



# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

505 E. Boydston, Rockwall, Texas 75087  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 552, Fate, TX 75132  
972-722-1905

[www.dayspringdiscipleship.org](http://www.dayspringdiscipleship.org)

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

December 2014 “...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” – Luke 1:78-79 Newsletter

## *The Far Side of the Jordan*

Dearhearts,

It was such a different world for them as they emerged from the Jordan at flood stage. Arid sands had been their perpetual companion for most of their journey while nostalgic backward glances kept them on a labyrinth of faith and fear, of daunting challenges and supernatural provision. Now they stood as timid invaders of a land still occupied by giants and walled cities, yet flowing with milk and honey.

Christmas means the birth of a Promised Land. It means a journey has been offered to mankind from the bondage of sin to the freedom of a land flowing with peace and grace. Christmas means the birth of triumphant possibilities; of gripping the impossible with faith rather than the impossible gripping us with fear. It means God with us. Not just then...but now. Now in our flood waters...now in our desperate places...now amid the giants in our land. Not just with us, but *in* us. A God has been born wrapped in the swaddling clothes of our faith and lying, now, in the manger of our own flesh. Pressing to grow up in us in wisdom and in favor with God. Grow from the desert sands and barren slopes of your trek. Ready to crouch in any grave with you and burst forth in resurrection life, more boundless and free than ever life was before.

This is the meaning of his birth, the meaning of His death and of His resurrection. It is personal, and not just cosmic. It is not just the incarnate Christ whose birth we celebrate...it is the Christ incarnate in us. He takes us to the Promised Land of forever. He leads us to the promised land of today. But until it is applied, until it is made real in our lives...it is theory only. Little more than a myth which mystical voyagers to a distant land have told tales of. Theory waiting to be proved. It is applied...it is proved...only in *experiencing* it. And that comes only by faith or by obedient desperation.

When faith is wanting and you walk, breathless with fear into a flooded world, you hear your heart pounding in sync with Peter, *where else should we turn?* Not faith here, just desperation. There *is* no other option; this is your only shot. So by will, alone, you follow...you obey. And suddenly your desperate obedience is redeemed...

counted...as faith. And somehow the waters part, and you have crossed over to a new land. A land where faith has been refurbished in you. Validated in your own life. Proved by your own experience. He has showed up. And Christmas comes to your soul. Christ born in you. Faith born, again, in you. You...born again. The manger scene in your own heart bulges with gifts.

So He leads us to Canaan...if we will let Him. A land of over-abundant supply here on earth. Still a land of the enemy, a land of giants, but a land where faith offers an insane shout of triumph when no victory is in sight. It shouts, not because of what it sees but because of who it sees. Here, seeing is not believing...*believing* is seeing. Which do you see before you? The crisis or the Christ? A babe in a manger or the King of Glory?

Does the promise of sacred Presence and Power draw you through your wilderness to dare the river? Does the prospect of entering a new land in your own soul summons you to embrace the arduous demands of faith? Or does the familiar predictability of Egypt entice you back to an ordinary life? A life before Christmas. Christmas has changed everything. Heaven has invaded earth, and it has brought the promised land into our everyday life...if we will but follow the Star we see in the east.

Come and see this great thing that is born to you in the city of David.

Come and see this great thing that is born in you on the far side of the Jordan.

I love you,

**Thank you for the remarkable outpouring of donations to the critical needs of Iraqi Christians fleeing Isis into Jordan. We will update you in succeeding newsletters and have asked for pictures, if possible, from Amman.**

## *A New Place for Us*



Across from the historic First Christian Church on Fannin street in Rockwall (now a wedding chapel) there stands an historic home built shortly after the Civil War that has been remodeled according to historical standards. Long-time supporters of the ministry are purchasing this beautiful house to lease to Dayspring on a long-term basis. Just one block off the downtown square, its visibility and ease of access seems uniquely suited for the Antiquities Library with its accompanying teachings and forums. What this means is...A crossing of the Jordan.

We are entering a new world...with opportunities we've never known before, but with new challenges and with some of the familiar old left behind.

*Antiquities Christian Classics Library* will have a home and a place to grow up. All that is needed for the library to work well is contained in this facility.

*PTSD Veterans Recovery Ministry* is poised to start as the Lord leads. This ministry will be free to our veterans and will include:

- Counseling (Brenda)
- Massage therapy (Gay Bostick)
- Art therapy (Elaine Souder)
- Equine/Pet therapy (Brad and Amy Causey)
- Support groups

*Book Clubs / Study and Prayer Groups* will be held here, as well as in homes, and will include not only those we sponsor but available for others as well.

*Coffee/Tea/Pastry Nook* will be available not only to clients but to anyone who wants to come and relax or study or visit in our library and parlor or in our *Sitting and Reflection Garden* to be created in the private, side yard area.

The anticipated date for our move is mid-January to the first of February.

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*We are so grateful for the prayers and support of all and for the remarkable help so many of you provided in our move and removal of the prayer garden in October. We are humbled at the amazing provision of this historic home and are deeply indebted to the generous hearts who have made it possible.*

We have crossed the Jordan at flood stage and are entering into a new land with much to be discovered and to be done as we clear and tend what has been entrusted to us and finish the work He has given us to do.

## *Sunday Morning Study Experiments with Sunday Evening at 5:30*

In a test run of sorts we have, for the remainder of the year, moved our Sunday morning Revelation study to Sunday evenings at 5:30 in the chapel. Please join us as we study the last three chapters. Though near the end of the book, many weeks of study remain as we look at the *Consuming Fire* and the *Book of Life*. Picking up in January we will spend several weeks looking at *The New Earth*. Since these all stand on their own there should be no difficulty joining our Revelation study at any time.

Come prepared to discover things you never dreamed about the New Earth of Revelation 21 and 22.

## *January Book Club News*



### *Home Book Club*

*Hind's Feet on High Places*

10 a.m. Wednesdays

January 7 -- February 4

Please Join *Pat Townsend* for a timeless exploration of our journey in Christ and of its possibilities in our lives in this classic work by Hannah Hurnard.

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### *Dinner Book Club*

7:00 p.m. Friday January 23

"Quiet Talks on Prayer"

by SD Gordon

Seating is limited so please reserve your place at the table soon. Let us know if you need help getting a book. Published near the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Gordon has a way of opening our eyes to the reality and necessity of prayer. It will change how you see prayer.

*Parlor Club* continues Tuesday mornings at 9:30.

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## *2015 Commemorative Calendar Chapel and Prayer Garden*

Calendar should be ready for pick up by December 17. Cost is \$12 for one, \$10 for multiples. Please place your order as soon as possible.

