



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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

The Role of a Lifetime

Dearhearts,

It was two young pastors who spoke with fire and conviction. One was Hispanic. The other white. One from Sacramento. The other from Tempe. Both were Baptist. Both were on YouTube. Both spoke words as though they were reading from the same script. Both spoke of Orlando and of the bad thing and the good thing about the killing of 49 people there. “The good thing was,” both said, “that 49 were killed...the bad was that they weren’t all killed...In a righteous nation,” both intoned, “they would all have been killed.” One elaborated on how that should look in ways I won’t dignify here, while the other referenced Leviticus as the “pure word of God that cannot be in error” as sanction for His stance.

So what is wrong with this picture? There is not enough space on this page to innumerate all that is wrong with it.

Indeed, the referenced scripture does call for death for homosexuality. Conveniently omitted from their diatribe was the death penalty for those who commit adultery with a married person. That would likely wipe out over half of the Christian population if Leviticus were unleashed from the cross. And that’s the problem. *These “Christian” pastors render irrelevant the cross. They nullify the atoning work of Calvary. They “tred under foot the blood of Christ.” They despise the spirit of grace* (Heb. 10.)

It was Christ who paid that Levitical death penalty for their sins in Orlando. It is Christ who paid my death penalty. It is Christ who took the hit for your sin.

Most disingenuous of all...these men cherry picked the law. James and Paul both speak to the tyranny of the law that to break any of it is to break all of it. (It was likely this portion of Leviticus that was referenced by those who brought the woman caught in adultery to Christ, noting that by “law” she should be stoned. Fellow cherry pickers, they conveniently omitted the man who was also guilty of the same offense and death decree).

But most of us are not as egregious as these two guys so this really isn’t relevant to normal Christians, maybe?

But then there were those disciples in Luke 9 wanting to call down death upon the Samaritan community that wanted nothing to do with Christ. His admonition is telling. “You do not know what spirit you are of.” Their spirit of wielding power was not of Christ. Their spirit of judgment and condemnation was not His. “I have not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them...not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved.”

So what spirit are *we* of when we judge others?

Christ’s unwavering role was to seek and to save the lost, *not* to condemn or to destroy. And how does He save? By grace. And how does He grace? Because the blood covenant law has been fulfilled....By Him. Roles are strictly observed in the Godhead. They are never breached, and they never compete with each other. The role of the Father is to love. Of the Son, to grace and save...and through that prism, it is Christ to whom judgment has been given by the Father. And it is the Holy Spirit who brings us into fellowship with God and with each other through the love of the Father and the grace of the Son. (II Cor. 13)

So what is *our* role? Our sole role is to love. Love God with all that we are, and love others as we love ourselves. Our role is *never* to judge others. It is our love that will draw men to God like honey draws flies. There, the Holy Spirit’s role is to convict and to change and re-shape them so they might be in fellowship.

The law has been fulfilled...by Christ. So that it can be broken...by us...and, still, we might be saved.

Love is our only role here as His people. But it is the role – and purpose – of our lives.

I love you,

“God is love, and he that dwells in love, dwells in God and He in them...This is the commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God loves his brother also.” I Jn. 4: 16-21

Ministry Overview

His call to each of us is to follow Him. It is the call of a wild God to the reckless life of faith. To come out of what is comfortable or safe and meet Him out on the waves of our lives. Dayspring is a ministry that asks those who believe to consider such a journey. To dare to walk supernaturally...on His terms, not ours. To dare breathtaking plunges of faith that seize us with fear and hope both, but at times with more desperation than anything else. Sometimes it is only desperation that will push us out of our boats and cause us to leap into the frothing brine...where all seems hanging on the thin, frantic hope that God is who He said He was and that Jesus will show up as we sink.

So the ministry of this “Dayspring from on high who has visited us to give light to we who sit in darkness and to guide our feet in ways of peace” is to ask that those who are saved will dare to really believe that we have not been saved from eternal death only, but that we have been saved into abundant life ...here. Into possibilities of healing and wholeness...of personal victory in barren places. Is He really who He said he was? Can He really come through for us here and now, and perhaps more...will He?

The Ministry of Dayspring says “yes.” What we offer is meant to start people on this path of hope and belief, to encourage them into the deeper waters of those possibilities...and to cast a vision of this Christ who draws us into life changing encounter with Him.

