

# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

505 E. Boydston, Rockwall, Texas 75087  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 552, Fate, TX 75132  
972-722-1905

[www.dayspringdiscipleship.org](http://www.dayspringdiscipleship.org)

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

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

November 2014 “...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” – Luke 1:78-79 Newsletter

Dearhearts,

Once man dared to escape the bounds of earth, a new realm of experience opened up. Earth's resistance to flight – to leaving the familiar bubble of earth - squeezed in on the astronauts to oppose their efforts to be free of gravity's pull, pushing down like some invisible ceiling upon these voyagers into a new frontier. But gradually, as they lift farther and farther from earth, the g-forces lessen till there comes a moment when they enter another realm. And all experience has changed. The laws of physics still apply...but in a completely different way, and a new way of thinking and operating must be embraced.

Faith takes us out to that horizon where heaven and earth meet. Where what we know of planet living doesn't really apply. At least not in the same way. Faith always deals with reality, but it is never realistic. Christ never said there was no storm. He just invited Peter to walk with Him there. Faith sees beyond the seen to the unseen and prepares a place for us of supernatural living in a natural world. A place where earth no longer grips us as it has and heaven draws us to live out on the rim of wonder...in a weightless realm of peace.

God's ways are always calling us up...or out. His voice summonsed Peter from the boat. Called him to walk in a place none of the other followers thought to go. To walk supernaturally...while the other warriors of faith hunkered down in a familiar place to ride out the storm. They believed no less...but they dared less. Perhaps that is because their eyes were on the storm instead of on the figure that roamed out there in the waves. Peter's voice called through the groaning air. And the voice of the visage called back. “Come.”

Where does your soul sting from darts of sea spray hurled by the wind? Is it finances or job...or relationships? And what is He saying to you here? Is He calling you out of your traditional resources, your go-to responses? Is there illness or loss? Betrayal? Hurt? These are your places of summons. Whose voice do you hear in the wind? Is it fear or faith?

The invisible God is tucked away in the folds of every crisis and is always poised on the precipice of the impossible. Poised...waiting for faith or desperation to cry out. At the last moment a sinking disciple, caught in the

netherland between extravagant faith and excruciating fear, cried out, and the ghostly figure on the waves suddenly seized him.

There are times when it is enough to ride out the storm with Christ in the boat. But what if He is not in the boat? What if He is out roaming the waves? What if He's calling you to leave your security and join Him there? What might that look like? It might be the extravagant faith of forgiveness...a belief that God can heal or redeem what has been lost. Or perhaps it is the extravagant faith of grace... that God is at work on someone's waves and you will join Him there. Or it may be a belief that, despite all the blows in your life, God still is good, still to be trusted no matter where He walks.

Over and over again, God's hand has come to me as the last gasping cry of reality came crashing in on me...and then a hand. Deliverance. Gravity's crush was at its strongest...and then breakthrough into the weightless realm of provision...then sacred wonder.

So it might look like risk...taking a step you've never taken before, yet everything in you says you heard His voice. So you stand at the railing with the sea brine stinging your face and your whole life is about to change as you leap into the insanity of a faith that carries but one word... “Come.” No guarantees. No assurances. Just “come.” Here at the railing the call is always to the One who walks on waves. Not to solution...to stilling the storm. It is to Christ alone. And the rarified air makes you both giddy and feint. It is the terrifying dance of extravagant faith, but it's a whole new realm those in the boat will never know...out into the weightless ethos of faith.

I love you,

## *Where We Are...*

As you may know, we are temporarily officing upstairs in our old office site until the Lord moves. There are two locations we are currently prayerful about as we consider God's direction. Both hold great possibilities but this is where my statement in last month's newsletter comes in: *"The Lord willing we will recover but it will take time and we will need your help."*

These two sites offer the office space we need and the potential to house the antiquities library and present it well. These have risen to the surface after several weeks of looking and finding deal breakers with every other location we have seen. Those that were affordable were too small while those that were large enough had other limitations and were far outside our reach financially.

### *Here is Where we Need your Help*

Both properties are beyond our present monthly budget, *especially with our loss of \$4,000 in yearly wedding income.* **If the Lord is leading with either of these,** then He will be talking with some of you and nudging you to contribute in ways that will make up the difference. **If He is not leading,** then you won't be prompted and we will know His answer for us as a ministry.

This comes at a particularly challenging time because of our expanding level of involvement on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. If we are to embrace this next phase of our outreach there, our overall donation base will need to deepen as well.

So we are presented with daunting, yet exciting, possibilities because it invites us to a deeper faith walk as a ministry and puts you in a position to listen more keenly to what He is saying about His intentions not only with us but with you. It also shows clearly what God's agenda is compared to our own ideas of it.

