

Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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

Wedged In

Dearhearts,

We have a hard time understanding anything that is absolute; anything that does not deviate from who or what it is. Because our planet is caught in the seam between heaven and hell, we are always in a baffling, sloppy mix of good and evil, beauty and beast where lines are blurred and colors are grayed. Wedged between polar opposites, titans of the absolute, we live in the fog of our own conflicted soul.

Ever we are slammed up against the contradictions of our own selves. *I can't believe I did that... Can't believe he/she said that. I'm so disappointed in myself... What got into me?...* And the language of this wedge frames the reality of our experience. The things we don't want to do, we do; and the things we want to do... we don't. Paul's “wretched man that I am” phrase came out of that dismay... and that reality.

We have, as Christians, two forms: one false and the other true. And they are at war with each other... the flesh (the imposter) against the spirit (who we became with our second birth) making it impossible to behave ourselves consistently. Paul speaks of this impass for the believer in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. There you hear the frustration of his heart... “who will deliver me?”

And yet - it seems strange to say - it is not who God is. Nor Satan.

They are absolute. We are not. We hardly can get our mind around Absolute. *What is it anyway? And why does it matter as we live here in this messy place?* It matters. And it matters Absolutely! If we get the absoluteness of both God and Satan, then we finally have a compass point that regardless of how dark the night, we can navigate. We can find our way.

Absolute #1. God is the *sum* and *source* of Life, of Love and Truth; of Goodness, Holiness, Just-ness, Righteousness. These are *who He is*. Outside of Him they do not exist. And *because He is absolute*, He literally *cannot* act contrary to Himself (II Tim. 2:13). Nor can Satan. He cannot act contrary to who he is.

Absolute #2: Satan is the *absence* of all that God is. He is the *absolute absence* of good, which is *evil*;

of love, which is *hate*; of truth, which is *lies*; of holiness, which is *vileness*; of righteousness, which is *corruption*. And he infuses that absence with His life force... making the void malignant with a pulsating spirit that both draws and destroys. This is why we can fiddle with a “casual” sin for a while and then one day what has seemed benign overtakes us.

Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light, but he cannot *be* light... He *cannot* speak truth. Jesus describes him: “a murderer from the beginning... the father of lies; there *is no truth in him*... a deceiver... an accuser... a thief.” He not only accuses us before God (Rev. 12), he accuses God before us. *How can a loving God allow such a thing... If He really cared, this wouldn't have happened...*” and on and on his messages play, getting us to blame God for what Satan, himself, does... reeking havoc with our faith.

If, in our points of struggle and despair, we understand this... remember *who* God really is and that in the absolute nature of things, He *cannot* be anything else, then we have a refuge to hide in... a shelter in the storm. But if we bend Him to our world, resculpt Him from the clay of earth, then we may see a fickle God made over in our image... or worse... in Satan's. Two similar visages out there on the battlefield, both the enemies of our soul; brothers in arms against us! Who but Satan would script such a scenario? If he can only get us to believe the lie, he has us snared in a bondage from which there is no escape... until Truth can find its place in us and pry us loose.

The world, indeed, is wedged between heaven and hell with two Titans of the Absolute in herculean combat over its destiny... and over ours. But you and I don't have to be trapped there. We can be in this world but not of it. If we dare to believe in the absolute love and goodness of God, we can walk as free people in an enslaved world.

I love you,

Book Club News

Parlor Book Club



The Parlor Book Club continues to meet regularly on Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:30 led by Patty Stefani and assisted by Jaynie Lamb. They are currently discussing "The Mind of Christ."

It is such a special group we have on Tuesday mornings. Aside from the discussion of the books, there is a special spirit that has developed among us. We care about each other, check in with each other, and support each other where we are. It is open for anyone...any time. Just last week a new person has joined us. Jaynie



Dinner Book Club Serves Up Jeanne Guyon's Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ

Our popular menu of dinner and discussion is back with a classic selection from one of the great figures in Christian history. This work, originally titled *A Short and Easy Method of Prayer*, turned the spiritual environment of France around for almost a century. It was written simply so that even the most illiterate of the population at the time could understand it as it was read to them. In today's terminology, it went viral, with over 100,000 copies distributed in France and was a pivotal factor in a spiritual revolution there that lasted for the better part of a century. It was this book that led to her imprisonment in the Bastille for 9 years at the turn of the 18th century.