Striking a Match. Who is this one who walks with us along our way...a stranger who knows us more than we know ourselves? **Road to Emmaus I Bible Study** introduces the journey and shines a light on the possibilities with Christ and on the promise and challenge both of discipleship. Our **Home Book Club** and newly formed **Christian Biography Book Club** are a part of this aspect of the ministry.

Fanning the Flame. Where is the passion for the Journey? **Road to Emmaus II and III** illumines the path of our spiritual pilgrimage and its possibilities in our daily lives as do many of our Book Studies and our **Evening Conversations** which will be returning to our fall line-up.

Following a Vision. Where is the passion for knowing Him? **Road to Emmaus IV**, our **Prayer Focus** with the *Prayer of Communion* and *Saturday Meditations* plus the stories and studies of the lives of those whose books reside in our Antiquities Library all invite us to join the spiritual pilgrimage that pursues an experiencing of Christ and ignites the pursuit of love and intimacy with Christ.

Legacy

Antiquities Library and Resource Center



Lending Library. Many of the classic works of the great men and women of our faith are not only in our collection of rare books, but are carried in modern versions for check out to read at home. They have much to say to us about our journey with Christ. Please come visit Legacy and experience the richness of their works both in antiquity and today.

Guided Tours. We invite you to visit us and browse or reserve a private or small group tour ranging from an informative half hour to one or two hour teaching sessions. **Customized Teaching Tours** covering persons, movements or themes of your preference are also available by appointment.

Resource Center

Classes for Students and Teachers.

As a resource center Legacy is ready to provide individual, one-time, or regularly scheduled, classes to students (home schoolers/Christian schools). More in-depth instruction for home school associations or individual teacher preparation is available in areas of Christian history and movements or important Christian figures.

If You Know of Anyone who might benefit or who might be interested in this resource, please let them know about us.

Monthly Classes and Teachings.

In an effort to make our regular evening teachings more user friendly, we have shifted them to monthly events rather than weekly. Look for them on Tuesday evenings beginning in September.

Looking Fall - Ward

Book Clubs

Expanding the Reach of God in our Lives



As we explore the discoveries others have made of God and His ways, our own possibilities are expanded. As we listen to the voices of fellow believers sorting through these discoveries, we grow in knowing what we believe and Who. We grow in experiencing in our own journey ancient truths newly born in us.

The expanded discussion groups offered this year are intended to give the greatest opportunity to explore the ways of God in our everyday lives. Please look at the selections to see what of these may speak to you and consider joining us for a season of discovery.

Fall Book Club Calendar

August

Relax and Let God by James Duncan. **Dinner Book Club selection** led by Leanne Vlk with Johanna Yates. Tentative dates: *Third Friday evening in August and in September.* This little book carries keen insights into life in the spirit that carries us in His strength. (Home study)

September

The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life by Hannah Whithall Smith. Pat Townsend leads this 4 week discussion of one of the seminal works on faith and intimacy with Christ in Christian literature. (Legacy library)

Daytime Classics Book Club: Release of the Spirit by Watchman Nee. Led by Jaynie Lamb. A classic in Christian literature.

October

Biography Book Club: Hannah Whitehall Smith. Led by Anna Rogers this book is a perfect follow-up to the study above as it looks at the life of Hannah Smith and the hard challenges that lifted her to a life of victorious faith.

On-Going Home Book Club and Fellowship Led by Patty Stefani

Re-Thinking Prayer Ministry A Change of Venue

With our move to a new home last year, one of the greatest challenges has been how to reconstruct the prayer ministry to fit our new facility, specifically, our Saturday Meditations and the Prayer of Communion.

These two aspects, though small in numbers who attend, are two of the most vital of our offerings as a ministry. Meditating God's Word and engaging in prayers of communion dramatically change how we see prayer. Through these two avenues, prayer becomes fundamentally not a prayer list for Divine intervention in the circumstances of our lives, but an instrument for experiencing His presence in the midst of them. Such Divine encounter through prayer radically alters how we know God and how we pursue and embrace prayer.

Small Prayer Venues

Saturday Meditations. Two homes, each spacious and having lovely back yards, provide the opportunity for tranquil settings for two Saturday Meditations this fall. We look forward to how God will use the generosity of these two couples and the new opportunities it opens for us.

