

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

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,

All life is a sacred encounter for believers...if we have enough faith to see. The supernatural is at work all about us. Though we may not “see” it, faith allows us to walk in the knowing of it and be caught up in its wonder...if we let it.

What if we dared to walk not by sight but by faith in the sacred? How might our lives look? Of all people on earth, we are the only ones equipped to walk thus. As the priesthood in the Old Covenant was ordained to teach the difference between the holy and the common, so are we as the priesthood of the New Covenant. And yet, more often than not, we walk in the common...as the common. We look no different than the unbelieving world. We are as caught up in the hysteria of political frenzy and social backbiting...we are as susceptible to deception – perhaps more so. We seem as prone to worry and anxiety, fear and agitation and controlling behaviors. Our doctrine is the only thing that consistently looks different than the world, yet it is not doctrine that will illumine the darkness. It is our lives. But for that to be, our lives must be seized with the wonder of the sacred.

Jacob slept that night with a stone for a pillow, and as he slept he dreamed. When he awoke, a fearful awe of the holy overtook him. “Surely the Lord is in this place,” he uttered, “and I did not know it...This is the gate of heaven...” The holy was there all along...*he just did not know it.*

We live and walk...even sleep...in the presence of the holy. If Christ will never leave or forsake us...if, indeed, he resides in us...then we walk in the holy and our days become the gate of heaven. What would it be like if we believed that? We might find ourselves awestruck by moments infused with the Divine... moments snared by joy. We might see obstacles and hindrances transformed with holy purpose. Balaam’s donkey went mindless, diverting from the path the defiant prophet had chosen, winding up in a field. Balaam forced the dumb animal back on the road only to find him halting in a narrow way and finally pinning

Balaam’s foot up against a rock wall. In a rage, Balaam began beating the poor animal with a stick, furious at the injury he had caused, frustrated at the inexplicable behavior of his stupid beast. What stood unseen by Balaam on the road in front of them was an angel with sword drawn ready to take the defiant prophet’s life if he continued down that road. In his anger and rebellion, Balaam was in the presence of the supernatural and did not know it. The inexplicable had saved his life. How many times are we blinded to a holy work by the frustrations and obstacles in our path?

Were the disciples who walked the Emmaus Road in the fog of confusion and grief any less in the presence of Christ when they saw Him only as a stranger walking beside them? The *knowing* does not change the reality, it reveals it...but it changes us.

For most of us it is faith alone that tells us we walk among the unseen. But that is enough. Our tears may blur the image of Christ who walks beside us, but faith still sees, and it allows us to see beyond circumstance to the angels on our path.

Whether people know it or not, they long to be wowed by a human life seized with the sacred. One who walks seeing by faith what others do not; sustained by the Lord in loss; reassured amid uncertainty and disappointment...calm in the midst of whatever feeding frenzy the world would snare us in. Faith equips us to be that person who illumines the darkness with a light that is not our own, to be one whose joy presses through tears to see Christ. Faith can catch us up in sacred wonder, if we let it, so we may teach with our lives the difference between the common and the holy.

I love you,

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2

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“Living in the Sacred” *New Sunday Morning Chapel Series*

Reclaiming a life of joy and wonder is the focus of Brenda’s new series of lessons begun this month on Sunday mornings. As we begin to embrace the possibility that all life is sacred it creates space for us to see the miraculous even in the small things of life. Lesson titles include: *The Gate of Heaven, Surely the Lord is in this Place, Chariots of Fire, Holy Ground, Sacred Altar*. A comment from the first lesson:

“Today’s lesson was wonderful. I’ve come to believe most of us don’t expect the miraculous in our daily lives, that God will burst out from a flaming bush. It heightened my awareness that all of life is sacred, and He is working whether we see Him or not. It completely changed how I saw my granddaughter and working with her in the backyard today; it turned into a moment that was sacred...” Gay

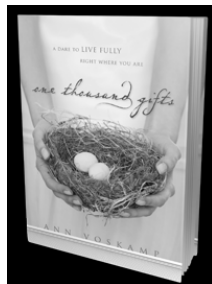
Join us as you can on Sunday mornings at 8:00.
(The study will not meet on Sunday, March 11)

Recent Website Updates

Many of Brenda’s teachings can be heard – or downloaded – on the Dayspring website at www.dayspringdiscipleship.org. The most recent postings are *“A People of Grace,”* the Sunday morning study on Galatians. Lessons from her new series will be uploaded monthly. The recent Thursday evening study, *“Cross-Life,”* should be fully on-line by the end of this month.

Parlor Book Club to Study *“One Thousand Gifts”*

The Book Club is finishing its study of Ken Gire’s *“Windows of the Soul”* and has selected Ann Voskamp’s wonderful book for their next discussion. Patty Stefani leads this small but enthusiastic group that has faithfully met on Tuesday mornings since the beginning of January.



Please consider joining them for this next selection tentatively set to begin Tuesday, April 3 at 10:00. **Please contact the ministry office for final details if you are interested.** *“One Thousand Gifts”* is on the New York Times Best Seller List and may be purchased at most any bookstore.

Easter Week Observances

First Week in April
Full Schedule on Page 4

Several years ago I became convicted of the need for the ministry at Easter time to focus on Christ in his final days as Son of Man upon the earth. To honor what He went through for us and not let it slip unnoticed through the strains of we seek in some Easter praise. To not take a small way to walk lightly a suffering that with Him to that plunged Him into hell to dark but bring us into heaven. To triumphant altar not let Him enter alone into the streets of Jerusalem in preparation for Passover.

