

# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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

## *Sacred Winds*

Dearhearts,

Christ's words speak of a nomadic life. Not an aimless life. Not random. But a life meandering through the canyons of God's ways. A life of mystery. “No one knows where the wind comes from or where it is going; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.” The promise of the spirit is one of sacred serendipity.

The Greek word for wind means "breath" or "spirit." This wind swung Jesus out to Samaria to Jacob's well....and changed a community of those who had been shunned by the Jews. It blew Him aside to Zacchaeus' house and changed the destiny of a man reviled and shunned by the same crowd. Christ went with the wind, creating His ministry here on earth with the interruptions that swirled about Him. He saw them, not as pressures that blew Him off His Father's course, but as sacred winds that unfurled His destiny.

It was this holy wind that brought a young nurse to the scene of a deadly car wreck so many years ago. Two men lay dead and the young mother of two children having slammed into the metal dash board and through the windshield, along with her 7 year old daughter, was bleeding to death. Until the nurse arrived, controlled the bleeding, and saved my mother's life.

There are “angels unaware” Hebrews tells us. People we entertain who brush our lives with the holy. And we are that for others.

There is a chance encounter on the plane and something profound transpires there...or in the store...or a wrong phone number dialed...and a life is touched, even changed, in those moments. Perhaps there was a teacher you should not have had who inspired and encouraged and altered how you saw yourself or your life. Or a coach who took an interest and fought for you. And your future was changed. Or maybe you were that person for someone. Or there's an odd character in AA whose life struggles tell you you're

not alone and reassure you there is hope. Maybe he was only there for that one meeting.

There are those who have held a gun in their hand ready to put it to their head...and the phone rings and breaks the spell with the voice of someone who cares and loves...The voice of an angel.

And sacred winds are blowing.

We do not walk a random course nor run a senseless race...unless we wall ourselves off from the wind.

God bent down to man and breathed into his nostrils and we became a living soul back in the clay of Eden. And in the miry clay of our now struggling souls, when we reach up for God He breathes once more into his man and we become a living spirit

It is this spirit that can surf the Wind.

That can embrace chance encounters and see them as Divine encounters, knowing they carry purpose and meaning whether we see it or not. It is this kind of faith that prevents sacred mystery from simply being common confusion.

If we are born of the Spirit – born again – then ours is not a random course nor an aimless life. The garment of our life, now, is woven in bold design and stitched in threads of sacred encounter. And we are awakened to Serendipity tucked in the folds of the mundane...in the seams of normal life.

The Spirit of God moves us where it will. As we yield into Him, like leaves borne on the wind, we will land in places we never dreamed. We will touch lives we never knew.

I love you,

## *"The Path of Peace"*

### *Pine Ridge Women's Retreat*



The storms of life have plowed gullies in our soul winding through our landscape like a lonely scar.

Or is it a path? And if a path... where does it lead? And how do we walk in such uncertain places with the healing and peace He has said we could have?

These are some of the questions we'll be asking as we seek to help those who come to the women's retreat at Sharps Corner Church look at the realities of their life there and how Christ speaks to those realities in new ways. How can the Holy Spirit become a life-changing force in their daily experience? In the midst of rampant alcoholism and sexual abuse, of hopelessness and an on-going suicide contagion, how does the power of the Holy Spirit move from a disillusioning concept to an overcoming reality in their lives?

We walk along the rugged terrain of our lives, in solitary, sometimes forlorn places, and wonder at times how the words of Christ speak to a journey such as ours? How does peace find its way into the erosions of our soul?



We ask your prayers for those who will be coming and for those of us who will be going that it be a time where two or more come together in His name and there encounter Christ. That they would find Him in ways that will illumine their lives and change how they see themselves and others and change how they live.

