



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

## Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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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

### *Stones of the Beloved*

Dearhearts,

You see it on Signature Cliff in southeastern Wyoming...scores of names and dates carved into a bluff, evidence of their journey on the Oregon Trail to the “promised land” a century and a half ago. Leaving a name for some distant stranger to wonder at who these were who engraved their names to mark their passage. The great fear of the human heart is that we will be forgotten. That we will be so inconsequential our lives will just slip from sight and no one will notice...or remember we walked this place once.

There are names engraved on two black stones set in gold and secured to the shoulders of the high priest's ephod. As he ministered to the Lord within the holy place of the tabernacle, the names of the twelve tribes of Israel went with him. On his robe, as well, a lavish breastplate held twelve exotic stones positioned at the chest of the high priest; each one bore the name of a tribe. “And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goes in unto the holy place for a memorial before the Lord continually.” (Ex. 28:29) The high priest, alone, on the day of atonement, entered into the Holy of Holies with the blood of the unblemished lamb. When judgment was replaced with mercy through that blood, the shoulders of the high priest carried these “stones of memorial” before the Lord; and over his heart, the “stones of judgment.” God ever remembered His beloved as worthy of the lengths to which He went to bestow mercy and remove from them the judgment of their sin.

As the tabernacle of Moses is a picture of a heavenly tabernacle “not made with human hands,” Hebrews tells us as well that the high priest of the Old Covenant is a picture of Christ as High Priest of the New Covenant. As High Priest He carried sacred blood into the heavenly Holy of Holies and placed it on the throne of God. No longer the nation of Israel pardoned yearly by innocent blood from their flocks, it is Christ Himself who is the unblemished Lamb of God whose blood rests in heaven. His gaze has turned from a nation to persons, and there is no length to which He is unwilling to go to grant us mercy and passage to the Promised Land. He is our

Passover Lamb and Good Shepherd both; our Sin offering and Guilt offering; the First fruits offering as first-born from the dead...our High Priest...All.

There are names engraved on white stones in heaven, secured in the folds of our High Priest's heart. Untold numbers of stones...one for each of us for whom He died. And on each stone...a single name. Ours. A new name...one we have never known before, but one He has known since we first were born of Him. He has claimed each of us with this name, and it tells us who we have truly been. It tells us we have not been inconsequential. Every hair of your head is numbered. What you have done in obscurity has been seen. You have not slipped unnoticed from this place; your passage has not been missed. Every word and act in Him has been remembered, every thought honored. Your life...your name... inscribed in heaven...forever. With this name Christ will present you to His Father as one whom He has known, and yet your new name is a secret He whispers only in your ear.

In Christ we are known... personally ...deeply. And ever we are remembered before God as the beloved for whom He cast himself earthward and for whom He left it all on the field.

I love you,

*But for the joy set before him Christ endured the cross.*

Hebrews 12: 2

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Matt. 10:30,32; Lk. 8:16-17; Matt. 6:8; Rom. 8: 27; Jn. 10: 3; I Cor. 3:10-14; Rev.14:13; Lk. 10:20; Rev. 2:17; Heb. 8-10

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### **GALATIANS TEACHINGS NOW on Website.**

Several of Brenda's Sunday Morning Teachings on Galatians are now on-line with the remainder in the process of being up-loaded. **Our thanks to Mike Vlk.**

## Ministry News

### Prayer Garden Storm and Drought Damage

Wind from the last storm that blew into Rockwall toppled one of the large trees along the fence line in Riley's Berm and severely tilted a large tree next to it. These were among the larger trees in the entire garden and leave the recently created sitting area to the left of Riley's Berm exposed to full sunlight for most of the day. The sign itself was only slightly damaged with the backboard crinkled at the corner and only the "R" in "Berm" bent. We are grateful to have escaped with such limited damage.



Currently, we are assessing how best to re-establish a shaded sitting area. Already in need of replacing one of our Japanese Maples taken out by the drought, we are now looking at the purchase, as well, of a large fast growing tree to provide shade as quickly as possible. Of course, this will be more expensive than if we had the luxury of letting smaller trees grow. Since this is the time of year best suited for tree planting we will be seeking to find replacement trees soon.

Other brown spots dot the garden as azaleas, gardenias, smaller dogwoods and antique roses have either dropped their leaves to save the plant or have been killed. For most we won't know until spring which it is.

We ask your prayerful consideration as we look at the added costs of recovering from these weather events.

### Gaining Gardeners ...and Boy! Are we Grateful



Three more people have swelled our gardening ranks to six regulars who work as their schedules permit. The newest arrivals are Dick and Elaine Souder and Becky Elliston. Becky has adopted the area between the Garden of the Unborn and Amy's Garden and already is transforming it. Dick and Elaine have are doing the same with Riley's Berm, planting it with southwest succulents and groundcover from Elaine's old home site near Brownwood. Their recent work went unscathed by the fallen trees.

**If you would like to Adopt a Garden Patch,  
*please* let us know!**

See page 3 for more on the fall garden.

### November "Meditation Saturday" Added "Meditation on Gratitude" November 12, 8:30 – 11:30

After our initial mention in late summer of three fall "Saturday Meditations" for learning how to meditate scripture as a way to expand faith and deepen our awareness of God, Brenda decided to drop the third date in November because the usual pattern for these kinds of event is a drop-off in attendance by the third session. To her surprise, the eight in attendance not only asked why we weren't having a November prayer Saturday but politely insisted on it. **Theresa Pool attended both Saturdays and comments below:**

"I have for many years desired to learn how to meditate, so when Brenda announced she was offering this as a study I couldn't wait. The first week I felt I had failed, but determined to learn more, I returned the next meditation on provision. I chose the Matthew 6:25-33 scripture. The first words *do not be anxious for your life* was where God stopped me and I realized I had been anxious for my spiritual life. I lost my husband 4 years ago and since then I've been concerned that I accomplish Gods plan for my life before I die. As I read on, long story short, I was lead to relinquish an idol which was taking time away from allowing God to fill my life with His glory as he does for the lilies of the field. What a blessing this time meditating on God's word has been. I encourage each of you to take the time to attend the *meditation on gratitude* at this Thanksgiving season."

