



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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

Seeing His Star in the East

Dearhearts,

Some lessons come hard. A friend of mine died recently after a long illness. Prior to my September trip to Pine Ridge I had been with her regularly and was buoyed by my last visit with her the night before I left. She looked better than she had in months, and I found myself wondering if the Lord were healing her. Almost three weeks in Pine Ridge and in Colorado with my son and grandson left a pile of things to wade through upon my return. It consumed several weeks of my time and focus but knowing she was doing well, I dug into the backlog. I would be sure to see her “tomorrow.”

Then the text came that morning that she had passed away. A sudden downturn took everyone by surprise. I was stunned. It was over. The urgent minutia had crowded out the important. Today had ambushed tomorrow. The final curtain had fallen, and I was not in the audience much less on the stage. My part had been played by a stand-in.

So heaven’s child was seeking to be born that starlit night so long ago, but there was no room for Him in the inn. Things of earth had relegated heaven’s Gift to the birthing straw of lambs. Sometimes, too much of the earth lodges in me leaving no room for Christ to be daily birthed in my world. It is He who sees the sick and dying ...sees those hiding at a noonday well...and bends His course to them. My course is charted by lesser lights when I don’t search the skies for His star. It takes time to search. And when the inn of my soul is crowded with things of earth, I will not see His star in the east guiding me to where He is.

Christ never was distracted by the irrelevant... never beguiled by the urgent because he did only what He saw His father do. As He held the bread up....He was seeing His Father. As He drank the cup of Gethsemane....He was seeing His Father’s will. He offered His daily Bread to His Father and received the blessing of sight.

I don’t even remember now what was so urgent that the important got pushed out. Was it paperwork or planning? Studies to be written and lessons prepared? I have eyes that see, now, what was important. I see Beth.

The question is do I have ears to hear? What is God saying to me about me in this? Because what ultimately blinded me was me. The compelling voice is asking not what it means to be in the world and not of it, but what is the world I am in and what of it is in me? And perhaps the deeper question is why? Why does it live in me? More than anything else, I think it is because I do not offer my daily bread to Him. When I do, I see Him. When I don’t, I am distracted by lesser stars. When I struggle with time pressure, do I offer it up to Him to direct my path? When I struggle with wanting to do something my way...spout out a retort, eat what I don’t need, fritter away a day...do I lift those moments to His star in the east and let it guide me? Do I let Him sanctify my bread and give it back to me to be served? Do I take time to look for Him and let Him touch my life to make holy that which is common? That is what Christ was doing when He lifted His bread, or His struggle, heavenward. He was seeing the Father.

And as His Father blessed Him, so He blessed. As the Father sanctified the bread so Christ sanctified. And in seeing the Father He saw the reviled man in the tree and took time to eat with Him. He saw the woman bent over for 18 years and went to her on the Sabbath, sanctifying it not only as a day of rest but as one of healing. He saw a child shunted away by the disciples and embraced that child with significance. He saw the widow and heard the wealth of her pennies clang silently in the temple jar and blessed her obscurity with heaven’s acclaim.

We are asked to sanctify the world we live in, to offer it as bread, heavenward. Only then will I see what is important...see those gathered on the hills about me and dispense my life as sacred wafer to those who are hungry and who need what has been touched by Him.

I love you,

Renewal Meal Moves from New Year's Eve To Friday January 8 -- 7:00 p.m.

Travel constraints have necessitated a shift to the second Friday in January for our New Year's Renewal Meal and time of dedication of the coming year to the Lord. Such pilgrimages of the soul were marked in Biblical times by physical pilgrimages to Jerusalem 3 times a year to observe the 7 feasts of Israel. These observances required an entire nation of people to synchronize their priorities into that of God's. Each feast required a great deal of time and effort, yet these were the feasts Christ faithfully observed...faithfully devoted his time and energy to fulfill...faithfully took the time to do what was important. With spiritual priorities He looked at the important rather than the urgent.

In our world, for all too many of us, the urgent is a tyrant, robbing us of a deeper life; substituting, instead, a flurry of activity that flits us across the spiritual pond like so many flat stones skipping over the surface. But to know Him takes time and desire. To know Him requires that we come to a place where time stands still. Where it no longer tugs at us to move from where we are to the next event or appointment. Perhaps the beginning of the year is a good time not only to reassess, spiritually, but to set aside a capsule of time that has no draw but God.

After the Renewal...Night Watch

This evening in January to reflect on where we are spiritually and where we want to be with the Lord for the coming year is a space that is not bound by time. For the first time, a *Night Watch* will follow through the night for those wishing to stay for a while or for a night of intercessory and personal prayer that will officially end at 6:00 a.m.

The Covenant Renewal Meal will conclude with personal, private commitments followed by communion. You may leave when you feel it is time or you may come only for the Night Watch portion which should begin around 11:00 in which you may stay for an hour or two or through the night.

In *Night Watch*, we follow the example of Christ who often spent all night in prayer. If the Son of God felt compelled to do that, perhaps we should too.

***We Thank All who have sustained the ministry
through Donations of Money and Time,
Interest and Participation and through Prayer and Help
in so many Ways.***

***We solicit Your Continued Consideration of us
for this Coming Year.***

A Victorian Evening of Candlelight Dayspring's "Charis" Christmas "the Gift of Grace through Christ"

Christmas Open House

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Monday - Tuesday
December 14 - 15



*Inviting You to a Simpler, Slower Pace
Visit with Friends, Enjoy Food and Drinks Made
from Recipes from the 1800's and Before*

Please step back in time a bit with us for a break from the modern Christmas bustle. Enjoy hot cider, Tennessee Christmas Custard, "figgy" pudding, cookies and cakes all from recipes dating back to the beginning of our nation: Andrew Jackson's *Floating Island cake*, a *Christmas War Cake*, Louisa May Alcott's *Apple Slump* and Aunt Vinnie's Pecan Chews. Visit friends amid our simple Victorian style decorations, enjoy live guitar Christmas music and perhaps sing a carol or two and leave with small gifts of Christmas treats from recipes a century or more ago. Recipes will be available for you to include in your gift bags should you choose.

If you can't come to our evening Open House, drop in anytime during the day. Help yourself to Brunswick Stew (100 year old recipe) and the goodies remaining from the Open House. Eat with a friend on the enclosed porch or in the parlor or read in the library. Come and go at your leisure.

Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, January 21
"The Martyr's Bridge"

January						
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

4 Week Course on the Apostolic Fathers

Without these faithful church leaders that succeeded the Apostles, we would not have the church as we know it today. Most gave their lives to pass the torch of faith on to us.

Teachers: Becky Elliston/Pat Townsend/Brenda Cox