

Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

505 E. Boydston, Rockwall, Texas 75087

972-722-1905

www.dayspringdiscipleship.org

Teaching - Equipping - Training - Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

March 2011

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

Newsletter

Dearhearts,

It was the O-rings, made brittle by the cold, that caused the Challenger to gyrate horrifyingly out of control 25 years ago. Sub-freezing temperatures had created debate at Mission Control about re-scheduling the launch, but everything seemed to check out so the go-ahead was given. Short seconds later white, looping plumes signaled disaster.

There are times when we are slammed up against realities that put us in touch with our littleness...and our aloneness. We scramble, trying to find meaning or security...hoping that in the scheme of things purpose really does exist. Like ants on a scuffed up mound, we scurry to put our world back in order, tidying...arranging...trying to find security again in normal life. But there come those times when our normal, default mode doesn't take us to our home page. It careens us out there into a void and we are face to face with what we are and where we are. What worked once...doesn't, and control shows itself for the illusion that it is. It is in these places that we have to find something deeper...something that transcends circumstance....that transcends earth.

Toward the end, my dad noticed the looping strands of unfinished faith...small frayed ends his regular church attendance and servant-hood had left loose and untied. When the shoe of his faith scuffed up against death, it didn't serve him as it had in lesser times. Death's shadow hovered, giving him time to finish faith's work here on earth and hide him in the cleft of the rock as he passed over. The same kind of fine-tuning occurred with my husband before his death. I'm convinced God does this with us all in our sojourn here.

In our 5-year financial roller coaster ride we were slammed up against a wall of reality in which all we had dreamed of as we entered marriage vaporized, and we had to figure out how to survive...not thrive. Yet it was there that I found faith. Not saving faith - that had come as a child - but overcoming faith. We overcome this rugged place, John tells us, by faith...faith in the One who has overcome it. This faith came only when our newly-wed mound got scuffed up by real life.

We were born, you and I, into a doomed capsule. All along God has been about saving us from it while securing it as best He can under the circumstances; breathing as much of His beauty and life, His peace and joy into it; fueling it with as much of His power as we will allow. Working to position us for faith. The size of our God is determined by the size of our faith. Yet our faith doesn't seem to grow when we are comfortable. It grows when we are out in the gasping places of life...out beyond our means.

So our mound is scuffed. And we are lonely or restless, anxious...afraid? There is a message in these plumes that speaks of other things. Loneliness is the voice of the soul crying out for God. Restlessness is the soul's quest for meaning and purpose that transcends our mound. Anxiety pings the heart when we are trying to control something we cannot control. Fear marks the borderland of our faith.

A faithful God allows these places so we may check for leaks and know where the spiritual seals are not set. What's left undone in us will be finished by God before we go.

Faith is what our life is about here...so we may be prepared for safe transit from this careening orb, and along the way reveal God to others so they may be saved. In the end, all the leaks need to be plugged; all O-rings need to be pliable...all cracks in the armor need to be a seamless whole as we escape through the tunnel of faith that burrows past enemy lines. God will not rest till that is done. He, alone, knows where the weak spots are in a system that looks ready to go. So while we are here He asks us to get real. Stop scurrying. Make time alone with Him. Entrust the events of life to Him, and cultivate a stillness of the soul that allows us to find something deeper...something that transcends circumstance...something that transcends earth.

I love you, *Brenda*

"Be confident of this very thing, the he which has begun a good work in you will complete it..." Phil. 1:6

©2011 Dayspring Discipleship Institute

Innovative Art Workshop to be Offered

Personal Discovery Through Art

“Creating art is a uniquely human ability. No other animals created by God have the capacity to create art. That exclusive gift should give us food for thought. Since we alone have that gift it is fitting that we should explore and nurture it. Artistic exploration gives us a visual voice to emotions, ideas, and experiences.

It is my belief that everyone is an artist and that given the opportunity and encouragement a unique talent and style will emerge. *‘I’m not an artist...I’m not creative...I don’t have any talent’...* are all self-imposed barriers to creativity. These art workshops are designed to bridge past those obstacles and open a path of connection to our “Creator” God and to our inner creative selves. Given the opportunity to create in a peaceful and safe environment allows us to deepen our relationship with God, with others and with ourselves.”

