



# THE JOURNEY

A Publication of

Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

## Looking for Resurrection

Dearhearts

In the beginning before time spun earth in its ethereal cocoon, man walked in a pristine place. Governed by two titans of Eden – a tree of life and a tree of death. Once Adam ate of the tree of knowledge, all the world changed. How we saw changed. How we thought. How we acted. How we understood and related to ourselves...to others...to God. The language of earth became that of suffering and toil. Sounds not heard before suddenly filled the air, the cry of the prey, the roar of predator. And we were plunged into an abyss-mal place as darkness wrapped itself around earth like a swaddling band awaiting a new birth into some distant light (Job 38:9).

And these titans of Eden became the titans of earth, mysterious trees ruling by unflinching edict. The effects of neither tree was revocable...their fruit affected all life on the planet. Two spiritual laws seem harbored in their limbs; laws that govern the running of the spiritual universe as surely as the laws of gravity and centrifugal force govern the running of the physical. Laws God was unwilling to suspend or destroy.

Once fruit was plucked from its boughs, the tree of knowledge of good and evil cursed the earth with death and struggle and pain. It was a curse that would not be lifted...a law that could not be aborted...not even for God's son. The tree of knowledge was a tree of condition, a tree of mangled wreckage. The tree of life *now* became forbidden fruit. It was a tree of relationship...of longevity...a *forever* tree. To eat of it would have forever sealed the mangled mass, forever entombed man in its wreckage.

So in Eden the tree of life was removed from the grasp of man. It will return...one day...beyond the reach of time - when man's pristine state has been restored through the indwelling *holiness* of God – and we'll eat once more and be sealed *forever* holy by a forever fruit.

But first the law of sin and death must be fulfilled. That is Calvary. That is Christ. “Do not think that I am come to destroy the law,” Christ said in Matthew 5, “I am not come to destroy but to fulfill.” In His death, Christ fulfilled the requirements of the law of the breached tree of Eden, the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2). In fulfilling

it, a new law was birthed...and a third tree could be planted. It was planted at Calvary.

In I Peter 2:24, the cross is called a tree. In Galatians we are told that Christ has set us free from the curse of the law, having been made a curse for us. *As that curse*, when He was crucified, the curse of suffering and death was crucified. They will still assail us while we are here, but Christ has broken their debilitating curse...its devastating effects. He has done it through the third, Calvary tree.

And an amazing picture emerges.

A root of the parent tree of Eden, the cross was the ultimate fruit of that tree of death. And yet, Christ is called the BRANCH. He is a Branch of the Tree of Life. When He was crucified, He literally was grafted into the tree of death. His crucifixion merged both Eden trees and His resurrection created a new tree...with new fruit. Life encountering death and overcoming it transformed this tree of death into a tree of resurrection. And the fruit it produces is the fruit of the Spirit. It is a law that now governs the running of the spiritual universe. In the midst of the wreckage, look for resurrection. There, we can know peace, we can show love, we can have patience... we can experience joy.

There is no resurrection without a death. Tribulation and personal failures remain a fact of life as surely as gravity is a fact of life. The question is not “why” but “where.” “Where is the resurrection?” Looking for resurrection in any defeat should be our daily quest...like children looking for Easter eggs. We will find it hidden in daily disappointments, in losses, in regrets. Anticipating it here infuses our faith to see transformationally: *How is God going to make something new of this? What new life will my forgiveness breathe into someone? What blessing will my grace bring to the wreckage?*

Resurrection improves on the original. Embracing it instead of resisting the loss frees us from the tombs of regret. Resurrection doesn't cling to what could have been or should have been. It creates beauty from the ashes.

I love you,

## *Road to Emmaus II Study Begins Monday Evening June 3*

Gay Bostick will be teaching the second volume of Brenda's Road to Emmaus Bible Study, *The Fullness of Christ*, starting at 7:00 p.m., June 3, in the Dayspring chapel. Summer was the only time some who were interested could come so we are trying a summer study for the first time.

The first of three units in this study looks at our spiritual growth, using the disciples growth process as a template for our own and the levels of spiritual maturity awaiting the pilgrim on the Emmaus road with Christ. The second unit in this study covers the Holy Spirit and the final unit covers prayer.

