



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

Dayspring Discipleship Institute

505 E. Boydston, Rockwall, Texas 75087

972-722-1905

www.dayspringdiscipleship.org

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

Blessers of the Earth

Dearhearts,

Three times the king took him up to a high place to behold a strange sight...two million people in transit across his land. Was he intimidated by them, or fearful? Annoyed? Or flat-out angry? At best, they were illegals who represented a peaceful invasion of his sovereign territory; a hoard who threatened, by virtue of size alone, to strip his land of its resources. At worst, they represented an invading force intent on doing to him what they had done to the Amorites before...completely destroy and subdue the country. His people were in a panic. *Do something.*

So three times the king of Moab asked Balaam to “curse these people,” sweetening his request with offers of positions of honor and power and influence. And though Balaam is a mixed bag prophetically, to his credit he was unswayed by the king. “If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God to do more or less.” With each request he sought God, and each time the Lord told him to bless, not curse, Israel.

Today, Christ asks *us* to do the same...to bless and not curse. He elevates and enlarges the Balaam moment by telling His followers to bless - *not just friends - but enemies.* “Bless those that curse you, do good to them that hate you...” This is His mark upon us. This is the very signature of God among men, penned on the parchment of our lives. We are to be the antidote to the poisonous menu the world serves up daily...the balancing agent to evil...the light that holds back the darkness. While the world would have us speak its curse...God says, “No... Bless.”

Blessing comes in both words and actions, but it comes fundamentally from a humble heart. We are a people of blessing: *Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of God, blessed are they that mourn, they shall be comforted; blessed are the meek... blessed are the merciful, blessed...the peacemakers...* As a people of blessing, we are to give blessing. As we are gentle in response, kind or peacemaking...we bless.

We bless by giving grace to the driver who cut in front of us or the friend who does not stay in touch, or the waiter who has bungled his service or the family member who has disappointed us or broken our hearts. Such blessing comes only with a humility that knows we are not the center of the universe.

Blessing counts regardless of whether people have heard or seen our blessing. When God required Balaam to speak His blessing over Israel rather than the King's curse, no one of the Israelites heard or knew...nor would they have known of the curse had it been spoken! But there seems to be a power in the spoken word that does not hinge upon hearing. There is something powerful about words, both blessing and curse, that we do not understand. One thing we can know is that when we “curse” the air, we curse our own souls. When we bless the unhearing air...we bless our own souls. We become gentler, kinder...we become blessers in the earth. When we don't, we join the harsh chorus of this world and blessing is lost amid the grating refrains as a bird's song is drowned by the chorus of summer locusts.

As we identify with kings, we are sucked into the curse and, in the name of God, will speak harsh and violent things against the President or other politicians. And earth is left with a cacophony of sound that carries no song. We curse and, therefore, are cursed. We carry home the spoils of battle as Achan did at Jericho. Our spirit is blighted. And God's purposes in a hostile land are dishonored...and thwarted.

He has entrusted us with light.

Prophets did not speak God's correction to the world...they spoke it to God's people. The world will be changed only as His people are different. Darkness will be dispelled only as we are light. Curse is neutralized only as we bless.

I love you,

Fall Schedule Taking Shape

“Second Saturday” Chapel Prayer Focus

August 11: Intercessory Prayer Teaching

Open to anyone, this is especially intended to better equip those involved in the prayer ministry to intercede for different needs. Brenda will teach on “praying behind the scenes,” the role of intercession in spiritual warfare and the difference between aggressive and passive intercession and when each is called for. A particular focus will be the role of intercession regarding addictions and strongholds.

8:30 – 11:45 a.m.

September 8: Meditation on the Word

Guided focus on praying Scripture with plenty of time for personal meditation.

8:30 – 11:45 a.m.

November 10: Meditation on the Word

8:30 – 11:45 a.m.



October 13: Chapel “Brown Bag” Prayer Retreat

Brenda will conduct an extensive teaching on the Tabernacle as a picture of prayer. From the Gate of the Tabernacle to the Bronze Altar and Wash Basin to the Holy Place with its Table of Shewbread, Candlestand and Golden Altar, to the Veil and within to the Holy of Holies, each portion of the tabernacle of Moses draws us into deeper intimacy with God in prayer. It pictures for us the journey in prayer of quieting our own voices and coming into a communion with Him in which we experience His presence and can hear when He speaks.

