



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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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

Dearhearts,

We humans have a hard time getting it right. In prior centuries, the focus of the church was in rooting out the heretics and other contaminants of the faith. So we had witch trials and dunkings and tens of thousands were burned at the stake in the religious wars of Europe. We had the guillotine and the rack. Still others went after the infidels that had taken Jerusalem... a holy war if ever there was one. In our day and age we tend to focus on the world “out there.” The pagans and heathens ...the liberals and the gay rights community...planned parenthood and abortion clinics...democrats.

I’m always struck by how in-their-face Christ was with the Pharisees...the religious in-crowd that looked so much better than the rest of the world. Christ never was combative with the sinners of his day, but he was unrelenting with the church crowd. Why was that? Why did he pick on them? Christ had a penchant for authenticity. Even more, he had a burning zeal for His Father’s image. His Father was being represented in the world by those who brandished His name like a billboard but who threw people under the bus for their failure to measure up to their polished standards; never mind how dirty the inside of their cup might be, the outside looked pretty perfect. Their clay feet were spiffed and shined. But Christ spoke of getting the log out of our own eye before worrying about the speck in the eyes out there. His father’s name is tarnished when we can spot a speck a mile off despite our own optic logjams.

Great damage is done to God’s kingdom by the ways we promote or defend it. The world can spot hypocrisy a mile off when it sees us serving up select portions from God’s menu for them to digest while we ignore the finer delicacies of the spirit required of us. Most of us choose from the coarser menu of rules rather than of the spirit because the law is not vague or wimpy or soft on crime. It’s precise...clear. We can keep score with the rules and judge the lawbreakers. It’s much easier to win with the law. It’s harder to beat up on our opponents with the spirit. We can’t keep them down for the count with a flimsy club. And yet, this law destroys the effectiveness of our spiritual reach. The world is not obliged to look at its stuff if it knows we do not look at ours.

Patty is one of those people who loves the Lord... loves people...and loves life. Her neighbor doesn’t.

Doesn’t love others—especially Christians—and certainly not the Lord and seems in a perpetual spat with life and neighbor. After a few grueling years, she and her husband decided that they might be the only Jesus their lost neighbor would see. “If I didn’t pray for them, who would?” Patty concluded. So when he was upset with the limbs in his yard, they picked up limbs. When he tried to take part of their property on the lakefront, they made sure they handled it with the right attitude. When his yard went un-mowed, Kim mowed it. When he yelled and was rude, they responded gently. For 15 years they turned the other cheek and went the second mile...and Patty prayed. When his wife was critically ill, she and a friend ministered to her. The husband remains unsaved and undeterred in his opposition to the church and its “hypocrites.” His wife managed, before she died, to see the church and its authentic members that lived next door; came to receive their Christ, in part, because of who her neighbors were.

And so Salem burned its witches. Europe staked and racked and guillotined God’s enemies, and, here, we skewer them with derision and labels: “the evil ones...the anti-Christ.” Some of us even pray for God to take them out. But in Rowlett, there is a couple who decided to serve the finer things of the spirit to a crotchety, aging man. He has Christ living next door to him. He may not know it yet, but one day it’s likely that he will.

I love you,

Brenda

“[When] we serve Jesus in a spirit that is not His, we hurt Him by our advocacy for Him, we push His claims in the spirit of the devil. Our words sound all right, but our spirit is that of an enemy. ‘He rebuked them, and said, You know not what manner of spirit you are of.’ The spirit of our Lord in an advocate of His is described in I Corinthians 13.

Have I been persecuting Jesus by a zealous determination to serve Him in my own way? If I feel I have done my duty and yet have hurt Him in doing it, I may be sure it was not my duty, because it has not fostered the meek and quiet spirit...”

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest* (January 29)

November Teaching Tour of Israel

Plans for the teaching tour of Israel are firming up for the first two weeks of November. This is the best time for prices and is the least crowded time of year in Israel. Though our preference is a 12 day tour to get in all the sites we would like, the cost will determine whether it will be 10 or 12 days. Obviously, we are wanting to hold the cost down as much as possible. The anticipated price range is between \$3,300 – \$4,000 per person and includes airline tickets from DFW, all tips and taxes and lodging in 4-5 star hotels plus breakfast and dinner. It will not include lunch or personal purchases. A \$500 deposit (\$100 of which is nonrefundable) will be required with the remainder to be paid as you can.

A minimum number of 10 is required. Arrangements are being made through Inspiration Cruises and Tours out of California. A Christian guide will provide historical background, and Brenda will give Scriptural context and teachings. She is preparing a tour study book of maps, Biblical setting and events, study notes and trip diary pages for all who go.

We know the expenses for this trip are sizable. Our prayer is that the Lord will provide a way for those whose hearts long to see the land of the Savior.

“When God Changes How He Speaks to Us”

An Evening of Conversation on Prayer Tuesday, March 23 7:30 p.m.