It is not too late to join so please call the ministry office if you would like to put your name on the roster and order a book. Cost of materials is \$10.00



### *What's New On-Line*

Four new items are now up on the website from Brenda's teachings for listening or download to your computer or ipod.

- **Ancient Paths** – First Tuesday teachings from spring that address the major questions of living here in a fallen world and of God's remarkable provisions for us here (*Re Dearhearts*)
- **Intercessory Prayer** – a 4-part teaching on intercession from a 2010 chapel retreat
- **Moravian Prayer Vigil** Presentation (includes power point)
- **Strongholds** (6 lessons)

### *Other Bible Studies that are already up on the teachings/download page:*

- Living in the Sacred
- Incarnate Life
- The Beatitudes
- Book of John
- Book of Galatians
- Book of Numbers
- Conversations on Mysteries of the Kingdom
- Conversations on the Prayer of Communion

## *The Gift*

*Do not cast me away when  
I am old; do not forsake me  
when my strength is gone.*

Ps.71:9



How blessed I am to go to the nursing home to visit the residents: to greet each one I see with a "good afternoon!" and smile, to pick up my dog for them to pet and watch them smile and talk to him, to listen to the past and present living history of their lives, to affirm those whose stories make sense only to themselves. For the lady who thinks I am her daughter, for the gentlemen who scratch Bravo's back in all the right places, for the awe of seeing people surmount health challenges and life changes and yet who remain kind and thoughtful to each other. They thank me for coming but I also thank them for the gifts they are to me.

And that gift? Everyone needs their own "nursing home." Everyone needs a place where they are welcomed because they "are" not for what they can do or have done. They need a place of freedom from self and to love without fear. I have found that place.

Elizabeth Moses



### *Monday Night at the Movies this Fall*

The idea of a movie night has been perking on the back burner for a long time, and we have decided to bring it up to the front and try it this fall. Though movies are generally abysmal these days, there are some that speak to the human condition and are metaphor for our need for Christ...our need to move to different rhythms as believers. So about once every 6 weeks we will have a movie night with guided discussion on its implications for us as Christians.

Movies will be chosen primarily from the 1970's to present and will include selections such as *Awakening*, *Lars and the Real Girl*, *Les Miserable* (1998)...

## *The Deeper Life*

A deeper life awaits the pilgrim of the soul. It is a life of fellowship and obedience, of confusion and frustration and yet amazing encounters with Him along the way. It is a life of both success and failure and, finally, after obediences have been found lacking no matter what we do or try, it is a journey into relinquishment.

This deeper life for the Christian begins with seeking...seeking to do life on His terms and to bring our behaviors into alignment with His ways. It is an "Old Covenant" kind of experience in our New Covenant relationship of grace...doing what we're supposed to do. We do not grow without these obediences - without a heart that desires to do it His way. This is a very active region of the journey that is often attended by Bible study and prayer with many questions posed and answers sought. It is here that we learn a lot about God...and about ourselves. It will cover many years of our life with Him.

But then one day...We will realize that obediences that once seemed so easy no longer are. That old man that may have once seemed tamed is stirring to life again. Or new temptations and weaknesses are cropping up and obedience is fraying around the edges. Romans 7 becomes our reality: "the things I don't want to do...I do, and the things I do, I don't want to do." For some reason our will no longer empowers us as once it did, and we keep having to crawl back to the throne of grace knowing how utterly unfit we are for His favor. It is usually but one issue at a time that confirms our spiritual deficiency rather than a covey of them...though this is not always the case.

It is here in this zone that the engines are switching. We must find a different power source because obviously our previous power source no longer works. The key that switches us from our engine to God's is **relinquishment**. Relinquishment gets us out of God's way. It lets go of our own ideas and efforts because we have found them to be inadequate for the obedience at hand, and it submits to the Spirit of God. We yield to God and His ways as we acknowledge our need for Him.

Relinquishment is not an easy thing. Obedience often carries joy with it, but relinquishment never does - at least not initially - because something of self must die with relinquishment. It is here that a battle is waged before the final decision to yield or to resist. Once one surrenders their own will to that of the Lord's, then peace will descend upon the battlefield.



## *Launch Out Into the Deep*

They labored to clean their nets after a particularly frustrating night on the waters with nothing to show for all their efforts. There He met them and instructed them to do what must have seemed, at best, ignorant: *Cast*

*your nets again into the water...Cast your nets into the deep.*

Despite such words, these weary men obeyed...and their souls launched out into a place they had never been before.

