

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

Tea at the Palace

Dearhearts,

We went to a tearoom in Plano...my 11 year old granddaughter and I. It was a magical moment for both of us, but for different reasons. “I am so excited about going to tea,” she kept telling me all through the morning. She had brought a special dress with rose and silver glitter polka dots on a deep purple sleeveless dress and topped it off with silver sandals. It was our first cold snap of October so I remembered a sparkly, silver shawl I had not used in years. It went perfectly with her dress and would protect from the chill. She put her hair up in the back with a couple of hanging, curled strands framing her face and we were off. “I’m so excited,” she repeated as we drove up 190 to Plano.

They had reserved a table for two tucked away in the corner. As we waited for high tea to begin, I saw Emma looking around as if in wonder. Matching teapots and cups accented each table with floral, English-style patterns. Near us, an antique cupboard held more plates and saucers of many of the patterns on the tables. It was nothing magical...but it *was* special. She closed her eyes and breathed in deeply. As she slowly breathed out I realized she had brought with her to this place her own magic. She was in that moment a princess...and it *was* a magical place.

And it became that for me as well. The rest of our time sipping tea and eating scones and finger sandwiches in a little tearoom in Plano was spent in Buckingham Palace with the Queen’s butlers. Our time there was adorned in magic.

It is, really, all in how we see...whether our living will be mundane or magical, our lives vague or vibrant. It was just a little tearoom...but it was transformed, not by what Emma saw, but by how she saw.

Sherry’s patient is in her mid-50’s. She always asks about her life and the kids when Sherry comes in to check her vitals. Connie does that with all who come by, asking friends and nurses alike how they are, enquiring about their lives, their jobs...their family. Sherry is a hospice nurse and Connie is too young to be dying...and by the way she sees and acts, no one would guess that she is. This is not the menu Connie would have ordered for herself. But she has brought her own heart to the table and serves up blessing for others there.

What we bring to the table of our lives is much more important than how the table has been set for us.

So we keep waiting for the abundant life Christ promised...wondering when it’s going to finally get here because it certainly hasn’t found its place on our table of never ending challenges and frustrations, disappointments and crushing blows from out of nowhere...and just as we were finding our footing.

Abundant living tarries only for the faith to see beyond circumstance to what is really in the room. It is not death that is in Connie’s room, but an eternal God who transcends time and circumstance and who has come to eat at her table and drink of her cup. As she closes her eyes and breathes in deeply, then slowly breathes out, it touches all who come to her table. She has brought with her to this place a Divine ambiance.

We all have the opportunity to live magical lives even when it doesn’t look that way. To be excited about the experience of a life that is spirit breathed in which the moments themselves are bejeweled. It requires a communion with God that transcends temporal realities and gives us new treasures to behold. It requires a belief in the unseen...and a faith that dares to leap into the adventure it holds.

And so the place was transformed for me. My eyes held more magic as we finished our tea. It was a princess moment for a princess. And my day was transformed because of Emma...and so, too, my memories. After all...it’s not often one has tea at a palace...unless, of course, we dare to leap into the adventure faith holds.

I love you,

Brenda



-- Gifts from Dayspring --

Beautiful Note Cards

with Scripture

of Dayspring Prayer Garden
offered again this year.

12 different images / \$15.00

Prayer Garden in Autumn

*“Together in Community...”
Beautiful Things Happen*

Last month we wondered what might happen in decorating the prayer garden for fall if some of you wanted to pitch in a pumpkin to help us out. What you did was beyond what we had hoped. With your pumpkins and Elaine Souder’s artist’s touch, we really do have some special places for kid and family pictures or for quiet beauty.



We are so grateful for your response to our wondering what we might be able to accomplish in community and we hope you will come out and enjoy what you helped create.

*In the meantime ...*here’s a photographic peek at the garden.

A pair of happy scarecrows welcome visitors to the garden.



Riley’s Berm



Though our Garden is dressed for fall, our deepest invitation is to come experience the peace of the garden and the refreshment of personal time alone with the Lord.



The *Rock Fountain* - center top - offers an especially inviting place for personal reflection or for fall pictures with children or family.

————— *Dallas may have its arboretum but Rockwall has its prayer garden* —————

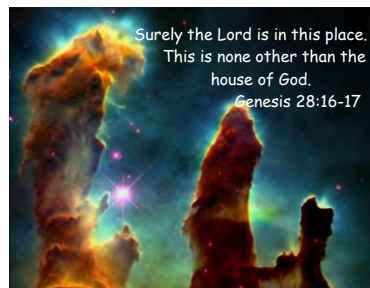
Song of Christ *Reflections on a Sacred Journey*

The remaining volumes of Brenda’s Book are offered for **\$5.00** each while they last. To order complete Enclosed Order Form and return to our office.



In the woods and streams and magical night skies of childhood in western Arkansas, I daily caught glimpses of God that drew me into His majesty and mystery: that spoke of a Being beyond my grasp who ever poured out His oils of creation on a mountainous canvas...So wilderness trails drew me into adventure with a wild yet tender God...a sacred journey that comes when we say “yes” to Christ’s beckoning Spirit.

May these stories of the adventure, these “pilgrim letters” from my heart to yours, be breath and fire both for you: breath to your weary and sagging places and fire for those embers that have grown cold in the hearth of your soul. (from back cover)



See enclosed form to order.

2013 Calendar offers a new look this year with Magnificent photos from space overlaid with Scripture. Left is one page from the calendar. Estimated cost per calendar: **\$18.00**