



Established April 2008 Daniel Mingo, Min. Director
An Exodus International Member Ministry

Ministry Newsletter March 2012
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A Referral Ministry of ROCK

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Faithful is He who calls you, and He will also bring it to pass. 1 Thes. 5:24*

We're Moving Right Along

At the end of this month, Abba's Delight will mark the end of its fourth year as a ministry. We have seen God do some amazing things over the last 12 months. We completed our first full year as an Exodus International affiliated member ministry, an association I have looked forward to enjoying since our start in April 2008. I have learned so much from the Exodus staff, as well as from the other Exodus ministry leaders I've gotten to know over the last several years, even prior to our official association.

I have watched the Lord grow our Overcomers Group. We have added new members, coming from responses to the flyer we have permanently posted at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's student center, as well as from Abba's Delight's listing on the Exodus website. But we have also lost a couple of members over the last year. One of our men took a job in his hometown of Knoxville, TN, so he and his family moved back there at the end of 2011. Our other participant who left went back to his home country, and is now involved in a similar ministry there. Both in our group meetings and mentoring sessions, we are emphasizing pursuing personal relationships with the Lord as disciples of Jesus, and breaking away from the destructive patterns of sexual addiction. The Lord continues to add men to this group, and I love observing our existing members welcome and absorb new faces into our fellowship.

Our Family & Friends Group has experienced a steady fluctuation of members over the last year. This is a unique group, as it involves loved ones of those who have embraced a gay identity or who are working to overcome their same-sex attractions. We've have parents, spouses, siblings and so on as part of our group. There are many who could be attending these meetings, but often the shame of having a loved one who is gay-identified keeps those from participation. Please pray for these ones, that all who have need of this kind of support in their lives will push past whatever obstacles are in their way to find the support and healing they can experience.

This past year also brought Kentuckiana the opportunity to experience two screenings of the wonderful movie "Reconciliation." On two consecutive nights this past September, California-based writer and director Chad Ahrendt shared his project with us, and during the Q&A gave us a glimpse of his vision and purpose for the film. One viewing was held at New Life Church here in Louisville, and the other was held at the

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as part of a two-day conference that was organized and produced by one of Abba's Delights participants connected to the seminary. There were about 75 people at each of the events, and we found the film to be very well received.

The conference that was held at the seminary was a two-day event called "Homosexuality & the Church." It featured speakers connected to the various ministries of Exodus International, and served to provide a wonderful foundation for ongoing education and availability of ministry in the area of homosexuality to those in attendance. The attendees were mostly made up of pastors or church leaders and seminary students there to invest in their knowledge of the impact homosexuality is having on the Body of Christ, and to learn effective ways to minister. Another conference is being planned for this fall as well.

In my capacity as Ministry Director of Abba's Delight, this past year I attended two Exodus International conferences. One was the annual Freedom Conference in June, to which my wife Fran accompanied me as her first Exodus experience. The other was the Exodus Leaders' Conference in January. Both of these gatherings proved beneficial as I continue to seek the Lord's vision and guidance to follow in the path He's establishing for me and our participants.

About midway through 2011, the Lord began speaking to my heart about taking Abba's Delight ministry full-time. That direction has been confirmed time and again, and slowly we are moving towards making that vision a reality. If you're a regular reader of this newsletter, you've seen my monthly updates on our progress, and that our greatest challenge has been raising enough support money coming in to Abba's Delight that would be enough for me draw a salary and leave my day job, to embrace the ministry work full-time. I've said before that I have way more vision for what we could be doing, but don't have the time. Just this past week, I have been encouraged by one of the other Exodus member ministry leaders who has been the Director of the ministry in his city for 21 years. I'm trying to get things on the same kind of scale he does, and here I am only four years at it. His encouragement reminded me of one of the words the Lord gave me when I was just beginning to put things together to start up, when the Holy Spirit said for me not to despise the days of small beginnings. I admit I've been challenged by my idea of His timing not being anything like His idea of His timing. I am continuing to seek the Lord and learn patience. Please pray for me.

I am looking forward to all that Father has in the coming ministry year for Abba's Delight. I am as excited as ever to be involved in the lives of those who are broken and who are being healed on their journey with the Lord. I am blessed and privileged to be used in an area that Father has done so much healing in my own life. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all of our affliction so that we may be able to

comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” See what the Lord has done, and is doing!

