



# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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

Dearhearts,

As I look back on the annals of Christianity, I’m reminded of what it has taken for our faith to endure. It has taken those people who dared to take God up on the possibilities. That the dream He has teased us with is not a tease at all but a vision. Each generation has had those who have said yes to the quest. And it is those who have passed on to us a sacred torch of possibility.

I think we live under the false, unspoken assumption that greatness is consigned to the great. That the rest of us just struggle along in the quagmire...and wait for the end...and hope we make it. OR...we have spurts but nothing ever profound happens so we just sag into discouragement or despair...or worse...indifference. Despair compels us to cry out. Indifference silences the soul. It is what it is. It is -we are afraid to speak it- perhaps a court jester we have followed. But he’s the only one in town, so we just numbly hang on...and hope. The dream is for those cut from a different cloth.

In Christendom, greatness comes not from the gifted and strong, which is man-centered, but from the weak and struggling who have invested nothing but a seeking, ragged faith in the Almighty. Positioned to catch a Divine wave, their common lives are upended...and their world changed.

Greatness is of God...not man. His greatness is made complete in our littleness. It strikes me at how deficient we are in the American church in the things that make for greatness in the kingdom. As a body, we seem never open to the possibility that we are wrong on anything doctrinally. This lack of humility is the voice of a man-centered, not God-centered, faith. And it never signals a quest. It announces arrival.

Among the “greats” of our faith we find a murderer, the captain of a slave ship, a playboy; fishermen and tax collectors, thieves and frauds, prostitutes and sex addicts; a coal miner, a cross-eyed preacher and one who was blind and deaf both. Then there was a gaggle of bickering people made small by their own idea of God. Then the wave hit and hundreds, then thousands, of them became nameless giants that shuttled change into the world for two centuries. For all these there came a moment when they experienced God in a new way. And

that is all it took. With the exception of Paul, and perhaps Helen Keller, these all had placed themselves in a position to encounter God. These were not noble positions. In their frailty and doctrinal blurriness, they still were questing.

The difference between them and us may be the mere fact that they kept seeking. It is here, in the asking and knocking, that Christ’s promise of discovery is buried. They didn’t find a comfortable niche and coast. They kept putting themselves in a position to experience God. It is often simply the quest that places us there.

So what might that look like for us? For me it was a wrestling in which I literally shook my fist at God. The truth was out. I was angry...then descended into utter disbelief that God “was not sufficient.” But my meltdown was the beginning of the answer I had desperately sought for months. By the next day, it had come. And it formed the basis for the rest of my life. My faith, tossed in the Apothecary’s dish, had been pounded...then pulverized...and now reconstituted. But from this broken faith, came an enduring faith...I knew him as never before. For you, it may be something else - to get in the Word and really study it. It may mean taking a chance on God...stepping out when circumstances say otherwise. It may mean asking someone to help you understand something better. Life will always leave questions in our soul that will hinder our journey with God. Our quest will be marked by these questions and to avoid them is to avoid the adventure. It barricades us from experiencing Him. *Experiencing* God verifies Him in our life and allows His *answers* to define our faith rather than our *questions*. Once we experience Him our world changes because our belief changes.

Do you really want to know God? Would you dare to take Him up on the possibilities this year? You must put yourself in a position to *experience* Him. When it comes ...it will change your world.

I love you,

## Reviewing 2013

### *New Endeavors*

**Project Hope.** Our mission outreach to the **Oglala Sioux of Pine Ridge** experienced a stronger than expected beginning last year as we:



- Taught a canning workshop in Martin
- Conducted a girl's volleyball camp
- Sponsored three self-sufficiency workshops (\$300 per session) conducted by the Partnership for Housing
- Furnished a safe room at CASA office for \$500
- Provided gas cards for CASA volunteers advocating for children across the reservation

These all were made possible with funds provided through your donations to this outreach.

A planned fall outreach with local veterinarian Dr. David Ceella was cancelled due to a record snowstorm that hit just before he and his team were to arrive. We are hoping to reschedule for this spring or summer.

