



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

June 2016 “...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” – Luke 1:78-79 Newsletter

Salt and Light

Dearhearts,

Recently, I’ve come to view through a different prism Christ’s summons to us to be salt and light. Though this is not strictly so, it seems “salt” has more to do with the church and light has more to do with the world. We are to be salt to the church so it can be light to the world.

In Leviticus, there is the covenant of salt. Salt was required on all meat sacrifices. Covenant has to do with God’s relationship with His people. God demanded salt as part of the covenant system of sacrifice. Christ transferred that Old Covenant ritual to the New Covenant relationship of presenting our bodies as a living, holy sacrifice unto Him. “You are the salt of the earth...the light of the world” Christ tells us in Matthew 5, and then says that if salt ceases to be itself...if, somehow, it has lost its flavor, then it has no purpose. If we look like the world then we bring nothing to the stew of earth, no different flavoring of love, no seasoning of prayer, no preservative of forgiveness that keeps it from spoiling

We are to be the salt that preserves the integrity of the church so that the church may be light. Salt may have more to do with seasoning the vitality of Christ’s church and preserving its nature than anything else. Because if we as believers do not preserve His ways, preserve His sacred approaches in how we treat others, then there will be no light on a hill. There will be nothing of God’s nature and character seen in his people. Without covenant salt, nothing about the church in the world – or the believer in the world – tastes right. We are flat and tasteless at best.

The world gropes in darkness today while America slides into a descending night. We slide, in part, because we fail to season where we live with Covenant Character. We season with our own ideas of the Sacred, but that hardly resembles God’s. As the disciples in Mark 9, we tend to think we need to correct and judge...even condemn. They reported to Jesus that they had forbidden one who cast out demons in Jesus’ name because he would not follow them...He would not do

things their way. Telling them not to forbid him, Jesus pointed them to the hidden character; He spoke to the signs of the heart. And then He spoke of salt losing its “saltiness”. The disciple’s condemning, judging spirit was contrary to Christ’s, and He ended with, “have salt within yourselves and have peace with one another.” Not just fellow disciples but with the one they had reprimanded. In Luke 9 when the Samaritan community would not receive Christ, His disciples, puffed with the authority they had been given and likely eager to teach the distasteful Samaritans a lesson, asked Jesus if He wanted them to call down fire from heaven and destroy them. “You do not know what spirit you are of,” He admonished. “The Son of Man has not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.”

There is no room, as salt, to have a critical or judgmental spirit...to season the world we live in with harshness or condemnation.

In Colossians 4, Paul tells us “walk in wisdom toward outsiders...let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt that you may know how to answer everyone.” Salt is about preserving the image of Christ in us and in the church. It is about seasoning with peace and grace a world that has grown bitter and angry...and a church that often looks perilously close to that.

“Every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.” If we are “living sacrifices,” our behaviors are to be seasoned with peace and our words with grace. When we do that as believers we will be a light no longer hidden under the basket of our own spirit. Should we dare to do that as a community of believers, we will be a light on a hill spilling out into the night drawing people to a God they now see more truly who offers to them a better way.

I love you,

God's Mountain Moving Equipment

"I have come to Seek and to Save the Lost"

Caterpillar or John Deere won't move these mountains. It won't be F16's or Special Forces that will destroy the strongholds of violence and suffering in the Muslim world. These mountains will only be moved by prayer and by a people of God who find ways to invade their world with the love of Christ. Only when they see the real face of Christ will they want to know Him who seeks them...Him who, alone, can change their world.

It was almost 20 years ago when Serbian Orthodox Christians went into Bosnia and massacred over 8,000 unarmed Muslims, mostly men. Srebrenica was designated a safe zone by the UN but when Serbian troops swept in and UN troops left, the 5,000 Muslims in the UN compound were trapped. The women and children were placed on trucks and dumped at the border and the men were killed. Four years later war erupted and NATO forced the Serbs to leave Kosovo. As they left they removed all equipment from hospitals and farms and raped a thousand young women.

Today, a sea of white spires marks the graves of those unarmed Muslims killed by those who bore the name of Christ. And a thousand registered rape victims cry even to this day.

