



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

June 2015 “...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” –Luke 1:78-79 Newsletter

Dearhearts,

It was misting this morning after all the torrential rains. The kind of misty rain I remember most as a young adult and before as a child. It’s been a long time since I’ve seen this kind of rain. Even longer since I’ve walked in it. Walked without umbrella... unprotected. And yet, somehow more fully alive...or at least more fully aware of my aliveness when I did. Walked where its soft pricks brushed my face in a feathery spray.

As a child I used to run to get out in the rain. As an adult I run to get in out of the rain. Other things have become more important. Don’t want to get my hair wet, or my clothes...or shoes. So I watch it rain from my window. Or get closer to the real thing by sitting on the patio listening to it tap the earth...but still protected.

We are a people who live protected, now. Protected from cold weather or hot by central heat and air conditioning. Protected from rain by a sheltering home. Removed from close encounter. There’s nothing wrong with that really. And, yet, I think it is a picture of a slow descent into separation. Estrangement. From others... from life...from God. We live our lives with several degrees of separation...texting, tweeting, email... facebook. And how do we communicate a personal, intimate relationship with Christ when there is decreasing frame of reference for that in our real world? We read books about others who have experienced God’s rain...His direct provision...His direct intervention. And these books become our experiencing of Him. Their stories become our narrative of faith. Their supernatural encounters become our observer faith. And we see God through a pane of glass. We see the mist of presence that washed another’s faith while we watch from a distance. We have read of Divine encounters in the storms. We believe. Our faith in what He can do grows. But we are dry.

And so we share their story with others. We share what we heard or read. We share their experience...not ours.

There’s something about being in nature where we can walk across His canvas and feel his brushstrokes.

There we live directly in His craftsmanship. We may thank God for the homes He has given us, the food...the clothing. But all this is several degrees of separation, having come to us by His provision but through human hands: carpenters, plumbers, architects, electricians. But walk out in nature...in the mist or among the trees... along a stream...and this is close encounter. This is experiencing something directly from His hand. No pane of glass here. The dew is on my shoes. The dirt on my hands. A pine needle or two in my hair. And I am awed by who He is. I am in His presence...*His* sanctuary...not man’s edifice. Experiencing it. Experiencing Him. And somehow I know Him more truly. I taste and feel and hear a new thing. The Creator surrounding *me* with who He is.

The Lord wants to dust our faith with the mist of His presence. Inviting us to walk in it...to run out into the rain and meet Him there. Experience him...first hand. No degrees of separation. The Living Water of the Holy Spirit having drenched us in glory will not leave us alone. But He allows us to leave Him alone. Allows us to stand at the window and look on all the beauty out there where things are wet...and alive.

I used to run out into the rain to experience it washing my world. So I walked outside today, no umbrella...no raincoat. It was misting, and I felt the soft spray of His presence on my face.

I love you,

*Oh Lord how wonderful are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of
your riches...[you] who covers the heaven with clouds,
who prepares the rain for the earth, who causes grass to
grow for the cattle and herb for the service of man that
He may bring forth food from the earth.*

Psalm 104: 13-14, 24

Art Therapy Classes Nearing Capacity



Over 20 people are quickly filling our art therapy classes leaving only Friday morning with open slots. Our class on Tuesday evening is full as are two morning and two evening classes on Wednesday while both classes on Friday morning remain open.

Though classes are officially beginning the first week of June, registration remains open until all slots are filled. If you are interested please contact us or Elaine Souder as soon as possible to reserve your place. Cost is \$5.00 per class.

Dayspring number is **469-338-5191**.

As we Consider the Counseling Needs on Pine Ridge...

And seek to Follow the Lord about it
We've been happily surprised at the amount that has been designated toward a counseling fund. Still, of course, far short of what is needed to sustain a counselor for a year, we solicit your prayers for Him to Guide our Paths here.

We don't know what He wants, but we do know He Shows Us His Way as we Move Forward.
If this is not His will, little more will come in. If He nudges many to give, then we will know as well.