These words by Elaine Souder, art instructor at A&M Commerce, reflect the innovative nature of a unique workshop she and Brenda will be leading following spring break that combines art with personal discovery. Brenda will offer spiritual and relational perspectives and Elaine will use art techniques she has implemented in her classroom that have awakened her students to new personal understandings and acceptance.

Initially, Brenda intended to offer this course as a resource for some of her clients but due to the universal aspects of this workshop has decided to open it to anyone who is interested.

This six week workshop will cover one of the following topics in each weekly 2-hour session:

- Recovering a Sense of **Safety**
- Recovering a Sense of **Identity**
- Recovering a sense of **Power**
- Recovering a Sense of **Possibility**
- Recovering a Sense of **Connection**
- Recovering a Sense of **Compassion**
- Recovering a Sense of **Faith**

Friday afternoon is the likely time, though a second, evening or weekend option may be opened if there is interest. **Enrollment is limited to 10 persons with pre-registration required.** Please call the Dayspring office to enquire or register.

Supplies will cost in the neighborhood of \$20-\$25 plus an added personal watercolor journal from Hobby Lobby or Michaels similar to that pictured here.

Because of these expenses, there will be no additional charge for the workshop, though a **suggested donation** of \$30.00 (or other love gift) is offered for those who can afford to compensate some of the time and effort to conduct this workshop.



“Fifth Tuesday” Evening of Conversation

The Human Mystery

March 29 – 7:00 p.m.

To avoid local schools’ spring break schedule, note the one-time shift of Brenda’s “Third Tuesday” Conversations for this month to the fifth Tuesday.

We are unique among animals in our capacity for God. As believers we are unique among humans as translators of God to man...of physical to spirit.

Join Brenda to explore the unique journey of the human mystery.

**See Page 4 for Up-Dated Information on the
TOUR OF ISRAEL**

Next Person of Impact

Sunday, March 6

2:00 – 5:00 – Dayspring Chapel

The Person of Impact Equipping Course meets for the second time this year in its regular “first Sunday” time slot. Brenda will finish looking at the nature of core wounds and begin addressing the inevitable issues that arise from this kind of damage including co-dependency and enmeshment and the role of boundaries.

Apology

Due to no one’s fault but my own, the new teachings (mentioned in last month’s newsletter that were supposed to be on-line by the time you received it) did not make it up. I apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused, and from now on, though we may tell you what we are in the process of doing on our website, when we say something is “up”...it will already be published...as with the article on the next page. (Brenda)

Website News

Stonehenge-Type Stones... but Oh So Much More

A Temple in Eden?

New Page Offers Pictures and Details of "The Most Important Archeological Site in the World... maybe of all time."



A "mind-numbing" archeological site in southwest Turkey is causing some scientists to consider that the remains they are unearthing may mark the exit area of the garden of Eden. "This isn't the Garden of Eden," says the chief archeologist in uncharacteristic Biblical terms, "but it is a temple in Eden." What is mind-numbing about it is its age.

Visit the **Bible and History page** on the left menu tab of our website and click on "**Temple in Eden?**" OR click the link to it on the Bulletin Board page.

Mike Vlk does have the remaining recordings of *Christ the Revolutionary* and is in the process of uploading them to the website.

From Our First "Touch Team"

"Nancy's* delighted smile when we entered her room was all it took to erase any anxiety we had about the visit. Three women and a small dog were crowded in her side of the room. She is younger than the typical nursing home resident but her body is being attacked by MS and she is gradually losing her physical abilities. Nancy was suggested to us because she seldom had visitors. I'd like to believe that our visit with her brightened her day. They don't ask for much, and a smile, a pat on the arm, making eye contact, or simply listening can make such a difference in a resident's day. With such a wonderful beginning, we have lots of plans, but our core focus will always be centered on those who seem to have been forgotten." *(name has been changed)

--Elizabeth M.

