



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

May 2010

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

Newsletter

"...and He gave gifts to men"

Dearhearts,

In the end, nothing else matters but the gift. That which comes to us from another Hand. For you see, life is gift, and we are entrusted with how to live it.

What we make of our lives is not the question. What we make of the life we've been given is. It is the parable of the talents. Our life is gift. We are to make of it what we can.

I'm reminded of the many great souls I know who pour out their lives to others from broken pots. Who come back to the Well over and over again not for their thirst alone but for water to carry to the desert. Who give not from their wealth, but from their poverty.

There are those friends who have lost sons and daughters, but who still give out to others of their love and compassion. Who have not allowed their hearts to shrink. There are those who live in unrelenting pain, but who still live tenderly with others...those who do not allow the desert to dry their souls. The Rock was struck and water gushed forth in the desert. So it is with them.

My friend Helen died many years ago of breast cancer that metastasized in her neck. In her final months the pain was un-manageable. I asked her how she dealt with it. "I offer it up to Christ as my sacrifice...and let Him take it" she told me, "It's amazing how it helps."

There is the friend who was called to the ministry but his wife decided she was not. Upon divorcing him, his pastoral ministry ended because a divorced man could not be a pastor. He shifted to education and became a principal and pursued his doctorate degree. In his oral presentation for his dissertation, one of the professors disagreed with his thesis and told him to change it. When he found he could not in honesty do so, his doctorate was denied. Yet, I see no bitterness or rancor, only kindness and love in this man.

Helen Keller spoke of the beauty of this world and Anne Frank of its goodness. Sometimes the human spirit is a gallant thing. Emboldened by adversity...enlarged by suffering...made rich in poverty.

"He led captivity captive and He gave gifts to men."

The lives of these ordinary men and women bear witness to these words. Captivity has, indeed, been led captive in their lives as they laid down any claims they had to another version of their script.

Sometimes it is our riches that impoverish our soul. We all live much of our lives out on the rim...caught up in the shell of life, but that which we have scratched and scraped to acquire or secure only fades with time.

We must guard against the shrinkage of the heart that comes with having everything we need. What lingers in my soul is not the glitz that once caught my eye like a glint of mica but that which has come to me from another's Hand.

Eventually, what truly matters catches up with us all. It is best if we catch it before it catches us.

In the end what matters is what we did here with the gift.

I love you,

In *Something's Going on Here*, Bob Beason writes of a conversation he had with a close friend several months after his friend's near-fatal heart attack.

"W.T., how did you like your heart attack?"

"It scared me to death, almost."

"Would you like to do it again?"

"No!"

"Would you recommend it?"

"Definitely not."

"Does your life mean more to you than it did before?"

"Well, yes."

"You and Nell have always had a beautiful marriage, but now are you closer than ever?"

"Yes."

"Do you have a new compassion for people – a deep understanding and sympathy?"

"Yes."

"Do you know the Lord in a richer, deeper fellowship than you had ever realized could be possible?"

"Yes."

"How did you like your heart attack?"

Silence was his answer.

A Conversation on Prayer

“Prevailing Prayer”

**7:30 Tuesday Evening
May 6**

Our spring series on prayer concludes with Brenda’s discussion on “Prevailing Prayer.” This hour long teaching on the spiritual components of prevailing prayer is adapted from her prayer seminar, “Seeking the Heart of God.” Attendance for this series has been strong throughout and encourages us to continue these prayer conversations in the fall.

When Christ entered into the temple and there found moneychangers desecrating it with their wares, His righteous anger burst forth and upended the tables and threw them out as He declared: “Do you not know my Father’s house is a house of prayer and you have made it a den of thieves?” In I Corinthians, Paul declares that we – our bodies – now are the temple of God in whom the Holy Spirit dwells. As then, this Father’s house is to be known as a house of prayer; and yet the danger for us today is much as it was then. There are far too many things we drag into our temple to pollute it and rob God of His purposes with us.

We are asked to care enough to rid our temple of those things that would corrupt or hinder God’s ways with us in prayer. Prayer is a mystery. The Lord’s invitation is to enter with Him into this mystery and discover the treasures hidden there. We invite you to be a part of that discovery Tuesday evening, May 6, in the Dayspring Community Chapel, 511 E. Boydston.

Up-Date on Israel Trip

In order to give people as much lead-time as possible to assemble their finances for the trip, it seems best to postpone the date to spring of next year. Almost 20 have expressed a serious desire to go, but most of those are in need of time to save for the trip.

Inspiration Tours has suggested May or March as the best months. We will be polling those who have expressed interest to see which works best. June’s newsletter will carry revised information.

Ministry donations can be made from our website via Pay-Pal by clicking on the “donations” page at bottom of the menu tab.

Snow Covered Prayer Garden on Website

Many more pictures of the prayer garden in snow are up on the Dayspring website on a new page near the top of the menu tab, **prayer garden spring 2010**. Also on this page are more recent spring pictures of the garden.

Ski Rockwall

Just for fun we’ve decided to add a temporary web page immediately below the new prayer garden page of some of the pictures Brenda and Sarah Merritt took of the record 12 inch February snowfall in Rockwall. We hope you will enjoy. (The really good photos are Sarah’s.)

“The trouble with steeling yourself against the harshness of reality is that the same steel that secures your life against being destroyed, secures your life against being opened up and transformed by the holy power that life itself comes from.

You can survive on your own. You can grow strong on your own.

You can even prevail on your own.

But you cannot become human on your own. Surely that is why, in Jesus’ sad joke, the rich man had as hard a time getting into Paradise as that camel had in going through the needle’s eye because with his credit card in his pocket, the rich man is so good at getting for himself everything else he needs that he does not see that what he needs more than anything else in the world can be had only as gift.”

Frederick Beuchner, *The Sacred Journey*

“The gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord...Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.”

Romans 6:23; II Cor. 9:15