



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

"...the ministry of the Word" - Acts 6:4

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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

My peace I leave with you...

Dearhearts,

Life, I think, is not so much to be understood as it is to be lived. Much as God is not to be understood as to be trusted.

The more I engage in intercessory prayer, the less I understand; the less I comprehend that twilight rim between rescue from the wilderness and provision in it; that seam where intercession lodges and seeks to pry open the constraints of earth with a wedge of heaven. Where is the line for us as human intercessors intent on bending the laws of physics with our prayers?

We prayed one day, and for many thereafter, against the cancer that lurked in Tom's brain. When the MRI showed nothing but fluid in the cerebral pocket that had cradled the tumor, we celebrated; it was our first major victory those many years ago on the battlefield of prayer. Our young band of praying warriors was heady - much as the disciples upon returning from their fields of battle where even Satan's warriors bent their knee.

And then came Sunday...2 days after our triumphal entry into the gates of intercession...and Tom, at 41, dropped dead of a heart attack.

God is not so much to be understood here as to be trusted. But can we trust Him in the unfathomables of life? What is to be understood about Him guiding us to an important piece of paper, or a lost sentimental ornament from home and fail to guide us to another job...or any job at all. What's to be made of the surprise answers to flash prayers on non-essentials and the agonizing silences on profound issues of the soul or the pocketbook...or of life and death? Is understanding prerequisite for trust?

In the recipes of heaven, that which makes the dough of faith rise is not understanding but mystery. "Show me and I'll believe," we earthlings say. Heaven replies, "Trust me, and then I will show you."

"Though He slay me...yet will I trust Him," Job screamed into the unfathomables of His life. Sometimes a blast of faith overrides all and makes understanding irrelevant. In route to Mena, late that dark Sunday night, speeding to get to the hospital before Mother died... knowing this was it...a great burst of holy wind... wind that was not of my own soul...blasted through my knotted throat and flung my tears into the night. "I praise you! I

praise you anyway! Praise you, Lord God." The deepest, most forceful praise I had ever known rose up. *Praise you for Mom! Praise you for salvation! Praise you for Christ who made it so. Praise you for her life! I... Praise..... YOU!*

Life is about allowing circumstances to draw us closer to Him...not to understand, but to trust; to grow...to be changed. In the final sweep, life is to be held with open hands as offering to the Lord in one exultant "thank you!" - then we may find, not understanding, but peace.

Sometimes the blade of intercession will slice through the matted web of pain and suffering and free the hostage to cancers of the body or the soul and sometimes the words of a mysterious Savior will whisper to us in our night, "My grace is sufficient." We pray in the mystery, not knowing the outcome, but we pray knowing the Lord. We pray, not with understanding, but with faith. And on *this* bridge, we cross the chasm between rescue and provision, between the constraints of earth and the boundless expanse of heaven...not with understanding, but with peace.

I love you,

Brenda

"There is not a guarantee in the world. Oh your *needs* are guaranteed, your needs are absolutely guaranteed by the most stringent of warranties, in the plainest, truest words: knock; seek; ask. But you must read the fine print. 'Not as the world giveth, give I unto you.' That's the catch. If you can catch it, it will catch you up, aloft ...and you will come back transformed...Did you think before you were caught that you needed, say, life? Do you think you will keep your life...? But no. Your needs are all met. But not as the world giveth. You see the needs of your own spirit met whenever you have asked, and you have learned that the outrageous guarantee holds."

-- Annie Dillard

An Evening of

Conversation on the Mysteries of Eden

**Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 p.m.
Dayspring Chapel**

We begin our fall schedule of conversations on Mysteries from a Sacred Hand with Brenda's reflections on the two mysterious trees at the hub of Paradise and their implications for us. Following the format established in the spring, there will be a 15 minute break for refreshments between Brenda's talk and questions and answers following.

The last conversation in May saw almost 40 people attend. We are grateful and encouraged by your interest and look forward to seeing you on September 8 for a look into the mysteries of Eden.

WEB NEWS

Refurbished Website Welcomes Flurry of New Visitors

Dayspring's new, more user-friendly web look and content have produced a gratifying increase in interest and traffic. A remodeled home page carries pictures and links to the major pages on the site, many of which have had a face-lift as well. New pages include **Pilgrim of the Soul** that contains five sub-menu pages related to the nature of our journey in Christ. **One page carries recommended reading** for each of the four aspects of the Christian journey addressed in the **pilgrim of the soul** section. You'll also enjoy visiting the **Ministry Matters** main page as well as the **bulletin board**, a helpful guide listing recent additions to the site as well as other information.

*If you haven't already done so...
please drop by for a visit at*

www.dayspringdiscipleship.org

Many of Brenda's Studies to Go Online

We are currently working to make an array of Brenda's teachings available on our web site by October. Check next month's newsletter for details and a list of studies to be available for download.

BOOK CLUBS REVIVED

Classics Book Club: *Cost of Discipleship* Begins Tuesday September 22, 7:00 p.m.

We are excited about the reprisal of the Christian Classics Book Club – and the interest it has generated - after at least four years in hibernation. Tentatively, the club will meet every other Tuesday evening for four sessions, though participants will make the final determination at the first gathering. A significant number have already registered. If you are interested but have not yet done so, please contact the ministry so we may know the number of study guides to print since they need to be used as the book is read.

The first three chapters of Bonhoeffer's *Cost of Discipleship* should be read by the first session. Because the club will be meeting in a home, details regarding location will be provided upon your registration.

Dinner Book Club: *Relax and Let God* Friday, October 30, 7:00 p.m.

James Duncan's little book *Relax and Let God* is a gem no one knows about and will be our first selection for the new season of the Dinner Book Club. **Pre-register with us as soon as possible to give time for the books to be ordered.**

Road to Emmaus I and II

The first and second volumes of the Emmaus Bible Study series will be offered this fall. Pat Townsend will be teaching the first volume at **Lake Pointe Church** beginning **Wednesday, September 16 at 9:30**. Child-care is provided for \$20.00 per child (not to exceed \$40.00).

Volume II will be taught by Christy Jones in the **Dayspring chapel** beginning **Tuesday, September 22, at 9:30**. This volume covers our growth in Christ, the Holy Spirit and Prayer. The first volume is not required for attending this study.

*Registration for Pat's study is through Lake Pointe;
for Christy's, register through Dayspring.*

Sunday Morning Chapel Study

Eight o'clock on Sunday mornings comes early, but not too early for 20 regular attenders of the Beatitudes study led by Brenda at the Dayspring chapel. The faithful number includes five or six couples, some of whom leave just before 9:00 for church.

If you desire a simple time of study and reflection, Sunday mornings at the chapel may be a welcome place for you. We invite you to come and see.