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NEWSLETTER – August 2013

**THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Not that I have already obtained, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:12-14***

### **[Reaching Forward, Pressing On](#)**

It's been about two months since the closing of Exodus International was announced, the world's largest Christian referral organization for those whose lives have been impacted, either directly or indirectly, by homosexuality. In June's newsletter, I wrote about the closing and what it means to Abba's Delight. This month, I'd like to build on that by talking about where Abba's Delight is headed going forward.

Abba's Delight's calling has not changed. Our mission remains the same. Namely, to provide ministry opportunities through discipleship in Jesus: first, to those same-sex attracted believers who contact us wishing to align their sexual identity and expressions with Biblical truth; second, to provide support for loved ones (spouses, parents, siblings, other family members and friends) of gay-identified individuals, teaching them how best to love those individuals in ways their love can be received, yet without sacrificing Biblical truth; third, to equip Church pastors and staves with the most effective ways to walk alongside those in their congregations who come for help. This charge from the Lord to point all of these saints to Jesus, in whatever circumstance they find themselves, has been our main focus, and will continue to be our main focus.

Exodus International was a referral network, a resource network, and a point of contact for Abba's Delight, connecting us to other like-ministries throughout the U.S. and the world. So, the obvious question which has arisen is, with Exodus gone, would there be another viable network with which Abba's Delight could align itself? The spiritual covering that Exodus provided as an "umbrella" organization is now gone as well. So, the need and opportunity for spiritual warfare became heightened dramatically for all of us. That is not to say that the Lord

could not and would not protect us, but finding that manner of covering once again would be important for us moving forward so that, as ministries, our exposure would be short-lived. And that covering would certainly not negate the need and benefit of the prayers of our congregations which support and cover us as individuals in that warfare, however, only a portion of our ministries are born from, and housed within, those church walls. So, there has been a specific need that Father would provide that covering once again.

And for Abba's Delight, He has! In June's newsletter, I mentioned the possibility of an alternate affiliation with which Abba's Delight may align itself. As I have further explored this direction, I have zeroed in on one such organization called the Hope For Wholeness Network (HFWN).

Quoting from the Hope For Wholeness website, "Hope for Wholeness was originated as a curriculum to assist those affected by homosexuality, and to help those that desire to walk alongside them. The Hope for Wholeness Network is our effort to bring together likeminded ministries, churches, counselors, public speakers, and other organizations." From the beginning, HFWN seemed to fit/meet most, if not all, of our desires and needs for an affiliation, and has well-exceeded all of my hopes and expectations. Foundational beliefs are well-documented on the website, as well as positions on many topics directly related to our ministry genre. You can check out the network at [www.hopeforwholeness.org](http://www.hopeforwholeness.org). I have been following this group on a private FaceBook page since shortly after the Exodus Conference, and over 100 ministry leaders have joined this page, checking out what is being offered by the network. The more I prayed, read, and talked to the network organizer, McKrae Game, who is the Executive Director of Truth Ministry, the holding company for the HFWN based in SC, the stronger the confirmation was from the Holy Spirit that this relational joint is the one for Abba's Delight going forward. The network will provide the same benefits we had with Exodus, including a national map showing affiliates in each state, and more. The main challenge, at this time, will be the network's name recognition, but any new network would face that challenge.

So, right at the beginning of August, I met with the senior pastor and elders from my home church, and obtained their blessing in pursuing the affiliation with HFWN. Then, at the recent Abba's Delight quarterly Board meeting, I received the unanimous approval of the Directors, who had already been viewing the network's website in preparation for our discussion and vote. Shortly thereafter, I submitted an application to the HFWN office, and I am excited to announce that Abba's Delight has been accepted as a Hope For Wholeness Network ministry affiliate. Abba's Delight contact information has already been posted under the state of Kentucky for anyone seeking help to find.

Additionally, the HFWN is planning its first conference for November 1-2, 2013, and I have been asked to share my testimony at that conference. Joe Dallas, Mary Heathman, Kristin

Tremba, and McKrae Game will be the speakers for the conference, and for the fundraising banquet on Saturday evening after the conference ends, the speaker is actor Stephen Baldwin, who has previously spoken well, and from a Biblical perspective, on homosexual issues. See further details of the conference elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am excited and hopeful about the future of Abba's Delight. I am looking to the Lord to continue to add participants to our Overcomers' Group as well as to our Family & Friends Group. I am hopeful for new opportunities to exhibit our ministry at various conferences, as I find continually that many believers are not aware that ministries like Abba's Delight even exist, yet thankful when they discover it. And I am hopeful in praying for churches to open their doors and pulpits to allow Abba's Delight time to share about the work the Lord is doing daily, setting believers free from the bondage and impact of same-gender issues. Father has shown Himself faithful time and again, and as our ministry continues in the path He's prescribed for us, we will continue to be blessed by His faithfulness.

### [Responses From You](#)

From a sister in MO: Thank you, Daniel, for adding me to your mailing list. This issue is close to my heart. I long to understand the Father's heart. I so appreciate your ministry of unconditional love. Your gentle spirit is refreshing.

From a Pastor in KY: Good Work, Daniel.

From an Abba's Delight Ministry participant: I read the interview for the second time and like I said the first time I read it, I am very proud and blessed to have you as a mentor and friend. I am looking forward to this week's O/C group. I am praying that God's peace will cover each man there and everything that is said and done.

From a brother in FL: Daniel, I read my first AD Newsletter cover to cover. Thanks for adding me to the distribution list. I really admired your consistent mercy and loving kindness throughout the newsletter.

From a brother in Louisville: Daniel, I turn to the Lord to suppress my sexual desires all the time. It is what separates us from animals. If I understand the life of Jesus, He abstained from sex, and if He were truly human then He must have had sexual desires. You did a great job responding in Christian love.

From a SC Pastor: Thanks for sharing this, Daniel. The Lord obviously gave you wisdom in the interview. Bless you.

### **Upcoming Ministry Meetings**

Overcomers Group: Thursday, August 29, 2013; Thursday, September 12, 2013;  
Thursday, September 26, 2013

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, September 3, 2013; Tuesday, September 17, 2013

### **Upcoming Ministry Conferences**

Indiana Men of Integrity present the Iron Sharpens Iron Conference; Saturday, September 28, 2013; Madison Park Church of God, Madison IN; For Registration and more information, go to [www.indianamenofintegrity.org](http://www.indianamenofintegrity.org).

\*\*\*I will be presenting a workshop at this ISI conference called "Sexual Purity: A Calling for All Men; Achieving & Maintaining Sexual Purity."

Hope For Wholeness Conference: "Rising From the Ashes" Nov. 1-2, 2013; First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC. For Registration and information, go to [www.hopeforwholeness.org](http://www.hopeforwholeness.org).

\*\*\*I will be sharing my testimony at this event.\*\*\*

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 24-25***