



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

September 2010

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

Newsletter

Dearhearts,

I've often wondered what Christ looked like...not so much physically as...what...mystically? How did the divine suggest itself in Him physically? His eyes must have shown something of it...a purity we do not manifest, perhaps a piercing quality. There was no debris field in Christ to dull His gaze; flesh was a translucent thing in him. No shadows or blockages. Nothing He had to stuff down and hide. No boulders in His soul He had to climb around. I think that's why people were so drawn to him. It wasn't His physical looks. We're told in Isaiah He did not have that. Yet people who saw Him couldn't get enough of Him. He was a magnet that gripped their soul... at least the hungry soul.

I think there are hints here of His journey in us; for as we journey in Him, He journeys in us. He inhabits our debris field, crawling like a spelunker of the soul in our hidden caverns; making his way around our boulders, discovering what is empty in us; but showing us, too, where the treasures are...if we let him. Because it *can* come across as meddling; as trespassing on posted property. You see, He is after living in us as God lived in Jesus. He is after translucence... suggesting Himself in us, not through words so much as through being. To do that He must be after our debris fields; after those things that have been left in our lives not only from our own sins but from the sins of others...those tracks on our forest floor of loss and hurts that have yet to fade with time.

This is where His meddling comes. It is also where His love prowls, stalking those things that are not of Him in us...those things that lie in ambush for our hearts, seeking to bring them up into the light for us to see. We know He's stirring the pot because of anxiety or fear, or anger...or a desperate desire to flee. So we quote things like "forgetting those things that are behind, I press on toward the mark of the high calling of Christ." The problem comes when letting the past be in the past still does not let us be in the present; still does not let us press on toward Christ's high call. When, still, we are immobilized by fear or gripped in obsessive or controlling behaviors, or we drink too much or work too

much or shop too much. When we can't get off the treadmill of habits that dominate our life, then no matter how hard we try to forget those things that are behind, they don't forget us. So we talk the Christian talk and do those things of God that are safe, but steer clear of those that make us anxious or frightened.

Or translucent...if we meet God there.

Old pain is in need of grieving, then leaving; in need of forgiving, then forgetting. Then we may leave those things, truly; forget what is behind and press on toward the high call of Christ. Past losses are in need of thawing from the frozen grief of anger or depression. Old hurts are in need of healing, not cauterizing with bitterness or capping with denial. The degree to which we avoid old pain is the degree to which we do not heal. The degree to which we run from the past is the degree to which we are not whole.

Our journey with Him is so He may be found, again and again, in us and we might know Him in the deepest crevices of who we are. His journey in us is so He may be seen in us. Seen by the way in which He has renovated our soul, uncovered the landfill and cleared it out. Seen by the way we know ourselves, know what is empty in us and where the treasures are. Gradually, His Spirit moves into places vacated by our surrender and cleared by healing. More and more His Spirit possesses our soul as we say "yes" to His meddling work. More and more He surfaces in us and our human visage is transformed, made almost translucent by something that is not of earth.

I love you, *Brenda*

Read Dayspring Newsletters on Line

Our newsletters, past and present, may be read on our website by clicking on the "newsletter" tab of the menu. Our Newsletters are archived on line from 2007 forward. Current newsletters are posted the last half of the month in which they are written.

©2010 Dayspring Discipleship Institute

Extraordinary Efforts Take Prayer Garden to Next Stage

Through the sacrificial efforts, rather, slave labor of Gay Bostick, Teresa Box, Caroline Doyle and Carl Magouirk, the prayer garden is entering a new level on several fronts. The portion of the garden that had accidentally been pruned behind Riley's Berm (July issue) has been cleared of poison ivy and other plant carnivores, mulched, and friendly trees planted. Only the 2 Japanese Maples of 6 new trees have survived the heat,



but both are in good shape and add greatly to the new look.

