



# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

November 2015 “...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” – Luke 1:78-79 Newsletter

Dearhearts,

For so many years I've been bent on the idea of transformation in the Christian experience. The miracle of our faith hovers over transformation: Christ putting a new form in us... “a new creation”... “behold I make all things new”... “let this form be in you which was in Christ Jesus”... “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” And on it goes. Christ in us...renovating the premises. But when the work crew goes on strike...what happens to renovation? When no one in the temple wants to do the work... wants to keep it tidied up...wants to do a deep cleaning... what happens to transformation? The Crew Chief may be on site...but everyone else is sleeping in.

The answer of course is the renovation has stopped. Transformation has come to a standstill.

Christ needs laborers for His work to be done, even in the field of our own soul. He needs our cooperation. And yet we don't seem too intent on that these days. Maybe it's because renovation is such a mess. A total inconvenience. Who wants to live in dust and chaos? Who wants to say goodbye to comfortable living? How long do I want to sign up for not having my life?

I've often wondered if the cornerstone of the American perspective...individual rights...is a great impediment for us and transformation? I think it carries a collective bias. Individual rights don't lend themselves to sacrificing self for others; to submitting to authority. The pursuit of happiness - if that American tenant has captured our imagination- doesn't lend itself to going out of our way for others or letting go of our definition of happiness. It's not that it makes interior renovation impossible; it's not that other cultures don't deal with their own fetishes. They do. But maybe it's important that we be aware of what we're up against in our American selves, what captures our sub-conscious gaze and holds us in transformational limbo.

There is a work beyond transformation, and I think it is the gaze that counts here. Transcendence is the word God seems to be holding before me these days. What snares my gaze? If it is anything other than heavenly things...then transformation will not be. “Set

your mind on things above”... “we are seated with Christ in heavenly places”... “Help him to see what I see,” the prophet Elisha prayed as his servant despaired of the armies amassed against them. Yet Elisha was unfazed. His gaze did not sink him into the despair of the seen. Neither did that of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. “Our Lord can save us but if He does not, we will worship Him anyway.” Transcendence defies the seen. It lifts our gaze, as someone has said, above the muddy debris and lives above it, choosing to define circumstances and life itself by another realm.

What would that look like here? Not letting the cares and riches and pleasures of this world choke out our joy or obscure the greater things of the spirit. Not succumbing to the fretting and fears ginned up by politics and its critical, negative spirit. Transcendence traffics in grace and mercy and is not ensnared in fairness or giving back in kind. It is not mired in the daily deaths of hopes and possibilities but sees resurrection.

This is transcendence and it accelerates transformation. It takes the mess and dust, the intrusions, and looks beyond them to the mountains in our lives rimmed with heavenly hosts fighting the battles we cannot wage, inviting us to see the invisible, to transcend the debris of earth and live on another plane of peace.

Peter jumping from the boat was a transcendent moment. His sinking in the waves of failure and his rescue were transformational. Moses walking into the thick darkness where God was, was transcendent. His encountering God there was transformational. Transcendence dares the impossible, in fact...banks on it. And it births transformation. And the more we are transformed, the more transcendent moments we have.

Because transcendence seats us with Christ in heavenly places with our feet still planted on earth, a transcendent life never is fooled by what others see.

I love you,

## *Glancing Backward...Looking Forward...Living Now*

### *With God the Journey is Always Home*

*We are leaving behind a year of change, having moved from our 10 year home on Boydston and the prayer garden, we now are settling into our new home on Fannin and the Antiquities Library.*

*No matter what we have left or where we are headed, with God the journey is always home.*

### *The Prayer Ministry ...*

has had to be recalibrated to accommodate our new surroundings but we're finding that the Fannin House is much more suited to some of the offerings we put to bed some years ago than was Boydston.

**Night Watch**, after many years, is being awakened as of October 30 and will be part of next year's venue.

It was a small group that gathered the Friday before Halloween for prayer.

Though not all made it through the night, most endured deep into the morning hours and all seemed especially blessed.