Rae England of Love in Action International returned recently from a trip there in which she visited with 9 of the

women who had been raped. "One of them cried the whole time I was there. Many of their husbands have left them...rape is not something that can be openly acknowledged and families often won't allow it to be mentioned...so the pain remains raw and unhealed." To help these silent victims recover, six women's centers have been established throughout Kosovo.

The challenges financially, whether married or single, are daunting. The woman who cried *is* married and her husband earns the equivalent of \$200 a month in a country whose cost of living is not that much lower than ours. There are almost no jobs and full time work often pays no more than \$330 a month.

Here where people are lost in cultural isolation and religious carnage, we have the opportunity to help these women and reach into their needs with the love of Christ.

Another Face of Christ for them to See

Love in Action Int'l, in partnership with the Albanian Heritage Center, is sending a 40 foot container with fabric and other sewing supplies to these women's centers this summer that will allow the women to make items to sell for personal income as well as make clothes for their families. If you would like to be part of this outreach, we will begin accepting the following items at the Dayspring House immediately:



- **Fabric of any kind**
- **Thread**
- **Other sewing items such as scissors, thimbles, fabric rulers,**
- **School Supplies.**

We also invite you to include a note if you feel led. Since they are, in a sense, quarantined in their pain, a personal note of encouragement or love may be a life-breathing connection for them. If you write a note, rather than sealing it, just insert the flap into the envelope.

Srebrenica, Bosnia is another place where hardships continue and where Love in Action will be shipping food in the fall that Dayspring will help with. "Srebrenica was a city of 37,000 that is now 7,000," Rae adds. "The Serb Military massacred over 8,000 men ages 16 - 77. Some believe that number is closer to 12,000 because of the number of people missing. In Kosovo there were another 1666 people, 200 of whom are children, that are still missing."

Daily, we have the opportunity to show our community - and sometimes our world - another face of Christ. Let us know if you want to do that here.

Seeking Him on the Waves of Pine Ridge

Notes from the Road



What's a Retreat? The young Lakota woman sitting at the end of the table asked without looking up from the Woman at the Well folder that lay before her. Jaynie Lamb explained that a retreat was a place where they could come to share their lives and learn more about Jesus. In a few minutes Lisa spoke again. "I don't know where I am with Jesus. My husband is into God but I don't know much about Him."

Her question marked the beginning of our Woman at the Well Retreat in Manderson on the reservation in which Rebecca Drummond and Jaynie shared their testimonies. Lisa was *our* woman at the well. She is seeking and was excited for Jaynie to send her a Bible. We will be guiding her in what to read to learn more of Christ and how to understand the Bible, as will Janice and TJ who pastor the church.

A total of six women attended, but with some coming or leaving early and late, it was an erratic experience, which we have come to expect at some level there. Nonetheless interest seemed genuine. As ever, there will be those whom we touch briefly with Christ's love, but our greater desire is to pursue ways to have more lasting impact as we look for where Christ is walking on the waves of Pine Ridge and seek to join Him there.

This appears to be a transition time for us. But as with Peter jumping out of the boat onto the waves with Christ, we don't yet know what that means or how it will look.

The Picture Above is of White Clay Nebraska, a town of 12 people and 4 liquor stores just a short hop from Pine Ridge. Tribal leaders have led protests there seeking to shut down a town whose sole purpose is to provide alcohol for citizens of the reservation which, until only recently, has prohibited the sale of alcohol on the reservation. *Lakota Hope*, a Christian organization, has located in White Clay to try to reach the natives there as well as on the reservation. They hold a weekly native crafts display and opportunity to sell their creations and include a spiritual focus with testimonies and praise.

Would You Like a Sandwich?

The two boys, perhaps 6 and 8, with well worn skateboards in their hands, stood at the end of the Subway counter and gazed for the longest time at the ice cream. Lynette, the Lakota educator we have worked with for 4 years, rose from our table and went over to them. If boys can be beautiful, their smooth, light chocolate skin and deep brown eyes made them so. "Would you like a sandwich?" she asked and they eagerly nodded. She saw what we did not. They had been at the Tony Hawk skateboard park for hours and were probably famished. Though she had cash in her hand as she lifted the youngest boy up to see his options, this seemed an opportunity to touch these little guys with a small gift of whatever they wanted for supper including the coveted ice cream. And as they scarfed down their sandwiches they reassured my feigned concern that they might not have room for double dip ice cream cones.