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*Recent reports from Pine Ridge indicate another emerging wave of suicides with at least 6 teens having committed suicide "since winter." Some figures put it closer to 20.*

*The K-8 school we'll be visiting in Manderson has had more than one suicide according to principal Alice Phelps.*

*Here, in silent acquiescence, their collective voice had expressed the words of Chief Joseph:*

*"I Will Fight no more Forever"*

It was early evening. As we entered the Wounded Knee parking lot, I was relieved to see it was deserted. Although this is where the Lakota Sioux often displayed and sold their beautiful handiwork, I desired silence, stillness.

As we approached the exact place where the tipis of the women and children had been, I felt a flood of emotion.



Here, Hotchkiss cannons had been fired amidst a deluge of bullets. Cries, screams, and chaos had ensued, the blood flowing crimson on the snow-covered ground. Here, the mass graves had been dug,



today covered with weeds and enclosed by a fence. Over time, the Lakota, honoring their ancestors, had tied ribbons and remembrances to this chain-link fence. Here, the spirit of the Lakota Sioux, along with

the remaining thousands of Natives throughout the U. S. had been devastated... brought to their knees. Here, in silent acquiescence, their collective voice had expressed the words of Chief Joseph (Nez Perce): "I will fight no more forever." Here, in the cradle of the curse, we stood, heads bowed, as we prayed for the curse to be shattered.

Peggy Ruff

*Thank you for your gracious support of the ministries of Dayspring that allows us to Reach out both here and at Pine Ridge with the liberating Christ who Touches our Wounded places with Healing and Hope.*

## *“Reflections” Art Classes Resume*

The Self-Reflective Art classes are back in session at Dayspring. Focus for the month of September will be watercolor techniques and will cover the basics such as use of brushes, mixing colors and various application techniques. The final project will be a watercolor landscape.

A set of watercolor paints, brushes and practice sheets plus a notebook containing the notes on watercolor techniques will be given to each student attending.

Those that attended the summer prep classes will be able to keep their places. Elaine is unable to hold evening classes but is offering classes on Mondays to make up for those class changes. **Monday** class times will be **8:00-9:00, 10:30-11:30 and 12:00-1:00. The 1:30-2:30 class has one remaining seat.**

Please contact Elaine Souder at 214-404-9113 to reserve a spot. Fees for September will be \$30 due at the first class of the month plus \$10 for supplies. **Scholarships are available for any who can't afford the fees.**

## *Sunday Bible Study Returns to Sunday Mornings September 27 at 8:30*

After an August-September break, our Sunday Bible Study returns to Sunday mornings but starts thirty minutes later at 8:30.

### *“Free Indeed”*

This third volume of the Road to Emmaus Bible Study series considers the origin of our bondage as humans. Exploring the *Mysteries of Eden* and the laws and principles found there, it looks at Ruptured Paradise and the Blighted World that ensued, at the Ruptured Image of God in man and its eventual Restoration.

As we grasp the magnitude of events in Genesis 2 and 3, it has the capacity to re-frame our faith and our understanding of how and why God works with us as He does.

We will be in Emmaus III for the next year and invite you to join us as we consider the amazing human journey from emotional and spiritual bondage into the wondrous freedom of the children of God.

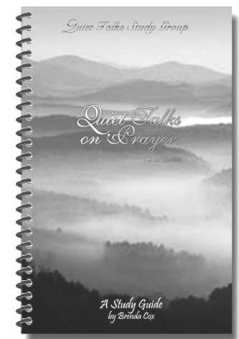


## *“Parlor” Book Club Finds Community in Deep Places*

As they near the end of Jeanne Guyon's book, *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ* has served to grow the faith and love and sense of community of the seven or so women who meet weekly in Patty Stefani's home. Laughter and genuine caring for one another has created a unique sense of community that has been life-breathing.

The next selection up for discussion is Calvin Miller's *Table of Inwardness*. **Please contact Patty or the ministry office if you would like to participate.**

## *Dinner Book Club Continues Discussion of “Quiet Talks on Prayer” Friday, September 11*



We are camping out in S. D. Gordon's book because the depths of his insights need to be plumbed. Gay Bostick guides this month's discussion of this insightful and life-changing book on prayer as we look at the Hindrances to Prayer found in the second section of the book.

