



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

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

Dearhearts,

My mother lived a triumphant life...though she only knows that now. Hers was an arduous trek, and weariness draped about her like an unwelcome garment. But she was triumphant in her love. In her endurance. She never stopped trying...never stopped pressing... never gave up. She lived until the day she died. And she put that hour in God's hands. She never wrote anything significant...except her letters to us. She never got her Bachelor's degree, though she had enough hours for almost two degrees. She never had any of the credentials that certify success. But mother lived in triumph.

In January before she died in May of that year, she began telling me she didn't think she would be here much longer. In one of those times we began talking about her life. I told her what an amazing life she had lived. Almost as though she hadn't heard, she said, "It's been a hard life." Like cold water in my face, her words brought me back to her reality...not mine. Her reality was the struggle... mine was her prevailing triumph over the struggle.

Perhaps that was the way it was with Lincoln...or Churchill. They both were shrouded with depression, which always pushed Churchill back from the edge of the train platform for fear of what he might do if he stood too close. Yet we see their grandeur. Their prevailing lives...their triumph.

I don't know when it was that Mother completely yielded her life over God. But the last decade of her life, whether at her home or mine, she would be sitting in the chair around 5:00 in the morning reading her Bible and praying.

And in her weakness...His power was made whole.

Perhaps this is what II Corinthians 12:7-10 means. The times when I have felt most disabled seemed neither noble nor triumphant. I felt weak...defeated. Maybe it is that His power made perfect in our weakness may be something only others can see...or we can see only in hindsight as redemption transforms the shambles.

What we see and what is...are often two different things. In Peter's bitter, weeping night, a rock was

forming. In the darkness of Golgotha, morning was breaking upon earth. In the tomb, a womb was forming to birth a life never before seen upon earth. And on the Emmaus road, grieving disciples walked with a stranger they only later would know was Jesus.

What makes up the difference between a struggling life and a triumphant life is not events or outcome...it is God. We see our failures...our weaknesses...yet these are just the vacuum God is waiting for to rush in and make whole and perfect what is so inadequate.

So what do you see of your life? Is it the deficiencies? Is it what should have been or could have been? Do you see nothing to vouch for your success? No credentials that certify your significance? Or is it a sloppy mix of success and failure? Or perhaps you see a massively successful life? It is likely your life is none of these. But something you cannot see. What you may see as failure others may see as triumphant.

For each of us there is a time to offer our lives to God for Him to do with as He will. These times usually come amid the debris of our inadequacies. In some of my most disillusioning, defeating times when I saw myself as a mess, a picture of the clay from which we have come would be in my mind, and I would cry to the Lord, "Take this wad of clay and throw it!" Throw it where you will. Let it splat on the wall and be broken. Throw it on the potter's wheel to be re-fashioned into something I cannot see. I am nothing. And if anything is to be made of me...it can only be by your doing.

Only here, where self yields to the Divine, can the miracle of II Corinthians 12 be fulfilled in us. Perhaps it is that in such places, given over to Him, His strength is made perfect in our weakness...and we do not even know.

It may be something only others can see.

I love you,

Continuing Education Courses on God and History

The Origin and Impact of Paganism.

Pat Townsend teaches this *Mini-Course* on the Biblical and historical understandings of paganism and its impact on the Children of Israel as well as on us today.

The Children of Israel were lured, and often derailed, by the paganism of the different cultures that surrounded them. How did these “religions” develop and what was their power? What is it today that lures us and how do we recognize it?

“A by-product of our culture is to carelessly overlook how ‘unholiness’ can permeate our thinking. If we were to consider the ramifications, we would be more mindful of the power we are giving to our spiritual enemy.”

Understanding the origins of these ancient false religions will also help us understand those forces in our world today and how we are to respond.

Please reserve your place with us in the Chapel
7:00 Tuesday Evenings / October 22 and 29

“Historical Conversations” Follow-Up

The enthusiastic faithful are not ready for Becky Elliston’s Great Religions course to end. The course concludes the first Thursday of this month with a look at the rise and impact of Islam. Because the consensus of the class members was that something needed to continue, Becky will hold *Historical Conversations* on the *First Thursday* of each month for the rest of the year. These will cover varying topics suggested by the class with the first Thursday of next month being a conversation on *Present Day Israel*. These are open to anyone even if you have not attended previous sessions.

