



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

June 2014 “...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” – Luke 1:78-79 Newsletter

Sacrament

Dearhearts,

Growing up Baptist, the word “sacrament” was an unknown tongue to me. As best I could figure it meant Catholic. That mysterious act that transforms bread into flesh and wine into blood. For us Baptists, it was always juice, and always symbol...not actual. Always a remembrance of the Real. Not transformational.

The word I did hear frequently was “abundant.” Abundant life was one of those Bible phrases I came to cherish. The prospect of living life to the hilt was alluring. But as I moved into adulthood and real life hit, I began to lose sight of it and noticed that not many Christians seemed to have latched onto it. But the words of John 10:10 and Luke 4:18 about abundance and setting the captives free made me wonder about the tangle of tethers in my own soul that bound me. Fear, worry... anger. Where was His freedom there? Why a promise from the very core of Christ’s purpose among us...why did it not take? With me? With most other believers I knew? He came to give us freedom and abundance yet few of us had it.

I’m becoming fond of the word sacrament these days because I’m realizing it has meaning for us in how we live. In how we see. And it has to do with abundance.

St. Augustine defined sacrament as an “outward, visible sign of an inward, invisible grace or reality.” Sacrament is not just sequestered in a liturgical rite. It is sequestered in creation itself. The stars, the trees...the sun. Outward, visible signs of an invisible reality. God Himself. Creator. When we walk out beneath the canopy of night with sparkling lights cascading upon us from eons past...it is sacrament. An outward, visible sign of an invisible grace. Have we earned such a creation? Worked hard to secure it? No. It is grace. We walk bathed in grace.

Sacrament is sequestered in life itself. Life has been given to us like a communion wafer from the Lord’s hand. Given to be tasted...to be consumed...and to be lived out in our whole being. To make visible with our lives the invisible reality. To be transformed into the sacred.

So we take unfairness and betrayals and transform them by forgiveness. We take meanness and transform it with kindness. We take selfishness and transform it with going the second mile. We take anger and transform it with a gentle response. We take the curse of hate or jealousy and bless, instead, with love or prayer. And it is transformed.

We are told in Leviticus that what is “devoted” – given - to the Lord is holy. He makes it holy. That is what the wave and heave offerings of the old covenant were about. Taking the ordinary of earth...grain, animals... lifting them up before the Lord...and the common is sanctified, transformed into holy. So the ugly that comes to us may be beautified by our response...the profane, sanctified, as we offer the moment to God...the person, the circumstance. That’s what Christ did from the cross as He forgave and commended His spirit. Lifted up between earth and heaven by his own yieldedness, He was not only our sin offering but the ultimate heave offering. And all the world was changed because of it, though it did not know.

So maybe “sacrament,” if it has something to do with how we live, in the real world, maybe it *is* transformational.

Perhaps it is that life is to be lived as sacrament...an outward expression of the hidden sacred. Making visible with our lives the invisible Bread within. Holy communion. God made flesh once more and dwelling among men in us. Incarnation. It has meaning for us in how we live, in how we see. And it has to do with abundance.

In sacramental living, life becomes ablaze with glory, the day infused with the Divine....and we walk transformed.

I love you,

Pine Ridge Update

Mid-Level Dental Professional Program.

The Mid-Level Dental Professional Development Program and Clinic that seemed so certain to materialize on the reservation through the auspices of the Oglala Lakota College is no longer on the table. In speaking recently with college President Tom Shortbull, he explained that the development of such a program was just not something they could handle presently.

Since the ministry has access to free dental equipment and installation for an entire clinic plus several interested parties standing in the wings to provide financial underpinnings, we are disappointed to hear this report. We told them that should things change, we hoped they would remember us in any future endeavor of this sort.

Heating Cost Assistance for Single Mom.

Through your donations we were able to help a single mother of three on the reservation keep her heat from being turned off. This last winter was one of the worst on record for low temperatures and snowfall, and we had enquired of Lynette Cuny if she knew of people who were struggling to keep their heat on. She told us she knew many and gave us the information for this young woman. We paid the fuel company directly over \$500 to bring her current.