John Wesley has called her "the greatest Christian since the first century."

We invite you to join us around the table **Friday evening March 28 at 7:00** for a simple meal of soup and cornbread and explore with us her world of unparalleled insight. **To reserve your place at the table call 972-722-1905.**

Thank You for Your Faithful Support of the Ministries of Dayspring. As we step into new Endeavors we Absolutely trust the Lord to provide for the work of His leading and that provision will be through His people.

--A Shared Journey -- Kaleo Roundtable

Our Kaleo Roundtable offers a unique setting of transparency and openness for those intent on a deeper life in Christ. Here, in a setting of safety and shared journey, we are able to shed whatever mask may protect those vulnerable areas in us, allowing us to grow through those inner gaps to greater awareness and honesty with ourselves and others and of greater intimacy with Christ.

Meeting the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, we are using Calvin Miller's *Table of Inwardness* and Beasen's *Disciplines of the Inner Life* as personal focus between gatherings and as discussion growth-points when we meet.

Though the group is closed, **another Kaleo group can be opened up should there be sufficient interest.**

Sunday Morning Chapel Study
The Book of Revelation
8:00 – 9:00

Easter Week Observances
April 17-20
Dayspring Community Chapel

Thursday Evening Vesper Service
Passover Observance
Communion
7:00 – 8:30

Good Friday Observance
7:30 a.m. – 6:20 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service
Prayer Garden

More help is needed this year with Prayer Garden than ever before.

Please let us know if you can help in any way.

Project Hope 2014

Pine Ridge Update


Though we are still finalizing our Mission Outreach to the Lakota people for 2014, one thing is clear: with your help, *our ministry imprint will be stronger and deeper this year.* Here are the things that are in the works and where you can plug in should you be led to do so.



“The Winter that Won’t End” Leaves Many Struggling

The severest winter in memory (the high for March 1 was 4 degrees below zero) has created a propane shortage and left people on the reservation struggling to pay heating bills. Fifty homes in the community of Kyle (where we were last summer) ran out of fuel. With the tribal supply restricted due to funding, propane was diverted from other areas to meet the emergency for these families.

Lynette Cuney, an educator we have been working closely with, tells us the cost for heating their small homes has been running around \$200.00 a **week**. We asked if she knew people who were struggling to keep their heat on and she said, “Oh yes. I know many.” We asked her to give us the names of some who were most in need. She immediately furnished us with the name of a single mother of three living in a trailer. Her past due was over \$500. Through two donations (one from a person unrelated to the ministry), we were able to pay the heating fuel company directly for her past due amount.

 **Plug In: Donations.** The number of people we can help will depend largely upon you.

Sharps Corner Baptist Church

Michael Brennan, pastor of one of the two Baptist churches on the reservation, is opening a door for us to begin having a spiritual impact there.

Women’s Retreat. Brenda will be leading a retreat for the women of his church either in May or in September, accompanied by 2 or 3 women who will be sharing their testimonies. We want to make this time as special as possible with gifts and prizes that would be incorporated in any retreat down here.

 **Making or donating gift bags/baskets or items to go in them.**

Partnership for Housing Workshops


Horse Care. Veterinarian, Dr. David Celega and team, are planning to try again to spend several days tending to horses and teaching horse care on the reservation. His October trip, aborted due to a record snowstorm, had generated a lot of interest which we hope to be able to tap into again.

Canning. Preparation is under way for a second canning workshop with PFH this spring or summer. Tentative dates are mid-May or end of June.

Partnering With Pine Ridge School


With Lynette as our liaison, new opportunities are opening for us. What we are able to do and when will depend on whom the Lord draws to this outreach.

Community Garden. We have been asked to work with people in the community to create on campus a spring garden that would teach people how to maintain a garden and be a food resource for them as well. Lynette’s vision is to enlarge it each year so it can be a real source of fresh vegetables for the community and begin to counter through healthier food the rampant diabetes on the reservation. It would also be a way to teach people to grow their own gardens.