*George Mueller* who founded and ran, by faith alone, 5 orphanages for over 40 years in Dicken's England said, "Man's extremity is God's opportunity." *At the end of our resources is the beginning of God's opportunity to show His will and to provide supernaturally through our faith.* But it requires people who are willing to listen for His voice and to respond when He tells us to walk forward toward the impossible. It wasn't just Moses and his rod that were instruments of miracle, it was all the people who dared the sea and won.

God has us all on a journey. Sometimes it's a solitary walk, and sometimes it is together in community. But a promised land seems only to be claimed as His people walk together to face the giants and possess the land.

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Moses and his rod  
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## *If God Leads...*

If, through your partnership and His empowerment, the Lord leads us to occupy a new, more permanent facility, there are a couple of areas of ministry that seem clear.

### *Christian Classics Antiquities Library*

As a teaching, learning center it would serve not only in ways covered extensively in prior newsletters, but would serve as a teaching resource for area Christian schools and home schoolers.

### *PTSD Recovery Ministry For Veterans*

Last year the counseling community issued findings that the only way to help war veterans heal from post traumatic stress disorder was for them to revisit the events and experience the emotions at the time of trauma. This is the form of counseling I have been doing since 1991 with those who have come from traumatizing childhood experiences. Since the announcement of their findings I've considered helping our vets returning with PTSD. Should either of these two sites become available for us, our center would offer a package of services.

- Counseling along the lines now sanctioned by the larger counseling community.
- Massage therapy through Gay Bostick
- Art therapy through Elaine Souder
- Support groups

With both sites we are praying about, our plan is to have a coffee/tea/pastry shop and eating area with outside tables as well and outside garden areas for anyone, including PTSD clients, to find solitude and restoration.

### *Our PTSD Veteran Services Would be Free*

Our soldiers have already paid and don't need to continue to pay for their recovery from their service to this country. *So if this center becomes possible through a facility we can afford,* then at that point we would set up a fund for the recovery of salary loss should our numbers reach a level that would no longer be financially sustainable for Gay or Elaine or myself. This is all only possibility right now, but if the waters part and the Lord leads us into the "second nets" I wrote of in last month's newsletter, this is the direction we are walking.

**2015**  
**"Memorial" Prayer Garden Calendar**  
Should be ready by: **December 15**  
**Place your orders Now**

## *The "Church Gathered" and the "Church Scattered"*

Right now our gatheredness may be compromised, but our scatteredness isn't! The church as the body of believers was never meant to be identified by a building. It has always been intended that we would gather to be replenished and then scatter into the world about us as agents of the good news...living it out in our lives, being light in a darkened realm. It is in our gatheredness that we are fueled for the real work of our lives...being salt shaken out upon a world that needs to be seasoned and preserved. It is in our scatteredness that the real message of Christ among us is to be tasted.

So we are finding that in this season for us as a ministry, perhaps a greater work is at hand. Scattering out into our community to join people there may be a far greater spiritual work than inviting people to join us where we are. We have tried that with limited success before...but perhaps this, too, is "second nets."

Our Parlor Book Club may be signaling this for us as Bobbie Gillette writes:

*Our book club has moved from the parlor to Patty's home since the parlor was not available due to the new ownership. Patty put a note in her neighbors' mailboxes inviting them to join us not thinking any would show up.....but God had a different plan. Two of her neighbors joined us! The weather allowed Patty to have the door open to the patio. Low and behold, in wandered another neighbor "Buster", a furry little fellow with a wagging tail! When his owner came to collect "Buster", we invited her to stay. She sat down with Buster on her lap and we continued our study. Moving the book club out into the neighborhood has opened up a wonderful opportunity to share good books, study of God's word, sharing our lives with laughter, love, prayer, and so much more together. I continue to be thankful that God has a good plan far better than we can ever expect. Because of an unexpected move and a last minute note delivered to neighbors we now have three new lovely ladies to gather around the table with and a fourth who came the following week.*



### *Sunday Afternoon Matinee* *Frozen* *2:00 p.m. November 16*

Adapted from Hans Christian Anderson's work, this Disney animation is chock full of implications for our lives and how our decisions affect others. It will provide great material for discussion afterward. **Seating is limited so please reserve your seat.**



## *Book Club Happenings*

Our book clubs, whether they be parlor, or dinner book clubs, or our Christian Classics Club or home clubs, have always been some of our most faithfully attended events. This is a good season for us to resume a more active schedule.

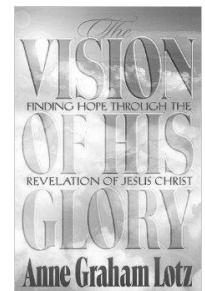
### *Dinner Book Club to Resume* *January 23*

#### *Quiet Talks on Prayer*

Our Friday evening dinner book clubs will pick back up in January with S.D. Gordon's powerful book on prayer. Based upon a series of talks he gave in the late 1800's, "Quiet Talks on Prayer" hones in on the power of prayer and the need for it, painting pictures for us of the unseen, behind-the-scenes, battles that prayer so strategically assails. It is a work that inspires the reader to come again at the bulwarks of an enemy intent on blocking our way and snaring us in a life that offers no witness to the God whom we espouse.

