



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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

Yesteryear

Dearhearts,

There was a serenity about my Dad in the last two decades of his life that belied his Irish – English lineage; a lineage in full plumage through much of my growing up days with explosions of both temper and stubbornness. But somewhere in retirement, time and the Lord took a righteous toll on him. Though no less busy, he seemed to live more inwardly...in a hidden place less disturbed by surface storms.

I saw it most clearly when his eccentric neighbor complained that Dad had veered over into his yard on the riding mower. Mother and Dad had an acre of front yard and their neighbor had almost that with no fence between. So Herman was upset at the encroachment. Upon completing his yard work, Dad went to the storage shed and took out a stack of wooden stakes and spent the rest of the afternoon pounding them into the ground in 8 foot increments along the 75 yards of joining property. “Dad is going to be steamed!” I remember thinking. When he finished, I looked for all the tell-tale signs of controlled anger...the quick, abrupt movements...a harder shutting of a door, a set jaw...even a subtle furrow of the brow. But there was none of that. Later at dinner I brought it up. “I can’t believe you spent all that time hammering stakes into the ground because he didn’t like your weaving a foot into his yard.”

“Well,” he replied matter-of-factly, “it just needed to be done.”

Where had my Dad of yesteryear gone?! Where was the indignation? Where the shared sense of injustice? Where was the us against them foxhole?

Somewhere over the years, my Irish-English Dad had gone away...supplanted by another lineage. It was not that Dad was in some sort of controlled burn in which he held his temper on a tight leash. He just simply accepted Herman’s view and did what he could to see that it didn’t happen again. The spirit can, indeed, overcome the flesh...even an Irish/English warzone.

Transformation comes with time and focus and a desire to follow a higher order than our own. Dad had found a place of inwardness deep in the ocean of his life

that anchored him in place differently than I had seen through much of my life. The swirl of life on the surface no longer touched him as it always had. His focus was on other things. In the deeper region of his being a spirit carried, rather than drove, him. He had been driven for much of his life, having been a state legislator in Arkansas after returning from WWII and then going on to get his doctorate in education he moved from being superintendent of a small school to being a college president. He had been driven by good things, by wanting to make a difference in people’s lives.

Now...he was carried by a spirit that was not his own...still making a difference but in different ways. No longer bridling his impulses as best he could... they were being controlled by Another’s hand. How did this happen? I think it came when the rhythms that had always driven him from his culture lost their hold. Such things do not get lost accidentally along the way. They must be consciously reckoned with and decisions made about their role in our lives. About what is to be our focus and whose hand will govern us?

We must consciously decide what of the swirl of our life...what of the blur of our culture we may unthinkingly embrace...is actually a competitor to the Spirit. Injustice? Unfairness? Infringement of our rights? Idiot laws? What upends our inner quiet? What agitates and holds my thoughts? What do I automatically embrace as right or religious that actually quenches the Spirit in me? What keeps me from thinking on those things that are “good and true, lovely and pure, those things that are good news and virtuous and praiseworthy”? What *seems* good but blights a selfless and loving spirit in me?

It is likely that a part of our culture we would never suspect will be the enemy of the spirit. It is likely that a “good” thing competes with God’s highest and best and keeps us from transformation...that keeps us awash in the swirl of debris that comes with life on the surface.

I love you,

Dayspring Happenings

Lay Counseling Training Re-Set for August 28-29

Friday Evening - Saturday Morning

Our second round of *Becoming a Person of Impact* is slated for the last weekend of this month beginning Friday evening 6:30 – 9:00 and resuming Saturday morning from 8:30 – 11:30. We will wind up the grief process and listening skills segment on Friday evening with a discussion of 3 movies that were suggested for viewing that especially deal with how losses and grief affect us: **Ordinary People**, **Lars and the Real Girl**, and **Frozen**. (Had it been released yet, **Inside Out** would have been a 4th movie recommended for discussion as well).

On Saturday morning we will go on to **spiritual principles for healing** which is a large segment that will take multiple sessions to complete.

