



# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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

## *Minstrels of the Night*

Dearhearts,

Christ ended His physical sojourn here praying, not that His disciples would be removed from this corrupted world but that His Father would preserve them in it. Preserve them as salt and light to season the world with something other than the flavor of darkness. Not sequestered. Not a convent life. But the faithful commissioned as warriors invading a captured realm...secret agents infiltrating the enemy's camp. He ended his resurrection life sending his disciples... us...out into all the world...a world that would seek to kill them, a world they were to face as doves.

He knew the human tendency to flock and roost. But His commission...His final prayer... was that we would remain in the world yet not be part of it. And He placed us there with a song...a new song the world was in need of hearing. This is how the planet would be reclaimed...His minstrels walking through darkened streets not just at Christmastide but always. Always in the world; singing with our lives hallelujahs of love... odes to joy. This is how the night would be captured by daybreak. Darkness would be conquered by song.

For years when I lived in Garland one crazy mockingbird regularly woke me in the middle of the night singing at the top of its voice from its tree outside my window. What a song of defiance...belting it out when everything else succumbed to the night!

When I go walking through my neighborhood, mockingbirds almost always serenade me. One in a tree here, one there; another on the crest of a roof...all scattered in some sort of stereophonic masterpiece; yet stationed, all, by the Creator's hand. Other birds flock and roost. Cedar Waxwings invading a tree eat its berries clean and go on to the next. Crows, starlings... roost, leaving a mess on cars parked below and leaving a cacophonous sound in the air. But the warblers and finches and mockingbirds singing at their stations...yes!

And yet I find myself flocking with my kind, roosting in trees that hold my own. And when the flock

gets too big, we just build a larger tree. Then we form a choir and have concerts and programs there and invite people to come hear us. Rather than us walking among them with our song. But if people want to hear our flock sing...we will reserve space for them in our tree. There is nothing wrong with that...unless that is all there is.

The “church gathered” in weekly services is meant to be a fueling station, not a docking port, for the “church scattered”...the church singing where they live...scattered among the trees in the neighborhood. It is meant to infuse weary troubadours with truth and light and life and download songs for those who have poured out their music into the streets and byways of earth.

The subtle currents of our church culture today tend to push us imperceptibly away from the world. The Christ who came into our world asks us to remain with Him in it. Asks us to be conquering warriors invading a songless place. Instead, our trend is to hunker down...flock together and insulate ourselves from a world whose music is harsh and grating. Some churches have even taken to building virtual villages. No longer convents or monasteries...they're campuses now with movie theaters, bowling alleys, recreation centers and workout gyms so their members don't have to risk contamination from a toxic world. No longer are we sending out...we are building a larger roost. The problem is, the world won't hear heaven's music then because the world doesn't come to church. So we sing to ourselves.

We need to be crazy songbirds that sing from our trees at midnight...Troubadours serenading with our lives in hymns of grace and love. Then the night will be captured by daybreak, and our world will be seasoned with something other than the flavor of darkness.

I love you,

*Awakening Night Watch*  
*...Awakening Ourselves*  
**Beginning 8:00 p.m. Friday October 30**

Several years ago we observed what we called a "night watch"...a series of all-night prayer vigils that were unexpectedly well-attended. For reasons she is not even sure of, Brenda has felt the importance of rousing this all-night prayer experience from its long slumber.

The night before Halloween marks the start-up of this new prayer thrust of doing battle in the heavenlies. The night will be divided into 3 "watches:"

**First Watch: 9:00 – 12:00 midnight.** Our focus in this portion is God...seeking Him...praising Him... Finding Him. We will not move into petitions or intercessions until we have grabbed hold of God in new ways.

**Second Watch: 12:00 – 3:00.** Intercessory Prayer for physical, spiritual and emotional/relational restoration and healing.

**Third Watch: 3:00 – 6:00.** Praying against Strongholds (addictions, suicide, trauma, etc.).

Obviously, as the Lord leads, from midnight on this sequencing may change. You may **Come and Go, select one of the watches to attend, or spend the entire night with us in prayer.** Coffee and tea will be available as will light food supplements, though we suggest the possibility of fasting that day if you can.