Prayer Garden Commemorative Note Cards

As this year marks our 10th year with the prayer garden, we are offering a new set of note cards Sue Almond has created for us. Twelve beautiful photos of the garden (11 by Sue and 1 by Bob who climbed up into a tree to photograph the large cross in the center of the green) comprise a set of 12 cards, each of which carries a different verse of scripture. The set of 12 cards is offered at a suggested donation of \$15.

See the enclosed panel for more details and more pictures of some of the cards you'll find in the set.

Summer "Blessing Teas"



A slow response to our summer teas may be telling us that what a couple of us thought was a neat idea – having free “blessing teas” once a month over the summer – is not as popular with others as it was with us. Because only one response, (and one additional inquiry) has been received, and that is for the August date, **we are removing the June tea from the calendar.** The August tea remains on the calendar and the July Downton Abbey tea remains open for reservations at this point.

Our hope is to provide an expanded place of community and fellowship with family and friends and, especially, to bring a blessing to those who can't afford traditional teas or who need a break from the pace of their lives or a “pick-me-up” from its challenges.

At Each Tea, Brenda will bring a devotional focus on “Blessing.” Barring unforeseen circumstances, Alma Williams Howard (past mayor of Rockwall) will treat us in song and soft, live guitar music will be a backdrop for the remainder of the tea.

Though the June 13/14 “Dearheart” Tea has been cancelled, we need to know of your interest in the two remaining teas currently on the calendar for **2:00 p.m. July 11/12 and 2:00 p.m. August 8 / 9.**

Your Interest may be registered or Reservations made by filling out the interest form included in last month's newsletter or contacting the office at: 972-722-1905

Please let us know your preference of days or if both are options. We can accommodate 4 tables and at least 16 people.

Deep Gratitude for Your Support

We are so grateful for the many ways in which so many of you have supported us over the years. As the Lord is enlarging the reach of the ministry, the personnel and financial needs also increase. Especially as we engage in Pine Ridge, a deeper level of prayer support is essential. Of course here, too, the financial needs increase considerably. We are deeply grateful for those who have stepped up to help fund the work already begun there and for those yet to come who will join that effort. Our thanks to ALL who welcome this newsletter into your home for your lives and your hearts...and for your interest in God's work here.

Prayer Garden Observes 10th Anniversary

It is a place of quiet... a place of peace.

Ten years ago this month we dedicated this garden to the Lord and asked that His peace grace those who came here. We are told that anything that is devoted to the Lord is counted as holy. God counted our dedication to Him of this garden as holy, and He has summonsed His peace to rest here. That is the word we have heard over and over again from believers and non-believers alike. "I feel God here," a Muslim woman said, "Can I come back?"



In the midst of Rockwall, it is a place of quiet. In the midst of our frenetic lives, it is a place of stillness. In the midst of our complex world it is a place of simplicity; in the midst of our crowded lives, it is a place of solitude. It is a place of worship.

The other universal sentiment: "I didn't know this was here! This is the best-kept secret in Rockwall." Though we have been featured in a local magazine and had a huge, full, front-page spotlight in the Metro section of the Dallas Morning News, drawing people from North Richland Hills and Oregon, the people of Rockwall have been slow to know of it.

But that is changing. It has been discovered by high school kids for their prom pictures with as many as 15-20 at a time converging in the garden for prom pictures. It is a favorite site for local photographers as well for Bridal pictures.



And more and more, people are coming for its stillness and peace...it's sense of God.

It is, as well, a place of healing. Those who have lost their child come and sit on a bench placed there in his honor. Another, in tears, thanks us for a memorial to her daughter who was killed..."Thank

you for not letting her be forgotten." Whether it is Riley's Berm or Amy's Garden, the pain of loss or of soul rupture is remembered and grieved and hope for healing is stirred.

The guilt and grief of the aborted or miscarried has a place to be resolved and an unborn child remembered.

It is a place for healing.