The text from our cherished Lakota friend speaks to the blessing and burden both of Pine Ridge:

...Today I thanked my ancestors for putting you both in my life. Thank you for feeding those 2 little hungry boys yesterday. When I think of the yearning look on their little faces when they were looking at the food and then to remember the look on their faces when they were chomping away at their sandwiches my heart melts with joy and love. God bless you."

We thank all who over time have faithfully contributed to the Pine Ridge fund and for those who gave more recently to help with expenses for our trip. You make possible our continued outreach there. Know that we ever hold before the Lord our basket for Him to take and break and bless and dispense as He will as we make ourselves available as instruments for His light and provision there.

Mountain Moving Equipment #2

Prayer:

...That their eyes might be Opened

This year, June 6 – July 5, are the dates for Ramadan, one of the most important times for Muslims worldwide. The initial Ramadan marked the time that the Qu’ran was given to their prophet Muhammad. Therefore, yearly, Muslims fast and pray in remembrance. They refrain from eating and drinking during the daylight hours, as they focus on the spiritual. Therefore, some Christians have realized that this is an opportune time to pray for Muslims since they are already in a spiritual “mode.” For this reason, World Christian created the booklet *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World*, a wonderful, clear, specific guide for praying for these who are lost.

Some Christians, however, may ask, “Why pray for violent, hate-filled people?” Almost daily we hear of carnage from Muslim terrorist groups, which creates a fear and perhaps even hatred in Americans’ hearts. But these radical, violent groups comprise a tiny percentage of those in the Islamic faith. Most Muslims live their lives desiring peace, consideration of others, and faithfulness to their religion. Also, as we know, God loves people, regardless of their natures, beliefs, and actions. Jesus paid the price for all sin—period. His great commission was to spread the gospel to everyone, everywhere—including Muslims!

Praying for Muslims touches me personally for a couple of reasons. I shared an office with a Muslim man for over 20 years, and he is one of the kindest men I have known. Over the years, he demonstrated his love and care for people. He and I also talked openly of our own different faiths. He assured me that he, too, along with other Muslims, believe in the virgin birth of Jesus as the Son of God and good prophet and teacher. However, the only difference is the concept of Jesus AS God, or the deity of Christ. As we know, this is a huge difference (a life-changing difference and one that distinguishes Christianity from all other religions).

In addition, my nephew and his family, missionaries in the Middle East for six years, have seen hundreds of Muslims become Christians. Several of them, discipled by my nephew, have gone on to lead fellow Muslims to Christ and to disciple them, despite the dangers. Consequences of Muslims’ turning to Christianity include banishment from their family, extreme physical abuse, imprisonment, and even



execution. Furthermore, this turning away from Islam, which has been quite secretive, is now becoming known. My nephew’s mission team was told this spring that they would need to leave the country before being thrown out or

incarcerated. They are now in the States, praying for the next place the Lord will send them, hopefully to another Muslim group, which is where their hearts are.

A few years ago, I was introduced to *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World*, and I “devoured” it. Expecting to find specific ways to pray, I was astounded by the in-depth cultural information revealed about each of the major groups of over 1.57 billion believers in Islam. This year’s booklet opened with “New ways for new movements.” Noting that past methods of conversion included military conquest, colonialism, and coerced conversion, the writers now state the following: ***“It’s not our religion, politics, economy, or civilization that is prompting them [Muslims] to surrender their lives to a new faith; it’s the Lord Jesus Christ.”***

Peggy Ruff

Since the 7th century, Christian mission work has proved ineffective with Muslims. However, in the 21st century, we can see the greatest of numbers turning to Christ, ironically (or not), since 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World has been disseminated to Christians worldwide. Seventy-two Muslim Christian movements of at least 1,000 conversions each have been noted.

You may pick up the booklet *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World* at the Dayspring House while they last. A pdf version may be secured at WorldChristian.com.