 **Garden Crew:** Target date mid-May.

Woodworking Classes. The shop teacher is an 82 year old retired pastor who would be eager to have after school special classes in the spring or fall or a period in the summer of special workshops. In his class, students learn how to use table saws to build simple items such as dog houses. Only those who have certain academic standing can take shop classes in school, so many kids who could greatly benefit from learning a career skill never get the chance. This is a potential opportunity to teach skills over time that can provide a way out of the poverty and hopelessness that confronts so many of the youth there.

Areas of skill development include: more advanced construction (that could allow them to help in community needs, wood staining, re-furbishing and re-finishing. The possibilities of what could be are immense long-term.

 **Teaching Crew/Skill-set:** Times are flexible and to be worked out.

Girls’ Volleyball Camp. Date for our 2nd camp is around the last week of June.

Prayer Garden: Preparing for the 10th

The last 3 years of drought, combined with human missteps, have multiplied our normal areas for repair and restoration in the garden. On this page, we are outlining both the normal and exceptional needs we face this spring as we celebrate our 10th anniversary and are asking you to consider where you might be able to help.

Replacing Lost Trees

As many of you know, 6 large trees were lost to the drought over the last 2 years. Some of these need to be replaced with the largest, fastest growing trees we can afford. Additionally, our new neighbors to the east have pretty much cleared the easement between us and them of the small growth and brush that buffered the garden with a sense of privacy. Our property owners, Doug and Ruth Kaufmann, have graciously purchased, and paid for planting, approximately 16 evergreen myrtle trees as a buffering wall in the Garden of the Unborn. Due to the extent of area cleared, many more evergreen trees of various kinds need to be purchased and planted.



If you want to help, here are ways to plug in.

- 🌿 **Wild Cedar Trees.** 6-12 depending on size. We prefer wild because they are bushy and will better block the sound and view than will nursery cedars and they tend to do well among trees.
- 🌿 **Wax Leaf Ligustrum.** These are fast growing evergreens and do well in all sorts of sun/shade variations. 2-4 depending on size.
- 🌿 **Varigated Privets.** These bushy plants grow well in limited sun and will help privatize the fence line.
- 🌿 **Honeysuckle.** Also helpful in privatizing fence line.

Plant Loss Around Amy's Garden

If you want to help with our replacement of plants:

- 🌿 **Rose of Sharon trees.** 2 lilac blooms; 1 white bloom.
- 🌿 **Star Jasmine.** 4 plants
- 🌿 **Wisteria.** 2 plants, one for each side of arbor.

Other Items to be Purchased

- 🌿 **Garden figurines and statues**
- 🌿 **Mulch / Fescue grass**

Manpower Needs in the Garden

Help with even one of these items will be appreciated.

- Clearing limbs
- Raking
- Cutting back and trimming
- Mulching
- Fertilizing flower beds
- Weeding
- Planting / Transplanting Needle Nose Ivy
- Cutting wild trees out from antique roses
- Sowing fescue grass
- Planting
- Cleaning Bird Baths
- Cleaning Fountains
- Hand watering
- Repairing/refinishing benches
- Refinishing wooden signs
- Re-working flagstone sitting area to right of Riley's Berm

Workdays Scheduled

The following schedule for workdays in the garden is subject to some adjustment so be sure to let us know if you would like to participate so you can be informed of any changes that might occur.

Saturday, March 22: 8:30 – 2:30

Saturday, April 5: 8:30 – finish

Sunday, April 13: 2:00 – 5:00

Chronicles of the Revolution Continues on Thursday Evenings

Our spring semester course on the history of Christianity continues to experience strong attendance as we have looked at the persecuted church, the apostolic fathers and the desert fathers and mothers. The next few weeks address the Imperial Church, the Hidden Church, the Reformation and Counter Reformation.

We invite you to come discover with us the heritage of our faith and those whose lives were so instrumental in fashioning our world and faith today.

Spring break is March 13.

7:00 p.m. Thursdays – Dayspring Study