The two antique rose bushes are producing new

growth from their severe pruning, which is what the antique rose center in Brenham told us to look for and hope for. The



Berm has been weeded and is in transition to a more arid, southwest look. Beside it, Carl has laid a flagstone sitting area and pathway from an entry arbor between the two rose bushes. The arbor and flagstone area has been donated by friends of Randal Pope in memory of his daughter whose death occurred in August. Our hearts and prayers are with Randal and his family.

Adopt-a-Spot...

Mulching has been a massive operation rivaling the Gulf oil recovery efforts. We've used over 100 bags of mulch in our reclamation efforts in the narrow strip running from Riley's Berm to the chapel, alone, and still are not finished. Meanwhile, normal mulching has had to be suspended elsewhere.

Through this extensive mulching and spraying we've gotten on top of the weeds, but would welcome help in staying on top of them. We are hoping for a few people to adopt a garden spot or check in on the weeds once every seven to ten days. This kind of routine would, for example, take less than 30 minutes to easily remove any new weeds on the Berm, our largest single area.

We thank Elizabeth Moses who has adopted Amy's Garden and will be sowing fescue grass and Pat Corwin's mother, Lucy, who hand-waters 3 times a week.

...or a Scoop?

One yard of mulch – a big scoop equivalent to approximately 14 bags – costs us \$38.00. If getting out to the prayer garden is not your cup of tea, perhaps a scoop of mulch ... would work for you. A few people donating a scoop of mulch would be an enormous help and would go a long way in cresting the hill we've been climbing for so long here in the garden.

We ask your thoughtful consideration about what part you might play in these areas.

New Emphasis: Small Weddings

We are beginning a new emphasis for the chapel and prayer garden as a small wedding, vow renewal, and bridal picture site. Comfortable seating capacity for the chapel is 50. The chapel and prayer garden can be used jointly or separately. We are working with *Her Secret Garden* to provide a nearby site for small receptions that can be part of a low-cost package.

Caroline Doyle is putting together a package of promotional material for organizations associated with weddings as well as for individuals. The chapel has also been used, and is available, for small memorial services.

We also have a site coordinator and a wedding coordinator to serve those inquiring or using our facilities for these small family observances.

For more details check our website at: www.dayspringdiscipleship.org. Click on "small wedding chapel" on the menu tab to the left.

"First-Tuesday" Conversations on Prayer Resume September 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Though the main focus of our conversations on prayer is creating an inner sanctuary that allows us to more clearly know God's voice, in this first conversation Brenda will tell a story of the greatest prayer vigil in history and its profound, though often unknown, results. She has written of this prayer vigil in prior newsletters, but will add more remarkable details and implications for our own prayer life.

Come to the chapel to hear of those who have carried a torch before us. Refreshment break between Brenda's talk and follow-up discussion on its implications for us.

Person of Impact Course Continues Through September

Twenty-one women and four men signed up for Brenda's course designed to equip followers to be more effective instruments in ministering to family and friends in crisis. We are gratified at the response.

Book Club News

Classics Club to Discuss

Release of the Spirit

Our Classics Club is designed to expose our modern spiritual mindset to the experiences and understandings of those who have gone before us on this journey in Christ. The rigorous spirituality of these men and women of profound faith challenges those who are serious about their walk to come out of our smallness and find larger places in which to move and live in Him.



Watchman Nee's classic little book, *Release of the Spirit*, speaks of the ways of such a life. It provokes new thoughts and understandings and challenges to our 21st century spiritual paradigms.

As with all our discussions, views are not blindly embraced but are critically weighed against the life and teachings of Christ. Always, these books have much to say about both. *Release of the Spirit* is no exception.

"Among those who possess the life of the Lord can be found two distinct conditions: one includes those in whom life is confined, restricted, imprisoned and unable to come forth; the other includes those in whom the Lord has forged a way and life is thus released from them." -- W. Nee

Dinner Book Club Repeats

Relax and Let God

Written in greatest simplicity and clarity, this little book from the 1970's is a cornerstone book for this ministry and will be offered annually as one of our book club selections. Its understanding of our freedom in Christ and of our re-creation in Him is unparalleled and should be included in every Christian's library. Unfortunately, it is out of print and hard to get.