If you were unable to attend the first session but would like to participate, the audio teaching is up on the website. (We are also considering a video of the teaching but have not yet put it up.) Please contact Brenda or the ministry office so we may guide you in how to proceed and provide you with written materials and notebook.

Koinonia Fellowship Update Dayspring House – 302 S. Fannin

First Century Church. Our Sunday evening Bible study which Brenda leads continues to meet at 5:30 on Sunday evenings as we conclude our summer study and prepare for a fall focus. Concluding topics in this study will look at Paul's view of women, his last hours and the faithful leaders who followed Paul and Peter.

Road to Emmaus III Study Begins September 27.

Our original plans to begin the Emmaus III study the first of September have had to be revamped due to the scheduling of the women's retreat Brenda will be leading in Pine Ridge. Since she will not be returning until the last full week of September, the study will begin the last Sunday in September.

We regret the inconvenience and hope it does not create problems for any who have planned to attend.

September Women's Retreat in Pine Ridge September 11-12

This year's retreat with the women of Sharp's Corner Baptist Church will be more informal and will focus on how to make Christ real amid the daunting challenges of their daily lives. In more a support group type format that will have less structured, more spontaneous teaching, we hope to lead them in discovering ways to access Christ's power in the real issues of their lives.

Dinner Book Club to Continue Discussing Quiet Talks on Prayer

7:00 p.m. Friday, August 21

Please Reserve your Place at the Table
for Food Both for Body and Soul

Art and Creative Therapy Update

Art classes have been put on hold due to Elaine's teaching trip to Pine Ridge and a birthday trip with kids and grandkids to the beach.

These two weeks of missed classes will be made up in the first two weeks of August. There will then be a two week hiatus as she begins her fall semester college art classes. The creativity workshops will begin again the first week in September.

There will be a few minor changes in some of the evening classes which Elaine will discuss in her August class meetings. Back pain from scoliosis makes evening classes difficult. She wants to accommodate as many as possible and will be working with each of you.



Pine Ridge: Sacred Encounters on a Roller Coaster Ride

Touching Lives One By One

It was clear even on the flight that God was orchestrating this trip. It is also clear that what He had in mind was personal connection. From the beginning our prayer had been that He would bring people across our path who needed to know His love or whom we needed to meet. With that in mind, we considered every encounter to be directly from His hand. And the whole trip was filled with sacred serendipities.

Jessica

She was at the Wounded Knee Massacre site selling her beautiful jewelry. The single mother of two was hoping to make enough to keep her electricity on. Because of designated donations that had come in the day before we left, I told her I thought we could help. Back home, Sarah and Melvin checked with her electric company and the \$200.00 she said she owed was exactly on target and we were able to make her current by paying into her account. We hope to keep in touch with her and her family.

40 in Volleyball / 20 in Art & Writing

No one showed on the first day for the afternoon high school girls volleyball. Fourteen middle school girls had come that morning but a communication failure left the court empty on Monday afternoon. The next afternoon, 24 high school girls and one boy showed up. That morning 20 middle school girls and one boy came. One of the boys also attended the afternoon middle school art and writing camp. No one showed on any morning for the high school art and writing.

We should have known! What teenager in their right mind gets up early in the summer?! So we have learned. But we also experienced a wonderful middle school camp and had morning time for planning and for seeing people and places we otherwise would not have had time to see.

We will be staying connected with many of these and will track their needs for school and at Christmas.

Raymond

If boys can be beautiful, this little 8 year old was gorgeous as he handed me a note at the Wounded Knee cemetery from his mother soliciting help for school clothes. I told him I couldn't help him right then but would try to help him through his school. "I know of your principal, though I can't remember her name," I said. "She's feisty, isn't she?" He nodded and said

"Alice." *Yes...Alice Phelps!* I thought. Since reading an on-line article last year about her energetic work as principal of the Manderson school, I have wanted to go by and meet her and see how we might plug in. This little boy has led me to Alice.