There are flags that signal a change in how the Lord is speaking to us. We will miss Him if we do not understand how these changes look and what they are about. In this conversation on prayer, Brenda talks about these variations on the theme of prayer and how to better understand the changing rhythms of our life with Him.

Next Conversation on Prayer – May 4 Prevailing Prayer

Our Last “Mysteries” Conversation April 6 “The Mystery of Longing”

God has built into the fabric of every creature a longing for home. What is this mystery of the animal kingdom? What is this mystery of man that is drawn by an unseen force back to a place we have never been before? What does it say about the longing of God for us?



Book Nook Notes

Dinner Book Club. Friday, March 5 – *Relax and Let God* (repeat).

A simple but amazingly insightful book that is as relevant today as it was in the seventies when it was written. It opens up the windows of our relationship with God and lets the wind of freedom blow into the rooms of our soul. Contact our office for place and time.

Classics Book Club. The journey through *The Cost of Discipleship* has slowed to a spelunking expedition as we grapple with how to wear the shoes Bonhoeffer offers to us. We’ve stopped trying to find a comfortable fit. Though they’re much too large for us, they manage to pinch our toes with every step.

*“I so enjoy the insight everyone brings to the discussion of a book that can be intimidating. The book club has provided the opportunity to transfer the spiritual teachings of Bonhoeffer from academic understandings to a heart knowledge that has impacted my life significantly.
As different perspectives are offered, I find the Classics Club has become a source of deep thinking and reflection and personal application. I am especially blessed by the fellowship that has developed among those who attend.” R.D.*

Recommended Reading: *Biographies*

A Chance to Die –

Biography of Amy Carmichael by Elizabeth Elliott.
Oswald Chambers, Abandoned to God –

by David McCasland

Hannah Whitall Smith –

by Marie Henry

Easter Week Observances March 29 - April 4

*Last Week of March Marks Beginning of
Easter Week Observances*

Noon Devotionals

Monday, March 29 – Thursday, April 1
12:00 – 1:00

Thursday Evening Vespers

7:00 – 8:30

Dayspring Prayer Chapel

Good Friday Observances

Chapel Open from 7:30 – 7:00

**Intermittent Guided Observances begin at 8:30
and end at 6:00.**

Easter Sunrise Service

6:45 a.m. Sunday, April 4

Dayspring Community Prayer Garden

Noon Devotional Focus

12:00 – 1:00

*Scriptural Reflections on the days leading to
Calvary*

*Opportunity for Personal Communion
Quiet Music for Personal Meditation*

Personal Communion

Available daily for your private observance

From 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Dayspring Chapel

Final Week Booklets

*with a time line of events for each day
of Christ's final week*

*will be available in the chapel (on the lectern)
for your use from Sunday forward.*

**We Ask Your Help in Letting Others Know
of these Observances. After March 16 Fliers may be
picked up at the Dayspring Office to give to those
whom you invite.**

"Could You Not Watch With Me One Hour?"

Thursday Evening Vesper Service

7:00

Dayspring Community Chapel

In Gethsemane, Christ invited His closest friends to
enter with Him into the fellowship of His suffering.

This was the moment of severest temptation...

the moment of destiny for the world.

Mankind hung in the balance in Gethsemane.

Earth twisted on the thread of His will.

...And His friends slumbered...

His was a reasonable question...not only for them,
but for us.

Can we not watch with Him one hour?

"Gethsemane's Hour": 7:00 – 8:00

Communion: 8:00 – 8:30

Good Friday Observances

We invite you to come, as you can, to the

Chapel Observances

to keep vigil with Christ through this day

and to use the Prayer Garden for your personal time
of meditation and reflection.

Chapel is Open from 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

A Scriptural narrative of events and times
of this Passover Day will be provided as an aid
for personal reflection and meditation.

Observance is essentially individual and personal,
with intermittent times of guided scriptural focus.

Guided Focus

8:30

review of events preceding crucifixion

9:00

the time of Crucifixion

12:00 – 3:00

darkness falls upon the earth

chapel is darkened in silent vigil

3:00

the last words of Christ

6:00

Christ removed from the cross

*Personal communion – the Lord's supper – is
available throughout the day on an individual basis.*

"Why Do You Seek the Living Among the Dead?"

*"Now upon the first day of the week,
very early in the morning,
they came unto the sepulcher bringing the spices which they had prepared,
and certain others with them.*

*And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher.
And they entered in, and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.
And it came to pass as they were greatly perplexed,
two men stood by them in shining garments:
and as they were afraid and bowed down their faces to the earth
they said unto them,*

Why do you seek the living among the dead?

He is not here, but is risen.

*Remember how he spoke unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying,
"the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men,
and be crucified,
and the third day rise again."
And they remembered His words,
and returned from the sepulcher and told all these things unto the eleven,
and to all the rest...
and their words seemed to them as idle tales,
and they did not believe them.*

*Then Peter arose and ran unto the sepulcher;
and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves,
and departed,
wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.*

Luke 24:1-12