Ample time will be available in the prayer garden as well as chapel and prayer parlor to experience this kind of praying.

A Brown Bag lunch will be provided. This is the only one of our “Second Saturday” offerings that carries a fee. The cost for this *Chapel Prayer Retreat* will be \$15.00.

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesdays in the Fall

Second Thursday “Conversations” Return

The Mystery of Blessing

7:00 p.m. Thursday September 13

Dayspring Chapel

This fall sees the return of our series of monthly conversations with Brenda on the Mysteries of the Kingdom, this time on Thursday rather than Tuesday. *The Mystery of Blessing* begins the series with a look at the power of the spoken word to yield either blessing or curse and what that means for us as His followers.

The October conversation will be on *The Prayer of Communion* and, at this point, plans for November are to repeat Brenda’s power point presentation and talk of a couple of years ago on **A People Who Changed the World**, a fascinating look at the greatest prayer vigil in Christian history.

Dayspring Discipleship Institute
is a non-profit organization
wholly supported by your tax-deductible
contributions.
Thank you for your faithful support.

“Strongholds” Bible Study

Thursday Evenings 7:00 – 9:00

Beginning September 20

On all other Thursday evenings but the second Thursday of each month, Brenda will teach a study on strongholds. The study will look at

- What they are and how they look in us
- How they get set up
- How they are maintained
- How they are brought down
- The role of prayer in pulling down strongholds

The study will begin the third Thursday in September and will end the last of October or first of November. Final details will be posted in next month’s newsletter.

Tuesday Morning Option

Brenda is considering offering this study on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 – 11:30 for those unable to attend the evening study *should there be enough interest*. Please let us hear from you if you are interested. A minimum of 10 people is needed for the morning class.

Elizabeth's "Home" Notes

Caroline and I walked the length of the Nursing Home with Caroline carrying a metal shepherd's crook and me a bird feeder and no one stopped us or asked us what we were up to. Caroline put up the bird feeder for Barbara. Barbara sounds better because that cough seems to have disappeared. She was working on a scrapbook and showed us some adorable pictures she had of the grandkids of an aide. Avis was in bed because she fell at least twice.

Alice took us to feed Honey, the bird. He also has a new swing now. Connie's (Alice's roommate) stuffed dog is named Jezebel. And Caroline was right... Alice is from West Texas, Odessa.

Nina was wound up because the air conditioner went off and she got too hot. Even her roommate was saying it was hot. Turns out the plug had been knocked from the wall. Nina was also excited that a monarch



butterfly had attached itself to the window screen and they had looked at it for a long time.

Caroline stopped and talked with Dan, and I went on down to see Ramona...She was feeling so good that she was wearing lipstick! The next day we talked about the party and I wheeled her around the NH to reserve the room.

Fannie was in the dining room and once again I dropped the leash and Bravo ran all the way across to her and tried to jump up into her lap.

The Party's On!

Ramona's party is on for next Tuesday from 4 to 6. We've reserved a dining room...Ramona wants a petite filet mignon and asparagus. Caroline is also bringing a fresh fruit salad (as Ramona requested) and I'm bringing real butter and food containers to save what Ramona can't eat. We want to move quickly while Ramona is feeling good. Lights, camera, action! Let's help her celebrate!

p.s. If anything should happen to Honey, she/he will be replaced. Turns out that the bird has several daily visitors for whom he makes life special.

Ministry Up-Dates

Prayer Garden. Despite the heat, the prayer garden is holding its own with at least 6 rabbits making their home there. *We Do Need Help*, however, with hand watering. It is very relaxing and can be done in the shade. With continuing water restrictions, plus recent plantings (including a sizable sweet gum tree near Riley's Berm), hand watering is essential.

Abortion Recovery Groups from Lake Pointe Church and "Restore" a ministry run by Carolyn Berry (of the Pregnancy Resource Center) use the chapel and garden for their closing ceremonies. Blue and pink memorial ribbons are left in the guide box of the Garden of the Unborn each time by the Lake Pointe group.

With Love Creations. Over 20 blankets have been made by 6 or 7 ladies (of about 15 who participate) in crocheting classes and are being readied for delivery to families of those in prison and others in need. As interest grows, new classes are being added.

It's exciting to be able to minister to others and provide a means of connection and fellowship while learning a new skill.

