



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

November 2016 “...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” – Luke 1:78-79 Newsletter

“Christ’s Lament”

Dearhearts,

Four years ago I went with my daughter’s family to Six Flags. As we approached the Texas Giant, Tiffani showed me where I could wait while they rode the legendary roller coaster. She knew of my fear-charged decision as a child not to ever ride a roller-coaster and that decision had stood triumphantly for nearly 60 years. In some sort of transcendental moment, I heard myself telling her without emotion and quite matter-of-factly that I would be riding the roller coaster with them. There was no twinge of fear – or thought - in this out of body experience. And then the ride began. On the first downturn my glasses went flying past my face into some low-earth orbit and I hung on for dear life as I left the seat and pressed against the safety bar. At the end of the ride they showed a picture of me on one of the death dives that proved I had lost not only my glasses, but my dignity. And they were thinking I would pay them for that? In that moment a second, highly-charged decision sizzled in my being like water on a hot skillet: *I will never ride a roller coaster again.*

So how did I wind up on another roller coaster hanging on for dear life with millions of others gripping the bar with me until Tuesday? Of course, by the time you get this, our election ride will be over and we’ll be needing to buy new glasses to see more clearly what we look like. And it’s not a pretty sight. Our hair is disheveled. There’s a look of horror on our face. We have been slammed against bars of fear and agitation... even paranoia and hate. We don’t look like we used to. We don’t look like we hoped we would.

How has this happened?

The line to this ride started forming almost 40 years ago when Christians moved, unthinking, behind shepherds that led the flock into a shared fold of politics and religion. Into consequences we did not intend. Through turnstiles that sought political solutions for spiritual issues. We didn’t know at the time we were buying tickets for a roller coaster ride. It somehow seemed a good thing to stand in line for...but there are things we have lost on the ride.

We have lost our way. Christ came “to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet in the way of peace.” He came to give us *His* peace, not the peace the world offers, which is peace

that comes after war. But *His* peace that exists *within* wars. In the *midst* of the shadow of death...*peace*. But we’ve gone off to fight with all our might for victory on a political front. And there is no peace. There is agitation, anxiety ...even paranoia and meanness. Why? Because we are using the world’s weapons to wage a spiritual battle. In looking for a human deliverer to save our country, we pursue an outcome more than we pursue God. We pursue winning at all costs. And we have come to look like the world.

We have lost our salt and light. We did not intend to, but we have. We thought we could serve God in the political arena...or at least do both. But politics has eaten our lunch. The light of love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness and patience has been snuffed on this battlefield. The light of Christ in us has been blocked by another master we never intended to choose. But we have. In Matthew 6 He told us we could not serve both, yet somehow we thought we could. We will recognize the Master we have chosen by the spirit that animates us; by the responses that press us against the bar. Perhaps it is that we hate evil more than we love good. When I do that I look more like the thing I hate. And Christ laments my state... “If the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness.”

This election has not been about Donald or Hillary. It’s been about us...and who we are as a people and whom we serve. Not as Americans...but as people of God. Are we salt and light? As our fears, our anxiety and anger have intensified, it’s important to remember that our purpose and calling remain regardless of the election. America needs salt and light. And God needs us to be that in our world. Perhaps this is the message of this moment. No person can save this country...only Christ. Nations will not be saved anyway. America will not be in heaven... individuals will be. “Revival” will only come as His people salt the world with love and grace and mercy so others around us discover a thirst for something they see in us that they know they do not have. God loves us. He loves us ALL. It is because of this love that Christ came. And it is because of our lostness that He came. Both. When we are groping in the dark we all desperately need a light. God asks us to make room in our hearts for His light so that others might see Him and be drawn to Who He really is. I love you,

Brenda

“Charis Christmas” -- Evenings of Open House December 5, 6, 7

*Step Back
Into
a Slower Time...
Enjoy an Evening of...*



*Stories and Music
and Carols
Of Visiting and Friends
Of People and Food
from Long Ago*

Consider beginning your Christmas Season with us 6:30 – 8:30 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in early December. Drop in for Wassail and hot chocolate and recipes dating back to the time of the Revolutionary War. Enjoy Brunswick Stew, Figgy Pudding, Andrew Jackson’s



Floating Island Dessert, Civil War Christmas Cake, Aunt Mammie’s fig bars, potato cake and much more. Visit with friends, enjoy the guitar playing in the background or listen in on one of the great figures in Christian history from 17th century France. Hear classic Christmas stories for children of all ages. Our doors are open

during the day for wassail, hot chocolate coffee and stew Monday – Wednesday. Any remaining foods will be out during the day as well on Thursday and Friday of that week. Please drop in and visit or read or to eat with a friend.

Please tell friends and family, or bring your children and grandchildren at 6:30 for the stories and treats.



Let the “Charis” Gift of Christmas begin here for you this first week of December. We will be honored by your presence.

Dayspring House...302 S. Fannin

Tuesday November 15 -- Final Evening with Ancient Pilgrims

John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli. Please join us this coming Tuesday Evening at 7:00 in the Legacy Library and, through teaching and a DVD presentation, get to know two who risked their lives to insist that Scripture, alone, should guide how we worship God. Discarding many of the religious “barnacles” that had attached to the hull of the ship of faith over the centuries they sought be true to the spirit of Christ and of the disciples. And in that, they have given us a great gift. Discussion will follow on the message their lives have for us today in confronting the challenges of our time



Zwingli

Our confidence in Christ awakens us, urges us on, and makes us active in living righteous lives and doing good. There is no self-confidence to compare with this.