

Bible Study Seminars
presents a
Texas



thrive
CELEBRATION
WEEKEND

February 17 & 18
in Dallas

*"My purpose is to
give them a rich and
satisfying life."*

John 10:10 NLT

Additional Information for the Texas **thrive** Weekend

February 17 & 18, 2012 in Dallas

Who is invited?

Literally everybody. The design is to serve the interests and needs of the hundreds of adults who have so faithfully attended Texas Bible programs in the past. We also want to present a model that would make it easier to invite and attract both younger adults as well as non-Christian Scientists, many of whom have often not felt so interested in, or embraced by, the design of Bible talks and programs.

So the format for this weekend is very contemporary to include that larger audience...to (according to Isaiah 54:2) "enlarge the borders of [our] tent." The good news is that at our first Thrive in southern California, our long-time attendees also loved the fresh, new styles of presentations right along with the in-depth Bible presentations offered by Madelon Maupin.

Do I need to register ahead of time?

It would be helpful for our planning purposes, though it is not necessary. There won't be any registration for either the Friday or Saturday evening programs, just for the daytime program on Saturday. Please check the church website for more information: www.thirdchurchdallas.org.

So what is happening with the Friday night concert?

The concert on Friday night features Los Angeles singer Suzanne Waters and Dallas singer Marin Van Vleck. Suzanne and Marin sang together in Los Angeles before Marin moved to Texas. Their reunion on our opening night will be a very fun event. They may be joined by some other performers as well.

The hope is that the Friday night event, while being uplifting and enjoyable for all attending, will also be a relaxed introduction to the weekend for those less familiar with a Bible weekend and maybe a little unsure of whether they would want to come on Saturday.

Speaking of Saturday, what is going on...i.e. the daytime schedule, talk titles, and lunch arrangements?

Dick will open at 9:30 am with a multi-media overview of the theme from John 10:10 on what is involved in Thriving. Jesus reflects on this being his own purpose statement: "My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." (New Living Translation) Dick will address:

- How does the Bible define a rich and satisfying life?
- How is that relevant to life today?
- How is God involved...what blocks us from feeling Her presence?

Dick will use a variety of short musical, humorous, and contemporary teaching videos to augment his biblical presentation. He will also incorporate an inspiring sketch routine with actor Jonathan Kidder, who has just concluded the national tour of Peter Pan Threesixty. Jonathan received great appreciation from the southern California Thrive audiences and so will join us in Texas. This opening presentation will conclude by 10:30 am, and then there will be a break.

Madelon will speak at 10:45 am and attendees under 50, Generation X and Y, will be invited to attend a concurrent breakout with Dick in the Sunday School. In the church auditorium Madelon will give a similar talk to the one she did at the Asilomar and Cedars Bible Conferences this past summer, which received much appreciation.

Madelon's talk title and description will be: "The Practice of Radical Hospitality in Jesus' Ministry."

Jesus' most oft spoken preaching message was that the Kingdom of God is at hand. Who are to be the citizens of the Kingdom? Do all citizens have the same rights? Examples from Luke and John will explore this theme and its relationship to Jesus' healing ministry. Mary Baker Eddy said hospitality (love of neighbor, binding up the broken-hearted) was something we had to learn if we wanted to pray successfully and to heal more effectively.

Tied to this theme, attendees coming to last spring's Midwest Church Alive Summit, representing 22 states, were asked what they most wanted addressed regarding church at the Summit. Their answer was very emphatic and received a lot of attention and testimony: fellowship.

Madelon will speak for 75 minutes until noon.

So what's up with lunch?

Third Church Dallas is arranging for the onsite purchase of lunch as an option for all attendees. It will cost \$11. A donor has offered to pay for the lunches for the "next gen" attendees under 50, others will need to pay in advance or when they come in the morning. Visit the church website (www.thirdchurchdallas.org) to find out how to do this, as well as how to register online and avoid having to do so at the door for the daytime program on Saturday.

