



# 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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July 2015 “...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” – Luke 1:78-79 Newsletter

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Dearhearts,

We, at last, have seen it. A community of believers showing forth Christ with their lives. “I forgive you,” a woman said in choking words. “I forgive you.”

And Peggy Noonan in the Wall Street Journal wrote, “I have never seen anything like what I saw on television Friday afternoon. Nine beautiful people slaughtered Wednesday night during Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and their relatives were invited to make a statement...in court. Did you hear what they said? They spoke of mercy. They offered forgiveness...As I watched I felt I was witnessing something miraculous...I think I did. It was people looking into the eyes of evil, into the eyes of the sick and ignorant shooter who’d blasted a hole in their families and explaining to him, with the utmost forbearance, that there is a better way.”

The world responds to something real. To authenticity. To something whose glint in the sun is not mica. The world looks for gold. Perhaps this is why Christianity is shrinking in this country. Because what others see of us as a community often is not appealing. They see a people of conviction who call out wrong and scrutinize for doctrinal impurities, but it’s usually others we scrutinize. A Don Quixote type quest that seeks to rid the countryside of evil. But this is where the comparison ends. What we lack of this dilapidated, Spanish vigilante was his madness. In seeking to rid his countryside of evil, he was seized with a noble madness that saw past the flawed behaviors and broken lives of the promiscuous barmaid and the drunk in the ditch. Seeing what lay hidden deep within, he called forth a noble “lady” and a valiant knight. Seeing people for what they could be, or rather, as who they really were... down deep where no one but the mad – or the Divine – could see...transformed lives and overcame evil in the Spanish countryside with good.

Rather than calling people to their highest selves we all too often beat them down, like theater critics, for their flawed performances and bad scripts. People get our hypocrisy more than we do. When we fail to see that our lack of loving responses is equal to – if not greater than – the transgressions of those we judge, they

are repelled and see, not a people of grace, but a court of judges. Until Charleston.

Like all believers, those at the AME church are ordinary people with a Divine resident. BUT...they have allowed Him in on *His* terms. And the difference is stunning.

“It just stopped me in my tracks,” said Mika Brzezinski of *Morning Joe*.

What stopped Mika in her tracks was an anthem of grace. In the midst of tragic loss, it was sung by a yielded, triumphant faith that took Christ’s words and lived them out for all to see. Turning the other cheek...going the second mile...loving the one who hated them, praying for the one who had abused them. Family members of the nine who were slain took seriously the call to be a new order of man in Christ.

“Some want to divide the races...black and white and brown,” the pastor’s voice rang out across the sanctuary of Mother Emanuel Church. “A lot of folks expected us to do something strange and break out in a riot. Well they just don’t know us.” So they offered up spiritual sacrifices of the new covenant priesthood and showed the difference between the holy and the profane. The shooter had sought to bind – to profane - people’s hearts with hatred...to create a race war. But the opposite has happened because in their moment of deepest anguish, they did not forget the greatest commandments to love God and to love others and they understood that that fell on them and not on the one who’d blasted a hole in their families. They were touched with a holy madness.

And in their madness...they spoke of mercy. They pointed the young shooter toward Christ...that “no matter what happens, if you know Him everything will be ok,” one man said to him in court.

In their madness...something has shaken loose from its moorings. That which had been tethered to heritage and culture, suddenly has begun to loosen. And a piece of Satan’s empire has been bound here on earth and the powers of heaven have been loosed to cast a mountain of vitriol into the sea.

Something has shifted in the land with their costly grace that protests and riots and legislation have not

accomplished...a quaking of pillars of prejudice. And stones are rolling away from sealed hearts, veils are parting from blinded eyes. At the end of the anthem of grace is a coda of resurrection. New life is rising from these deaths.