We continue to be Honored by Your
Faithful Giving to the Over all
Ministries of Dayspring
And Thank You
Deeply

*Stand at the Crossroads and look;
Ask for the Ancient Paths,
ask where the good way is,
and walk in it.*

Jeremiah 6:16

If You Are Interested...

Becoming a Person of Impact to be Offered Again

Due to recent interest expressed in Brenda's *Lay Counseling Training Course*, she has decided to offer it again. Those who enquired are studying to become counselors and were interested in learning the spiritual principles for healing that are addressed in the Person of Impact Course. In previous offerings, the course has been tailored for the lay person who desires to be more equipped to minister to others in the normal course of life. The emphasis this time will still offer that same opportunity but with selected optional portions that will focus more specifically on those who are interested in the counseling route.

As Brenda has mentioned the course to those whom she thought might be interested, the interest has grown to 8 or 9 persons. So we let you know of this offering in case there are others who might be interested. Among the areas to be covered:

- *The Art of Caring: The Grief Process / Listening Skills*
- *Spiritual Principles for Healing: Truth and Belief*
- *Applying Truth*
- *Belief that Changes Lives*
- *When the Heart is Broken: understanding the Wound / understanding the Wounded / understanding the "Innermost being"*

The class will meet once a month beginning
June 12-13

Friday Evening: 6:30 – 9:30

Saturday Morning: 8:30 – 11:30

And will continue through the end of the year. Schedule will be set by participants in the initial class. Make-up opportunities will be provided when sessions are missed.

Let us know **As Soon As Possible** of your interest.

From Trickle to Torrent In The House of Islam

Twenty-two years ago, a group of mission leaders met and prayed for Muslims the world over. As they prayed, they were led to focus on new ways to reach Muslims and share the kingdom of God, promised through Jesus Christ. Their prayer prompted the

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movement of “30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World.” To date, this movement has spread worldwide, printed in over 38 languages and read by millions.

The focus is on Ramadan, the time of month-long fasting and

spiritual seeking by Allah followers. Since Muslims are especially focused on spiritual matters during Ramadan, it is an opportune time for Christians to pray for these people.

From the origins of Islam in the seventh century (Muhammad died in 632 A. D.), this religion has grown to over 1 ½ billion worldwide. For the 14 centuries since its beginnings, relatively few Muslims have converted to Christianity. Some missionary efforts and political changes have resulted in some Muslims becoming Christians, but not many major movements. **David Garrison, in *A Wind in the House of Islam*, defines a Muslim movement as “at least 100 new church starts or 1,000 baptisms over two decades,” (p. 5).** Garrison cites **13 Muslim movements from its beginnings through the 20th century.**

However, the **first 12 years of the 21st century saw an additional 69 movements to Christ of at least 1,000 baptized per movement.** These movements have spanned the Muslim world, from northern Africa, through the Arab and Persian world, to South and Southeast Asia. It is no “coincidence” that the “30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World” began in 1993 and Muslim movements have multiplied like never before then.

Patrick Johnstone, author of *The Future of the Global Church*, testifies to this:

“The annual 30 Days prayer emphasis has been a remarkable global effect to focus millions of Christians on prayer for the spiritual needs of Muslims. Is it surprising then, that . . . there has been a corresponding rise in the number of Muslims turning to Christ? We will

not impact Muslims through our theological arguments or political manipulations, but we will through prayer.”

May we pray for this trickle-to-torrent of Muslim movements to strengthen even more, as we join in this worldwide time of prayer. This year’s booklet “30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World” is available at Dayspring just in time for Ramadan, June 18 – July 18.

*For a look at the 20th-year anniversary booklet, which gives fascinating information about Muslims throughout the world, see this link:

<http://docs.abwe.org/GOTeam/30DaysPrayer.pdf>

-- Peggy Ruff

Mistakes Christians Make When Trying to Reach a Muslim...

In an on-line article, William Wagner, former Southern Baptist missionary to the Middle East, offers insights into bringing Christ to Muslims. Because “... Islam is not only a religion but is also a culture and a way of life,” Americans will often make mistakes in their witness to those of the Islamic religion.