"Touch Ministry" -- Nursing Home Outreach Taking Shape

Senior Care Lake Pointe/Beacon Harbor in Rowlett seems to be the Lord's beginning target for us as we have prayed for creative and meaningful ways to minister to those nursing home residents most in need of our touch. Here's where we are and where the Lord seems to be leading as the interest is determined. **How you can help is in bold at the end of each selection.**

Weekly "touch" visits. Every Tuesday afternoon three ladies visit those most needing of visits. Each has a small dog and alternate taking one dog with them as they visit. This "dog therapy" seems to hold great promise as do the personal visits. **There is no limit to the number of people who visit (nor must it be limited to Tuesdays nor must you have a dog.)**

Birthday card/baskets. The activities director is providing us a list of those most needing birthday remembrance so we may see they get cards and small gift baskets for their birthdays. **Sending cards or supplies for the gift baskets or helping prepare gift bags.**

Memoir Writing. Elizabeth Moses will be leading a memoir writing class. We also hope to include in their memoir book a CD recording of their life-stories to be made available to their families. As this gets going,

Elizabeth may need assistance and **help will be needed in recording their stories.**

Art Classes. Elaine Souder, who teaches art at A&M Commerce, is seeking to lead art activities tailored to their interests and abilities and expressive of who they are.

Album/Scrapbooking classes. We would like to work with interested residents to help them with personal or family albums or scrapbooks of their lives. **Several people can be utilized in this project.**

Music Time. Caroline Doyle plays the piano and, as we establish relationships, will be playing hymns and older songs for them and seeking to include them in the music with rhythm instruments. We would like to have an occasional "Sing" of songs from the 30's - 50's.

Providing rhythm instruments, singing in an "oldies" song and hymn group / playing other instruments.

Judy's Stop and Shop. The Activities Director has a gift shop in which everything that is sold is priced at \$2.00. **Donating from your chest or closet: sweaters (men's or women's), jewelry, lotions, hospital socks, individually pre-packaged food items such as peanut butter crackers, boxed fruit juice, canned sodas, individually wrapped bagged candy, etc.**

Israel Trip Up-Date

Three pricing options have at last come in for our tour of Israel based upon a minimum of 10, 15 or 20 full-fare passengers.

- ❑ **Minimum of 10: \$3,898.00**
(tour only expense with you finding your own flight ticket: \$2,868.00)
- ❑ **Minimum of 15: \$3,678.00**
(tour only: \$2,648.00)
- ❑ **Minimum of 20: \$3578.00**
(tour only: \$2,548.00)

Some of the highlights of the tour will include:

- ❑ **Underground Jerusalem** where Roman roads have been un-earthed leading from Pilate's Courtyard to the Damascus Gate. It is likely the very street Christ walked on to Calvary.
- ❑ **Ciaiphas' House**
- ❑ **Shrine of the Book/National Museum of Israel.** Contains Dead Sea Scrolls and some remarkable archeological artifacts
- ❑ **Masada / Qumran / Mt. Sodom / southern Dead Sea area**
- ❑ **Garden Tomb**
- ❑ **Mt. Carmel**
- ❑ **Caesarea Philippi**
- ❑ **Tiberius**
- ❑ **Wailing Wall / Temple Mount**

We are needing to give Inspiration Tours our preference of one of the three options above, whether 10, 15 or 20. If you are interested we need to hear from you and ask that you fill out the form below and return it to our office as soon as possible or call us at 972-722-1905/1-866-722-1905.

This is not considered a final tally by any means and there are no obligations with this, but it will help us make the best choice of tour packages at the best rate.



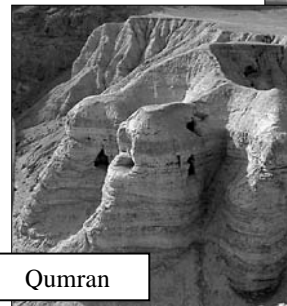
Wailing Wall and Temple Mount



Byzantine Mosaic of Loaves and Fish at Tabgha



Shrine of the Book / National Museum of Israel



Qumran



Ruins at Masada

If Interested in Trip to Israel

Name _____

Contact Info #1: _____

Contact Info #2: _____

Number who are interested in Going: _____

Additional Information _____