



# Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

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

## Dearhearts,

It was sometime around Christmas, and the woods were flocked with snow. I was 6 or 7, and my dad had taken me with him to run traps. As a principal of a small school in the mountains of western Arkansas, his salary was pretty meager and to make ends meet back then, he trapped mink and sold the hides. Trapping was one of the few options available in the rural south in the 50's to supplement income. Usually, it was my older brother that got to go, so on those occasions when Dad took me, I was pumped.

I had to walk fast to stay up with him on his runs. Normally, the pace was slow in the woods as Dad taught us what we needed to know about the woods and gave time for us to explore. But on these runs it was a different pace and the number one rule was to stay close so I wouldn't get lost. When I got tired he would hoist me up on his back. I was riding piggy-back that day when we came to the stream, probably 25 feet across from bank to bank. We stopped at a mid-sized sycamore that had fallen years before and now bridged the banks. Ten feet below, the clear waters of the stream gurgled slightly and laced the banks with an icy collar. Dad slid me down from my perch. “Wait here,” he said as he walked across the tree to the other side, apparently planning to inspect a couple of traps while I waited. But then he turned and looked at me from the other bank. “Come on.” His words struck terror in me. *Come on? What was he thinking?* “I can't.” The words just popped out. “Can I just wait here?” “No, we're going on downstream.” “Can I walk downstream and find a place to wade across?” “No. There isn't a place...this is it.” “But I can't!” I protested. “Yes, you can.” “I'll fall!” “No you won't,” he reassured me. My last desperate suggestion that Dad come back across and let me ride piggy-back, got me nowhere. I had lost. My heart pounded in my ears as I stepped out on the fallen tree and stared at the water below. “Don't look at the water...just look at where you put your feet, then look at me.” He held out his hand. His words were all I had to hang onto. He had said I could do it. Everything in me said I couldn't. I had to hope he knew something I didn't. I just made sure I did things exactly as he had said...I was too scared to do otherwise.

The closer I got to his outstretched hand, the more my fear subsided and my confidence grew. *I really could do it! My dad really did know something about me I didn't.*

I grew that day. Something in me changed about how I saw myself...and my fears. I really *could* do impossible things. And I saw my Dad differently...I could trust him in bigger ways.

It is a different world now, but in those snowy woods, there are things I learned not only about me, but about life...and even, I think, about God.

He walks with us in our woods, going slowly at times so we may learn and explore, then moving urgently and teaching us as He does to stay close so we won't get lost. He knows what will work and what won't...he knows what's downstream and how to cross the hard places. There are times when we grow tired and He carries us, yet times when he surprises us, leaving our side and going ahead, and we are left to walk through daunting places on our own feet. There are times when He seems unreasonable and unyielding...and insists that we struggle. But it is here that he speaks to us of our possibilities. It is here that He seeks to grow something new in us. It is here that he reaches for us with an outstretched hand we may not even see until, like Peter, He catches us. We cannot look at the water. If we listen carefully and keep our eyes on him, it is in these gasping places where faith grows.

It is sometime around Christmas and our woods are flocked with remembrance of Heaven's gift that speaks to us of things we do not know. Things about ourselves He wants us to discover and things about Him He wants us to trust.

I love you,

*Brenda*

*Unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given.  
And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,  
the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of  
Peace. Isaiah 9:6*



**Christmas Caroling**  
7:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday, December 18**

A hayride, courtesy of Jack Bostick, gift bags, hot chocolate and cider, and food are all part of our annual caroling night in the Dayspring neighborhood. It's a tradition we share every year with generations of Christians through the centuries who sang of the birth of Christ to their neighbors. We would love for you to gather with us at the Dayspring office at 7:00 on Tuesday evening the 18<sup>th</sup> for a night of blessing and fellowship.

*If You Would Like to Help ...*

Every year we prepare a minimum of 15 gift bags filled with a variety of items from gloves to hot chocolate and cider packets, votive candles, books or booklets, crayons and coloring books...and always there is the gift certificate for a free ham at Brookshires. This year we hope to be able to deliver 20 bags to those who come to the doors for our caroling. The cost for each gift bag is approximately \$30 and each ham gift certificate is around \$17.00.

If you would like to contribute items or fund a gift certificate or a completed bag, please let us know by calling the ministry office or contacting Teresa Box.

**With Love Creations Blankets the Area**

Crocheting needles have been dancing and moving all over the place, whipping up blankets and warmers over the last year for nursing homes and family shelters and anyone else that needs them. Forty-two beautiful, soft baby blankets have been given to Dallas Life Foundation and 10 to Genesis Women's Shelter in Dallas. Fifty blankets for older kids who have a parent in prison have been given as Christmas gifts through the Inner Faith Prison Ministry in Lafayette, Louisiana, and 40 hand-warmer muffs have gone to nursing home residents. The dream of Kaye Sinkule, With Love Creations blesses creator and recipient alike.

**From Genesis Women's Shelter of Dallas:**

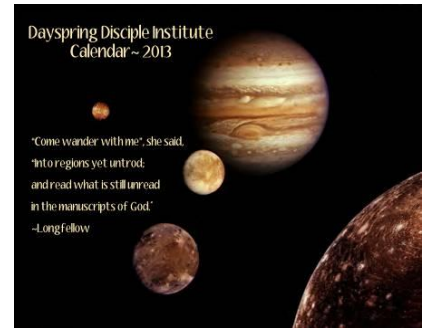
*Thank you for your beautiful donation of handmade blankets!! While each woman and child leaving a violent relationship enters into a seemingly frightening stage in life, your gift serves as a symbol of hope.*

*Without you, we would not be able to provide such wonderful and essential items to the women and children who show up at our doors seeking refuge. Thank you!!*

**Christmas Gifts from Dayspring**

Dayspring offers for your consideration for Christmas simple gifts with a spiritual focus. Our **2013 Calendar** offers dazzling hubble space photos accompanied by scripture.

The calendar and note cards below also provide some added monies for the ministry.



The **Note Cards** have 12 different scenes of the prayer garden and chapel and include scripture. These are the same set of garden pictures as last year. A set of 12 cards is \$15. Our 12-month calendar is \$18.00.



Brenda's book, **Song of Christ Reflections on a Sacred Journey** is a collection of Dearhearts articles that appeared in the Dayspring newsletter from 2001-2006 and is offered for \$5.00 per book while the supply lasts.



Please place orders as soon as possible to give time for them to be delivered before Christmas.

*May this be a Season of Blessing  
For You*

*May the Lord Make His Face to Shine  
Upon You and Give You Rest*

*Remember Us and Pray that this Ministry Honor  
God and Further His Kingdom in All That It Does*

*Thank You for your Faithful Support that  
Sustains this Ministry and its Work*