1. Not understanding the seriousness of religion in an Islamic context. If a Muslim accepts Christ, they will probably be persecuted or worse...realize how serious a change in religion can be in a Muslim context.

2. Not being willing to take on the responsibility of discipling a convert from Islam. They need much more of our time and love because we have torn them from their support system...we must find ways to make it up.

3. Not knowing anything about Islam. The more we know of Islam the better we can build ideological bridges to approach them. An

example is the "Camel Method." Muslims believe there are 99 names of God known to man but in heaven there are 100, but the only creature on earth that knows the last name of God is the camel thus the upturned lips of the camel that resembles a smile. Our bridge is to say, "We know the 100th Name of God, it is Jesus Christ." It builds upon what they know but takes them further on their road to belief in Christ.

Search out Muslims to talk with but know that “the most effective means of helping them find Christ is love. One Islamic leader stated at a large conference of Muslim clerics recently ‘Do not allow your people to have close contact with Christians because if you do the Christians will love your people into their faith.’”

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"Why Project Hope?"



*Some have questioned
Why we are in South
Dakota when we could better help people here*

Simply...God's guidance has pointed us to Pine Ridge. As He directs and opens doors, we follow.

The purpose of what we do there is not to dispense bandaids but to open doors and build relationships so that we may speak the love of Christ to them in ways that are relevant to their lives, their experience and their needs. Our purpose is to be an instrument of God's love in ways that can resonate with them and communicate Christ.

For the most part, these are a lost people in a trapped culture that demolishes lives. They are lost to light and love and the hope of healing. They are lost to the reality of who Christ is. Their religion is amazingly Old Testament in their understanding of God and of sin and their need for redemption. This part of their heritage primes them for recognizing Christ.

We **do** help people here but in different ways. Here, it is about:

- Spiritual growth through Bible studies, book studies, Kaleo Roundtable and workshops
- Equipping believers to be impacting agents of Christ in their world.
- Lay counseling training
- Emotional and spiritual healing through counseling and specialized workshops
- Training in the deeper spiritual principles of discipleship and prayer
- Facilitating healing from profound childhood trauma through spiritually based counseling
- Equipping believers to empower their daily living through the principles of Christ
- Providing a place of caring community
- Nursing Home Ministry (this is presently inactive but will be restarted as people are led to participate)
- PTSD free ministry to veterans of counseling, massage and art therapies

Lakota Educator Lynette Cuny will be speaking with us the last of July about the challenges of life on the reservation and in Education there.

See next month's newsletter for date and details.

BB&T Bank to Help

We have been blessed by a recent phone call from BB&T Bank of Rockwall expressing a desire to give back to the community by helping us with manpower and expenses for landscaping. Previously, they had heard of our desire to help veterans with PTSD and had enquired of the larger nature of our ministry and of our outreach into the community. Their phone call was in response to a list they had requested from us of itemized needs pertaining to our outreach in the community which included the antiquities library.

Already many plants are waiting in the side yard for the ground to dry out enough so the workday can be re-scheduled. Among the items they have purchased are two arbors to be placed on either end of the side garden.

We are so grateful to BB&T for this unexpected initiative into our lives!

Koinonia Fellowship Extends Study of First Century Church through the Summer

The study of the first century church and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit - in Acts and the epistles of Peter and Paul - is so germane to our day and time that we have been led to rearrange plans.

Originally, the Road to Emmaus III study was planned for June through the end of the year, but the example of the original church seems particularly needed in this church

age. Especially, do we need to experience first hand the role and activity of the Holy Spirit.

We invite you to join us as we come to meet and know in a different way the people then who passed the torch of Christ on to us. Their lives move us and touch something deep in us of a human treasure made so by a holy Spirit that consumed their lives. Join us as we seek to know how the Lord would want that to look in our lives today.

Road to Emmaus III study **will** begin in early fall!

*Sunday Evenings
Light Meal - 5:00 / Bible Study - 5:30*

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