

Caring for the Soul...



My name is April VanDyke. I am honored to be on the Board at Genesis Institute. I am passionate about the work being done in the lives of individuals seeking change, navigation and help with their individual life circumstances. To receive counsel from a Biblical perspective is a gift. Since we as Christians see life through the lens of faith and hope in Christ; to be encouraged to look at our life with this perspective is a treasure. The counselors here at Genesis are to be commended for their work of the heart. They each are committed to helping individuals heal and thrive.

The other aspect is the issue of our individual soul care. Genesis offers several classes in this area. Terry Andres teaches 2 classes focused on Spiritual Formation, Elaine Watts teaches a class about the Wonder of Woman, Dave Hutchins teaches Core Concepts of Biblical Mentoring and Dennis Roach teaches Courageous Parenting. These classes are valuable and life changing! I have taken them all except Courageous Parenting as my children are grown but have heard how others parenting has been transformed by this class.

My life has been enriched and graciously changed by what I have learned in each class. I highly recommend each one for anyone seeking to draw closer to Christ and/or to heal the wounded parts of our souls. Terry's teaching is engaging, provokes thoughtfulness and is not hurried but purposely methodical. He invokes peace as you glean from his wisdom of our Lord. He engages you in spiritual practices I personally had never heard of before. He teaches the value of the wilderness experience we all walk through at one time or another and how our "fruit" comes in its season from our wildernesses. God uses our sufferings to make us more like Him. I was challenged and inspired by the content of the classes. It is a must to take.

Elaine's class Wonder of Woman is incredibly encouraging and uplifting. She candidly and



openly relates her own struggles with this life journey and gives insightful truths about our God. Her resources are wide and varied. She integrates stunning visuals and music to enhance her teaching. I always left with a great sense of peace and hopefulness. I love this particular excerpt from week #7. "Life from the center is a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It is amazing. It is triumphant. It is radiant. It takes no time but occupies all our time. The NOW is the dwelling place of God Himself. Now we are home at last. The fretful winds of time are stilled. The nostalgic longings of this heaven-born earth traveler come to rest." Elaine encourages not to buy in to the culture's idea that in order to be valuable we must perform well.... instead of playing to an audience of ONE! How freeing is that! I highly recommend her class!

Dave Hutchins' Core Concepts class is amazing as well. He has taught this class for 23 years to community members and 17 years to Moody Bible Institute students. It is foundational to understanding the key purpose of man and woman. Highlighted is the issue of 'Soul Care'. To quote from his syllabus with his permission: "Caring for souls is caring for people in ways that not only acknowledge them as persons, but also engage and address them in the deepest and most profoundly human aspects of their lives. Properly understood, soul care nurtures the inner life and guides the expression of this inner life through the body into external behavior. "Soul care involves nurture and support as well as healing and restoration." Dallas Willard states in his book Renovation of the Heart; "What is running your life at any given moment is your soul. Not external circumstances, or your thoughts, or your intentions, or even your feelings but your soul. The soul is that aspect of your whole being that correlates, integrates, and enlivens everything going on in the various dimensions of the self. It is the life center of the human being." Willard's image of the soul: "The soul is like an inner stream of water, which gives strength, direction, and harmony to every other element of our life." And we are its keeper.

Why not take one of more of these classes to nurture YOUR soul. You will be glad you did!

Your life – your heart – your soul, will be eternally changed...

April

