



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

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Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

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

Dearhearts,

There are places in us all that are untouched by others. Places of vulnerability we do not let others see, or places we wish they saw but don't. Wish the blur outside our shell slowed down long enough to notice the need that convulses our world so fiercely we cannot fathom how they do not see. But they don't.

We all orbit each other...a part of a system...but going our way, often untouched, through space. Seen but not known. At least not the way these places in us want to be. Or need to be. We build our frozen palace...and live protected there. Live unknown there.

Recently I went with my grandkids to see “Frozen” - a movie based on a Hans Christian Anderson work about the effect losses of the heart have on us and how our response to them affects others. Yes, it is a children's movie. But it is also for us. The older sister who became queen after their parents died, wound up creating a palace of ice high up in the inaccessible mountains. Sequestered from the world, she could no longer be touched...or touch. She could no longer be known. Fearing her baffling power to freeze whatever she touched, she lived alone. Better to live a hermit queen than risk the random consequence her strange power brought to others. But even that had its effect. Her quarantined heart, removed from all that fed it, created a wrenching void in her sister's heart... an ache that never slumbered.

So the needless queen sat high up in frozen places. And her younger sister sat in community longing for the one whose absence pierced her heart. The heart's deep need is to know that it belongs to another's heart. So her heart-quest detoured her to a prince as the answer to that longing. But eventually...it led her to the palace in the mountains.

And that is the way of our quest. It is the way of a wounded heart.

We all carry an ache there that seeks to be assuaged. And we all detour to our princes: *acclaim... accomplishment...acceptance...addiction...human love*. Sin has left an empty place in us...a void where God once lived. A hollow chamber filled, now, with longing...echoing with detached voices that exist only in empty places. There we build our ice palaces.

Sometimes lovely. Never warm. Always with echoes that remind us of the hollows in our soul.

The great longing of the human heart is to be known. The great longing of the Divine heart is that He would know us and that we would know Him. Not faux know. Truly know. “Ginosko” know. A knowing of the heart...A knowing in the heart.

His Son, one day, will present us by name to Him. Call us by a new name which only He and we, personally, will know. There, in glory, we will *know* that we are known. We will *know* that we are loved. We will know that we belong...*forever*.

The restless longing that keeps us looking, the lonely patches where we come in touch with the limitations of our palace...*these* are God calling. He will not soften their voice with anything other than Himself.

We must turn toward the original Resident of our soul that left His mark when sin came. It is the mark of longing. And our longing is His voice calling to us to come to Him.

I love you,

“And the younger son gathered all together and took his journey into a far country and there wasted his substance...and when he came to himself he said,

*‘I will arise and go to my father...’
But when he was yet a great way off,*

*his father saw him,
and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck,
and kissed him.*

The father said to his servants, ‘Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fatted calf, and let us eat and be merry.

*For this my son was dead and is alive;
he was lost and is found.’”*

Luke 15:13-24

***Friday Night at the Movies Reschedules
"Weapons of the Spirit"
February 28 – 7:00 p.m.***

Unavoidable conflicts caused us to have to reschedule last month's movie to the last Friday of this month. So for those who wanted to see the story of the French Huguenot community of Le Chambon, France, and their heroic efforts to save thousands of Jews in World War II, you have a second chance. It is a remarkable documentary, 20 years in the making, by a Jewish man who was born there under the protection of an entire community of 3,000 Christians, all of whom (with one exception) hid 5,000 Jews from the Nazi's and ferreted them out to Switzerland and safety.

With limited seating, let us know if you're coming.

***Course on Church History
Moves into Roman Persecutions***

Chronicles of the Revolution looks at the first three centuries of the Christian experience this month through the persecutions and dispersion and at the critical church figures of that time who were key to the preservation of God's revolution among man.

The newly created Dayspring study has been near capacity for the last two classes. If you haven't yet attended but plan to, please let us know so we may better know what space best fits our group. It is a happy problem.

***"Saving Leonardo" Roundtable
Discussion***

Saturday Morning, February 22

9:00

Dayspring Study/Library

Coffee and Breakfast Pastries Provided

Pine Ridge Update

At present we are developing the Pine Ridge outreach for this year. Look for details in next month's newsletter. We thank all who gave to this partnership of ministry to the Lakota Sioux last year. We hope to add more layers to this ministry this year that will carry more lasting impact. We look forward to what the Lord has in mind in 2014.



Note from Brenda

As you may realize from this newsletter, God's activity through our ministry seems to be moving in ways we can hardly keep up with. As the activity increases so, too, do our needs. Needs for hands-on help and for involvement in any number of ways including financially.

From the beginning 17 years ago, God's guidance was clear that I was not to solicit for funds. What I could do was let the faithful know what our needs are and rely upon God to prompt those whom He would to give of their time or money or other support. With that in mind, there are happy blessings and challenges in our road that excite me with possibilities, both in terms of ministry and of faith.

As you will see on page 3, windows are flinging wide open to create a collection of rare books of our faith...some of which date back to the early 1700's. This means we must find a way to securely display these in ways that preserve them. This will not be easy or come cheaply, but is a wonderful challenge as we follow the Lord in creating something not found anywhere else.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the prayer garden, we also face our greatest needs to get it close to the condition it was in before the drought hit 3 years go. Several smaller trees lining the Path of Peace have died, plus other large plants including six major trees that have toppled. Most of these need to be replaced. The soil needs to be tested so we can better know what is killing many of the plants near Amy's Garden. Once we know, they will need to be replaced if conditions permit. Undergrowth and small trees that have been removed by new neighbors need to be replaced with lagustrum and other plants to ensure privacy along the fence-line. All this and more is in addition to normal upkeep which we have not had enough help to keep up with.

