



THE JOURNEY

A Publication of

Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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“...the ministry of the Word” — Acts 6:4
Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

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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

Incarnate Love

Dearhearts,

Deep in the bowels of an abandoned gold and silver mine in the Black Hills, an experiment was conducted half a century ago that confirmed that a curious, sub-atomic particle emanated from the sun and was seemingly unstoppable, zipping through the earth at, or near, the speed of light. Instruments for detecting neutrinos were set up a mile deep in Homestake, the oldest and deepest mine in the western hemisphere. At that depth, all subatomic particles from space were filtered ...except one. What they found was the number of neutrinos at this depth was equal to those on the surface. Nothing stopped these inanimate critters as they came from the sun and shot through the earth still approaching the speed of light. Nothing hindered them. Nothing seems to affect them period, in part because they carry no electrical charge. They are very stable but always pair up with opposite particles that do carry a charge.

God paints, on the canvas of His creation, Picasso portraits of Himself. Seemingly disjointed images of who He is; of His ways and of His place in the scheme of things. The sun is the center of our solar system. All the planets revolve around it and receive it as their only source of light and life. It pictures for us the centrality of “the Sun of Righteousness” in our lives, holding everything together...our source of all light and life. Not charged with bias or sin or prejudice, His love shoots out from His being and invades the human condition unbent by the most powerful negative forces; penetrating the densest mass. He loves. Nothing deters the love of God. Not tribulation or distress, persecution or peril. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Not even the human condition.

We scarcely can graze the magnitude of the unstoppable nature of sacred love. It invades the deepest caverns of humanity’s soul. And it pairs with opposite particles, charged with sin and bias, to carry this love into a clueless place. “I was hungry and you fed me, naked and you clothed me, in prison and you came to me.” *When did we do that? You were never hungry or in prison or naked.* “In as much as you have

done it unto one of the least of these...you have done it to me.” What are the implications of this scene in Matthew? Does He somehow lie hidden beneath human skin? Does He lurk in holy ambush there? We humanize the grandeur of His love if we see it as figurative...as metaphor. We strip it of its majesty. Matthew 25:34-46 suggests a love so invasive it incarnates Christ in the deepest caverns of human need. An indwelling of holy love in every person so profound as to be Christ Himself. Not in a saving incarnation of faith, but a suffering incarnation of love. Perhaps it is that Divine – perfect – love *cannot* remove itself from the suffering of man. *Cannot*. Any more than caring can be removed from love. Or forever can be removed from eternity. Or fear can be removed from lostness...or agony from hell. Agape love eludes us, teasing us with possibilities we can never quite grasp. Christ was trying to tell us about it, to show us in terms we could understand. But we take what is literal and make it figurative. And bam! The power of it is gone. The extraordinary of it, as metaphor, describes something good, but not grand...something human, not divine.

But as literal, it ascends a holy mountain where the glory of God transfigures it ...and us.

So what if we saw Christ in the stranger standing beside us in line. Or checking us out at Kroger? Or annoying us at the light? What if we saw Christ there, loving them and inviting us to love them too? Knowing them and inviting us to know them. What if Christ crouched loving in every human garb? And what if we had eyes to see Him there...and love Him back? What if we saw His aching heart...His bleeding soul? What if we cared for Him...and dressed His wounds? What if we talked to the lonely Christ we saw, or tended to His wounded heart?

All the world would be a mission field for love... every day an adventure...each moment, an opportunity. And our living would be transfigured.

I don’t know. Maybe it isn’t literal...this incarnate love. But then... maybe it is.

I love you,

Drawing Near

Prayer Retreat September 13-15

Country Woods Inn B & B

It is a step back in time as you enter the 40 acres of pasture and woodlands rimming the Paluxy River in Glen Rose. Most of the dwellings are historical sites



furnished in period pieces (including lamps) and offering cozy rooms with claw foot tubs reminiscent of a time gone by. “When I walked through the door I felt I was in Maple Grove, in the Little House on the Prairie,” one Dallas

patron wrote. He called it “priceless.” The peaceful surroundings of Glen Rose and the rustic serenity of

Country Woods Inn B&B provides the setting for a prayer retreat Brenda will lead Friday evening



through Sunday noon September 13-15. Originally planned as a follow-

up to the Moravian prayer presentation last year, it had to be rescheduled, but will still maintain the Moravian connection. They *sought* God...sought *Him* above all else. It was then that the energy and commitment that comes only through the Holy Spirit empowered them into prayers and lives that changed the world. This will be a time of seeking to draw near to Him, draw near in prayer and in heart.

