



# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

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Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

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August 2011

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

Newsletter

## What are you looking at?

Dearhearts,

They never looked at me as I talked with them last weekend about their child. They weren't disinterested or rude, their gaze was just fixed elsewhere. It was on their interpreter. They are deaf and if they were to know what I was saying, they had to fix their eyes on the interpreter. They could only understand me through her. Signing with her hands, they trusted her to accurately translate my message to them, and so did I.

Christ translates God to us. If we are to understand God, it will only be through our Interpreter. Only as we fix our eyes on Christ can we know the Father. Only through Him can we understand the message of God. "You have seen me... You have seen the Father."

So what do we see when we look at Christ? We see a man who spoke and acted on a different plane. Responding with toughness and compassion both in unexpected places. What religion valued, He derided. What the world rejected, He received. What the church condemned, He embraced. He never responded in kind; never defended Himself but defended the powerless and confronted the powerful. Yet He did nothing except what he saw His father do. So what did He show us of the Father? He showed us a God who is true and good, powerful and gentle. A Father who is love, who is faithful and kind, a Lion and a Lamb, sovereign yet tender, compassionate yet holy.

*So how do we translate this Christ to others?*

Our gaze must be fixed on Him. Our faith must be anchored in Who God is and translate that to man amid the storms of life. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Faith allows us to look beyond circumstance into the unseen...to see what He sees...to see *Him*. When the world seems to be careening out of control, we see Christ walking on the waves, and we speak of that power. When the world seems to be sinking, we see His hand reaching for Peter and we stand on the Rock of that assurance. When desert winds blow in our world, we see water gushing forth from that Rock and speak to that provision. When

confusion grips our world, we look to the Truth and point to Him who is the Way. When the world is harsh, we see the Savior at Calvary and we carry that love into earth's winds. When those about us deal in deceit and treachery, we look to Him who is Faithful and True and walk in that Spirit. We see His love for Judas and Peter...for the rich young ruler. We forgive as He forgave. We breathe life into dying hearts as He did. We let people be wrong in the face of truth – even turn from us – and remain a conduit of His love.

Faith in Who He is allows us to interpret God to man in confusing, painful places; to sign His message with our lives.

God has entrusted to us His message. You and I are to show the world who He is; to translate Christ to the world. The world will not fix its gaze upon God; it *will* look at us to decide what it thinks of Him. It will believe the message it sees in us. When we sign our own version of God, the world has no way of knowing. We are the only interpreter it has. What the world understands of Him comes through us.

So what does the world see when it looks at us? What message are we signing with our lives? God trusts us with the translation. We need to do it well.

It all depends on where we fix our gaze.

I love you,

*Brenda*

*We are Deeply Grateful to All who Continue to Faithfully Support the Ministries of Dayspring through your Donations and Prayers, your Time and Interest, your Participation and Help. We cannot Exist without You. We can't Touch Lives with the Love and Truth of Christ, we can't effectively Provide any of what we Offer without You. Thank You!*

## Art Therapy Workshops

### New Classes Added

There are times when God surprises us with an unforeseen bend in the road. Such is the case with the personal discovery art workshops proposed earlier in the year by Texas A&M Commerce art instructor Elaine Souder. Our initial "experiment" has blossomed into a full pallet of offerings as we continue to experience growing interest in this innovative program which Elaine leads. We have opened a youth art-therapy workshop as well as an additional time slot for a third adult workshop on Wednesday mornings. The addition of this new time not only affords more space for others to participate but opens a "make-up" session for any who miss their regular workshop.

#### Summer - Fall Schedule:

- ❑ Wednesday Morning Workshop 8:00 – 10:00 (new).
- ❑ Wednesday Afternoon Workshop 4:30 – 6:30
- ❑ Friday Afternoon Workshop 12:30 – 2:30
- ❑ Friday Youth Therapy Workshops: 2:30 – 3:30; 3:30 – 4:30 (thru' summer)

**Please contact us for more information or to enroll in the new Wednesday morning workshop.**

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*"I knew I was hooked on art class the day I arrived with a chant going on in my mind. It had been a rough day and all I could think of was, "I need to paint. Give me some paper and watercolors. I need to paint." I have paper and watercolors at home, but going to class allows me to lay aside distractions and focus on creating. I tell people I just come to play with paint because I am not an artist. But I have discovered that's not true. I have found that I am an artist of expressing my inner life and I have to do it without words. How freeing it is to lay aside words and just respond to a presented topic, something that is evoked from my memory, or the simple joy of creating. That anger, that pain, it's down on paper now and I no longer have to carry it inside me. That joy, that memory that made me laugh, it's there on paper too so that I won't forget it. And through expressing what is me, I have found a new path for personal healing."*

