



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

"...the ministry of the Word" - Acts 6:4

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Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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"...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness..." --Luke 1:78-79

Newsletter

"... wise as serpents and gentle as doves"

Dearhearts,

In the summer of my freshman year in college my dad had a reception for all the new personnel he had hired over the summer as president of a small college in Missouri. One of the new administrators was a Texan with a contagious laugh and who was endlessly funny. As we were driving home my dad, who was obviously pleased with the evening, asked what we thought of this particular man. I immediately praised him, sharing some of the funniest moments of the night. Dad responded with his own favorites and then asked Mother what she thought. "I think he's a snake in the grass." I was flabbergasted. How could she see that in someone who was so obviously delightful? But she stuck to her guns. "I wouldn't put anything past him. He can't be trusted." By the end of that school year, Mother's words had proven prophetic; using his charisma to turn others against my dad, he created a nightmare.

How could Mother have been so right and Dad and I so wrong? Because she knew that gold is not the only thing that glitters, and her eye was not caught by the glint nor her spirit swayed from truth. Mother's discernment remained uncanny all of her life because her spirit remained independent of surface presentation, and in her spirit she sensed the spirit of others. Had hers been a critical spirit it would not have held reliable perceptions. But she was gentle as a dove.

We cannot sense another's spirit if we already have formed an opinion about them, for good or for ill, based upon artificial factors. Our community of believers seems populated with a lot more of Dad and me and a lot less of Mom, being lured by what glitters or repulsed by what doesn't according to our own sparkle charts; yet we challenge no one who sports our own colors.

Discernment is the great requirement of our time. This is because we are likely entering earth's final season. The trigger for end-events is the preaching of the gospel throughout the earth, and we are there. Christ tells us the signature of those times is rampant deception with false teachers and prophets abounding in which they will perform amazing, seemingly miraculous, acts

thus polluting God's kingdom work here and setting the stage for the anti-Christ.

The hallmark of our time is image... illusion ... virtual reality. Television, internet and computers not only can fashion the titanic with thousands of characters that aren't real, it removes us from the personal connection so vital for discernment...and it immerses us in image. So a television personality gets impressively emotional with the help of a substance placed beneath his eyes; a televangelist performs illusions of miracles securing millions of followers and money. Others rail against perceived sexual improprieties while engaging with prostitutes or homosexuality themselves. A soft-spoken media figure, that proclaims his love for democracy and God, screams maniacally at a woman who has disagreed with him on air. Religious or political zealots whip us into an emotional frenzy and we don't bat an eye. We are gradually being transformed into a community that is gentle as serpents and wise as doves.

Jesus spoke of those who sound good and look good but inwardly are dark tombs, who speak of God's ways but are deadly to his people. Instead of testing their spirit we assume their God-words express their spirit. We don't question their rage or their motives as long as their words carry some resonance.

"...and the love of many will grow cold," Christ tells us. People will become harsh and uncaring having a form of godliness but denying its power. In the end, we must test our own spirit. If we follow the One who is Truth, we must be sure the truth, regardless of where it falls, is what guides us. Our spirit will tell us if we have.

I love you,

Brenda

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." I Jn. 4:1

Ministry Update

Tuesday Evening Conversations

"Hanging in the Balance." Nearly 30 people attended Brenda's first conversation of the year on the critical balance between good and evil in the kingdom wars of earth and of our role in that balance. Because time did not allow the full coverage of this topic, next month will continue the conversation.

"Thy Kingdom Come"

*An Evening of Conversation on the Meaning
of the Kingdom*

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 15

God's kingdom is established when His people neutralize evil with good. Authority comes with His kingdom; it is God's authority here on earth, and with it comes great possibilities. Join Brenda as she explores those possibilities of the Kingdom of God within us and on earth.

"We are pivotal agents in determining which kingdom increases here on earth. God seeks to restore balance to the spiritual realm when evil creases its folds. Christ centered attitudes and responses iron out the wrinkles of sin in the spiritual fabric. As we forgive, the marks left by anger and hate are erased. As we give grace, balance is restored, evil's toxin neutralized, and God's Kingdom here on earth is increased." Brenda's "facebook focus"

Classics Club

Seventeenth century French mystic, Jeanne Guyon, provided plenty of material for discussion as 15 people gathered in Pat and Lonnie Townsend's home to explore the depths of Jesus Christ in our own lives.

"This book has been the most exciting book I've ever read in how to pray... She has a unique way of sparking a fervent desire in me... of getting alone with Him." Caroline Doyle

Join us the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of each month.

Israel Tour Date Set

November 6 - 16

A minimum number of 10 people is required for our teaching tour of Israel to make. Reservations must be finalized and fully paid **before August 1**. As flight bids are being finalized we are seeking to hold the cost per person to around \$3700.00 which is all-inclusive: airline ticket, 2 meals daily, all taxes, fees and gratuities.

Please know our sincerest desire is to make this as affordable as possible and to be prayerful for the Lord's provision for those whom He draws to Israel.

Let us know if you are interested in the trip. An information forum will be offered later in the spring to provide more details and to assist you in knowing what to expect and if this is something for you.

Nursing Home Ministry Continues to Take Shape as we seek those most in need of help. Please let us know if you would like to minister in this way. Our thanks to the small band that has already signed up.

Person of Impact

Sunday, February 6, 2:00 – 4:00

Dayspring Chapel

The second level of Brenda's equipping course resumes the first Sunday of this month and addresses the wounded core. Since it happens to be Super Bowl Sunday, the original 2:00 – 5:00 time slot has been shortened to 4:00.

"We have a God who long ago sang a love song to all the lonely people...His music touched our deepest longings for acceptance... for love and community, for forgiveness and healing. Christ sang to the place in us all that needs to believe we are special and that life is not random. For His song to be heard, God needs the voice of many singers - singers who will step out from the ordinary scoring of life and choose to be a people who will cast their lives as "bread upon the water." The world needs to hear the music of ...life-giving people who will serve and heal and mend..." (from Song of Christ)

On-Line Listening Library

continues to add selections from Brenda's Sunday morning teachings...

The Revolutionary and, shortly, The Great Themes of the Bible