

Epistle to Dayspring Church

Bill Samuel, To the Dayspring Church:

Grace to you and peace in God the Creator and our Lord, Savior, Teacher, and Friend Jesus Christ.

I always give thanks to God for all of you and keep you in my prayers every day. I am steadily encouraged by your faithfulness to the gospel and receptiveness to the Holy Spirit.

Your ministries live out the way of Christ in drawing closer to God's presence, upholding the refugees in our midst, and caring for all of God's creation. I am refreshed by the presence of the Spirit in the land, water, flora and fauna of Dayspring.

Your warm welcome to my presence among you these few years has been a great blessing. I am learning to draw closer to Christ through your example and your teaching. Blessings on your small, loving community.

Sisters and brothers, some of you have been active for decades in Dayspring and/or the wider Church of the Saviour community. Your faithfulness over the long term reflects your deep commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You serve as solid anchors to the long record of service of the Church of the Saviour and its associated missions.

Many churches with the size and aging demographics of Dayspring have fallen into insularity and force of habit. I praise God that Dayspring reaches out to so many through the Silent Retreat Center, Earth Ministry, and Interfaith Neighbors at Dayspring. That Interfaith Neighbors at Dayspring is so recently established as a mission shows that the aging demographic has not kept the Church from being alert to fresh calls from our God.

Our brother in Christ Paul told us long ago, "When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation." I thank God that you have not become lazy in this regard as so many others have who have left this work mostly to one or a few paid people. Dayspring's shared leadership model allows for the expressions and gifts of a variety of God's servants in the congregation. And in all, we need to encourage one another, as indeed you are doing.

Dear sisters and brothers, I urge you to hold firm to the Church of the Saviour commitment to be serious about the gospel, while always being open to how the Spirit is moving at each point in the life of the Church. Be responsive to fresh winds of the Spirit.

Continue to be open and welcoming to new people coming to the Church and its missions. Not only welcome them warmly but be careful not to go about church practices with which they may not be familiar without providing clear explanations.

Stay attentive to the special calls of Dayspring, but also stay sensitive to how the Church can reflect the call to serve the marginalized which we see in our sister churches located where those needs are much more in your face.

May the peace of Christ infuse everything you do and say. Stay firm in devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ in all Church missions and activities. The Lord is faithful, and the Church should trust the Lord completely.

Rejoice in the love of one another, and always pray for each other and the Church.

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be ever with you.