--Elizabeth

## Nursing Home "Touch Ministry"

The three women who faithfully visit on Tuesdays continue to make a difference with those they see. *"There are many others who want us to come visit, but we can't add any more. We sometimes don't even get to everyone we're used to seeing."* If you would like to bless and be blessed, our personal Touch with these nursing home residents would welcome your involvement. You would not be on your own, but would be part of a team. *Please consider what impact you might bring to the lives of those in need of being touched with compassion and love.*

Twenty residents of the Senior Care Center at Lake Pointe pack the room every Monday morning for the art class which Elaine leads. Several people assist her including a mother and her daughter from Elaine's Wednesday afternoon art class.

### Fall Ministry Schedule

Our traditional fall schedule is being streamlined this year to open up more time for Brenda to write. Our normal book clubs will not be offered and the Tuesday Evening Conversations will be delayed until spring. At this time Brenda's plans are to teach Vol. 1 of Road to Emmaus Bible Study **in the spring**.

For **this fall** she is re-working the introductory pages of the first volume of the Emmaus study into a 7 week study to begin in September. The "Essential Principles" portion of Volume I has previously been the Introductory Lesson taught as a lecture that establishes the foundational concepts of our life with Christ and of the entire four volume Emmaus series. *"I have long wanted to create these 7 principles into a study unto itself. Understanding them is critical to how we experience God in our lives. They are key to unlocking the power of heaven in our daily experience here on earth."*

**Join Brenda this fall for this unique study of the foundational underpinnings of our life in Christ –**

***"Sacred Principles"***  
*for a Spirit-Breathed Life*  
*Thursday Evenings*  
*September 15 - October 27*

## *Turning Aside: Saturday Meditations*

This fall we are initiating a new opportunity for those who realize their need to develop a deeper dependency on God, to walk in greater communion with Him and to know Him more intimately. For three Saturdays this fall we are offering "Saturday Meditations."

As a people who are called to be in the world but not of it, part of our challenge is to find ways to step out from the frenetic pacing our culture imposes and reclaim our spiritual center. This cultural blur is one of the most effective tools Satan has for neutralizing us spiritually. To choose to turn aside for a few hours from our normal maze is a significant step in becoming more spiritually focused and better tooled for God's purposes here.

### *How This Will Work*

Each Saturday will have the same format but will carry a different focus. Brenda will begin with a Scriptural focus designed for that day's theme with guidance in how to use specific scriptures for meditation. "Meditating the Word" is a way to more deeply experience God's presence and power. Following the Scriptural focus two hours will be devoted to personal time in the chapel or garden. Afterwards, participants will gather in the chapel for conversation and additional focus before returning again to personal time with the Lord for the remainder of the day. Our hope is that those who participate will take at least four hours for personal, alone time with the Lord.

Moses turned aside and, in so doing, entered into a holy presence. As we turn aside from our normal routines, we, too, may find a life-changing encounter.

### *Saturday Meditations Schedule*

- #1 – September 17: *Meditations on Peace*  
 #2 -- October 15: *Meditations on Provision*  
 #3 – November 12: *Meditations on Gratitude*

## **"Kaleo" Roundtable Resumes**

**September 13, 12:00 noon**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays**

A time for spiritual stretching and vulnerability and of introspective assignments for those who are responding to Christ's call to step out from their routine and let Him fashion the clay.

**New this Year...a Required Companion Book:**  
*Disciplines for the Inner Life*  
 by **Bob Beason and Michael Beason**

## *It Starts When I Go Through the Door*

By Elizabeth Moses

I truly like visiting the nursing home. Yes, there are sometimes smells and sights that make me sad, but each week I find myself watching the clock, waiting for 2:00.

There's something special about the home... and myself ... when I go to visit. From the moment I enter, I am a different person. It no longer matters who I am but that I am. Accomplishments and failures, sins and talents, money, power... things that are of value to many others, have no value there. I breathe, I am. I am free to put myself aside and be present to others... and how joyous that has become! A smile, a "Good afternoon!" a pat on the hand... simple gifts of acknowledgement that can brighten someone's day.

And it's fun to take time to amble down the halls, not in any hurry, greeting everyone I see. There are residents who no longer can have meaningful conversation but whose eyes light up at the sight of my dog and who bestow him with lots of pats. And for those who may glare at my dog or at the three of us, at least we've made a change in their day and it does not offend us. Why should they trust us anyway? All their worldly possessions, their persona in the outside world has been stripped from them. Their possessions are reduced to two cardboard boxes and half a closet.

