



# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

302 S. Fannin, Rockwall, Texas 75087

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 552, Fate, TX 75132

469-338-5191

[www.dayspringdiscipleship.org](http://www.dayspringdiscipleship.org)

*"...the ministry of the Word"* – Acts 6:4

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

April 2016 "...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness..." – Luke 1:78-79

Newsletter

Dearhearts,

It is in the valley that the chariot of God swings low. Swings low to meet us where we are. To carry us through the bog...or to lift us out. But sometimes our fear blinds us. Sometimes our grief so blurs our vision we do not see as with Elisha's servant- the chariots of holy fire rimming our mountains ready to battle for us.

My hardest times, when God seemed harshly unmindful of my desperate straits...when he was rock hard and I knew I didn't like Him anymore, are those I look back on now and see that it was there that my life changed. My walk with Him, strangely, grew from that humus. Grew stronger. Grew deeper. But in the valley I could not see Him. I did not know who this strange, remote Being was who had fallen from a throne of intimate caring to one of detached indifference. It is in these places that we most fear what we have signed up for.

And then...a chariot of fire on the mountain. An army of one...snatching me up...or out at the last possible terrifying moment! It is in these bi-polar swings that we are drawn out to our last gasping breath of faith and then suddenly comes a mighty, gushing torrent.

It is the story of Mary Magdalene weeping at the garden tomb...and then seized with joy. It is the story of Peter weeping in a desolate night and then restored to destiny. Abruptly. In the twinkling of an eye. It is Mary and Martha in the most hopeless of realities and suddenly the impossible happens and tears of excruciating grief turn to tears of gratitude and joy cried over His feet and then wiped dry with her hair.

Where are those places in your life? Places of confusion at best...or anger with God...or a deep, aching despair? Or maybe you're just giving back in kind. He seemed indifferent...so there you are, God...I don't care either! And so our heart goes away. The stuff of relationship freezes. And Christ gets entombed in our pain

We must find where God was in the mess if ever we are to have a faith that sustains us in the valley...a God whose chariot we know will swing low. Know, not by what we see...but by who we know. By faith.

Perhaps 35 years ago as I spoke at my first women's event – a 3 day conference at a large church in Dallas - a young woman whom I had known for several years got up and left. I didn't really think anything of it. She was

probably not feeling well. But it was fifteen years before I heard from her when the phone rang that day. "Do you remember that time you spoke at the church and I got up and left in the middle of it?" she asked as I said yes. "I walked out because you were talking about the potholes in our faith and the need to go back to the hard places in our lives and find where God was in the mess. I was angry because what happened to me when I was 17 was so horrific God could not possibly have been there! Well, I need to ask your forgiveness because two years ago, in a moment, God showed me where He was!" her voice was animated. "I now know He did not abandon me, that He cared about me and what happened. After years of going through the motions with God, I am now a leader in Bible Study Fellowship."

If we do not see His chariot in our valleys, the fear that gripped us there - the confusion and questions - will haunt our soul and hold our faith hostage. It is in the valleys that our view of God is framed. If our heart takes refuge in the catacombs of fear or grief, we will never see Christ standing there with us. We will see only the apparition that formed there of Him. And we will not trust the voice calling to us. Christ called Peter from his bitter night, and He called Mary away from the tomb.

"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

If we always return to the graveyard of our pain...if the Living became entombed there...then we will never see His chariot swinging low to lift us from the valley floor, and our eyes will never be opened to see chariots of God - aflame with glory - that have been fighting for us all along.

I love you,

*When the servant saw the army surrounding them he said to Elisha, "Alas, what shall we do?" And Elisha prayed "Lord, open his eyes that he may see" ...and the eyes of the servant were opened and he saw the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding them...*

II Kings 6:15-17

## Whom You've Helped...

### The Crisis Fund

In November's newsletter we mentioned the long-depleted status of our crisis fund and the woman who had begun sacrificially giving "seed money" to it in the trust that God would grow it into a harvest. On the heels of that article, almost \$1,500.00 came in that month to the crisis fund and by the end of December, you had given just over \$3,000.00. And by the end of December, too, the tornado had hit in Rowlett. From this fund, we have been able to minister to those and other needs:



- Providing groceries and utilities for multiple Rowlett tornado victims
- \$300.00 to a disabled mother of four
- \$500.00 toward dentures for a woman with long-term tooth decay and loss
- Paying someone in need of extra income to clean the ministry facility monthly and compensating another on limited income for hours of service given to the ministry

### Crises Behind the Fund

**Single Mother of 4.** She had managed to provide for her children on her own for many years...until the seizures started. Sometimes dozens a day that, after two years, left doctors scratching their heads and Melody unable to talk. After a year, her speech slowly started returning but remains a great challenge. Still, she has been turned down 7 times for SS disability leaving Medicaid as her only source of income. When she went to her Bible to get the \$300 she had tucked away there for her utilities, it was gone. Though she did not ask for help, when we heard of her need, we were able to help with her utilities.

**Dentures.** She held a high paying managerial position until mental illness struck years ago. Over time, family help has shrunk down to the most basic needs but dental care was not one of them. Her few remaining lower teeth appear ready to collapse from decay. Her 26 year old son has brought her to live with him but he has to choose between her dental needs and having a toilet and bathroom facilities that work. *Because of your gifts* we were able to supplement what he had saved and when we see her the middle of this month she will, for the first time in over a decade, have a full set of beautiful teeth.

## Make a Note for Fall...

### Book Clubs Expanding New Venues...New Studies



Check out the studies below to see if some of our new as well as established book clubs and studies might interest you or, perhaps, someone you know. Come September we will be offering more daytime studies as well as some of our traditional offerings.