### Mark Your Calendars

**Thursday December 15 --**  
**Annual Christmas Caroling**  
**Sunday December 18 --**  
**Nursing Home Caroling – 3:00 p.m.**



**Nursing Home Caroling.** This year for the first time we will be caroling through the halls of our Senior Care Center and would love to have you join our small group to increase the numbers and the blessing. (Look for more details in December's newsletter.)

## *The Beauty of the Garden in Autumn*

Through the loving efforts of our garden volunteers, the prayer garden looks more beautiful than ever this fall with pumpkins and gourds and chrysanthemums adorning the grounds.



Becky Elliston's adopted garden patch, cleared, cleaned and mulched with pecan shells (made possible by your garden donations this spring) is planted in herbs and decorated for the fall.

Rosemary and thyme and sage frame the bird bath.



Elaine and Dick have added to the southwest look of the berm that reflects Riley's love for Texas and the southwest with a small "Santa Fe" sculpture that has been hidden on site for years.

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Pumpkins, gourds, squash and chrysanthemums add a touch of fall color to the berm.



Caroline Doyle has worked tirelessly in the garden and chapel and coordinates small weddings that are occurring with increasing frequency, including several this fall. Her fall touch frames the area outside the chapel and footbridge.

Elizabeth Moses faithfully tends to floral and other arrangements within the chapel. More recently Jeanna' Mead has replenished the interactive portions of the garden and provided a beautiful wire container for the butterflies in the Garden of the Unborn.

Gay Bostick and Teresa Box have sacrificially given to the prayer garden since its inception in 2003. Without them this garden would only have been a messy dream.

***How indebted we are to all who have given from their hearts for the ministry of the Lord's prayer garden at Dayspring!***

*We invite you  
to stroll through the garden,  
bring a book or Bible or picnic lunch  
and enjoy our fall days amid the peace and  
simple beauty of a garden replenished by the  
recent rains.*

## Touch Ministry Update

### "In-Touch" Parlor

Our recently fashioned reading/prayer room we call the Parlor, is a hit for many who enter our office facility as it offers a restful pocket for reading or prayer or listening quietly to Christian music.

**Fellowship.** A small group of ladies has reserved the room on Wednesday mornings for cards and games.

**Bible Study.** Pat Townsend is leading a 3-week study of the book of Philippians from 10:00 – 11:30 on Thursday mornings.

**Book Study.** Patty Stefani will follow Pat's study with a 3 week book study of Ken Gire's *Windows of the Soul*. The book study will be on either Tuesday or Thursday morning. *If you are interested please contact the office as space is limited and the date is not yet set.*

### Parlor Prayer Teams

Though we have a ministry Intercessory Prayer Team that has met weekly for years, we are going to be forming additional prayer partners, either with individuals at home or teams that will meet when possible in the parlor. One team will be intercessory for the needs of others. Another will pray for spiritual awakening in the community and in us as believers. Another will pray for the effectiveness of the ministry in impacting people with the reality of Christ and for the ministry of the prayer garden and chapel.

These are being formed primarily by word of mouth, but we know there may be some receiving our newsletter who might be interested. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please let us know.

## Touch Team Notebook

**Entry #1: 10 /11:** Great afternoon!!! Judy A. and I went to see Ramona. She gave us a beautiful story... about how she sees that God was with her every step of the way, even if she didn't see or know it...an incredible testimony.

Went to see Bob carrying paint and paper, etc. When I said, "let's paint!" he suddenly went out the door and wheeled himself down to the art room and set himself up at a table. He stayed with it almost an hour. Judy Mushonga was delighted and ran around showing everyone his painting. When he was complimented, he'd turn his painting over...shaking his head "no".

**Entry #2: 10 /18.** Fannie was doing well but she and the roommate are still at it...popped in to see Tommy...

Bob is looking forward to painting tomorrow. He said he can do better. I'm just still so amazed at what he did do!

Nina's back was giving her problems so she wasn't as up as usual. I DID remember to give her the newsletter with Bravo's picture. I gave her a pumpkin and a marker for her to decorate.

Barbara has colored one of the pictures in the butterfly book and it was beautiful! Tomorrow I will stop by to see Annie and Ramona before going to paint with Bob.

**Entry #2: 10 /19.** Talked with Judy for a while. She wants to put us in the newsletter, complete with pictures including the dogs.

Judy also said that after we sang to Annie last week, one of the aides reported that Annie was still singing.

Annie wasn't doing too well today. She looked very confused...I recited a prayer and sang Jesus Loves Me.

Ramona was okay...visited about good times with her sister.

Then Bob... and once again I had to trot to keep up with him to the art room. It's New Mexico. There's a mesa with the strata of colors, and the mountains in the background.

He said he had gone there with his brother Michael. This time Bob was smiling when he finished.



### About Bob...

A successful businessman, Bob was disabled by a stroke. Unable to walk or talk, he communicates by stabbing at a computer keyboard with his one partially functioning hand that swings erratically over the keys. His only relative was a brother who visited him daily until he died unexpectedly in March, sending Bob into deep grief. This picture was painted with his one, half-functioning hand. Bob attends the art class led by Elaine Souder and assisted by others from the Touch Team.

*This month's notes are from Elizabeth Moses.*