Several of those who attended this course are completely new to the Dayspring community. One lady from a local retirement center saw a brochure for the course and came despite many of her acquaintances urging her not to go: “We don’t know anything about this Dayspring group...they could be New Age...” She came on her own...loved it and has brought new people with her from the center every session since. She is now wanting to know more about this Dayspring group and is one of the instigators for the Historical Conversations.

***Historical Conversation: Present Day Israel
7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 7 / Dayspring Chapel***

Friday Night at the Movies



Fourteen people gathered in Claudia Shugart’s media room for our first movie experience with *Lars and the Real Girl*, an off-beat, low-budget movie that has layers of messages about our impact on others. Claudia had a theater style popcorn machine plus candy and snacks which transported us right into the movie. From two who attended:

“Thank you! Things just started jumping out to me as I watched the movie. What a wonderful choice! I love the discussion afterwards and thought about it a lot after I got home.” C.

“I love the idea of watching movies and looking for the message they leave us with...it touches some uncharted territory in me that God is trying to awaken me to...” G.

Next Movie: Amazing Grace

Oct. 18 / 7:00 p.m.

*The Conflict and the Power of a Committed Life
Due to Limited Seating Reservations are Required*

Sunday Morning Chapel Study on Revelation Begins October 6

The first Sunday in October marks the beginning of an extended study on the Book of Revelation. Brenda will be leading this year-long study of this mysterious book. All the great themes of the Bible culminate here. Understanding them helps in understanding the meaning of this concluding book of the Bible.

Any study of Revelation automatically yokes with much of the other prophecy of the Bible, especially the book of Daniel. Come at 8:00 on Sunday mornings expecting a journey into the mysteries of Revelation and the ancient prophecies that support it and into the mysteries of our own world today.



Changes in Art Classes

Elaine Souder has announced some scheduling changes in her popular art classes that emphasize sitting still with God and creating in a reflective and self-expressive way. Most recently, classes have been held on both Wednesday and Friday afternoons. The new changes bring both classes to Wednesday, one from 12:00 – 2:00, the other from 4:30 - 6:30. The later class is full but if you are interested, please contact Elaine at 214-404-9113 to discuss time options and arrangements.



Notes From the Prayer Retreat

Eighteen men and women attended last month's prayer retreat in Glen Rose. Plans are to offer a prayer retreat yearly in October. We had built free time into the Saturday afternoon schedule to allow for fishing and swimming in the Paluxy River. The only problem was...there was no water in the river! Other than that, the retreat offered a mix of teaching and intercession, fellowship and personal quiet time, as we sought spiritual and physical refreshing in drawing near to God through prayer.

Several of the prayer clusters that formed at the retreat will continue to gather to intercede for the most pressing needs we prayed for that weekend.

"It was a perfect weekend of amazing teaching, of fellowship with old and new friends and most importantly a renewed longing to know the Lord in a deeper and more personal way through prayer. I hope you have a prayer retreat every year!" D'Ann

Sequestration Cuts Hit Pine Ridge

It's easy for us to say, "go ahead and let the sequestration cuts happen," but that's because we are relatively unaffected by them. There is a need for us to look beyond ourselves at what it really means for others who are not as fortunate as we.

Recently, the assistant principal of the 600 student school in the Pine Ridge community told us that a million dollars was being cut from their school budget. This is just for one school on the reservation! Remember, as part of the Department of Interior, they are solely dependant on federal funding and have no way to re-coup this staggering loss through public donations or their own resources. And why are we surprised there are third-world conditions on Pine Ridge?

Project Hope Update

*Mission Outreach
to the Lakota
Sioux*



Second Team Leaving for Pine Ridge

Local veterinarian, **Dr. David Celella**, heads a 3-man team of **Jack Bostick** and **Sandy Haran** that leaves for Pine Ridge Wednesday morning October 2. Dr. Celella specializes in care of horses and he and his team will be vaccinating and rendering general care to horses on the reservation. There is a possibility, as well, that he will be conducting a workshop on general medical care for horses.

