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NEWSLETTER – February 2013



An Exodus International Member Ministry

Referral Ministry of ROCK-Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana

**THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4***

### **[The Lord Giveth, and the Lord Taketh Away; Blessed be the Name of the Lord](#)**

Last month, I wrote about being laid off from my job of 15 years, which launched me into taking Abba's Delight ministry into full-time status, and also talked about how the ministry computer crashed and the trial that was, getting it back up and running, and restoring all that was lost. This month, I'll finish telling you about what other of life's realities we have faced in these recent months.

Last spring, I received a phone call from my sister-in-law, Georgia, telling us that my next younger brother, Charlie, had just been diagnosed with kidney cancer. He was given an oral medication that, I believe, was designed to do the same things that chemo would do. At first, it appeared that the medication was working, but then it was decided to remove Charlie's left kidney as the cancer was spreading. It eventually went into his chest, his heart, his arm, and back into the place where his kidney once was. The cancer was spreading quicker than the medicine was working. Just prior to middle of January, the doctors told Charlie and Georgia the cancer had spread to his brain, and they gave him three to four months to live.

All along, Charlie and Georgia were believing the Lord for a miraculous healing. They shared the news with their daughter, Mistaya, and son, Chase, and then with the rest of the family. Charlie called me himself to tell me the news. I determined that I would make the drive to Danville to visit him as often as I could. My first trip was just a few days later. Charlie, Georgia and I spent our time together talking, laughing, crying, praying and reading Scripture. I think that was Charlie's last "good" day. It was a Tuesday. Within just 48 hours, his condition had deteriorated significantly, to the point that I received a call from one of my brothers late Thursday evening that Charlie was not expected to survive through the night. Prayers all over the country continued to be offered for Charlie and his family, and for his extended families.

He did make it through Thursday night, and I was back down to see him on Friday. Many of our family were there, and again I prayed over him and read several passages from Psalms. I left to come home about 4:30 that afternoon. I got the call later that evening just after Charlie died at 9:30pm.

Charlie was a born-again follower of Jesus, as is Georgia. So when he died, he went home to be with Jesus. Charlie got the ultimate healing. Anyone who knew Charlie knew him to be a man who enjoyed life and all the people in his life. Charlie had a way of making fast friends and making everyone around him feel comfortable. Charlie was a loving husband, a devoted father, a respected department manager at the Danville Kroger, a beloved brother, and a treasured son. But most importantly, he was a man who lived to follow Jesus. And that's exactly how he died.

Charlie's services were celebratory. His and Georgia's church family from Rising Son Christian Church in Danville loved and supported the entire Mingo family as we were grieving Charlie. Many from their congregation came to pay their respects at the visitation and attended the funeral. Charlie named his church family as honorary pall bearers. Their pastor gave a wonderful message about the man Charlie was, and one of the younger men in the congregation shared a touching tribute to Charlie, detailing how Charlie's life had significantly impacted him in his walk with the Lord. When everyone had left the funeral home after the service, our family gathered around Charlie as Mom prayed, surrendering Charlie to the Lord's presence.

The Rising Son Christian Church family then hosted the reception at their facility after the services. The Mingos certainly felt very loved and cared for by Charlie and Georgia's spiritual brothers and sisters.

However, Charlie's home-going was only part of what was holding our attentions.

On the afternoon of the day Charlie died, Dad and Mom said their good-byes and went back to Lexington after their visit. I know they realized that was probably the last they'd see Charlie before he passed away. Later that evening, my Dad was having chest pains, and called 911. He and Mom rode to the hospital in an ambulance. It was discovered that Dad suffered a mild heart attack. The following day, a heart catheterization was done, revealing four blocked arteries, three of them 85-90% blocked. Two days later, at 87 years old, Dad underwent quadruple by-pass surgery. It was very successful and Dad's recovery process was great. Five days later, he left the hospital to enter the rehab facility. Seven days after that he went home—only two weeks after the attack. Dad has kept himself in excellent shape over the years. Well into his eighty's, Dad continued playing half-court basketball, line-dancing, and swimming several days a week. This week he will be released to begin driving again, and next

week he'll be able to resume swimming. Not to mention returning to his daily "coffee with the boys" at the local Arby's.

Father has shown his faithfulness to our families over these last few months, just as He has been faithful to us all of our days. He never changes, and His mercies are new every morning. Yes, these months have been challenging, sorrowful and eventful, but they have also been full of Father's expressions of love, care, mercy and grace. He trains us to face whatever He allows to touch us, so that we can serve Him in His kingdom as equipped as possible. Thank You, Father, for Your hand in our lives, and that You are always with us.

### **[Exodus Leaders Reunion](#)**

Earlier this month, I attended a reunion for Exodus International staff, ministry leaders, church affiliate leaders, and professional counselors. It was an exciting time of catching up with those we've not seen for a time, as well as strategizing for the future of our work in the Body of Christ bringing the message of freedom to those whose lives have been impacted by homosexuality. As the landscape of the culture has changed, our efforts in reaching out must adapt so that we remain relevant if we are to have a continued voice in the conversation. This is not an easy task, so now more than ever we must rely on the leading of the Holy Spirit to guide our steps, our conversations, and our connections. Please pray for me, Abba's Delight, and other Exodus association members to that end.

### **[Upcoming Ministry Meetings](#)**

Overcomers Support Group: Thursday, February 28, 2013; Thursday, March 14, 2013; Thursday, March 28, 2013

Family & Friends Support Group: Tuesday, March 5, 2013; Tuesday, March 19, 2013

### **[Upcoming Ministry Conference](#)**

Exodus International Annual Freedom Conference: June 19-22, 2013 Concordia University, Irvine CA. Conference link is active; go to [www.exodusinternational.org](http://www.exodusinternational.org)

### **[Responses From You](#)**

From a fellow Exodus Ministry leader: Glad you're there, Daniel!

From a Brother in Louisville: I pray 2013 is a great year for you and your ministry.

I love hearing feedback from you when you've been blessed either by something you've read or an activity in which we're involved. Your responses, prayers and support mean so much to me and the success of Abba's Delight in being able to fulfill Father's calling in these days.

### **Ongoing Prayer Requests**

Please pray that Father will continue to bring to Abba's Delight those who are ready to surrender themselves to His Lordship in their overcoming journey, and for family/friends impacted by homosexuality so that they can receive support and growth in their own journey with the Lord.

Please pray that the Lord will open up doors of invitation to speak to church staff and congregations so that the message of freedom can reach the Body of Christ. We sent out nearly 250 letters to local churches introducing the ministry, and have had only one or two responses even after placing follow-up phone calls. Our churches have yet to realize how vital Abba's Delight's message is.

Please pray for continued financial support for Abba's Delight. Donations from individuals, churches' missionary fund giving, businesses, and organizations are all welcomed. And your gift is tax-deductible with Abba's Delight's 501(c)3 status.

Thank you for your prayer and financial support.

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***