So Alice is checking for us to see about the needs of this family and how we might best meet them. Her resourceful leadership has created innovative services for this K-8 school that affords us ways to make a difference in a school that has seen multiple suicides in the recent spate of deaths among young girls.

A School Store

Students earn points through their grades, their conduct, by reading and other civic and citizenship activities to "buy" items from the school store. "This teaches financial responsibility and management and that nothing is free. They have to work hard for what they want," Alice told me over the phone. The store carries items from brushes, combs and mirrors for girls to skateboards. Someone has recently built a skateboard park for them so excitement is high in the school and community.

A School Washer and Dryer

"Most of the families here don't have a washer or dryer so most of the kids come to school in dirty clothes," Alice explained the washer and dryer room they are creating at the school. "Parents will schedule times to wash their clothes and while they are waiting we will offer parenting classes." Detergent and fabric softener sheets are one of the needs the school has.

It is here, also, that parents will be encouraged to read to their children at home, which is one of the biggest areas they work on with parents since reading levels across the reservation are far below average. To facilitate this they have created *A Parents Room* to be *stocked with books* that can be taken home for them to read to their children. There is a need for books of all sorts appropriate to their age and culture.

Items for Donation to Manderson

- Skateboards (helmets / knee & elbow pads)
- Combs / Brushes / Mirrors / Toothbrushes
- Underwear and Socks
- Art supplies including crayons and paper
- Detergent / Fabric Softener Sheets Books including Lakota and Native American stories, biographies, fiction, etc. (No Christian books at this point.)

Voices from Pine Ridge

“They Stole my Heart...”

“This trip to Pine Ridge was definitely spiritually led and relationship driven. We were confronted with all the challenges that occur in working and ministering in a poverty stricken area. This area may be poor monetarily but it is rich in sweet and eager hearts. The young girls and one young boy that we taught are in such need of someone to care about them. Truly, deeply and consistently care about them. They stole my heart and God opened a new door to a more permanent



relationship. I now have about 20 possible pen pals which I feel bonded to for as long as they are willing to stay connected to

me. I will be writing them, encouraging them, sending them art supplies as well as other items they might need. But more importantly I will be loving them from Rockwall all the way to Pine Ridge, South Dakota. They are children worth loving and I intend to let them know just that.” Elaine

“A Confirmation that our return each year is important...”

“The consistency of being with the Lakota girls for 3 consecutive years has allowed us to develop relationships that would not exist otherwise. The smiles on the returning girls’ faces were a blessing and a confirmation that our return each year is welcomed and important.” Rebecca



“They are children worth loving and I intend to let them know just that”

“Will you play with me in the park after art?”

Cherish had a sweetness about her that drew me to her from the start but also a look that said her life had not been easy. Now, she was asking if I would play with her and her friend at the “park” – which was actually the school playground. The heat soon drove us into the campus dorm, where we were staying, to eat ice cream sandwiches and play games. Built 4 years ago, the dorm houses up to



135 kids who have such difficult home situations that they stay there during the week. All three girls wanted to show me the rooms they had lived in, two of them for three years and the other for one.

Words Cannot Express our Gratitude...

...when \$800 for Pine Ridge arrived from four different people the day before we left! Replenishing the fund sustained by faithful monthly donations, it was an enormous help in so many ways. We thank you for opening doors with your generosity!

A Pine Ridge Newsletter

Because there are probably many who receive this newsletter who are not particularly drawn to the Pine Ridge outreach, I have decided to create a bi-monthly or quarterly newsletter devoted to our work there. There will still be some articles in our regular newsletter as updates, but the Pine Ridge newsletter will carry greater details of our experiences, more personal stories, background and historical information and significant current events and needs on the reservation.

If you would like to receive this newsletter as well please indicate your desire on the enclosed information card and return it to the office or leave a message with us at 469-338-5191. ALSO indicate your preference for method of delivery: hard copy via mail or electronic via email or “either” if it doesn’t matter.