Whether it is a place to draw our focus into Christ or guide our journey of prayer into His presence...it is a place of spiritual pilgrimage. Whether it is a time of struggle with the setbacks of life, with despair or discouragement, it is a place to meditate on the possibilities of resurrection in the midst of all our dying places and declare a faith of triumph.

It is a place unlike any you will find any place on earth. And it is here...in Rockwall.

I sat in that garden weeks before and many times after my mother died. I still go to be there when the world gets too hard to bear, and I've taken my husband there for prayer and a quiet place for peace. I am so grateful to have a place like this. Thank you. (D.G. from facebook)

In keeping with the spirit of the garden, we don't want an extravagant celebration but an observance among friends – old and new – of a place that calls us home to God...to ourselves...to His Peace.



Please Honor Us with Your Presence

Sunday, June 8

5:00-7:00

Dayspring Prayer Garden

Grilled Burgers/Hot Dogs

Homemade Ice Cream

Includes:

A Short Welcome and Reflection

Eating on the Grounds

Guided Personal Garden Walks

***Stay till the lightning bugs come out
if you want***

Pine Ridge...At Last

Project Hope Mission Outreach

Girl's Volleyball Camp *June 26-28*

Rebecca Drummond is coordinating again this year our second annual girl's volleyball camp on the campus of the Pine Ridge school. Emily Tartar is lead coach for the camp and will be assisted by Rebecca and her 17 year old niece, Katlyn, who did a stellar job last year assisting Lani Norman. Lani was unable to come this year and we are thrilled that Emily will be stepping in to lead the camp of middle and high school girls. (At right are some of the 35 plus who attended last year's camp.)



We will seek again this year to provide volleyball camp shirts for the girls. We are so grateful for the financial help some gave last year that allowed for all the participants to receive a shirt. Should you want to help this time, cost per shirt will be around \$8.00.

Summer School Project

Our Lakota friend in Pine Ridge, educator Lynette Cuny, asked for help with a school-grounds project the summer school students will be involved in. Emily's husband, James, is skilled in the areas they need help with and will be helping Lynette while we are there. (She is pictured above at last year's volleyball camp. Katlyn is behind her to the right.)



Our Goal...

...is to establish relationships and meet needs physically, emotionally and spiritually and to establish a long-term imprint and commitment to be Christ to these special people. Should you want to be involved in any way, please let us know. Our gratitude to those who have given financially. This work would not be possible without you.



September Mission Outreach

Women's Retreat – Sharps Corner Baptist Church.

As noted in an earlier newsletter, the May date for our women's retreat was re-set for early September. This is our first opportunity to have a more direct spiritual and relational outreach. Our prayers are that the Lord would bring to the retreat those most in need of encountering Jesus at the well. *The Woman at the Well* will speak to Christ's provision for our every need and will include testimonies from team members of Christ's provision for them in their places of struggle and darkness.

Oyeta Teca Youth Center

Multiple needs at the Kyle Youth Center afford the possibility of assembling several teams to serve in the same time frame there as the retreat.

Repairs / Roofing Team. Sheet rocking and finishing a room that was partially completed, plus shingling the last half of their roof are both items for a team of two or more. Their roof is small and straight so is a fairly simple roofing project.

Canning Workshop / Sewing Classes. The opportunity for repeating our canning workshop in Martin has not panned out, but the Kyle Youth Center has a special canning area and is interested in our teaching a workshop there. Their large, beautiful community garden will supply the produce for canning. Basic sewing classes are also an option for us there.

Horse Care Team. Dr. David Celella will be heading a team to tend to horses there. We are working toward one day for a basic horse care workshop and 1-3 days for shots and other care depending on how long our people can stay. Dr. Celella is also a cabinet maker and can help with roofing and repairs as well as with the following possibility.

After School Woodworking Class. Arrangements have been made with the Pine Ridge School to hold classes after school in basic construction by building dog houses and out houses. Both are greatly needed on the reservation. Last year one organization had 96 requests for outhouses of which only 36 could be built. Scheduling conflicts have arisen for the man who will be leading it, making its timing uncertain. As soon as these are worked out this will be on the docket whether this year or next spring.