The Sunday School at Third Church affords us space for a special discussion opportunity during an extended lunch period. You can also bring your lunch and still participate in these discussions if you would prefer that to purchasing a meal. The "next gen" attendees will meet on the upper level of the Sunday School, with their own questions and discussions, and the rest of the adults will meet on the first level of the Sunday School.

The format for lunch will have each participant sit with a different mix of people three different times and discuss questions relevant to the mornings presentations and attendees' own experiences. Lunch will go on a little longer as a result of its format...and we will reconvene for the afternoon at 2:00 pm.

What will the afternoon look like?

At 2:00 pm Dick will speak in the church auditorium, and Madelon will be with the "next gen" attendees. Dick will examine dynamic new discussions on the Bible and Christian spirituality, as well as their relevance to our own "thriving" individually and as local churches in our community. Dick will be sharing the work of leading authors and thinkers, as well as engaging video pieces, presenting bridges over which we can better connect with our neighbors, family members, and friends.

Breaking at 3:00 pm, we will return at 3:15 for Madelon's discussion of how to go deep into the Bible ("next gen" attendees will be able to attend or stay in conversation amongst themselves; Dick will be with any of those who want to talk in the Sunday School). Madelon also gave this talk at Asilomar and Cedars in 2011 and it received a very high evaluation.

Madelon's talk title and description will be: "Diving Deep Into a Study of Challenging Texts in Mark"

How do we unpack the meaning of a text with an understanding of what the author intended? This session will go deep into the difficult passages in Mark's gospel and explore the type of questions we might ask of them or any text we are studying. For example, we will examine the closing resurrection account of verses 16:9-20 that are in our Bible.

Mark was the first gospel written, and offers a treasured window into one school of primitive Christianity. The oldest Markan scrolls end with verse 8 and do not describe resurrection appearances. How would the absence of a resurrection account impact the Markan community's understanding of the message of Jesus and how they were to carry it forward?

Madelon will also host a question and answer period and, with a 10-15 minutes closing by Dick, we will conclude the day program at 5:00 pm.

So we do dinner on our own, then what is happening Saturday Evening?

The Saturday evening program is a contemporary worship celebration. It shares forms of honoring God, Christ, and the Bible that are familiar to many church-goers today.

- The music will be contemporary
- There will be dramatic presentations
- A live interview will highlight themes of thriving
- Video will be used extensively, including the "next gen" witness and insights of the premier Bible scholar in the Christian Science Movement today...Barry Huff
- Comments on spirituality will be interspersed throughout by many varied voices

Singers Suzanne Cowen and Marin Van Vleck will join with arranger/keyboardist John Gilmore from the Living Love Band in Los Angeles. They will share some extraordinary music like many are hearing in churches today. These Christian Scientists have made a wonderful witness of this music throughout southern California during the past few years.

Jonathan Kidder will present some vignettes and character portrayals that will demonstrate important lessons explored throughout the weekend.

Dick will conduct an interview with Brian Hall, a newly commissioned and recently assigned Army chaplain at Fort Sill, OK. Brian represents The First Church of Christ, Scientist as a Protestant Chaplain. His wife, Elizabeth, is not a Christian Scientist and she too will be interviewed. Brian and Elizabeth will discuss their spiritual journey together and its relationship lessons. Though they met in Boston, Brian and Elizabeth are both from Texas and happy to be visiting their hometown of Dallas.

Dick will also feature some relevant video comments from Barry Huff throughout the evening. The interviews with Barry were shot in the new Bible Lands Park at Cedars Camps. Dick will share some final thoughts on thriving along with some related videos.

What is the cost to attend?

There will be no charge for any of the program portions of the Weekend. There are, however, some very substantial costs involved in a program such as this. Bible Study Seminars would greatly appreciate tax-deductible donations to help us continue to embrace Texas in 2013 and beyond.

We already have received some inquiry about doing some sort of Thrive activity next winter in Houston and Austin. The financial donations made at this event could insure that we are able to respond to these requests.

Checks may be made out to Bible Study Seminars. Payments with credit cards may be made online by clicking "donations" on the home page.

If there are any questions about this program, please contact Dick@BibleStudySeminars.com.