

Dayspring Discipleship Institute

"...the ministry of the Word" - Acts 6:4
505 E. Boydston, Rockwall, Texas 75087

972-722-1905

www.dayspringdiscipleship.org

Teaching - Equipping - Training - Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

September 2011

"...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness..." --Luke 1:78-79

Newsletter

Is it Time?

Dearhearts,

As the wind swept across the wheat fields the first time I had ever seen wheat, golden waves swelled in fluid unison with the wind, one exultant crescendo... creation's wave-offering ever before its Creator.

Two of the offerings in Leviticus are a free-will offering (not required, but offered from a grateful or willing heart) and a wave-offering. As grain, it was waved - yielded - as a first-fruits offering to the Lord from the fields and as celebration of the gift. I often think of Palm Sunday that way... celebrants waving their palm branches before the Lord upon Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The first-fruits of the harvest from the dead that was to come, they waved their branches in the sacred air...unknowing.

All air is sacred for us...if He has entered into our gates. Our fields are wind-swept...Spirit-breathed... and each moment holds sacred possibilities of sweeping us up in a fluid, exultant crescendo with Him. Too often we do not see the Holy walking beside us. Were the disciples on the Emmaus road walking on less sacred ground before they recognized Christ? Was the seaspray's sting less supernatural before they knew who walked on the waves? Was Mary less in sacred presence when she thought Christ to be the gardener? The chance encounter in the grocery line may be the woman at your well needing water that cannot be purchased... may be the obscure man in the tree seeking for a salvation he does not understand. Your word, your kindness, your notice may be something sacred to them...something life breathed...windswept. Or *they* may be the Christ offering you His bread or the stranger suddenly beside you who carries heaven in his words.

Christ daily walks our waves. Daily, He makes vivid a common air...if we let him. He charges the mundane with the holy merely because He is there. So the wind blows in our face and we suddenly are awakened to the miracle of living. This is the Divine breaking through our numbness. All life is miracle...all air sacred. But our eyes must be open for us to be seized by it...to be borne in wonder on heaven's wings. It is only then that we are changed by what is already there.

The disciples were no less in the presence of the Divine before Christ's Transfiguration than after; it was only when they "saw" what was there all along that they were changed. Mary's grief did not lessen a Holy presence, it simply obscured it. Only when she "saw" Christ did her world change. Miracle awaits our discovery every day. What is here all along...is God.

Betsie ten Boom never accomplished anything the world values. She never married or had children; never knew the joy of grandchildren. Living an obscure life on a lazy street in Haarlem, Holland, she died in obscurity in the bowels of a concentration camp at Ravensbruck, with not even a grave to mark her sojourn here. Yet her life was ever lofted heavenward, a wave-offering to Him to do with as He pleased. A triumphant hymn of praise, seeing in the straw and fleas an opportunity for God.

My dad told me as we drove through the Great Plains that wheat doesn't always look like this, that only when the time is right, when it is ready for harvest, do we see the beauty of fields swelling with the wind. For each of us there comes the time for our fields to swell in fluid beauty with the Wind, and we are ready for our living to be christened in worship. Of all people we should be a people of praise. This is the essence of worship. Not some external system whipping us up into a state we should already be in, not some event we are awaiting to deliver us into joy. We are saved. We are inhabited by the Creator...ported by Him...comforted by Him... sustained by Him...Loved by Him. This alone is enough.

Daily, our lives are to be lifted a wave offering in motion before Him from a grateful and willing heart for Him to do with as He pleases.

I love you,

Brenda

"The wind blows where it will...and no one knows where the wind comes from or where it goes. So is everyone that is born of the Spirit." John 3:8

A Source of Spiritual Power: "Meditating the Word"

"How do you maintain your joy and perspective?" I asked a woman, once, who had suffered many blows. I've spoken of her before, a woman whose face had been disfigured with cancer and was in constant pain and homebound, yet the Spirit of the Lord flowed out from her in joy. "I meditate the word," she told me. "I couldn't make it if I didn't."

The phrase was unfamiliar to me, and I had no idea what it meant, yet her life lent it credibility. As she explained and patiently clarified in response to my questions, I began to better grasp what she was saying about the innate power of God's word to change and transform and how to free that power through meditating upon it.