### *Retiring Programs*

**Nursing Home.** As noted previously, we have ended our nursing home ministry due to multiple personal and scheduling conflicts both within and without the nursing home. It has been a rewarding and robust ministry we have been privileged to guide. Included in that ministry were the art classes headed by Elaine Souder and assisted by Anne Morton.

**Art Therapy Workshops.** After 3 years, Elaine Souder is needing a break and we sadly close this unique and special aspect of our ministry. Elaine brought her great giftedness to these classes of drawing out the inner person and expressing it through art. We will miss it as will those who have so faithfully attended. One person wrote:

*"I will truly miss this time as it was a very bright spot in my life each week...I have leaned a lot not only from Elaine but from each one of you..."*

We ever remain ready if, after a considerable sabbatical, Elaine should feel prompted once more to bring art's therapeutic voice to the soul.

## Anticipating 2014

### *Something New*

A shift in emphasis occurs this spring as the "institute" aspect of this ministry takes shape. It is a bridge between more expensive college courses for continuing education and those who would like to know more of their religious heritage and of God's historical movement among men and yet avoid the hassle and expense of more traditional avenues of continuing education. Our goal is to provide an on-going offering of courses of high quality but at modest expense. We start small with one course, but as our base of interest grows, we will offer multiple options.

As a ministry, we have long had the vision of one day offering courses that allow those who want to further their religious and spiritual education, to be able to do so at minimal cost and hassle. This spring marks the initiation of that vision.

### *Chronicles of the Revolution*

It is to the church - the body of believers - that Christ entrusted His revolution. It was a revolution so profound people were willing to sacrifice all for it...a revolution that up-ended the human race and crashed the empire of hell. It was a revolution of grace...of salt and light. It was a revolution of another realm... His thoughts are not our thoughts...His ways are not ours. Ours is a history of tension and conflict between those who sought to make God over in our image and those who sought to let God reshape us in His. The tapestry of church history is threaded with valor and sacrifice, and yet frayed by corruption and softness. We want to share this convoluted story with you in *Chronicles of the Revolution*, our course for the spring semester on the history of the church **Thursday evenings at 7:00 beginning January 16.**



## *Chronicles of the Revolution*

A Course on  
The History of Christianity

A team of gifted teachers brings their combined expertise to our course on the history of the church. Becky Elliston, Pat Townsend, Melvin Merritt and Brenda will combine efforts and experience for a semester of exploring the rich, sometimes little-known, history of the church and the challenges it faced and the revolutionaries that rose up to carry Christ's legacy to succeeding generations. The schedule below is subject to adjustments.

**January 16, 23: The Rise of Paganism**

*Exploring the world that confronted Christ and the infant Church (Pat Townsend)*

**January 30: The Fullness of Time**

*The convergence of cultures, conditions and events that created the perfect timing for Christ (Brenda Cox)*

**February 6: The Persecuted Church**

*Church Leaders / Jew and Gentile Roman Persecutions (Brenda)*

**February 13: The Rooted Church**

*Apostolic Fathers  
Desert Fathers and Mothers  
(Brenda and Pat)*

**February 20: The Inspired Word**

*Creeeds and the Canonization of Scripture (Pat)*

The second semester continues our course in the fall as we look at **The Revolutionaries**, those men and women in Christian history that carried the torch of Christ, sometimes in very dark places, and illumined the path for the rest of us.

This year-long study traces the false church and the true church, the inevitable conflict between political power and spiritual power and the challenges these pose in the American church today.