"It has made me reconsider the possibility of believing..." the 60-ish woman sitting next to me on the shuttle from Denver remarked as we talked of Charleston. She was from California and, though she knew I was a Christian, was politely clear in letting me know she wasn't. Having left the Catholic church in her teens, she left Christianity as well. But she had been stunned by Charleston. Though critical at first of such immediate forgiveness of this kind of act...she then was awed by it. And something has shifted in her...a stone is moving.

When John Wesley saw this kind of incarnate love in a community called the Moravians, he exclaimed, "Oh when will this Christianity cover the earth?" It is possible the Charleston response will be seen as uniquely black Christianity which conservative pundit Bill Crystal's words suggest in describing their responses as "a tribute to African American Christianity." It is up to us as white American Christians... or Hispanic...or Asian...or other blacks to claim as well this legacy of the cross in our personal

lives. Forgiving from our pain. Being a people of grace. Being a people more vigilant about the correctness of our own behavior and the condition of our own heart than we are of that of others. These are Kingdom ways. Rules of another realm.

Few of us will ever face this kind of crisis, but daily we are afforded opportunities to live it out...in how we speak of others – or judge them – in random conversations and interactions, in our response to the news or politics or to religious or lifestyle differences. The world about us is changed through the anthem of a surrendered faith sung one believer at a time. When our personal theology is not infused with love, the world out there will not care to hear of our faith or of the Christ we represent. But let it see something real and those who see may reconsider the possibility of believing

Maybe the question is not when will this Christianity cover the earth. Or when will it break out in America outside of Charleston? Maybe the question is, when will this Christianity break out in me?

I love you,



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## *Ministry Update*

### *Koinonia Fellowship*

*5:30 Sunday Evenings*

### *The First Century Church*

We are continuing through the summer our study on the first century church and the empowering work of the Holy Spirit. The story of ordinary people seized and transformed by a Divine Spirit shows us the possibilities in our day and in our own lives if we will but seek this Christ who left it all on the field for us.

Please join us as we enter into the struggle and triumph of the fathers and mothers of our faith and let them cast a vision for how we can be.

Dayspring Discipleship Institute  
is a non-profit organization

wholly supported by your tax-deductible contributions.

**Thank you for your faithful support.**

## *Art / Creative Therapy Update*

The art classes this summer have been focusing on allowing yourself to *be* still and *be* creative. These classes will continue through the middle of August. This is to make up for the two weeks in July that Elaine will be gone to teach a creativity workshop on the Pine Ridge reservation. Twenty six people are currently participating in our creativity therapy workshops.

New classes will begin the first week of September.

***"We are reminded this morning about the freshness of death that comes like a thief in the night, but I declare that Jesus said it a long time ago...I am the resurrection and the life. Come to the altar... realizing that earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal"***

Pastor at Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston,  
South Carolina,

## *Volleyball and Art Camps In Pine Ridge July 20-22*



Two teams will be making their way to Pine Ridge this month for our third annual volleyball camp for high school and middle school girls and our first art/writing combination camp. Rebecca Drummond, along with Emily Tartar lead the volleyball efforts again this year, with Katlyn Drummond flying in from Kansas City. Elaine Souder, along with Linda Palmer, leads the art camp as she and Peggy Ruff merge writing with art to express what is important about their lives.

As with all new endeavors, we have no idea what kind of response to expect with the art and writing camp, so we ask your prayers that this will become an instrument of connection and personal hope for these girls. From prior newsletters, you may remember there have been several suicides on the reservation recently all 13-14 year old girls.

### *If You Would Like to Help With Expenses*

*for Art Supplies and*

*45 T-Shirts For Volleyball Camp*

We, of course, Won't Refuse it!

*Thank You* for your interest and support in every way, not only for *Pine Ridge* but for all the

*Ministries of Dayspring*

## *September Women's Retreat Seeking to Cast a Vision of Christ*

We will return again this year to Sharp's Corner Baptist Church for a women's retreat in September. Brenda will lead the women there in looking at what they want and need from God...what their greatest hopes would be for Christ in their lives. This will be a more personal approach this year that seeks to help them see new possibilities for hope and healing, purpose and personal freedom through a Christ that is relevant to their daily lives.

