

ABBA'S DELIGHT

Established April 2008 Daniel Mingo, Min. Director

An Exodus International Member Ministry

Ministry Newsletter April 2011

P O Box 991752 Louisville, KY 40269

A Referral Ministry of ROCK

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. Romans 13:13-14:1*

You Can Shy Away, But You'll Miss Part Of Your Calling

It was almost exactly six months ago that Abba's Delight was accepted into the Exodus International network of organizations as a member ministry. For those of you reading this newsletter who may not be aware, Exodus International is an umbrella organization made up of Christian counselors, churches and ministries like Abba's Delight, whose purpose is to help those individuals seeking out their assistance to overcome unwanted same sex attractions, as well as to help family and friends of gay-identified loved ones deal with the impact of homosexuality in their lives. Those seeking help do so because they have already been prompted by the Holy Spirit that there is something amiss in their lives that does not line up with Father's Biblical standards for sexuality in themselves or their loved ones. I am blessed and excited for myself and Abba's Delight to be connected with such a wonderful organization. It was three years ago just this month that I established Abba's Delight, and looked forward to the day when this affiliation would be solidified.

Another main focus of the Exodus network is to educate the church at large how to love and minister to these relationally and sexually broken individuals. Frankly, I think this mission is far more challenging than the mission of helping the overcomers. The overcomers have a desire to change, and generally present themselves willing to do the work it takes for Father to cause transformation in their lives. Unfortunately, I have not seen the same desire or commitment consistently from God's people, the church. **(I realize I may be stepping on some toes here, but I mean to challenge, to call up the Church, not to criticize.)**

Many churches are unwilling even to admit that there may be someone(s) in their congregations struggling personally with same-sex attractions. And sadly, they wouldn't know how to respond properly if the strugglers came forward. Some congregations who have brought someone in to do a teaching or seminar about homosexuality feel they have "done their duty" to get educated, so now all they have to do is sit back and wait until "one of them" comes to their meetings so they can "love the sinner and hate the sin." (By

the way, the gay community hates when they hear Christians say that phrase. Not too many things are a bigger turn off to the one seeking help.) There are also the congregations who make genuine efforts to be accepting and welcoming if they know of someone in their midst who has declared his/her attempts to walk away from homosexuality, or a family member or spouse whose life has been impacted by a gay-identified loved one. These congregations are on the right track, but so much more is needed.

It was in one of these congregations where someone on the Pastoral staff was observed cringing when a male overcomer in the congregation spoke, because the overcomer still had some feminine characteristics in his voice. Just as the Church has realized that someone making a decision for Jesus does not automatically translate into a disciple, so it is that someone who decides to leave the gay lifestyle does not automatically translate into a life of holiness, purity, and proper gender conformity. It has been discovered after all these years that the best way to make a disciple for Christ is to evangelize by building personal relationships with people who have yet to become born again. A consistent godly influence in a person's life is the best teacher and evangelist. So it is with the homosexual struggler wanting to overcome his/her attractions. Father's love, truth, and grace, combined with time, are a wonderful combination when lived out in the lives of His saints towards those who desire freedom from this bondage. Knowing this, that begs the question, "Are you, or is your congregation, willing to invest the love, truth, grace and time it takes to be that example to the one wanting to overcome?" This is not an easily answered question, because it brings up some other questions in the already-challenged average believer—questions that could talk that average Christian right out of being used by God.

What if he/she hits on me? What if people see us together and think I'm gay? How do I explain my friendship with this person to my kids, or to my other friends? What if he/she tries something with my children; I have to protect them. Obviously, these are all questions that need answers, and are answerable. But they certainly shouldn't prevent a born again believer from helping a sinner turn from the error of his ways, and towards a life of purity, holiness and righteousness. If we as the Church are not willing to invest in these lives the way Father has invested in our lives, then we are missing big-time one of God's intents for the Body of Christ. And this doesn't apply just to the homosexual struggler wanting to overcome same-sex attractions; it applies to any believer wanting to overcome any sin who needs help and support.

In the last month or so, I have watched two television interviews with Alan Chambers, the President of Exodus International. The first was with Lisa Ling and the second was with Dr. Drew. As you would expect, both interview shows presented both sides of the gay issue. One was fair and respectful to Alan and his Biblical stance, the other was an outright ambush on Alan and attack on Christianity, post-gay ministries and

the Church overall--- not exactly what Alan had been promised going into the event, according to Exodus' Facebook page.