*"What a night for prayer! Pouring rain, howling winds and five sleepy women determined to stay as long as they could!"*

*We banded together and in one accord approached the throne of our heavenly Father in behalf of our families, our friends, the ministry, our community, the Christian church as a whole. We lifted all we knew to lift to the Lord. We came away with new insights, renewed hopes and the assurance of God's guidance in our lives and our ministry.*

*It was a memorable time...a precious time." LP*

*"In the midst of my busy life, last night was a unique and unhurried time of wonderful prayer and fellowship. What a gift it was to be cocooned together in the shadows of the men and women of our faith in the antiquities library! CD*

**Conversations on Prayer** returns to our Tuesday evening calendar next year on the third Tuesday of each month as Brenda teaches on the mystery of prayer and shares stories of its miraculous ways among us.

**Saturday Meditations** will be re-engaged this coming spring as well though not on the monthly basis as before. The **5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays** of January and April will mark a time of teaching and meditating Scripture for transformational results in our lives.

Prayer is a believer entering into the mystery of our dance with God. Love is the music we dance to. Prayer is the lyrics of a duet sung in harmony by lovers from two worlds meeting on a splintered and broken dance floor and making it new.

**It is in the unfathomed reaches of the universe that we begin to glimpse our insignificance. That we begin to break through all the denials of our own pride to exclaim**

*"How utterly small I am, how miniscule the world I live in. I'm a speck on a speck!"*

**And in our smallness is our desperate need for Him. When we think of the One who created all this...the vast expanse of darkness sprinkled with a few grains of light scattered like salt on an ebony plate so large it takes 30 billion years for the salt to roll across it...we are confronted with how we dare approach such a Being. May, too, be confronted with the sheer terror of even being in the vicinity of such enormity or, worse, being ignored by Him. After all, what am I in the scheme of things? And, yet, He pursues the speck. Invades the speck with His Voice and dons the robe of the speck and looks like the speck. Contained. This Immensity shrunk wrapped into our speck-ness. Yet still beyond us. Still unfathomable. Untouchable. Until we learn to pray. And then in prayer we touch Him. And He touches us. Touches our yearnings...our fears and hopes. Our struggles. Touches our deepest smallness with endless expanse.**

**Touches our utter insignificance with the immeasurable treasure of the Divine. This Immensity has made a way for us not only to know Him...but to experience Him. To be wowed by something so grand we scarce can breathe when He comes close. Prayer draws us up into cosmic possibilities...and draws Him into earthly limitations, infusing them with grandeur.**

**Even eternity. But our smallness manages to make eternity small. We would give our last dollar to have a Six Flags ride like this. And, yet, for the real ride, we don't have time. We'll drive an hour or two to Six Flags, spend all day there and who knows how much money...and yet something in which the admission has already been paid is ignored. A man-contrived ride is a greater attraction than the real thing that transports into the breathtaking presence of the Creator. But until we are committed to touching God, prayer will not touch us. Though it cost Christ His life for us to enter sacred chambers through prayer, it's still too costly for us.**

**It costs us our time.**

## *New Year's Eve Renewal Meal – Is it Time for a Change?*

Our third New Year's Eve renewal meal takes us to the Wesleyan Love Feasts of the mid-1700's that dedicated the year to the Lord and reinvigorated personal commitment to the sovereignty of Christ.

These "love feasts" originated with the Moravian experience that was instrumental in the spiritual upheaval of John and Charles Wesley and moved them from a works based striving for holiness to being ablaze with the overwhelming infusion of the Holy Spirit.

Wesley had returned to London from a fateful missionary trip to America in which his ship was nearly demolished in a storm. As a small group of Moravian families joyously sang hymns, he and the rest of those on board were gripped in fear. Upon his return, Wesley was seized with the realization of his spiritual lack. *"I can talk well when no danger is near. But let death look me in the face and my spirit is troubled...I went to America to convert Indians, but oh, who shall convert me?"*

*I went to  
America to  
convert  
Indians, but  
oh, who  
shall convert  
me?*

Whether he knew it or not, that lament was a prayer that was quickly answered in the person of Peter Bohler a London businessman who introduced the Wesleys to the leader of the Moravians and took them to their New Year's Eve Love Feast. At this Christian "alternative" to the world's celebration of New Year's Eve, the wind and fire of Pentacost swept through the windows of their soul and ignited something in them that never died, a sacred flame that changed the world. Eventually, John Wesley implemented his own New Year's Eve "Love Feast" with a Covenant prayer we will post in December's newsletter as a starting consideration for the personal recommitment that is at the heart of our "Renewal Meal" and fellowship.