The staff is gentle and loving to the residents, but who they used to be is no longer relevant. But I think our continuing presence has convinced many that we truly enjoy coming and more are reaching out to us on their own. Sometimes their conversations don't always make sense (Where's the train station?), but we listen and love on them anyway. And that's been the unexpected blessing we have received from the residents. They have blessed us in many different ways. For me, I have seen that it is not what you have or had, but who you are.

From the confines of her bed, Barbara reaches out to others. Staff frequently come in to talk with her as she listens. Watching Annie slowly die has been hard. She can barely see, hear, or even move in her bed. But I feel such compassion for her as she struggles to live. She has not given up the fight. What have I learned from all these experiences? That's it's an amazing feeling to just be and just be accepted as I am. There is no need to hurry through life. And, most importantly, that all the things that I think I have stored up on earth are not as important as what I have stored up inside through sharing myself with others.



Bravo with his best friend Nina. Note Bravo "look alike" on bed stand.

## *The Sojourner's Quill*

### *My Garden Pocket*

By Jeanna' Mead\*



"I come to the garden alone,..." This old gospel song was a favorite of my Mema's and when I first stepped, alone, into the grounds of the Prayer Garden, that song began to play in my heart.....as I walked from the chapel, stopping to kneel at each sign that reminded me of God's presence. I could almost hear the other refrains.. "And He walks with me and talks with me and calls me His own."

That day, I came because I was finally "ready". You see, I had read about the DaySpring Prayer Garden and I knew it was open but I just couldn't get around to going- for one reason or another, the season was just not right until now. I had to let God do some work in my life to allow me to come to the garden, ready and willing and able to listen to Him.



Each little "pocket" of the Prayer Garden touches me. I spend a good deal of time in Riley's Berm, sitting on the chair, my bible and journal on the iron table, thinking of those that have already gone "on to glory", as my Mema would say. "Glory" is filled with people I love now and in this place, I feel so close to them, as if they are just beyond the ivy and trees- close but just out of view. Long ago I wrote a letter to my Daddy telling him that because of how he raised me and loved me, I was able to believe in God as a Heavenly Father- and when Daddy was nearing his time to go on to glory, I

would tease him that both my "Fathers" would be waiting on me to get up there...but somehow, in this garden, it's as if both of my Father's are with me here- protecting, guiding, loving.

In "Amy's Garden" I've found more peace in letting go of a different pain - sexual abuse. Walking around and reading each scripture affirms that God has covered this wound with His bandages, He has kissed the sore and said "all better now" and wrapped me up in His arms. I am comforted and healed - a survivor and not a victim anymore.

Steps away in another "pocket" is the Garden of the Unborn...and here is where I sit and wonder. "Girls or boys"...I've been pregnant seven times, and I have four beautiful, healthy children but, up there in glory, I've also got three more...miscarriages took them before I held them in my arms, but I held them in my heart. Here in this place, one cannot help but marvel at the miracle of life - what a blessing, what a beautiful thing, what a gift each life is!

Finally, there is my favorite "pocket" - the Garden of Gratitude. Benches facing a water fountain, surrounded by shrubbery, the sound of the water seems to play the rest of the song, "and the joy we share as we tarry here, no other has ever known."

The other garden pockets are places I walk into, reflect and pray and leave, and then I head up to my sacred spot because my gratitude, like the water, overflows.

God is so good...and it is pure joy to be in the Prayer Garden.

\*We were thrilled recently when Jeanna' asked if she could take care of the small details of the garden that have been so hard for us to keep up with. She had been slipping into the garden for many months, and upon hearing of her love for the garden we asked her to share her thoughts.

- from her email to Brenda:

*"Have a Beautiful Day...Go sit in the Garden...Someone is Waiting on You There."*

### *Garden Note Cards*

We still have two remaining sets of note cards of the prayer garden and one set of note cards of the Rockwall winter bird scenes first offered as Christmas gift selections from the ministry.

Suggested donation for each set of 12 different scenes is \$15.00.

### **Israel Trip Cancelled**

We reluctantly have canceled the November teaching tour of Israel. As the deadline approached for a "penalty free" decision, the minimum of 10 had not been secured. Eight were certain with 4 others probable but unsure. Because we had to have a minimum of 10, we could not risk the \$1,000.00 penalty should it not be met. **We most especially share the disappointment of those who were so eager for this trip.**