If you want, or need, your prayer life to be recharged, this book is a splendid place to start, or to return to.

### *Home Book Club Studies* *The Vision of His Glory* by *Anne Graham Lotz*



Please let us know if you would like to attend our old but new **Home Book Club** Tuesday mornings at Patty Stefani's as we discuss Anne Graham's book.

### *Second Home Book Club Begins in* *January*

#### *Hind's Feet on High Places*

Pat Townsend will be leading a study of Hannah Hurnard's classic work beginning in January. Please consider joining us and Hannah as we look at the journey to the high places with Christ. Let us hear from you if you are interested.

## Helping Christian Refugees in Jordan

Dayspring is teaming with Love in Action International to send desperately needed supplies to several Catholic churches in Amman, Jordan. Director Rae England, who has also been friends with Brenda for over 35 years, spoke recently with a friend in Amman regarding the conditions there for Christian refugees fleeing Mosul, Iraq. "He told me that the situation is desperate because cold weather has begun and they don't have proper clothing, shoes or blankets. There are 100 families sleeping on the floor of a Catholic Church in Amman who came out of Mosul in Iraq. That's where the ones who stayed behind because of relatives they needed to care for suffered horrendous consequences. They beheaded the children, crucified the men and sold the women. This church will be part of the distribution of items we will be shipping."

Love in Action will be shipping a 40 foot container to these churches in Amman. If you would like to donate items, please bring them to Dayspring's upstairs office (# 1) **before November 15**. Items must be **clean and not stained or torn**.

- **Clothes for men, women and children**
- **Shoes / Socks / Coats / Gloves**
- **Blankets / Sheets / Pillowcases / Pillows**
- **Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Lotions**
- **Shampoo and Conditioner**
- **Diapers / Diaper wipes**
- **School Supplies /Toys**
- **Bar Soap / Hand sanitizer / Detergent**
- **Disposable razors / Towels**

### *From CNN*

Roughly 100 Iraqi Christians are being sheltered at St. Mary's Church in the Marka neighborhood of Amman. Their sanctuary offers little more than floor mats and a roof, but it's a welcome haven after fleeing ISIS persecution.

"Jesus Christ told people, 'leave everything and follow me,' " [a man named] Zaki said, cradling his 9-month-old daughter, Athena. "So we did." The stress and strain of the journey show in Zaki's tired eyes. "We had to leave everything and go, to be Christian, to stay in my religion," he said.

More than 1 million Syrians fleeing a civil war have poured into [Jordan], and hundreds of thousands of

Iraqis -- many of them Christian -- have sought haven from the sectarian fighting and later ISIS. The influx of refugees has put a strain on the country, and nowhere is that more evident than at St. Mary's Church, where about 500 refugees, including some



Muslims, have walked through the doors, Father Khalil Jaar said. Many are children who arrived sick "because of the trauma of the incidents they suffered in Iraq: fear, insecure, no food," Jaar said... The church helps the refugees as much as it can, with charity from nonprofits, but mostly private donations. Some of the Christian refugees live in the church, on the floor. Others live in

nearby apartments rented by the church until they are granted asylum, a process that can drag on for years.

"We don't know how many days or months they stay with us; that's why I think any kind of help is welcome," Jaar said. Still, he knows it will be difficult for the refugees, who after months on the move need rest and time to apply for visas to relocate to Europe, the United States or Australia.

Zaki's children, Athena and toddler Ethan, may never see Iraq again -- a price their father says he is willing to pay to keep his faith. Before the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, Iraq's Christian population was estimated at more than 1 million. By the time the war was over, it dwindled to less than a third of that. Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, was home to an estimated 60,000 Christians prior to ISIS sweeping in. Since ISIS fighters took control of the city, all have left, according to Caritas International, a nonprofit aid group working to resettle refugees. "Maybe in two years or three years, you will not see any Christians in Iraq. All of them they will leave," Zaki said.

"I don't want to go back," says Nadira Haddou, a 57-year-old mother of five who fled Mosul. "They took our homes. They took our belongings...I have nothing to go back to," she says. "I want to go to America."

### **"Upper Room" Prayer Gatherings – 7:00 p.m.**

**Monday** - *Seeking God and His purposes for Dayspring and community*

**Tuesday** – *Intercession for critical needs*

**Thursday** – *Pine Ridge*



# Pine Ridge Update

## Sharp's Corner Women's Retreat

The weekend after Labor Day Caroline Doyle, Linda Palmer and Rebecca Drummond accompanied Brenda to lead a retreat at a small church in the center of the reservation. Five women showed up on Friday evening for "The Woman at the Well". On Saturday morning we welcomed 11. The ladies standing in the center are the pastor's wife, a missionary in a nearby town and Michelle who is part of the church team of ministers.