Food and fellowship combine with the discussion of vital issues of our faith in our dinner book clubs. To make reservations please call 469-338-5191 for 7:00 p.m. Friday at the Dayspring House on Fannin.

## *Flagstone Sitting Areas Now Ready*



Just finished, the flagstone and fountain sitting areas

provide a tranquil place to unwind and reflect, visit, or picnic or be alone. Please drop in and visit or just sit awhile with your thoughts or with God. We especially hope it will be used as a welcome respite for those vets and others who come seeking help with PTSD recovery.

## *Other Ministry Updates*

Our move to Fannin Street has necessarily diverted much of our energy toward the added challenges that inevitably come with a move. As we emerge from these we are able to reinvest more of our energies back into our core focus and outreach.

### *Ministry to PTSD Vets*

While we have only been working with one veteran who is dealing with PTSD we have felt the freedom to coast here until we could regain our full footing and focus following our move.

If you know of friends or family members who are unable to secure the help they need for whatever reasons through existing VA programs please know that we stand ready to provide free counseling and massage and art therapies. We also have available when needed equine and pet therapy.

Rockwall's BB&T bank has invested several thousand dollars and a lot of manpower to create our beautiful garden sitting area along the side of the Dayspring house to provide a welcoming space especially for PTSD veterans.

### *Person of Impact Lay Counseling Training October 9-10*

The third installment of Brenda's *Becoming a Person of Impact Course* is scheduled for the second weekend in October as we continue to look at the spiritual and scriptural principles for healing from life's deepest hurts.

*We are a people who have been called to follow Christ out into a thirsty and broken world and to offer the only water that will quench the thirst of their souls. It is the thirst for meaning. It is the thirst for healing. It is the thirst for freedom.*

*In Christ, alone, we find the principles for our own journey into wholeness and restoration and for that journey for others. This course explores the needs of the wounded core and the pathways for healing available to all who believe.*

*It is our response to Christ's call to follow Him out into a thirsty and broken place.*

If you would like to be more prepared to carry water to desert places, please let us know of your interest.

***Friday 6:30 – 9:00 / Saturday 8:30 – 11:30***

## *Antiquities Library and Resource Center*



Though it's taken a while to get things up and running again with our Antiquities Library we are almost there. Tentative plans target mid-October for an Open House to introduce you to the legacy of Christian treasures housed here. Works range from the early church writings of Clement of Alexandria and Tertullien to Polycarp and Ignatius and St. Augustine to the dominant figures of the Counter Reformation in the Catholic Church. Earliest works of figures of the Great Awakening include John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield and William Law.

The bridge between the Counter Reformation and the Great Awakening is the signal figure associated with Quietism, Jeanne Guyon. Several of her books plus some first edition books dating back to the infancy of printing will be a part of the experience awaiting you.

*A Legacy of What We Were – A Vision of What We Can Be.* They speak to us of what we can be...of the best of our possibilities. These books hold forth the standard of those who gave their utmost for His highest. *And they Can Inspire Us.*

We will be offering:

- Teachings on the great figures of our faith
- Studies on their writings
- Teachings on significant movements in Christian history and on competing ideas in Church history
- Private and small group library tours and teaching tours.

### *A Resource for Personal Study and Research.*

Many of these rare books are in French and Latin with some in Greek. Some are in English. Though old, all of those in English can be read on site by those who go through brief training in handling old books and when someone is present to assist. This is best done by appointment.

### *Supplemental Classes / Teachings for Christian Schools or Homeschoolers*

Available during school hours by special arrangement, one-time teachings or on-going classes can be offered to supplement already existing courses or as a regular curriculum piece. **Look for Open House details in next month's newsletter.**