Koinonia Prayer Retreat. A beautiful home on the edge of Cedar Creek Lake an hour from Rockwall affords an ideal setting for small prayer retreats. We are delighted to try it this fall for our first Prayer of Communion retreat...learning of, and entering into prayer that brings us into the sense of His presence. The **tentative date** for this retreat is **October 14-15.**

Koinonia Fellowship after a July break picks back up in August with the Road to Emmaus III study at 8:30 on Sunday mornings.

Kaleo Roundtable Discussion group will pick back up the 4th Tuesday in September.

Thursday afternoon Emmaus I Study resumes from its summer break the last part of August.

*Next Lay Counseling Training
Saturday August 20*

Journey to Thessaloniki

It is a movement of the Divine in ways that cause us to wonder... *Is this the way it was when the church was young?*

In the first three centuries Roman persecution scattered the church, like seeds borne on the wind, to the far reaches of the known world. There to root and multiply and overtake the very Empire that had sought to destroy it. Today, Syrian Muslims, fleeing the carnage of war and the terror of extremists, are pouring into Greece and fanning out across Europe. But some are bringing with them an unexpected perspective... *I don't want to be Muslim any more....it is too violent.*



Macall is on her way to the epicenter of the Syrian refugee crisis. A Baylor graduate and daughter of a long time friend and Rockwall resident, she is joining others already in northern Greece from her church in Waco. Some are there for

a month, others for the summer... some for a year and more. Macall will be in Thessaloniki for a year, serving where the need is greatest. "Right now, the need is manpower. The refugee aid center there has plenty of food and clothing but little manpower to dispense it. So it just sits there."

And those who have already journeyed there have shared stories with her of Supernatural activity. "One of my friends was actually in Belgium when a Muslim man came up to him and said, 'You were in my dream last night! I saw a man in a white robe saying 'come follow me,' and he told me you would be able to tell me who he was.' My friend said, 'Yes, I can. That man is Jesus.'" After talking further about the man in his dream, he



Baptism in the Aegean

accepted Christ as His Savior and they have been meeting together regularly to study the word of God."

And from the refugee camp in Thessaloniki...the story of a Syrian woman. "She is a brilliant woman who speaks 8 different languages. My friends had the opportunity to meet her and share with her the good news of Jesus. After hearing the gospel the first time she was intrigued and replied saying 'I no longer want

to follow Islam and am interested in learning more about this Jesus.' A few weeks later another group from the same team met her and shared the gospel with her again. She told the team that this was the fourth time in the last few weeks that someone had told her this same story about Jesus. She told them she wanted to meet with them to read the Bible and learn more. After reading and learning about the grace that is offered by Jesus she decided to give her life to Him!



Later they were studying the parable of the sower in the Bible and after reading the parable the woman said, 'So I am the good soil who has received the Word and it is now my responsibility to go out and sow seed so that it might fall on good soil and others may know.' God is revealing Himself and making a way for these refugees to know Him!"

Once again, Christ is meeting people on the Damascus road. In an ambush of redemption, those fleeing death and terror suddenly are no longer hostage to the tyranny their homeland holds toward other religious options. Scattered, now, into a foreign empire of freedom, they now have eyes to see what always before they could not look at. Free to choose a different way...perhaps a new and Living Way. The fierce winds of war have brought them to the ancient ruins of Thessaloniki, there to encounter Christ in their dreams...and Christ clothed, once more, in human flesh.

Macall has chosen to walk her finances for Greece by faith, and though the ministry is not soliciting funds for her, I wanted you to know of God's movement there with the Muslim refugees and of her commitment to join Him as a laborer in fields that are white for harvest. I wanted you to have the opportunity, should you be led, to be part of her journey to Thessaloniki. Of the \$25,000 needed for her year in Greece, 90% has come in, either through one-time donations or monthly pledges with only \$2,500.00 remaining. If the Lord prompts you, one-time donations may be made out to Dayspring and flagged for Macall Smith / Greece and we will deposit it in her fund or you may go on line to contribute monthly to: antio.ch/amigiving. Select "R-Z". Under Designation, select "Smith, M". Enter a dollar amount and set it up according to preference.