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Family & Friends Support Group: Tuesday, March 27, 2012; Tuesday, April 10, 2012; Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Overcomers Support Group: Thursday, April 5, 2012; Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ongoing Prayer Requests

Please pray for our Overcomers Support Group, that each one of them will pursue his relationship with Jesus as fiercely as he knows how, that each will continue to become more perfectly conformed to the image of Jesus as he learns obedience to the King, and that lasting changes from the inside out will bear fruit in his life, leading other men to Him.

Please ask the Lord to bring new participants to the Overcomers Support Group, who will be searching for the Lord to bring them wholeness and purity.

Please pray for our Family & Friends Support Group members to receive wisdom from Father in learning how to share His love with their loved ones whose lives have been impacted by homosexuality. **Please pray for those who would benefit from attending this support group, but who are letting themselves be kept out by pride, shame, and the feeling that their situation is hopeless. These are obstacles that can be overcome with the help of the Lord and others in the group who are receiving their healing from Him.**

Please pray for our search to add new Board Members to Abba's Delight. If you, or anyone you know, would be willing to serve on our Board, please contact me to inquire about serving. Meetings are scheduled once every quarter.

Please pray for the ongoing work of developing our website. Some of it is complete, but we still have a long way to go. Ask the Lord to give me the time, wisdom and speed to write the pieces that still need to be added.

Responses From You

From a past participant of Abba's Delight: Daniel,

Thank you for continuing to send me the Abba's Delight newsletter. I always find it encouraging. As I was reading this morning, Galatians 2:20 kept running through my head. I praise God for His promises and transforming power. I know in this life there is a

strong possibility that I may never have a "normal" relationship with a woman and God has given me a peace about that, but I also know that He has kept me strong from ever having a relationship with a member of the same sex again.

I struggled for the the longest time with my identity. It seems like in our culture you are either straight or gay or bi. I have finally reached a point in my life that I can relate to being identified as a Christ follower and son of God. That is my identity!

I loved this--->Identity – Christ renews our minds to embrace His identity and leave behind our gay identity. I am not a gay Christian, a gay celibate Christian, an ex- gay, or a former homosexual. I am a Christian. Solely identified with Christ and nothing else. God has changed my perspective and I now know who I am. I am my Father's son.

The other struggle that I sometimes suffer is the thought of being alone from now until the end of my life on this earth. When I started coming to the overcomers meetings, I think my intent was askew. I was looking for a friendship that would keep me from being lonely. Not of a sexual nature but someone that knows what it is like to turn from the wicked desires of same sex attraction. In other words someone "like me". That has walked in my shoes, that has been where I have been. The Lord keeps reminding me that I am never alone and that has been of great comfort to me, but there are still times of overwhelming loneliness.

I know that I will persevere until the end, but wow is it a tough battle. Anyway, again I want to thank you for keeping me on the list of recipients of the newsletter.

Upcoming Conferences

Marriage & Mentors Conference

Thursday, April 12-April 15, 2012

Cross Power Ministries

Stonegate Fellowship, Midland TX

cpm@stonegatefellowship.com

Love Won Out

Saturday, May 12, 2012

West Shore Church

Mechanicsburg, PA (Harrisburg)

Contact Info: 888-264-0877

Exodus International Freedom Conference

Wednesday, June 27- June 30, 2012

Northwestern College(Minneapolis, MN)

Contact Info: 888-264-0877

conference@exodusinternational.org

Hope Gathering 2012 is a one-day seminar designed to give truthful, grace-filled insight on Gender Identity Disorder. Speakers are: Dr. Marc Dillworth who is a licensed Psychotherapist who specializes in the treatment of GID in children and adolescents; Denise Shick, founder of Help 4 Families, and author of *My Daddy's Secret* and *When Hope Seems Lost*; Walt Heyer, author of *Trading My Sorrows, Perfected With Love*, and his newest release *Paper Genders*. This event will include workshops and testimonies. The conference will be held on July 28, 2012 in Marietta, GA. For more details, got to www.help4families.com.

If you do not wish to receive the Abba's Delight Ministry Newsletter any longer, please let me know. If you do wish too continue to receive it, please be certain to put our email address in your address book, so that this mailing does not go to your spam, and report to your carrier. Thank you.

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24, 25