Tentative date for the dinner book club discussion of *Relax and Let God* is **Friday evening November 5.**

To reserve your place at the table or to register for the Classics Club, please contact our office as soon as possible so we may secure the books.

Fall Schedule

Fall Tuesdays

First Tuesdays:

An Evening of Conversation on Prayer

Dayspring Chapel – 7:00 p.m.

September 7:

"Once upon a Time"- A Prayer Story

October 5:

"Into a Deserted Place"

November 2:

"Peace Be Still"

Second and Fourth Tuesdays:

Noon

Kaleo Roundtable

Evening

Christian Classics Book Club

Release of the Spirit*

Home Study – 7:00 p.m.

Person of Impact Course

Next Session

Sunday, September 12, 2:00-6:00

Remaining Schedule to be Set at this Session

Dinner Book Club

Friday, November 5:

Relax and Let God*

7:00 p.m.

Sunday Chapel Study

8:00 Sunday Mornings

Great Themes of the Bible

Next Study: ***the Holy Spirit***

*Books must be ordered so let us know of your interest as soon as possible

Sojourner's Quill

A Pilgrim's Journal



I cannot get away from you, no matter how far I run. Sin has been my enemy and I have adopted the Stockholm syndrome because I have been afraid to fight against my enemy. But he, the devil, would tear my heart away from you if he could. But it is impossible. You are in my heart and wherever sin may take me, you are still here with me. You pursue me with your great love. You hate sin because of what it has done to me as your creation. You desire holiness in me because it will make me a whole person.

The journey is not so much a saga of morality, but a story of redemption and rescue. As my savior, you hate sin; not because you are some prudish moral judge who is offended by my debasing vileness, but because you see what sin does to me; how it takes my life from me; how it steals and kills and destroys everything that pertains to the life you give to me. I confess to you, my Lord, that I have believed my enemy's lies. And I see this deep sentence that I have believed: "I don't deserve for you to come through for me." It is a mixture of truth and lie. I don't deserve anything good from you, God. But because of your great love for me, you have chosen me to be your son.

I see that you are not so concerned with my little sins, my outward sins, but it breaks your heart to see me turn away from your love. That is the greatest sin of

all. When you would welcome me into your loving arms, I turn away, rejecting your love. I see that you want holiness for me because of what it will do in giving me freedom and life. You are not up in heaven, angry at me, and wishing that I would just get my act together. But, you are here in my heart, walking with me through everything, no matter how much it hurts me or hurts you; you won't leave me.

I don't know what to do with this kind of love. I don't know how to receive it, how to embrace it. I guess that I just don't know how to let your love embrace me. I see my sins and shortcoming as a wall between us, when the reality is that you are already on my side of the wall, trying to love me back to a place where I will have the strength and courage to follow you wherever you will lead me, through whatever you will allow to touch my life. I see in my heart this desire to love you with every fiber of my being, and how Satan has tried to take that from me through all the wounds and the sins and lies that follow; that would say that you cannot possibly be pleased with me. But that is a lie, you chose me to be your bride, to enter into the great love affair with you. Oh God, help me to hang on to this. To be centered in myself because of your love for me, not because of how well I am doing for you.

-- Joe Box



Monday Night Dig

Joe Box co-leads a discussion-study group with Gay Bostick on Monday evenings designed for those seeking authentic relationship with God. It covers not only Bible studies but book studies and is currently studying John Eldridge's book, *Waking the Dead*. "What I like about the group," Joe says, "is that we leave our pretense at the door and really grapple with the issues that hold us captive and keep us from going on with God. I like the fact it is a safe place where we can be real and express what we're struggling with in our life with God."

Because of the size of the group, it is currently closed, but we are considering creating a second group early next year.

They have studied the first two volumes of Brenda's Road to Emmaus Bible Study, her Sojourner's Discipling booklet, "Lordship" and occasionally throw in a movie that lends itself to discussion of spiritual matters.

Let us know if you would like to be contacted should we form a second group.