



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

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Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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

Newsletter

The Pied Piper

Dearhearts,

It began, as far as I know, with the Pied Piper; that gaily clad figure who played an enchanting pipe that transfixed the children of Hamelin and drew them from home to follow him, some have said, to a cave outside of town - never to be seen again. Centuries later, there were the soothing sounds of chamber music playing aboard ship as passengers waited for the Titanic to sink. When next we hear this Piper's flute, it wafts throughout the gas chambers of the Third Reich as masses of Jews numbly follow its haunting refrains to their death. When the stakes are great, it's amazing how easy it is for us to be lulled, half waking, to walk a path we don't understand...lured to something we do not intend.

We have wandered these days, as a people of faith, away from home...having followed an alluring music to a place I don't recognize...a place that is deadly to the spirit. Home, for those who follow Christ, should look unlike any other place on earth. It is the place in the center of our being that houses God...a human sanctuary of peace in the midst of chaos, of calm amid the winds of earth...a reservoir of grace in the harshness...a light in earth's night.

The Holy Spirit is a gentle soul, if you will, who brings housewarming gifts of kindness and love, joy and peace for those who have moved into His community. But these gifts are not to be hoarded or hidden. They are for the softening of this earth, the calming of its winds, the gentling of its ways.

But the music of the world has played...and we have followed. We have resisted the evil we see...and it has clad us in its garb. Christ tells us, in Matthew 5, not to resist evil. I think this is because when we resist evil, inevitably, we resist it with more evil. It won't look like evil...it will come more gaily clad. Certainly, it will sound righteous. But unless righteous resolve is served righteously - and not in ridicule or contempt - it likely comes from the same Piper who has led astray those whom we oppose. The *only* enemy of evil is good. The only salt that cures hate is love. Any other opponent to hate and evil is an imposter. We have only to look at our own soul for a moment. What is the nature of the anger we feel toward politicians and politics with whom we

disagree? How does the climate of things these days affect us? What occupies our mind? What dominates our thinking...or our conversations? Is your soul a center of calm amid the winds of this earth or are the winds howling in you? What is the ratio of time spent thinking about these things, talking about these things, listening, reading, learning about these things to that of time spent in prayer about those things or focus on spiritual matters? And which will do more good for the world...or the soul?

How beguiling is the Piper of this world.

I don't see many Christians any more who live at home. It's hard to tell Christian politicians from non-Christian politicians. Who is this Piper that makes his way into our souls even to this very day with music that leads us away from home? He is not the popular radio personalities of our day...but he uses them...because they speak to things that matter to us. They play a beguiling music of moral politics that leads our spirit into caves of anger and fear, condescension and ridicule...places that kill the spirit life. We have choices to make. Darkness increases only as the light fades. He has only to lure us off track a little for us to be exactly where he wants us.

The town records of Hamelin start with the tragic, inexplicable loss of 130 children. In 1384, the first official entry reads: "It is 100 years since our children left."

Sometimes I fear that our day will be noted in some distant annals as the time in America when the light left. It would be tragic, but not inexplicable...and it will not be the Piper's fault. He has played an enchanting pipe, and we have been lulled, half waking, to walk a path we did not intend.

I love you,

"Be the living expression of God's kindness."

Mother Teresa

*An Evening with Brenda in Conversation
on Prayer*

“Into a Deserted Place”

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 5
Dayspring Chapel

Join us for the second of our “First Tuesday” Conversations on Prayer this fall as Brenda explores the role of solitude in our prayer pilgrimage. The great challenge of our time and culture is to create time and space for prayer to become meaningful and real.

Consider taking time on Tuesday evening to deepen the possibilities of the Sacred in your journey.

**“In solitude I find you -
In stillness I hear you”**

From Brenda’s “Personal Journal”

The Revolutionary

8:00 a.m.

Our Next Sunday Morning Chapel Study Series

As we conclude our study on the great themes of the Bible, Brenda is set to begin our next study on Sunday morning on the life of Christ. We invite anyone to come at any time. About twenty people regularly attend, including seven couples.

We finish before 9:00 to allow time, for those wishing to do so, to go on to church.

Dinner Book Club Repeat Selection

Relax and Let God

Friday, November 12* - 7:00 p.m.

Peeling away Performance - Summoning the Spirit

This timeless little book speaks plainly and simply, but with extraordinary insight, to our complex, performance-based lives. “This book has been life-changing,” Patty said after our previous dinner book club, “I love this book. It should be offered every year.” And indeed we are.

Please Consider Reserving Your Place at the Table for an evening of discussion and fellowship around a table of soup and cornbread.

Person of Impact Wrapping Up Level 1

Designed to better equip Christians to be God’s instruments in their world, Brenda’s *Person of Impact Course* concludes the first of three levels this month. Level one covers the grief process and listening skills as well as God’s spiritual and scriptural principles for wholeness. The second level is slated for January and will essentially consist of two comprehensive Bible studies on breaking generational sin patterns and on bringing down strongholds. The third level addresses the major issues that block or undermine our wholeness. Among these are power, control, boundaries, core wounds and shame.

The response, both in terms of content and interest and in attendance, (averaging in the upper teens) has been gratifying. Below are comments from two participants.

“Your Person of Impact course has been monumental in equipping me with the tools I have needed for so long, not only in helping me in my conversations with family and friends, but also in dealing with my own past hurts and grief over losing loved ones. I have already had the wonderful opportunity of sharing some of my new skills that I’ve learned through your course with a client and a friend of mine! Thank you so much for sharing your precious time and information with us!” Caroline

“I originally thought to participate as a means to become a better listener. Most guys don’t know how (at least not this guy). All I’ve ever done was listen to the introduction to the problem then immediately race off (either in my mind or literally) to fix the problem. Whether or not I get to use the Person of Impact lessons on someone else they are aiding me as a husband, father and grandfather as well as a friend. Thank you.” Mike

Monday Night Dig

As their study of *Waking the Dead* comes to a close **the Dig**, led by Gay Bostick and Joe Box, will soon begin a study of Larry Crabb’s *Shattered Dreams*.



A short break between books will include a movie night and time for fellowship and a sharing of their stories.

Though it is currently full, if you would like your name placed on a waiting list, please call the Dayspring office.