## *Building Relationships... Exploring Spiritual Openings*

Our primary desire with the Pine Ridge *Project Hope* is to show the love of Christ in ways that makes sense to the people there. Evangelical outreach must be in the context of relationship just as it was with Christ. As He reached out to those along his way, so we seek to touch those on our path. As He went out of His way to meet a solitary woman of a shunned culture, so we go out of our way to meet whomever we find at the distant well of a shunned culture.

We ask your prayers this trip as we explore possibilities with a couple of Christian ministries that may allow us to secure a deeper spiritual footing there.

### *"Pray the Lord of the Harvest..."*

At a time when the world was hopelessly lost and awash in the desperation of disease and death, blindness and demonic possession, Christ looked out on the sea of humanity and saw fields white for harvest. Amid depravity and hopelessness Christ saw a world that was ready for Him. Who but Christ would have carried such a vision? He sees what we do not. And He brings to the table what is needed to invade prison cells and break the shackles of the soul.

Pine Ridge is no less in need of Him.

In the spiritual sphere, it is when things are most crippled that God's armies stand poised for invasion. When trapped between the Egyptians and the Red Sea God infused the impossible with miracle and made a way for His people. When three armies converged on them in II Chronicles 20, God's power was released through the praises of His people. When the walls of Jericho stood as imposing fortress on the Jordanian plain, a single obedient shout from His people unleashed invisible power that destroyed what man could not.

We are praying that the seeds that have been sown for so very long by God's people there are being readied for harvest. We are praying for God to bring whatever he must to pierce the hopelessness with His power and the darkness with His light. We are praying for whatever Divine intervention is needed to break the spell cast at Wounded Knee and bring down Jericho's wall...to rip the dark veil that shrouds hearts there. It is precisely for these that Christ came. Not for the needless but for those awash in a sea they cannot find their way out of. He has asked for laborers. So we show up. And we pray for the waters to part. We cannot part the waters. But we can show up.

## *BB & T Bank Investing in the Community*

### *Making Deposits in Dayspring's Account...*

almost 30 associates of Rockwall's BB&T Bank gave of their time, money and labor to the grounds of Dayspring last month, creating a beautiful, quiet place for PTSD vets and anyone else to come and enjoy the serenity and beauty of our side garden area.

Diane Perez, center, initiated the bank's involvement with Dayspring after they learned of our intent to provide free counseling and massage, art and equine therapies to vets suffering from PTSD. Standing behind Diane is Daniel Nichols working with another man laying a flagstone sitting area.



Others discuss what to do next as they create one of two fountain areas,



two flagstone sitting areas and assemble and secure a storage shed. They also mulched all flower beds, trimmed all the hedges and transplanted Irises.

*We are so grateful* to these generous people and to Rockwall's BB&T bank for the amazing work they have done for us!



The gravel drive-through to the street to the right was sodded by Daniel the next day. The finished berm is seen here to right of car.



Out by where our parking area and a small street connect, Diane and others plant and mulch the corner berm area.

Another workday is being planned to finish their work.

*We invite you to come by and see the investment BB&T is making in the community and to Dayspring!*

### *Dinner Book Club Concludes*

*Quiet Talks on Prayer*

*Friday, July 10 – 7:00 pm*



We take up our final discussion of a classic, seminal book on prayer by S. D. Gordon. Gordon brings eye opening insights on the critical role prayer plays in what God can and cannot do here on this contested earth. He masterfully frames the nature of the spiritual conflict between God and Satan and with compelling urgency inspires us to step into the gap as crucial agents in God's plans.

Even if you haven't attended previously you may still do so. The book may be downloaded from Amazon.com for immediate read. We will meet at the Dayspring Home and discuss the book around a light meal. Please reserve your place at the table by calling the Dayspring office: **469-338-5191**.