- **Christian Biography Book Club** is new and will study the biographies of Oswald Chambers, Hannah Whithall Smith, Amy Carmichael, Jeanne Guyon and others
- **Christian Classics Daytime Book Club.** Always before our classics book club has been an evening offering. This marks our first step into the daylight with books by Watchman Nee, Father Fenelon, St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross. **Look for Thursday mornings with Watchman Nee and *Release of the Spirit* beginning in September**
- **Pat Townsend leads a September Home Study (in Rowlett): *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*** by Hannah Whithall Smith
- **Leanne Vlk** will lead a study on *Relax and Let God* by James Duncan...a life changing book in how to let God do what we cannot.
- **Patty Stefani's Home Book Club and Fellowship** continues on Tuesday mornings as a time of nurturing community and study
- **Dinner Book Club** picks up in the fall with discussion of one of our **Cornerstone Books**

### Cornerstone Books of the Ministry

There are four books that offer profound insight into our understanding of God and His ways with us and are books we repeat as offerings in our studies: **Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ** by Jeanne Guyon; **Relax and Let God** by James Duncan; **Quiet Talks on Prayer** by S.D. Gordon and **No Longer Strangers** by Bruce Larson

-- regarding his mother's dentures --

*"It's the crowning achievement of my intervention in her life.*

*I can't believe I got it done in only 3.5 months.  
Thank you so much for your help!"*

# *Pilgrims of the Night*

## *The Ancients Who Have Touched our World*

*Tuesday Nights in April*  
7:00 p.m.

It is not a course on the Catholic Church or even of the history of Christianity. Rather, our 2016 *Torchbearers Series* of studies focuses on those men and women of our faith, both Catholic and Protestant who markedly impacted how people saw God and how they dared to dream and live. Men and women, both flawed and noble, who dared to believe they could experience God's presence. Who followed and carried a sacred Torch.



*April 12*

**Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross** as contemporaries living in the 1500's were part of the remnant thread of faithful that ran through the Catholic Church at the time of push-back against the priests of the reformation (Luther, Huss, etc.). Though teaching a personal experiencing of Christ, they were revered and eventually canonized by the church.



*April 5*

With an introductory look at the cauldron of turmoil that enveloped the church from the 5<sup>th</sup> century on, we consider the lives of those who were part of the remnant of the faithful who threaded their way through a spiritual night. In framing the context of their lives, we consider with heightened gratitude the magnitude of their faith and quest.



**Julian of Norwich.** Pat Townsend introduces us to this obscure woman whose supernatural revelations of love drew people like a beacon of light in a darkened era.

**Francis of Assisi and Catherine of Sienna** are

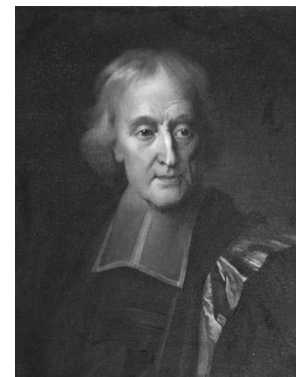
other figures of this era surrounded by legend, some true and some exaggerated. But for both, the blade that cuts through the myth to the truth points to two lives sold out to the quest for God and His ways regardless of the sacrifice.



**Francis de Sales** was another priest of the late 16<sup>th</sup> century who understood a relationship of the Spirit and was known for his humility and grace, always opting for reconciliation and love in the midst of the persecution and condemnation of his day. Pat, Becky Elliston and Brenda will be leading the discussion of these Pilgrims of the soul.

*April 19 & 26*

Half a century later, four figures associated with *Quietism* emerged in the Catholic church with teachings akin to those of Teresa and St. John. But rather than beatification, the church imprisoned **Jeanne Guyon, Miguel Molinos and Father Francois Lacombe**, who never emerged from his imprisonment. **Father Fenelon**, though never imprisoned, faced severe resistance and demotion within the church. These figures, especially Guyon, directly changed the spiritual world of Europe, America and China through to the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their teachings and their lives are a legacy worthy of remembering. They illumine our way and speak to us of enduring faith and love.



## *Teresa of Avila*



“Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which to look out Christ’s compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now...Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

“May today there be peace within.  
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.  
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.  
May you be content knowing that you are a child of God.”

“Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.  
It is there for each and everyone of you.”

## *Miguel Molinos*



“Be not afraid of those trials which God may see fit to send upon thee. It is with the wind and the storm of tribulation that God, in the floor of the soul, separates the true wheat from the chaff. Always remember, therefore, that God comes to thee in thy sorrows as really as in thy joys.”

## *Francis de Sales*

“The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day.  
Either he will shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it.  
Be at peace then and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings.”

“Be patient with everyone, but above all with yourself...do not be disheartened by your imperfections, but always rise up with fresh courage.”

“Be who you are and be that well.”

---

*Consider Sharing your Tuesday Evenings in April with us as we come to Better Know these Pilgrims of the Night*

---

### *Becoming a Person of Impact*

*Saturday April 9  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm*

Our Lay Counseling Training Course continues this month as a single, all-day offering with lunch included. If you plan to attend and have not yet confirmed, please contact the ministry office as soon as possible.

### *On-going Offerings*

#### *Sunday Morning Koinonia Fellowship*

Fifteen to twenty men and women regularly attend our weekly study of Road to Emmaus III. Many linger afterwards for refreshments and fellowship or leave for church services elsewhere.

Join us at 8:30 at the Dayspring House.

#### *Tornado Survivors Support Group*

Monday afternoon 4:00 – 5:30

#### *Road to Emmaus ?*

Thursday afternoon 5:00 – 6:00

#### *Kaleo Roundtable Discussion*

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 12:00 – 1:30

---

*We are Deeply Grateful for Your Continuing Support of the Ministries of Dayspring*