Our sessions will be held in the quaint chapel in the woods overlooking the Paluxy River. Though the schedule is still being finalized, Friday evening will be a time of “letting go” with spiritual focus and personal reflection. Saturday morning will offer a guided focus of preparation for prayer and teaching on intercession with those entrenched scenarios and strongholds that require more intense prayer. “Prayer clusters” breaking out from the guided focus will end mid-afternoon. The rest of Saturday is free time. The Promise is planned as an option for those not wanting to spend a quiet evening around the fire pit, play

horseshoes or volleyball, walk the wildlife trails on the property, fish or swim in the river swimming hole.

Sunday morning will include a summary teaching and prayer focus, ending late morning for your trip home or swinging by Dinosaur State Park or Fossil Rim African Wildlife Preserve en route.

Space is limited so please let us know as soon as possible of your interest. Cost for two nights (includes 2 breakfasts) is \$150.00 per person. Should friends pair up for double occupancy in the Prairie House, the cost per person is \$125.00.

Country Woods Inn is within walking distance of downtown where there is a beautiful Victorian home restaurant for evening dining.

The Weapon of Intercession

Intercessory Prayer is about doing battle in the spiritual realm. Earth is the battlefield on which a titanic struggle between heaven and hell - God and Satan – is waged with mankind as the prey. We humans who now carry the Spirit of God within us are key to how the battle ebbs and flows; key to how lost humans are able to be snatched from the mire of a fallen planet.

“I sought for one among them who should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land...but I found none. Therefore I have poured out my indignation upon them...”

The implication here in Ezekiel 22 is that the role of an intercessor is strategic to outcome. In Ezekiel 13, spiritual leaders in Israel were up-braided for having failed “to do battle” as intercessors for the land.

Prayer is God’s instrument for His humans doing battle in the spiritual realm to accomplish God’s purposes here on this contested earth. The implication of Ezekiel 22 is that if we don’t do our part, “Plan B” is the result. God’s best plans are established and conducted through the prayers of his humans. As He did in ancient times, He is looking for those today who will stand in the gap before Him for the people and make up the hedge for the accomplishment of his highest and best here among us. (From May 2012 Prayer Gram.)

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Course on Great Religions

*How they Got That Way and How they Affect
our World Today*

Thursday September 5, 7:00 p.m.

Becky Elliston is coming to the Dayspring chapel in September with a dynamic, 5 week course on the birth and spread of the world's great religions. Fascinating graphics and visuals will open up a world of understanding and insight into our own faith as well as those influences that shape our world today. If you are looking for something to re-charge your mind and sharpen your understanding of world cultures and of your faith, this short course may be what you're looking for. If you want to have a better grasp of world tensions, this course will fill that bill as Becky brings her years of experience and master teaching to the ministry.

Week 1: Egypt. An overview focusing on the ancient Egyptian region and the rise of Israel.

Week 2: India and Hinduism. A look at 2/3 of the world's population and why it is so hard for Christianity to penetrate this culture.

Week 3: China. Buddhism, Confucianism and Daoism and their effect on China's culture and the Christian influence there.

Week 4: Mediterranean area. Greece, Rome, Persia and the birth and spread of Christianity... why it spread where it did. What understanding does that give us today?

Week 5: The Rise and Spread of Islam.

Throughout this course, Becky will address the "religious package" that attends each religion and impacts the culture of the regions it claims in its art, architecture and literature.

You will come away from this course as an informed citizen of your own faith and with an awareness of the world that heightens your understanding of other cultures and your ability to better love them and communicate Christ to them.

So we may better gauge the materials needed, please register for this course by calling the Dayspring office.

Suggested donation for the 5-week course is \$25.00. If finances are tight, we would suggest a love-offering of your choosing.

Friday Night at the Movies

Lars and the Real Girl

Tentative Date: September 27



Our selection for our first movie night is a little known movie with a strong message about the power of community. As with all our selections, afterward, we will discuss the issues presented in the movie and their implications for us as Christians.