Please consider joining us on this night at the Dayspring house in the "breaking of bread," in fellowship and in prayer to consecrate the coming year to the Lord. Perhaps this new year can be the beginning of something new in you.



### *Crisis Fund*

As you may know, we have had a crisis fund since the beginning of this ministry, and for the first time in those 18 years it is empty. The only donation to this fund in recent months is from a woman who is giving, not from her excess, but from her lack, holding down 2-3 jobs just to make ends meet. She gives \$100 a month to the ministry because the Lord "told me to give this as seed money." We have chosen to place her faithful donations into this account. As a rule, we do not solicit money for the ministry but walk it by faith, but we mention this fund because it has occurred to us some might want to be part of its possibilities.

Many situations come to our attention in which one person needs help with a physical need and someone else has need for financial assistance. We are realizing that if there were a substantial Crisis Fund, we could often meet both needs with a single outlay of money... paying one who needs income for the help they can provide to the other, be it home repairs, transportation or even helping with things of the ministry that we cannot easily or quickly do. Of course, other personal crises for financial assistance would be met with this fund, but much of it would be in this area of paying people as they help others.

If you would like to contribute to this specifically, please note any such donation at the bottom of your check or on the enclosed donation card.

### *Art Ministry in Transition*

Due to an array of issues, not the least of which is chronically increasing back pain, Elaine Souder has had to stop her art classes and art therapy. Though we will be unable to re-institute the classes, we are seeking to resume art therapy as soon as possible. Elaine's contribution to the ministry has been immeasurable and leaves a hole in our fabric. She will be missed?

We know many are disappointed, as are we, but we know, too, that this decision was arrived at over months of thought and prayer. We pray God's hand of guidance and healing as Elaine seeks further treatment for her back and moves toward the next adventure the Lord has in mind for her and Dick.

*Person of Impact Meets Next in January* as we take a break for the busy months of November and December. We'll resume the latter part of January. Check next month's newsletter for exact and times.

*As you consider the nature of the Dayspring ministry and our avenues of outreach both here and elsewhere we ask your thoughtful prayers related to your support and involvement. We are in the happy place of being solely dependent on the Lord and His nudges through you for our work to continue.*



## Legacy

### Dayspring's Antiquities Library



*"Stand at the Crossroads and look  
Ask for the Ancient Paths  
Ask where the good way  
is and walk in it."  
Jer. 6*



After a very long season, we are finally able to officially invite you to visit the voices of old who speak of ancient paths and ways of God few of us today know. They mark for us the history and journey our faith. They instruct. They inspire us. They tell us of what we could be if we really dared.

### Apostolic Fathers

(100-400 ad)

*"Christianity is a matter not  
of persuasiveness but of  
greatness when it is hated by  
the world..."*



*...I am voluntarily dying for  
God...let me be food for the  
wild beasts...[let them]...*

*become my tomb...Then I shall be truly a disciple of  
Jesus Christ." Ignatius of Antioch  
en route to Rome and the Coliseum 115 A.D..*

### Counter Reformation

(1545-1648)

*Well and good if all things change, O Lord God,  
provided I am rooted in You.*

*"If a man wishes to be sure of the road he's traveling  
on, then he must close his eyes and travel in the dark."*

St. John of the Cross

### Quietism

(1660-1680?)



*I would have no desire other than to  
accomplish thy will. Teach me to  
pray; pray Thyself in me.  
Father Francois Fenelon*

### Great Awakening

(1730 - 1850?)

*If you are going to walk with Jesus Christ, you are going  
to be opposed ... In our days, to be a true Christian is  
really to become a scandal.  
George Whitfield (1714-1770)*

### Open House

**Saturday Nov. 7, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Sunday Nov. 8, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.**

*Walking through the legacy of our faith  
And the  
Inspiration of Lives Lived Nobly and Well  
Catching a Glimpse of What Was...  
...a Vision of What Can Be.*

**Please join us at our Open House**

**Or come for a**

**Casual Personal Visit (unguided) with someone present to answer questions**

**Make an Appointment for a Personal or Small Group Guided Visit**

**One Hour Guided Teaching Tour**

**By Special Arrangement: Home School or Private/Public School Classes on:**

*Church History*

*Great Movements in Christianity*

*Great Men and Women of our Faith*

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