For two Saturdays this Fall, I want to invite you to join me at the chapel to explore this merger of prayer with God's word as I share with you Joanne John's personal discovery of its ways in her own life. Her discovery was born of desperation. Ours can birth from a desire to have a more vibrant, powerful life as Christians.

Saturday Morning Meditations

Meditation on Peace

Saturday, September 17

8:30 – 12:00 Noon

Dayspring Chapel and Prayer Garden

I will take the first half hour or so to go over the approach to meditating Scripture. The next hour and a half to two hours will be given for personal time in meditation on chosen scripture. Additional help will be provided for those who might need more specific scripture for personal application than what has been pre-selected.

October Saturday Meditation

Meditation on Provision

Saturday, October 22

Please call the Dayspring Office to register.

About our "Touch Ministry"

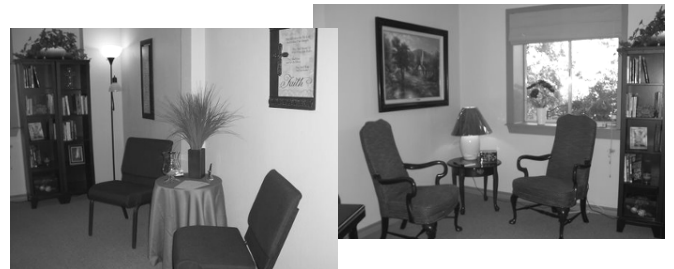
As you've read our newsletter over the last few months you've likely noticed mention of the "Touch Ministry." The "Touch Ministry" has to do with touching people with God's love; especially those in nursing homes, who are forgotten or limited in their contact with family.

For quite some time Brenda has envisioned expanding the touch ministry by providing a cozy place for people to read or have personal prayer time or to gather with others for a brown-bag lunch or dominoes, or have small Bible studies or book discussions. We are also seeking to expand how we touch those that for whatever reason may feel lonely or isolated and would like a safe place to connect. So with that in mind, we are experimenting with something new –

Dayspring's Parlor: a place for staying In Touch

A library of various Christian books greets you as you enter our newly decorated "in-touch" room that overlooks the prayer garden. You may leave prayer requests or pray for those requests already in the prayer jar or sequester yourself with the Lord or with a book. You will find cards for writing notes to those you need to *keep in touch with* or to encourage or bless. There are also games such as boggle, cards and checkers for having fun with others...for simply *being in touch*.

Coffee and a variety of teas are available as well as an occasional pot of soup when the weather cools. Small groups who would like to meet regularly may reserve the room. **We invite you to visit the Parlor and bring a friend who needs to get out and connect with others in a touch of home away from home.**



Last year Brenda mentioned to building owner, Ruth Kaufmann, her ideas about this kind of room. Recently Ruth contacted Brenda offering a room for us to try for free until the end of the year to see how it would work and give time to work things out financially. We don't want to use ministry funds if this is not something that is a true ministry out-reach; so we are deeply grateful for the generosity of Doug and Ruth Kaufmann in providing this opportunity to see how the Lord might minister to others through our Parlor.

“Sacred Principles” Study Begins

Thursday, September 15

“The hope and the promise of the scriptures is that we might have life and have it abundantly; that the Kingdom would come to us ‘not in word only, but in power.’ If God’s word is to impact our lives—if we would enter into powerful living—we must not only understand these principles, we must embrace them.”

These words from the Road to Emmaus Bible Study speak to the immense possibilities awaiting those who live in the wisdom and power of God’s principles. One of the reasons so many Christians live a limited life is the failure to understand the principles by which God’s Kingdom pulses and moves on earth in His people.

This newly fashioned study from the introductory lesson of Brenda’s Road to Emmaus study covers the seven essential principles of our life in Christ and invites your discovery of the sacred treasures hidden in the field of your own soul. As we study scripture, it is essential that we catch a sense of the larger picture in which God moves with us. The Bible is God’s handbook for how we are to live. His principles are the reason we are to live that way.

“*Sacred Principles*” is but the first step in a spiritual journey that leads us to Emmaus, a place where we abide with Him as friends.