Pine Ridge will be calling on our resources as well. The bright spot here is that a considerable amount of money remains in the fund that will certainly carry us into the summer. But needs for manpower remain and, eventually this year, funding will need to be supplemented.

I simply ask your thoughtful and prayerful consideration of how the Lord might lead you to partner with us either with our considerable needs for manpower or with funding as well as with prayer. Together we can be a community once again in which Jesus shows Himself in surprising and joyful ways.

***Thank you for the blessing you always
have been for me.***

New Dayspring Study Opens Many Doors

In re-modeling and expanding the outer ministry office, Doug and Ruth Kaufmann have provided an amazing gift to us that takes the ministry to another level. The study now becomes our primary teaching center, with the chapel used when larger space is needed.



Christian Classics Library

The space also will be developed into a Christian classics library that offers the great works in Christian thought and spirituality. We want to offer easy accessibility to the hidden treasures of our faith, books that can be read on site and some that can be checked out and taken home.

Antiquities Collection

When Brenda's mother passed away in 2009, some of you contributed to a memorial fund. Of all the items we have looked at purchasing with that fund, none has ever seemed right. But this does. We will be using her memorial fund as "seed" money to create an antiquities collection of rare books some of which can only be displayed while others may be read in the library. The volumes we have already ordered date as far back as 1704. The combination of authors and works and age of the books already makes this collection something that likely does not exist anywhere else in the world.

One book, a rare 1600 Gutenberg, English edition, Bible has been donated by Doug Kaufmann and awaits its home as we locate a display case that adequately preserves and protects it. Display cases are being sought for many of these other editions as well.

If you would like to be a part of developing this small classics library with volumes that are available for lending, the column to the right carries a list of books we are able to purchase through Amazon. Most of these are around \$20.00 and are exact replicas of a 1919 edition of the writings of the apostolic fathers and others. If you would like to donate \$20 toward the purchase of one of these books a label will be placed on the inside front page, "donated by or in memory of ____" (you choose the wording).

Look for an **open-house** once things are in order with the library.

Classics Partners

Below is a list of books we are seeking to shelve as Classics in the lending portion of our library. If you would like to partner with us, a donation of \$20 would secure a book (with a recognition in the book as previously noted).

Early Church Historians

- Eusebius
- Tertullian
- Jerome
- Bede

Apostolic Fathers

- Ignatius
- Shepherd of Hermas
- Clement
- Barnabas
- The Didache

St. Augustine

- City of God
- Confessions

St. John of the Cross – Dark Night of the Soul

St. Teresa of Avila – Interior Castles

The Cloud of Unknowing – Author Unknown

Jeanne Guyon – Any books

Julian of Norwich – Revelations of Divine Love

Books below may be less than \$20 in which case we would purchase more than 1 selection and place the donation note in each.

Any Books by:

- Andrew Murray
- Watchman Nee
- E.M. Bounds
- Charles Finney
- Charles Spurgeon
- Amy Carmichael
- Hannah Whithall Smith
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Biographies of great Christian figures

Paperback or used books in good condition are welcome donations. If you know of someone who is wanting to sell or donate their books that contain any of these people, please contact us or let or them know of our interest.

Prayer Garden Celebrates 10th Anniversary This Year

In June 2004 we dedicated the prayer garden with just the English / Hibiscus garden to the right of the chapel and the Rock Fountain garden pocket. Gay Bostick, Becky Drummond and others were available that humid Sunday afternoon to guide people and answer questions. Shortly before people were to arrive, I said be sure to let them know of the other pockets that will eventually be created that will rim the green. Blank stares came back at me. "Pockets? What pockets?" "At some point, we will add other garden pockets around the perimeter," I answered. "I don't know what yet, but they'll be there. Just let them know." Certainly not an organized way to begin a community prayer garden, but maybe it was a clumsy way for the Lord, truly, to lead.



The newest point of focus of prayer is a large, flagstone "gothic" cross, situated in the center of the green. Pictured here, it will be a site for **Meditation on Resurrection**. All other garden pockets culminate here (and are connected to it through the Path of Peace) as it reminds us of Christ's power to heal and redeem anything; to breathe life into all our dying places and bring forth resurrection from any grave.

Gay Bostick, with the help of family and friends, is creating this central point in the garden and encircling the garden with the path of peace. Paul's desire 2,000 years ago speaks to us today through this site: *"That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection."*



Now, a decade later, Riley's Berm has been added, followed by the Tabernacle Alcoves. The Berm is a memorial for loved

ones who have died and the Alcoves is a series of small stations designed to lead us deeper into the Lord's presence through prayer. It is modeled after the tabernacle as a picture of our journey through prayer into Him.



Next came Amy's Garden, for those seeking to find solace from childhood damage and to begin their journey into healing.

Then the Garden of Gratitude was created as a site of gratitude to God and for those who have walked with us on our journey.



And last, was the Garden of the Unborn, a memorial garden of remembrance for miscarried and aborted children. It is an interactive garden pocket that not only marks that baby's life but facilitates healing for the mother or parents.

The abortion recovery group from Lake Pointe Church uses the chapel and prayer garden twice a year for their closing ceremony to finish their semester class. Blue and pink ribbons in the prayer guide box at the entry to that site are reminders of their visit.

