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wholeness network Hope For Wholeness Network Affiliate Ministry



ROCK Referral Ministry of ROCK-Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana

NEWSLETTER- August 2014 www.abbasdelight.com

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Tim. 4:7,8

Ten Years....And Counting by Brandon Balkovich, Abba's Delight participant

It's been two years since I last penned an article for the Abba's Delight newsletter, so it's time for an update. It took a lot to get to the point I was at two years ago; it's also been a growing experience these past two years. As Joyce Meyer says, "I'm not where I should be, but, thank God, I'm not where I used to be."

After ten years, I've made progress in my dealing with same-sex attraction (SSA). More so than I thought I would. First, no I have <u>not</u> changed from gay to straight; that has never been my goal. Nor is that the end game of Abba's Delight ministry. If it does happen, praise God! What **is** of importance is living in a sexually pure manner adherent to God's word. That means no sex outside a heterosexual marriage relationship. Sorry, that is the only one God recognizes. I can survive without pornography, masturbating, or any other type of sexual stimulation. Jesus did just fine without all these things.

I've learned what my triggers are. Satan loves nothing more than to push our buttons to get us in trouble. Once you grasp what's good and what's not, the fight is on. I can't go to certain places, see certain people, watch certain TV shows, read or view certain magazines or print media. Is it easy? Of course not! It's not supposed to be; this is a war we're waging. I'm in a battle like an alcoholic or drug addict. It would be so simple to fall back to where I was, but for what? Guilt? Shame? Regret? No, thanks!

I'm learning more about my enemy, and that's crucial. Why? Because I have help. I have brothers fighting alongside me. They help support me when I'm weak. I have the Word of God to use as a sword and I have Jesus Himself as a reminder of who He is and who I am in Him.

I'm so grateful God doesn't give up on us when we fall. If that were the case, the falls I've had in this process would have ended His grace toward me a long time ago. I'm getting stronger knowing what's at stake. The reverential fear of God and taking His Word seriously help to keep me in check.

Right now as I write this, I'd like to think that at this moment our Father is looking down smiling at us who are fighting the good fight. We know the truth and the truth is setting us free. Who could ask for more than that? And to all those who read this, I thank God for each of you. The battle with SSA is not something I would wish on anyone, but it can be won! In a world where homosexuality is becoming more accepted and celebrated, we who know what God's Word says are going to be hated and despised. Be strong, and know in the end, we win!

Last Month's Aritcle Published

I am pleased to share that last month's Abba's Delight newsletter article "I Am Not a Gay Christian" was picked up by two different ministries for use on their websites, newsletters, and/or FaceBook pages, and was also the featured article in this month's Hope for Wholeness Network's newsletter. If you missed it, here is the link: http://abbasdelight.com/newsletters/ABBAs_Newsletter-Jul_2014.pdf

Responses From You

From a Brother in Louisville: Daniel, that was a powerful newsletter. Blessings.

From a Brother in south central KY: Good letter!

From a ministry leader in CA: Hi, Daniel! Thanks so much for your lead article. I love it—and I'm going to ask you if I can reprint it for my online newsletter next month. It's great and mirrors exactly what I believe. I pray you are doing well.

From an Ohio pastor: Daniel, for me personally, this was the best AD article yet--exceptional in countless ways. Fran's response to you, 21 years ago, was tremendous--profound, gracious, and Godly... And I share those 2 decade old sentiments. Bravo and glory to God! I wondered if you have ever read Rosaria Champagne Butterfield's book, <u>The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely</u> <u>Convert</u>? I read it a year or so ago and it had me in tears more than once. If you haven't read it, I'd be happy to send you a copy. Her personal story of being apprehended by God and ushered into His transformational process is steeped in humility and compassion and yet so Godhonoring. I imagine you've already read it but if not, let me know and I'll put a copy in the mail.

From a Louisville pastor: Great letter bro!

From another Brother in Louisville: This is one of the best explanations I've ever read.

From an Ohio ministry leader: Great article: "I Am Not a Gay Christian."

From one of our Family & Friends Group members: Excellent and timely! I am filing this one for quick future reference.

From a Brother in Lexington, KY: Daniel, appreciated the newsletter, as always. Your willingness to share your testimony, including the account of your past struggles and those who stood with you while you were learning to overcome, is something which I'm sure will help others. I've been meditating in God's infinite love which was demonstrated by the sacrifice of His Only Son. Because of that love, we can no longer look at others or ourselves the same way we did before. That love was revealed to us to reconcile us to God and to transform us into His image, and I think so often we become so familiar with the gospel that we don't fully appreciate the full extent of God's love and how it should affect our lives. Grace and peace.

From yet another Brother in Louisville: Daniel, I enjoyed reading this article. Good information.

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Group: Thursday, August 28, 2014; Thursday, September 11, 2014; Thursday, September 25, 2014

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, September 2, 2014; Tuesday, September 16, 2014; Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Upcoming Events

Abba's Delight will be a Sponsor of the God Transform My City Event-Sunday, Oct 5, 2014- The Great Lawn, Louisville, KY 2:00pm-6:00pm Prayer, Music, Worship. Come out, worship our God, and pray for Kentuckiana. For more information go to: http://www.godtransformmycity.com/about.html

Abba's Delight will be a Sponsor of the Pastor's Appreciation Luncheon-October 9, 2014-Featuring Jim Daly, President & CEO Focus on the Family - The Olmstead at 3701 Frankfort Ave., in Louisville, KY. Go to the following line for tickets: <u>https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wfiapastors-appreciation-lunch-tickets-12547005431</u>

Ongoing Prayer Requests

As always, we covet your prayers for our ministry to grow, financial support to increase, to move forward proclaiming freedom to the captives, and that churches would open their doors to Abba's Delight. Please pray for our ministry participants, our Family & Friends Support Group, our meetings, our conferences, our Board of Directors, and most importantly that many

lives will be touched by the Holy Spirit to draw closer to Jesus, seeking freedom from their bondage.

Thank you to our monthly donors and our one-time givers! Our goal continues to be \$2600/month in donations. If you would like to support Abba's Delight financially, you can mail a check to the P O Box at the top of the newsletter, or you can give online at www.abbasdelight.com

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