Please join us as we set off on a road-trip of a lifetime. In order for us to know how many study books to prepare --

**Please Pre-Register by Contacting our Office at
972-722-1905**

“Sacred Principles”

for a Spirit-Breathed Life

**September 15 - October 27
7:00**

**Thursday Evenings
Dayspring Community Chapel**

Prayer Garden Taking a Hit

Until recently, we have been amazed at how well the garden has held up beneath the unrelenting heat, but we are now seeing the toll. Leaves are turning brown and dropping off, even on the antique roses. With most of

the trees that are dropping leaves, it is likely the protective mechanism God has placed in them to preserve the tree. We’re not so sure about the antique roses and are hoping they will come back next year.

Gratitude for All Your Help

This has been our best year for help with the prayer garden, and we are so grateful for all the new people who came forward to water and take care of details we can’t cover. Had we not had the extra help with hand watering many of our plants would have died. With water restrictions in place, hand watering was the only way to be sure plants were fully watered.

Nursing Home: Touching Lives

Bob reminds us of our mission. He has recently been added to our list of those whom we regularly visit. A successful businessman before a stroke left him speechless and unable to walk, his family was a brother who visited him almost daily until he died several months ago. Now Bob is silent and bed bound...and alone. But his computer lets us know he is still in there. With faltering movement of his hand, he types his thoughts on the screen. He is still there...just trapped in his body.

So we are on a Quest – seeking, for those in the nursing home who may be trapped as Bob is trapped, to find new ways to bring them out. We are looking for less expensive technology than computers, such as notebooks and tablets, to provide ways to communicate, to bring art to their bedside, to read or be read to, to play CD’s or DVD’s. Of course this will not work for everyone, but we are going to work with the nursing home to determine how many might be helped, and then see what technology offers us.

Brenda has found a Havnon Painting Master for \$59 but cannot find if it actually will allow us to help bed-bound patients to paint. We are wanting to find products that carry as much punch in one item as possible in order to reduce potential expenses.

Our Need is to determine what is realistically available through technology. **Our Plan**, once we see if and how it may be used, is to solicit donations from the manufacturers of several of these products to be used in a trial effort to see what really can be done to breathe life into dying places. We won’t know until we try! So --

We Need Technology Geeks and Gurus to Help us Determine What’s Available for Use in This Way.

Please Let us Know if You Can Help!

Wedding Day at The Chapel and Prayer Garden

Our chapel and prayer garden have hosted several weddings in the past year. A December wedding, right, and 2010 August wedding show the versatility of the chapel and garden both for photos and weddings of varying sizes.



Visit our Website Wedding Page
for more information and photos
OR
Visit us on Facebook
at
Dayspring Community Chapel and Prayer Garden
for Additional Photos of Weddings and
Video of Chapel and Garden.

Please remember us with friends and acquaintances
desiring a small, intimate wedding.

New Pictures, Info Added to Gobekli Tepe Webpage

As we go to press, Brenda is up-dating our “Bible and History” web page with new pictures and information on the stunning archeological discoveries of Gobekli Tepe in southwestern Turkey. Our March newsletter carried information on this ancient temple site that pre-dates Stonehenge by thousands of years and has the traditionally unbelieving scientific community abuzz with words like “Garden of Eden” and “Noah’s ark.”

We invite you to re-visit – or visit for the first time – our website. Click on the Bible and History page and go to “a Temple in Eden?”

You might also enjoy the **Reflections of God** page with a scripture-photo-music presentation. The nearby **Fingerprints of God** pages are also a great visual and information feast.

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Sunday Morning Chapel Study on Galatians Coming Up on Website

Brenda’s teaching from Galatians on Grace will begin coming up this month on the website (Teachings/ Downloads). We are in the process of minor editing of gaps and unintelligible background talking.

We invite you to come casual – or ready for church – to our 8:00 a.m. time of study and fellowship in the body of Christ.

Study Does Not Meet on Holiday Weekends.

Thank You

It is only through your faithful financial support, your prayers and personal participation that we are able to maintain the ministry of the Word and of healing to our community. Especially in this season in which funds traditionally are low, we thank you for your faithfulness in remembering us.