was going through that Friday gave Easter a whole new meaning for me. The love and sacrifice that Christ displayed on Good Friday means more to me than words can ever express and I will be forever changed because of it. Thank you Brenda for leading us to the foot of the cross on Good Friday to get a glimpse of what it might have been like 2000 years ago. And THANK YOU JESUS for what you did for me there; you are an AWESOME God!” D.B.

“P.S. If you ever have 6 hours to spare on Good Friday... I highly recommend a trip to the Cross.”

**Thank You for Your Continued Giving
to the ministry of Dayspring
during these uncertain financial times.**

**We are so Grateful for Your Faithfulness
and
Your Prayerful Support**

The Sojourner's Quill

The Lies We Believe



As Holy Week began I was struggling so with wanting, desiring and craving a deeper walk with God. Always bound by some unknown force that has held me back from Him all my life. I'm now discovering it is the lies I have believed about Him. Due to such profound sexual abuse as a child I have always had a very distorted view of what love looks like. It sealed me in a tomb of never being able to truly love or to receive being loved. It didn't take me long to realize as I grew up that God did not like sexual sin. He wanted a spotless bride. I was supposed to be pure and holy. That was a foreign concept to me – all I felt was used up, contaminated and unholy. Out of that was birthed the lie that maybe I could perform and obey my way into His good graces, since I felt like I had nothing to offer. Over the last few weeks He prompted me to re-read Hosea. I have begun to understand in a new way God's love for me and His pursuit of me.

As I came to the chapel each day and knelt before the cross and the communion table, I would ponder the words written there, "this do in remembrance of me." As I took the bread I would hear, "*I am the bread of life.*" This prompted me to look at – what do I turn to for life? Relationships, career, good works. As I took the cup – "this is my blood shed for you" – another lie

**After 30 years
I'm a pretty good
picture of the
Proverbs 31 woman,
yet I don't feel any
closer to God.**

peeled away, that my performance and obedience will never atone for my sin.

The next day as I took the bread, "*This is my body broken for you*"; next lie peeled away – I don't have to carry my sin anymore or let it keep me broken. Jesus you took it and the curse from it onto yourself. As I took the cup – "*This is my blood of the covenant poured out for you.*" What covenant? What kind of love is this? I realize I don't know what to do with this kind of love! By the middle of the week I had reached a point of kneeling at the cross and as I took communion I would focus on just receiving His offer of life and love. What does it look like to be loved like this? Each day God would peel back one more layer of my faulty belief system.

By Friday as I sat at the cross His words to me were "this is what love looks like....you have nothing to fear.....it is the power that has changed the world.....it is freedom." All of my anxiety melted away. Now I understood why perfect love casts out fear. As I have received His love more and more each day, my walk with Him is effortless. It flows from a grateful heart – one of love for Him, not forced but freely given. The Lord's supper has truly been a place of deep communion with Him. A place to allow His gentle touch to open my eyes to the lies that have bound me for so long and to receive His offer of love!

I hope my legacy is not a Proverbs 31 woman but that I became a woman who received God's grace and dispensed it to others, freely!

-- Gay

"6 Hours One Friday"

"Transformation occurred while sitting at the foot of the Cross 6 hours one Friday. To abandon my schedule, my plans and be devoted to Him in His time of undeserved suffering, pain and great agony was a privilege and honor. Through silent reflection and guided scripture readings, these 6 hours illuminated a deeper understanding of His cross, the last hours of His life, and His final words spoken.

This time with Him radically altered my disposition and perspective of counting the cost. To sit with Him that day brought amazing insight into my life, my sin, His life and the ultimate price of His death.

His only request.... 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death, stay here and keep watch with me.' (Matthew 26:38 NIV)

.....And my life is no longer my own." L. V.

Communion to be Available Daily in Chapel

For some time Brenda has been considering having communion available daily in the chapel for personal, individual observance. With the experience above it seems the time is at hand to proceed with that nudging.

As of Monday, April 12, the communion table will be set and available for personal communion during the hours the chapel is open.

At present it is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and is usually open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

It can be a time of growth and deepening relationship with the Lord, and we welcome your participation.