Caroline and Rebecca both shared their testimonies. After the first Saturday session, Shawna (right), asked Brenda if it was possible to have "one on one" time. She nodded toward Caroline, "That woman was talking about my life."

Three of them are shown here holding the collages they made of how they see God.



None of them knew what a collage was, so their creations were pretty amazing. Karen saw Him as a special Gift. 12 year old Paige cut out a large tree placing it at the center of her collage. She saw God as the "tree of life" and had the



words growth, saves the day, sweet, great and love surrounding it.



Amanda and Michelle who, along with their husbands, are part of the young team pastor Michael Brennan has assembled to work among the Lakota people, are pictured at top of right column with



Amanda's mother in the kitchen as they provided a wonderful meal and snacks and breakfast pastries. Breaks were taken several times

during the day to allow the ladies to select from the amazing array of items you so generously provided. Shoes were a big hit as Paige tries on a pair. Two crock pots were left at day's end, one was to be delivered to a lady who had wanted to come. The other will be put to good use by the church.



After church on Sunday morning several ladies chat with Amanda and Monica, the pastor's wife. Only one man was in attendance that morning.



We are staying in contact with the ladies that attended and hoping to follow up with them with a "life-line"

skype connection that would nurture life skills as well as spiritual understandings and application.

The young couples and their families that form a ministering team in the center of the reservation give great hope to what God may be doing there.

## Horse Care Team

Our horse care team headed by Dr. David Celella, his 16 year old daughter and Jack Bostick tended to more than twenty horses in the two and a half days they were on the reservation. It was a good first effort with horse care as Dr. Celella looks forward to a second trip next year.



## *Leaning Forward with Project Hope*

As we look at next year, we can share with you how things are looking. Keeping in mind that “Indian time” is sure to alter our time frame some, here is some of where our focus and efforts are pointing.

### *Dental Clinic Update*

Formerly a dialysis center in Porcupine, this facility has been made available to Dayspring to use as a dental clinic.

Edgar Bear Runner and the board for the larger Medical clinic that is to the right of his building will be working with us to make necessary repairs and renovations.

We are still moving toward our goal of having it up and running by next summer though progress has been slowed due to communication and weather challenges.



### *Schools and Education*

Working with key people in the Pine Ridge village school, we are exploring multiple venues in which to impact children’s lives with hope, to give them a voice and to open future possibilities for them.

### *Classical Guitar Classes*

Exciting possibilities have arisen as we have learned of an innovative program of instruction the state classical guitar guild in Austin can provide to the Pine Ridge school. It will be taught by a faculty member in Pine Ridge who will be following the program promoted by the Classical Guitar Guild here. This unique approach to teaching guitar has a rapid learning curve and, according to the guild, produces dramatic, measurable results in overall academic performance by kids who participate in this program. Much groundwork remains to be laid, but all the essential components are present and the principal of the middle school was thrilled at the prospect of implementing it there.

### *Summer Art Workshop*

As we hold our 3<sup>rd</sup> volleyball camp for girls next summer we will be conducting an art camp, as well, at the school as we seek to extend our reach to kids who may not have interest in sports.

### *“Voices of Pine Ridge” Writing Project*

We are exploring with educators on the reservation how best to create a writing project we hope to incorporate into the school curriculum reservation-wide. It would give a voice to the lives and experiences of kids on the reservation from elementary through high school. Drawings and other art expressions will also be encouraged. A book of all writings will be printed and distributed with the possibility that the stronger selections (including artwork illustrations) will be published and sold.

Our hope is to work with key educators on the reservation in the spring and summer with the goal of having it in the schools by next fall. There would need to be select teacher training for some teachers as well as orientation for all who would participate. If embraced by the schools across the reservation, it would teach language, grammar and writing skills as well as artistic expression.

Peggy Ruff, whose doctorate is in English and whose dissertation was on modern native American literature, will be a key agent in this endeavor.

### *Booklet of Intercession for Pine Ridge*

We’re creating a spiral bound booklet with pictures, names and biographical information of those on Pine Ridge for whom we are praying. This includes both those who attended the retreat and the church leadership as well as Edgar Bear Runner and the Porcupine Medical and Dental facilities. Included in this booklet will be information on how we are praying as a ministry with specific guidance where needed.

Also included will be the prayer of blessing which is regularly prayed for Pine Ridge. If you would like to have a booklet and be a part of our intercessory prayer team for Pine Ridge, please contact us.

**Prayer for Pine Ridge is 7:00 p.m.  
Thursdays in the Dayspring Upper Room.  
Please join us.**