**February 27: The Imperial Church: East and West**  
*Struggles of Power (Becky Elliston)*

**March 6: The Hidden Church**

*Emerging church orders  
Irish Monks and the saving of western civilization  
(Melvin Merritt)*

**March 20: Rumbblings of Reform (Becky)**

**March 27: Reformation (Pat)**

**April 3: Catholic Reformation/Puritan Revolution**  
*Spain vs. England (Becky)*

**April 10: Age of Reason and Revival**  
*Science vs. faith (Becky and Brenda)*

**April 24: A Perfect Storm to the West**  
*Renaissance – Reformation – Enlightenment  
(Becky and Brenda)*

## *Chronicles of the Revolution*

*“the footprints of God and the History of Christianity”*

*Thursday Evenings  
beginning*

*January 16 at 7:00 p.m.*

*Dayspring Study*

*505 E. Boydston, Ste. 2*

**Cost: \$30.00 for Semester / \$5.00 per class time**  
(Payable at start of class. Scholarships are available.)

## *Please Register For this Course*

*By*

*Calling the Dayspring Office*

*Leave Your Contact Information  
Including the number who will be attending*

*Or*

*Return Enclosed Donation Card  
With Your Information*

*Please Write **Chronicles Course** on Card*

*972-722-1905*

*We live in a day and time* in which it is vital we be a discerning people. Though this has been the charge for every generation of believers, it is especially needful in our “generation of information” where we are inundated by knowledge of every sort and lost in a blizzard of ideas and beliefs touted as Christian. As we seek to be thoughtful about our faith and discerning of beliefs and of the spirit of those who espouse them, Dayspring offers an array of opportunities that will better equip us to do that.

The course on the history of Christianity, and the discussion groups that will come out of that are designed, in part, to establish a foundational knowledge and understanding of our faith and to process how that is to look in our lives. Roundtable, and the other study/discussion groups that will occur this year, provide a forum of spiritual ideas, a “petri dish” for processing and incorporating them in our daily lives.

The discussion of Nancy Pearcey’s out-of-the-box book, *Saving Leonardo*, is another opportunity to come off automatic pilot and consider how we really do need to see our life and to live it out in our culture. We invite you to consider our roundtable discussion of this book in February. Come see what her ideas are. They will probably surprise you.

### ***“Saving Leonardo” Roundtable Discussion***

9:00 a.m.

*Saturday February 22*

As we have considered scheduling constraints and the nature of the book, itself, we have decided to shift our calendar and expand our time to a Saturday morning in February with a second morning on March 1<sup>st</sup> if needed. This shift will also provide more time for people to read the book before we meet.

Becky Elliston leads this discussion of Nancy Pearcey’s insightful work on our culture and our role and place in it. *“Pearcey crafts a fresh approach that exposes the real-world impact of ideas in philosophy, science, art, and film...voices that surround us in the classroom, in the movie theater and in our living rooms.”* A former agnostic, she offers “a persuasive case for historic Christianity as a holistic alternative” and equips readers to “counter secular ideas that are radically restructuring society and pervading our daily lives.”

Coffee, juice and breakfast pastries will be served. **Please reserve your place at the table.**

*As we anticipate* this year, our role as a ministry is to be faithful to the call of Christ and faithful to call that out in those who will listen. So what we offer this year – and every year - is designed to provide the best venue for Christ becoming more real in individual lives...and more visible.

## ***Office Renovation Creates a Dayspring Study***

In an amazing act of generosity, owners Doug and Ruth Kaufmann are creating a beautiful teaching space and library from our outer office area. It is from this room that we will hold many of our classes offered through the institute.

We will also be developing

a Christian Antiquities Library and Resource Center as we look for the oldest, affordable editions we can find to go in the built-in shelves. This will be a reading library and, perhaps eventually, a lending library.

*Doug has already donated our first volume* to this library...*an early edition, English version Gutenberg Bible with an inscription from a man to his daughter dated 1630.* We will be building a secure display case to showcase this wonderful gift as well as others we may find.



### ***Friday Night at the Movies*** ***January 31, 7:00 p.m.***

An inspiring documentary of a mountain farming village in World War II that ferreted Jewish families out of France to the safety of Switzerland. Twenty years in the making, it was created by a young Jewish man who was born in Les Chambon and saved by the heroic efforts of this Huguenot community. The only documentary of our movie series, it is rich in inspiration and challenges us to look afresh at what it means to be who we say we are.

**With limited space, reservations are required.**

***Thank you for Your Faithful Support***

**through your interest, your prayers and financially.**

**We have been solely dependent on your support for over 16 years and neither the Lord nor You has Ever Let Us Down.**