Partnership for Housing is coordinating the effort there and has lined up at least 50 horses for their medical attention. Vaccinations for this many horses is quite expensive, but Dr. Celella has received some assistance from the company that supplies the vaccines. Dayspring is using some of the donations you have so generously given to help deflect some of the expenses for the trip as well.

Dr. Celella initiated contact with us only a short time ago, inquiring of the possibility of going to Pine Ridge the first of October. We were thrilled at his interest, made some enquiries, and very quickly found things coming together.

Our prayers are with this team of men as they take their skill and compassion to the reservation. May the Lakota people they come in contact with see in them the Christ who loves them more than they can know.

A Letter from CASA

We wish we could show you the three large photos Casa director Arlana Bettelyoun sent us of the newly furnished safe room for debriefing the children who come because of abuse. The table, lamps, sofa and chair and a small bed have all been purchased with the \$500 we sent for that purpose from your donations. That they were able to create such a warm and inviting room with such a small fund is both impressive and gratifying.

We continue to help with the self-sufficiency workshops sponsored by **Partnership for Housing** and with gas cards to help with travel expense for **CASA volunteers**.

Nursing Home Ministry Retires

After three years of a vibrant ministry outreach, we are suspending our nursing home ministry. For much of this time it has been a very dynamic aspect of our overall ministry with several ladies visiting weekly (and sometimes several times a week). Elaine Souder held weekly art classes that were eagerly anticipated by many of the residents with Anne Morton assisting her in recent months.

Elizabeth Moses, who spearheaded the visiting and personal ministry to the residents, has recently re-located to Austin, while personnel changes at the nursing home have made it more difficult to effectively hold the art classes. Others who had been actively involved with visiting have experienced changes in their lives that have made it increasingly difficult to continue.

So, at least for now, we are closing this aspect of Dayspring's ministry.

We all miss Elizabeth very much at Dayspring and look forward to the times when she is back either to visit or to re-establish her residency here.

The nursing home ministry, particularly, has shown us what we already have known...how important each individual is in extending the Lord's work.

We also see that with the....

Prayer Garden

If you've traveled across the Ray Hubbard bridge on 66 going toward 190, you see the dramatic results of the continued drought in our area. What was once lake is now grass. Though we have had more rain in recent months than we have been used to in the last 3 years, it may have deceived us into thinking things were moving in the right direction. Lake Ray Hubbard at the second, western-most bridge, tells us otherwise.

And so does the prayer garden.

Trees have died and plants are dying. Half the plants around the perimeter of Amy's Garden have died or are dying...the wisteria, the star jasmine and 2 or 3 rose of Sharon trees. And now two large bushes in the Garden of Gratitude are gone.

Much, if not all, of this is because the three women (Gay Bostick, Teresa Jacks and Caroline Doyle) who have faithfully tended the garden and hand watered (where needed) for years, cannot keep up with the increasing demands brought on by the drought.

If we had two more people who would be willing to take even an hour out of their week to hand water in targeted areas, we might be able to save some of the plants that are turning brown.

The prayer garden, too, shows us how vital single individuals are to the Lord's work.

Would you consider being one of those individuals?

It's That Time of Year Again...

Already a couple of pumpkins have appeared in the prayer garden. Last year, we asked if you would be interested in *a Pumpkin Pitch-in...* bringing a pumpkin to the garden to see if we could create a place of fall beauty, where family pictures could be taken or people could just stroll through, or be *in*, the feel of fall in the Garden.



As you can see, so many of you brought pumpkins it

created a fall festival of colors and beauty. It was an out-pouring that took us by surprise.



A Pumpkin Pitch-In ...Again?

If you would like to bring a pumpkin, large or small and of any

color, to the garden and see what, together, we might be able to offer the people of Rockwall again this fall, we invite you to place them

near the chapel or the Rock Fountain between the chapel and the awning.



We will arrange them as needed depending on how many of you respond.

Was last year a fluke...or was it the beginning of a wonderful tradition in the garden?

We wait with anticipation to see.