Creative/Art Workshops. Clay is the current medium with students creating masks that express the emotional traits they think they possess or want to possess. Here ability and insight both are discovered.



Web-Site. May and June Prayergrams are now posted on the Dayspring website. Scroll to the **prayer tab** on the Menu column then click on the prayergram sub-page.

Check our web **calendar** for times and dates of on-going ministry offerings. Once the fall schedule is finalized it will be posted there.

Parlor Book Study. Discussion of *A Thousand Gifts* is concluding. It has been a time of rich blessing and fellowship, a time no one wants to end. **August** marks the beginning of another book.

Next Parlor Book Study

Spiritual Rhythms

Begins 10:00 a.m. Tuesday August 7

Though **Mark Buchanan's** book is not as soaring as the previous two books in the Parlor Book Club, it is a rich and insightful look at the seasons of our lives both personally and spiritually, the challenges in each, and what God is after in us through them.

"Abide in me," Jesus tells us, "and you will produce much fruit." Yet too often we forget that fruit needs different seasons in order to grow. We measure our spiritual maturity by how much we do rather than how we are responding to our current spiritual season.

From Spiritual Rhythms

Our Next Sunday Morning Chapel Study

The Book of Numbers Begins 8:00 August 5



Though you may think it is, the book of Numbers is no yawner. It is chock full of mysteries and nuggets of insight into our own spiritual journey, into the end times and Revelation and even the New Earth, into who we are as a people and the claim God has on our lives, and... on and on.

As *Living in the Sacred* comes to an end, Brenda is preparing for this next study that should last through spring. The many themes lacing this Old Testament book will be traced through the rest of the Bible to their final destination so it will take time to travel its pages.

We invite you to the chapel at 8:00 on Sunday mornings for our next study on this neglected book of the Bible. Our guess is, at some point, you will wonder why it has been neglected.

Recently, we received an email with the message: "I saw the prayer requests...and felt it on my heart to share my thoughts for the next newsletter." We offer her message to you with gratitude for her support and love for the Lord.

"No one has ever become poor from giving"

I love this quote by Anne Frank. I noticed in the prayer requests there is a need for financial giving to Dayspring Discipleship Institute. Would you please prayerfully consider what you have to give if you love Dayspring as much as I do? This is a difficult time for many financially. There are so many other ways you and I can give. There is always work to be done in the prayer garden, so it will remain beautiful for all who stop and visit. Anyone who can give their time each day to pray for the prayer requests that come in on a daily basis. Our prayers are heard by a loving God and He loves for us to make our requests for others. Donating a couple books for the Parlor for others to enjoy. Donating yarn for the ladies who give their time to make beautiful handwork for the Prison Ministry and the Nursing homes. Start watching for little gifts to enclose in the Christmas goodie bags that go to the surrounding neighborhood this Christmas. Art supplies for the Nursing home ministry. So many ways to give and, trust me from experience, it is a blessing to give of yourself. God is glorified and his love is shared. Thank you in advance for considering.

Blessings,
Bobbie Gillette

Creative Therapy Workshops

"Under Elaine's wonderful teaching we have started a new medium which is clay. Our first project was 'pinch pots,' and it stretched our imaginations. Since Elaine encourages us to explore the spirituality in each assignment, I saw in my pot my life. Rather than have it have a smooth finish I wanted mine to have a rough one with cracks around the edges representing the trials I have had to face throughout my life.



When we paint the pot, my color will be white representing Christ's love which covered all the bad things that happened which now no longer cause me pain. The clay allows time to meditate as we work with it in our hands. I look forward to this time each week."

Anne Morton



Coil pot above, made by Caroline Doyle, reflects a second form of clay pottery used in Elaine Souder's workshops.

At right, is a mask made by Gay Bostick whose initial response to clay was, "I don't get it." She now says "I love this class because it connects me to my true self...It brings out who I really am!" Her creation is reflective of the current project described on the previous page.



Projects are scheduled monthly to allow people to easily exit or enter as summer schedules or interest dictates. If you are interested please contact Elaine at 214-404-9113 or call the Dayspring office.

***"Don't resist evil...Turn the other cheek...
go the second mile...give to him that asks..."***

***It has been said,
you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them
that curse you, do good to them that hate you,
and pray for them which use you an persecute you,
that you may be the children of your Father
which is in heaven."***

Matthew 5:38-48