However, with that said, we as the Church cannot escape, and must take some responsibility for, the fact that thousands in the gay lifestyle have been hurt, wounded, offended and rejected by unloving, insensitive, and even well-meaning Christians who simply have not taken the time to show them the love of Jesus or spend time enough with them to get to know some of the pain they have endured which contributed to their situations, so they might experience some sense of hope and healing in their already broken lives.

The Church has contributed to this problem, and it must be the Church to bring about the change. We must learn how to love believers into the Lordship of Jesus by example, and that will take relationship investment.

Now, certainly none of this takes the responsibility off the homosexual sinner from repenting and turning his/her life towards God for forgiveness and a changed life, but because Father uses the Body of Christ to facilitate healing in one another, we must step up, each one of us, and do our part. We receive forgiveness from God, but I see in James 5:16 that we receive healing through the Body of Christ.

What are you doing in your personal life to help bring about this kind of change? What are you doing in your congregation? Is yours the kind that is in denial about the problem existing, and may be fearful of what you might discover if you tried to face the problem? Has your congregation begun to address sexual issues openly and forthrightly from the pulpit, backed up by plans for change, but realize there is still more to do? Is your congregation willing to admit that it may need outside assistance to deal with the issues you know already exist? In these days, we cannot ignore Father's desire to heal and make whole members of His family who are still hurting. We must do our part.

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Support Group: Thursday, April 21st; Thursday, May 5th; Thursday, May 19th

Family & Friends Support Group: Tuesday, April 26th; Tuesday, May 10th; Tuesday, May 24th

Board of Directors Meeting: Monday, April 25th (to view Reconciliation movie); Monday, May 2nd.

Upcoming Ministry Events

Love Won Out Conference

Saturday, April 30, 2011

8:00am-5:00pm

Hope Church

4934 Western Row Road

Mason, OH 45040 (Cincinnati Area)

We are less than two weeks until the event. You can still register at a discount. For more information and to register, go to www.lovewonout.com

Exodus International states, "Love Won Out is a dynamic one-day conference provided by Exodus International. Internationally known Christian experts address everything from why some people struggle with same-sex attractions to the significant role the Gospel and the Church can have in responding to a world impacted by homosexuality. General Sessions, Breakout sessions (including Q & A session) and inspiring testimonies are included."

36th Exodus International Annual Freedom Conference

June 8-11, 2011

Ridgecrest Retreat Center

Ashville, NC

Contact info: 888-264-0877

conference@exodusinternational.org

"Reconciliation" Movie Public Showing

Abba's Delight is working to present a public showing of the film here in Louisville sometime this spring. We will keep you posted as specifics become available. Please pray for this endeavor and for the spiritual warfare that would surround it. We are getting closer to announcing a date. Go to www.reconciliationmovie.com for information about the film.

Responses From You

From a Brother/Pastor/Friend in SC: A good word, Daniel. One of my prayers lately has been for the Lord to anoint me to serve His kingdom and purpose for these times that we as a nation are now facing. (This same brother has a blog he posts. His most recent entry

from earlier this week is a great companion piece to what I've written about in this month's Newsletter.)

From a sister in FL: Hi, Daniel. Loved reading the newsletter! Your experience with the gazeboes reminded me of a book I've been reading: Wrestling Prayer by Eric and Leslie Ludy. Good stuff about how we've been created to advance His kingdom. God bless you today!

From my dear Aunt in NJ: Wonderful newsletter, and I made a copy for our deacon at church with whom I've shared your newsletter...

Financial Support of Abba's Delight

As every month, I am thanking each of you who has contributed financially to Abba's Delight. I believe your support of our ministry to those impacted by homosexuality is of eternal value, as well as the help it is on an everyday basis to meet our ministry expenses. We thank you for each individual gift and for each monthly commitment. If anyone wishes to contribute monthly, please contact me either by email or phone to set up your commitment.

**HAVE A HAPPY
AND BLESSED
RESURRECTION
DAY!!!**

If you do not wish to receive the Abba's Delight Ministry Newsletter any longer, please let me know. If you do wish to 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 23,24