

ABBA'S DELIGHT

Established April 2008 Daniel Mingo, Min. Director

An Exodus International Applicant Ministry

Ministry Newsletter April 2010

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THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.'" Matt. 25:21*

It's Our Birthday Month!

April 2010 marks the beginning of Abba's Delight's third year in ministry. It's hard to believe we've completed two full years. When I began responding to the promptings of Father's Spirit back in December 2007 to begin a new ministry based in Louisville, I had no idea what He would be unfolding in the weeks, months and years ahead.

I remember that one of the first things the Lord began to speak to me about was the name Abba's Delight. At first, it seemed an odd name for a ministry, but as I continued to listen, I began to sense His Father's heart towards those struggling with the burden of shame and humiliation of unwanted same-sex attractions. We've all heard so much of the negative message that "God hates fags," and how unfortunate it is that it has been the Church who has largely promoted that lie. Especially here in the Louisville area, which is widely known to be a center for homosexuality and the gay lifestyle, Father wants that message exposed for the lie from Satan that it is. And He wants the Church to be leading the way on the earth to show His love and redemption to those who are gay-identified. Both of these challenges are before Abba's Delight ministry, and I have been seeking the Lord about how exactly to carry out that mission. By and large, churches are still often closed to the idea of addressing such a volatile matter on any widespread basis. Sexual matters are still often taboo from our pulpits, and most churches and pastoral staffs are not properly equipped to know how to respond to someone who may be brave enough to come seeking help to leave the lifestyle. God wants strugglers and families/friends of strugglers to know that He loves them, and that they can leave the shame behind with His help. Last year, the Lord caused a passage out of one of the Psalms to leap out at me. It was the first time I'd read it since I had begun Abba's Delight, and it immediately spoke to my spirit. It is Psalms 18:19b, which says, "He rescued me, because He delighted in me." Father does not delight in someone He hates, and since He delights in me, He has rescued me. Not only does God not hate the homosexual, but also He loves him/her so much that He will provide a way of escape for the struggler. I believe this is tied directly to Abba's Delight's primary mission.

Another thing that Father spoke to me in the beginning days was not to despise small beginnings. At times, it seems growth of Abba's Delight has been slower than the tortoise in the race with the hare. I have had to keep remembering the end of that story that says, "Slow and steady wins the race." Well, we're not in a race to get anywhere, but the vision that Father has given is so much farther along than our pace, that I find myself being trained over and over in living in the contentment of where we are. I am a huge re-watcher of movies that I like a lot. One of them is "Amazing Grace," the story of how William Wilberforce won over the English Parliament to abolish the slave trade to Britain, near the turn of the 19th century—an accomplishment that took many, many years to realize. There is a scene, in which he is speaking with his childhood pastor John Newton, who counsels him saying, "God sometimes does His work with gentle drizzle, not storms. Drip....drip....drip." Abba's Delight has been, and continues to be, a steady drizzle of Father's refreshing waters for the homosexual overcomer and for families and friends of those who are still gay-identified. So, while I have a vision and desire to be reaching as many hurting souls as we possibly can, I also do not want to run ahead of Father's desire and plan. Therein lies my place of contentment. I am grateful for the vision, but I also have a healthy fear of the Lord, desiring not to wander ahead or to the sides.

Actually, Father and some of His people have helped Abba's Delight to accomplish quite a lot in the last two years. We are a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation in the state of KY. We have corporate officers, as well as a working Board of Directors with six members that meets quarterly. We have established By-laws for the ministry. Early on, we began an Overcomers Support Group for those wishing to leave behind their unwanted same sex attractions. After our first year or so, we began a Family & Friends Support Group for those desiring assistance for living with and relating to those loved ones who are gay-identified. Our groups have offered their services to over 20 individuals over the past two years. We have become an Exodus International Applicant Ministry, and this summer will be participating in our second national conference since beginning the ministry. There have been a few opportunities for speaking about and/or exhibiting Abba's Delight, and we just recently purchased our first retractable banner featuring the ministry's name and logo. The logo was created by one of our board members.

Moving into our third year, I am excited about what Father has in His mind and heart for Abba's Delight. I/we pray daily for new participants as He leads them to us. As I've mentioned in previous Newsletters as part of our Ministry Goals, I would love to see more and more speaking opportunities proposed to us. I really, really, really am excited about the possibility of establishing and maintaining a website for the ministry. The earliest possible time for Abba's Delight to transition from Exodus International Applicant Ministry to Member Ministry would be during this third year, and we are ever hopeful.

Whatever Father has planned, we are committed to following after Him, being disciplined by the Holy Spirit and the already-established Exodus network of ministries, and extending His Father's heart to anyone and everyone who contacts us for help in their overcoming processes, offering hope for victory and healing. We covet and are thankful for your ongoing prayers for Abba's Delight, our participants, my family and for me. And may Father bless you richly for your heart for the gay-identified, the struggling overcomer, and the families/friends of those continuing to engage in the lifestyle.

Affiliation with ROCK

Earlier this month, it was confirmed that Abba's Delight will be listed with ROCK as a referral ministry. ROCK, which stands for Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana, was born out of a need and desire several years ago to return the local area to a more family friendly community, free of porn establishments and the numerous adult sexually-oriented businesses. The purpose of ROCK, as stated in its website www.reclaimourculture.org, is to "...promote a wholesome culture in which all families can flourish." Abba's Delight will receive referrals from ROCK regarding those who desire to overcome their addiction to homosexual porn and the lifestyle. Abba's Delight is pleased and excited to be working with ROCK in this capacity. Please visit ROCK's website to learn more about this vital organization.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 22, 2010, 8:00am-5:00pm. Hope 4 Families, an Exodus Member Ministry presents 'Hope Gathering 2010' at Church of the Savior in Nicholasville, KY. Call Denise Shick at 814-598-4952 or go to www.help4families.com for more information. You will be on your own for lunch. At the seminar you will gain a deeper understanding of Gender Identity Disorder in a Christ-centered gathering. This seminar covers the topics of Transexuality and the Roots of Homosexuality by identify the early signs of gender confusion. This seminar is designed for strugglers, family members and friends, as well as counselors, pastors and the general public seeking further insight into these current topics. Breakout sessions and personal testimonies of healing and hope are included in the day. Please see the attached Registration form for the cost and other important information.

The 2010 Exodus International Annual Freedom Conference will be held at the Concordia University Campus in Irvine, CA from Wednesday, June 23rd through Saturday, June 26th. The final day of the Freedom Conference will be a Love Won Out

Conference. For more information regarding speakers, schedules, the cost and registration details, go to www.exodusinternational.org.

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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