Our goal for this experiment is to provide creative venues to expand our thinking in how we are to be and to challenge us in how we live Christ out in our lives. Our hope is that this will be a stimulating and fun time, both, for community and fellowship.

Show time is 7:15, so arrive at 7:00 for seating and popcorn and refreshments. Place is yet to be determined and date is subject to change so check details in next month's newsletter or call us.

Coming to our theater in October: "Amazing Grace"

Pine Ridge or Bust!

I should have known it was not going to be a normal trip when I received this picture an hour after 5 women, a truck, a car and a jeep laden with your donated items pulled out of the parking lot more than 2 hours later than planned. Barely into Oklahoma, they were having a picnic. With Gay Bostick in the lead, I had envisioned a fixed compass to make up as much time on the 15 hour trip as possible. But here they were, an hour away... picnicing. The trip itself became an adventure as they stopped in unknown places as tourists from Texas. And at home, husbands following their route were left scratching their heads. "Is everything alright? Are you lost? It's taking you forever to cross Kansas..." "Should I delay the workshop a day?" I texted.



But they did roll into Martin in plenty of time for the workshop. It went great and relationships were formed. We drove the reservation on Friday delivering all your donations to 4 different organizations. The day before, Caroline Doyle had delivered 2 flutes, a violin, 2 keyboards with stands and seats, a drum pad and sticks, music books, a karaoke machine and a metal xylophone to the high school band director.

Thank you for all you gave to support this trip and to show the people of Pine Ridge that someone cares.

Project Hope: Report from Pine Ridge

Elaine Souder led a team of four women to teach a canning, “self-sufficiency” workshop in Martin, South Dakota. Martin is in an unusual part of the reservation that has more whites than natives because much of the land over time has been purchased by whites who now hold the power there and who carry a great deal of prejudice.



I always wanted to learn to can, but I was afraid I would kill my grandkids!

A meal was provided at the workshop where everyone visited and began to laugh together. By the end of the day, the bonding was amazing with them wanting us to come back not only to teach them but so they could teach us how to make wojapi...a fruit “gravy” that they eat with fry bread that tastes similar to jelly.



By the end, they were wanting to get together once a month to can as a group. Since jelly takes a large amount of sugar, we are working with the director of the facility and with Partnership for Housing to create a canning pantry for them. Just our small amount of jelly-making used almost 20 pounds of sugar.

Gay Bostick, Linda Palmer and Susan Raines helped with making jelly and canning tomatoes. Caroline Doyle and Leanne Vlk were supporting help behind the scenes.

“Expect more next year...the word is out”

This was the pleasant warning by the assistant principal who had told us not to expect more than 40 this year, even though 130 girls had signed up for camp. With the funeral, we really had no idea about the numbers so the 46 that came were about all we could handle for our maiden voyage. *“The development of relationships between Lani and Katlyn and the girls was a blessing to witness,”* camp coordinator Rebecca Drummond notes. *“Lani and Katlyn were talking enthusiastically after only one day of returning next year. The girls who attended were elated to know we would be coming back. And so are we!”*

In the Midst of a Loss The Last of the Treaty Chiefs

The last of the treaty chiefs, **Oliver Red Cloud**, died at 93 just before we arrived. His 2 day wake was held at the high school gym so volley-changed to great-legendary warrior-chief Red Cloud, people traveled from all over the reservation and many wore native headdresses in honor of one whose loss is considered a national tragedy because there is no one to take his place as cultural and tribal advocate for his people. Like his ancestral name-sake, Oliver became a Christian 7-8 years before he died.



ball camp was another site. The grandson of

Volleyball Camp

“My Heart is heavy...I think I left it in South Dakota”



Lani Norman, lead coach for the camp, texted the above message to Rebecca upon returning home.

Left to right: Katlyn Drummond, Rebecca Lani, Lynette Cuny, asst. principal

At the end of camp 16 year old Nettie gave a beaded necklace she had made to coach Katlyn (also 16) who had told Nettie she could be a great player if she tried and could even get a college scholarship.



“You inspire me,” she told Katlyn, “that one day I might be like you. I’m beginning to think I really can be good.”