*Christ comes to us  
where we are  
and speaks to us*

*whether we are cleaning nets  
or cleaning dishes;*

*whether it is our nets that are empty or  
our bank accounts...or our hearts.*

*No matter the shores we find ourselves on,  
His call to us always is to a deeper place.*

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*The Deep is an uncharted realm for every  
pilgrim...*

*a place we have never been before.*

*As His mercies are new every morning,  
so, too, are His adventures here in this place  
as we follow Him.*

*It will keep us on our toes  
as well as on our knees.*

*It will fling us out into the world as servants  
and as light.*

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*Page Excerpted from Dayspring Website  
Pilgrim of the Soul/Deeper Life*

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## The Hope Project

### What You Are Doing at Pine Ridge

*John 6:1-13*

Your response to the needs of the Oglala Sioux tribe has been God breathed in terms both of money and physical donations, with band instruments coming in from as far away as Virginia.

As with the boy who brought to Christ what was in his basket, and from that basket thousands were fed, so you are bringing what you have, and it is being blessed and multiplied to feed those who have hungers we can never guess.

#### *Songs of Hope.*

For the Pine Ridge band initiative, many of you have given what you have:

- **2 flutes - 1 new and 1 gently used; 1 piccolo** (sent from Virginia)
- **1 clarinet; 1 good trombone**
- **1 violin, 1 ukelele**
- **1 piano keyboard with bench and stand**
- **1 xylophone, 1 drum pad and drumstick set**

You have also designated money which has been used to purchase the instruments, below, in very good condition from a pawn shop. New, the two alto sax's would have cost between \$900 - \$1200 each. The pawn shop brought their asking price down to \$286 for one and \$325 for the other. Other supplies have been purchased to be picked up from a music store in Rapid City.

- **2 flutes**
- **2 alto sax's**
- **Full complement of student music books**
- **Supply of reeds for clarinets and saxophones**
- **Piano keyboard to be used by the band director and for school events.**

Still more instruments are needed, including at least 2 more flutes, but we are well on our way to supplying a complete band and establishing a caring presence there.

#### *Monthly Self-Reliance Workshops.*

You have already funded two \$300 events that train tribal members in varying forms of skills that promote self-reliance. Sufficient funds have just come in to be able to sponsor these for the year if needed.

Our desire is to love these forgotten people in ways they can see and with a faithfulness that will draw them to the One who is the faithful Lover of their soul and who offers a Bread that if they eat of it, their deepest hungers will be assuaged and they will find a Hope they never knew.

Several women from here will be leading the July self-sufficiency *Workshop on Canning and Jelly-making* sponsored by the Partnership for Housing, while a couple of men are hoping to weatherize houses.

#### *High School Assistance*

At the same time a team of 2 women and a high school club volleyball player will travel to Pine Ridge to conduct a 3-day *volleyball camp* for the girls team. Rebecca Drummond will stay afterwards to work with the assistant principal to create a *professional development program for teachers* for fall, while discussions are

occurring for an *academic* program next summer to make up for a school year that has just been shortened due to budget cuts.

#### *Potential Dental Care Partnership*

Though Oglala Lakota College is in the midst of the tedious grant process with the Kellogg Foundation to develop mid-level dental professionals that could prove revolutionary for the reservation, it "looks promising" according to Dr. Terry Batliner, the point person with Kellogg regarding the grant. This kind of program has been tried on an Alaskan reservation with dramatic results, and the foundation is seeking to try it on a 2<sup>nd</sup> reservation in the lower 48. Pine Ridge is one of two in the running for this grant. If approved, several of you have pledged financial support to this effort. Outside financial resources are required for the grant's approval.

Northern Arizona University dental hygienist professor and Pine Ridge native, Maxine Janis, has said we are a key factor in this effort due to the strength of interest and commitment we have shown. Since that conversation with Ms Janis, Brenda has informed her that we have access, from contacts through Love in Action Int'l, to free dental office equipment for fully supplying a dental clinic. This includes free delivery and installation on the reservation...all told, approaching \$100,000 in value.

It appears God is blessing in ways we could not have imagined, and we pray His hand will guard this work and potential grant as it aligns with His will.