Please let us know of any critical, urgent or entrenched areas that need a supernatural invasion. There are some things that can only be changed through prayer.

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*Koinonia Fellowship*  
*Begins Study of*  
**Road to Emmaus III**  
*8:30 Sunday Mornings*

Brenda will be teaching "*Free Indeed,*" the third volume of her Road to Emmaus Bible Study series that looks at the freedom available to us in Christ. The freedom found in Christ is a freedom not only from sin and death but freedom *within* a sin racked world; it is the freedom to become all Christ has intended us to be.

*"Understanding the principles and concepts of this study changes how we see pain and suffering and a loving God; changes what we do with setbacks and failures...changes how we embrace our faith and live it out in a crippled world."*

Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 in the Dayspring home at 302 S. Fannin in Rockwall.

## *Legacy Antiquities Library*

*A Collection of Rare Books*  
*Previously Scattered Throughout the World*

Tracing the *Legacy* of our faith, Dayspring's Antiquities Library offers a selection of books unlike any to be found anywhere in the world. From the infancy of printing and St. Augustine's 1483 Sermons to the Hermits (right) to Dietrich



Bonhoeffer's 1953 Cost of Discipleship, *Legacy* draws us into the lives and thinking of the great men and women of our faith and their understanding of God and His ways. Most are from the 1500-1600's and include writings from the Apostolic Fathers, the Counter Reformation, as well as the John Wesley and Jeanne Guyon Collections.

Though open, we will have an *Open House* for the public the first weekend in November on Saturday morning 9:00-11:30 and Sunday afternoon 2:00-4:30. Till then we invite you to drop in and browse or read. Private or small group visits may be scheduled or a longer teaching tour that gives background into many of the books and authors and into the movements that have both formed and informed our faith.

*Legacy* offers a unique opportunity to personally read some of these rare books after receiving training on their handling. It will also be a Center for Teaching or Personal Study, for Research and Book Studies and for Classes for Homeschoolers or Christian schools.

Please drop by for a visit and refreshments or tea and coffee any time. And please let family and friends know of our Open House next month.

## *Becoming a Person of Impact*

**October 9-10**

*6:30-9:00 p.m. / 8:30-11:30 a.m.*

Equipping believers to understand the principles of Christ for inner restoration and healing, to embrace them in their own lives and to know how to extend them to others, we continue to look at **truth and belief**, the two fundamental principles for spiritual and emotional healing. We will be exploring how to identify the lies we have bought into and how to replace them with truth.

Join us Friday evening 6:30 – 9:00 and Saturday morning 8:30 – 11:30 at the Dayspring home on south Fannin. If you have not yet attended but are interested, please call the ministry office at 469-338-5191 to assure materials are ready for you.

## Pine Ridge Report

### Women's Retreat at Sharp's Corner

It was a bit of a mixed bag at Sharp's Corner this year with all the retreat coordinators out of state except for Amanda who was sick along with the rest of her family, though she persevered remarkably under the circumstances. The resulting difficulties in getting the word out



two of seven attending the retreat, these young women spoke of the challenges of being a Christian on the reservation.



Gift bags packed and shipped by Claudia Shugart and Susan Raines arrived in amazing shape.

more effective in ministering to the real needs there.

about our retreat saw a smaller group this year than last, but it was good to see the excitement and renew friendships. We will be discussing new approaches with the pastor that might open doors for spiritual growth and follow-up and allow us to be

*"Whatever you do, don't live in Manderson"*

These were the words T.J. and Janice Jernigan heard repeatedly as they phoned friends in Pine Ridge that they were moving from Tennessee to live in Pine Ridge. After 10 years of working on the reservation for two weeks every summer they realized that if they were ever going to make a difference they needed to live there. Five years into these summer trips they enquired about renting a vacant church building. When the tribal authorities refused, Janice and T.J. continued their summer pilgrimages until a few years later when a phone call came. "Are you still interested in that church?" Tribal leadership was prepared to offer the facility to them at no cost. There had been a fire that had burned through the roof leaving extensive damage. "Yes!" T.J. blurted before they could change their mind. Their home church quickly followed with a crew of people to repair the damage. The church was in Manderson.