So in our Easter Week Observances we seek in some small way to walk with Him to that dark but triumphant altar, to watch with Him in Gethsemane and remain with Him that long day at Golgotha. Perhaps, even, to minister to Him in the tomb when all seemed lost and nothing made sense. And perhaps because we have been there in His humanity we may sing with a new voice our Easter praises; we may see through new eyes the sunrise of Easter morning.

Dawn may no longer simply hold the whispers of a new day but may carry as well messages of dawn for the world...and of a new day even for us.

*“I had intended to come and go on Good Friday,
but found I couldn’t leave.
It was like we “lived” the whole thing.
Then Sunday morning at sunrise
everything was new. It was amazing!
I have never experienced anything like that!”*
D’Ann

As I began working on the above, I initially wrote, *“This may be our final year for the noon devotionals... Attendance has been sporadic with the first years having as many as 12 or 13 present but dwindling over time to a daily average last year of about 3...”* But then I remembered the reason for doing this in the first place...It was for Christ that this week, including noon devotionals, was pledged. My thought at the time was, *“I don’t care if no one comes. I will not let Him go unhonored in these days. If I’m the only one there, it does not matter.”* It has been good to remember and, yes, the noon devotions will continue.

This, even more than Christmas, should be a holy week of reflection upon what Christ has done and what He went through for us to celebrate on Easter Sunday.

Brenda

Prayer Garden Update

Workdays Approaching "Green Thumb" Not Required

March signals the time for getting the garden ready to host both spiritual seekers and those desiring a place of beauty and quiet. Saturday workdays will start the middle of March and continue through April as needed, except for Easter weekend.

Gay Bostick spearheads this annual effort but we need all the help we can get and ask that you consider being a part of the team this year. Much involves simply cleaning up fallen limbs, raking, tossing or watering fescue seeds in the Tabernacle Alcoves, Amy's Garden and in the Garden of the Unborn.

If you can help in any way please contact our office and let us know times and ways you would like to serve.



Replacing Plants Lost to Drought

Blooming plants and shrubbery took the biggest hit from last summer's drought and record heat. As of now, we will be needing to replace **10-11 dwarf burford holly bushes** in the garden by the chapel, **10 azaleas**, **4 gardenias** and **1 Japanese Maple tree**.

Three other large trees were lost due to storms. At least one needs to be replaced with as large a tree as we can afford because it was the dominant shade for the newly created flagstone sitting area to the left of Riley's Berm. A second tree can be replaced by a smaller, fast-growing tree. Weather related recovery expenses combined with our normal spring garden outlays mean this will be the most costly year for us since the first year of the garden's existence.

Prices listed below are regular pricing, though we should be able to get some of the bush-type plants at half-price and will make every effort to do so.

If You Would Like to Help With Expenses...

- Burford Holly plants - \$15.00 each
- Azaleas (3 gal.) – \$39.00 each
- Gardenias - \$39.00 each
- 4 yards/Azalea Mulch - \$41.00 a yard
- 4 yards Pecan Shells - \$25.90 a yard
- Japanese Maple - \$70.00
- Smaller tree – \$250.00 –\$400.00
- Larger tree - \$700.00 - 900.00 (installed)

Adopt a Garden Patch

Responses have been very positive from last year's invitation for people to take care of a small area of the garden. Riley's Berm, Amy's Garden and the garden plot between Amy's Garden and the Garden of the Unborn have been "adopted" as well as areas around the chapel, and it is working great! Many other areas remain if you would like to participate. Please let us know if you are interested or would like more information.

We are so grateful for those who responded and to those who will be responding.

Saturday Meditation on the Divine *March 31, 8:30 – 11:45*

Consider stepping out from your daily routine to see what God might have to say to you...to experience, perhaps, His presence...to shed the pressures and stress of your life with its blur of activities and schedules and deadlines...to return to your center...to grant time for yourself and make time for God in new ways...to be refreshed in unexpected ways.

Meditating upon God's Word may surprise you...you might enjoy it. We invite you to come and give it a try.

Art Therapy Workshops Continue

"The art class has been a great avenue to have time to be still and let the "busy"ness of life take a back seat. The relaxed and encouraging atmosphere that Elaine has created gives the students a wonderful opportunity to get in touch with their creative side and allow God to speak to them through whatever medium they are using. It is not just about art but about God's truth revealed through the creative process." Sue

Classes remain open and meet Monday afternoon 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Fridays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Easter Week Observances April 2 - April 8

Holy Week Schedule of Events

Noon Devotionals

Monday, April 2 – Thursday, April 5
12:00 – 1:00 / Dayspring Chapel

Thursday Evening Vespers

7:00 – 8:30
Dayspring Prayer Chapel

Good Friday Observances

Chapel Open from 8:00 – 6:30

Intermittent Guided Observances begin at 8:15
 and end at 6:15.

Easter Sunrise Service

6:35 a.m. Sunday, April 8
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. – 7:30 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 14 You may
 pick up Fliers at the Dayspring Office to give to
 those whom you invite.**

"Gethsemane's 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 you not watch with me one hour?

A **Modified Passover Communion** concludes the evening as Brenda ties the history of Passover into the meaning of the Last Supper observed by Christ and His apostles before they left for Gethsemane.

Communion: 8:00 – 8:45

Good Friday Observance

Keep Vigil with Christ through this Day or use the Prayer Garden for your personal time of meditation and reflection.

Chapel is Open from 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 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

8:15 / 8:30 / 8:50

review of events preceding crucifixion

9:00

Crucifixion

Intermittent focus from 9:00 –12:00

Including Christ's completing work on the Cross

12:00 – 3:00

darkness falls upon the earth

chapel darkened in Silent Vigil

the last words of Christ

6:00

Christ removed from the cross

Personal Communion is available on an individual basis throughout the week including all day on Friday.