An inviting sanctuary now welcomes those who venture in. From an empty, badly damaged church building 3 years ago to an average Sunday attendance of 25-30, T.J. and Janice engage the community with cookouts and movie nights and fundraisers to help those with special needs.



The Sunday we were there was their first Sunday with beautiful, cushioned pews that had been donated by a church ministry in Rapid City. The old pews were piled up in the side yard and looked like they had been around since the 1930's. Half of those in attendance were men. "TJ is helping me," a young, full-blood Lakota told me as I commented on his enthusiasm. "I became a Christian in jail...Alcohol, you know. T.J. is helping me stay straight."

Earlier, I had asked T.J. how they were able to get into the people's homes "since they are such private people." "Oh *they* invite us in," he replied. "They have embraced us because we live among them."

*There is a real possibility we may see a community transformed by the sheer love of Christ flowing through two people who love Him and who love the people He has sent them to.*

It is here that we may be able to move from an initial band-aid ministry to a more sustainable, impacting presence as we seek how best to work in supportive partnership with them and their church.

### A May Retreat

They have asked Brenda to lead a women's retreat in May of next year and to coordinate the theme with three churches that conduct Vacation Bible School three different weeks over the summer. The dynamic component is the engagement these churches bring for the mothers in activities and Bible study while their children are in VBS. This creates the opportunity to disciple the women and sustain their spiritual growth as the theme from the retreat is repeated throughout the summer.

One of the options we are wanting to explore further with them is the possibility of extending the VBS / mother's initiative to a fourth week. If there is true interest in doing that, this would provide a way for many others from here to touch lives there.

# Manderson School of Wounded Knee District



Our visit to this K-8 school allowed us to explore options with the school as well as with the Community Church. Innovative efforts to meet the many daunting needs there offer possible avenues for us to plug in in some way. Below, Lisa, an administrative assistant, stands before the parents room and laundry area. An



organization in New York has donated multiple washers and dryers already in place in a "Laundromat" on the far end of the building. Since there are virtually no

washers or dryers in Manderson this is a way to meet those needs and to offer parenting classes while they wait for the wash to finish.

We are hoping to supply 100 books for parents to take home and read to their kids and, while we were there, delivered our first small number of books, primarily beautifully illustrated native American children's books. Plans are also in the works to create a clothes closet for the students and families. Once that is set up this should be another way in which we can be a positive presence in the community.

## Adopting Kids / Families For Christmas

One of the happy results of having connected with so many adults and children in our July trip is the opportunity to make a difference for them for Christmas. Though we don't yet have everything nailed down for that in terms of numbers and needs, we want to alert you to this opportunity now so when the details come out in November's newsletter we can all hit the ground running.

**What you can do now** is let us know if you are interested in participating.

## Little Known Facts this Summer has Taught us...

- It has only been in recent years that in its official correspondence with Pine Ridge the U.S. government stopped referring to it as P.O.W. camp #334
- It was not until 1978 that Native tribes were granted full federal protection for the practice of their own religion through the American Indian Freedom of Religion Act. Though the constitution provided citizens that right in the Bill of Rights.
- They did not have the right to vote until 1924, five years after women were given that right.
- It was not until 1974 that "tribal governments and Indian parents" had a say in how their children were educated.
- This year's suicide contagion is primarily with girls ages 12-14. The main reason...sexual abuse. The chosen means of death...hanging.

## Countering Suicide

Two of many signs lined up against the stage in the gym seek to counter the messages of the latest suicide contagion that has seen two classmates, ages 10 and 12, hang themselves, one from a tree in the school yard. The signs are



part of a competition between the grades for the sign that best counters the message of suicide both in tone and creativity.