

# **ABBA'S DELIGHT**

*Established April 2008 Daniel Mingo, Min. Director*

Ministry Newsletter July 2009  
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THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *And turning to the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."*

## **Exodus International 2009 Freedom Conference**

I returned earlier this week from the annual Exodus Freedom Conference, which was held at the serenely beautiful campus of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. Steeped in Christian tradition, this venue seemed the perfect spot for an encounter with Abba Father. I would estimate that nearly a thousand people attended this conference to learn more about Father's love and heart for those overcoming their same-sex attractions and to discover ways to extend Father's love to those who have not yet made the decision to leave the gay life behind.

Exodus International is an umbrella organization consisting of ministries like Abba's Delight, churches that will extend a friendly and inviting atmosphere for overcomers to follow the Lord and become involved in a loving and nurturing community, and professional counselors who will guide and direct strugglers and their families toward wholeness in Jesus.

Speakers at the conference included: Alan Chambers, President of Exodus, who himself came out of homosexuality 17 years ago; Dr Nancy Heche, whose first husband led a secret homosexual life before his death, and is also the mother of actress Anne Heche whose lesbian relationship with Ellen DeGeneres was much publicized in recent years; Dr Paul Meier of the Meier Clinics, a psychiatrist and minister; Pastor Miles McPherson, former football star and Senior Pastor of The Rock Church in San Diego, CA, who also was instrumental in spearheading the passage of Proposition 8 in his state; Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, Executive Director of the National Association of Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), "a scientific, non-profit organization designed to educate the public on the questions surrounding the causes and treatment of same-sex attractions"; and Sy Rogers, an overcomer of homosexuality who is a pastor, international speaker, recording artist and award-winning talk show host.

There were several reasons for me to be at the Conference this year. It is important for me as a ministry leader to stay current on spiritual and social issues concerning homosexuality and the gay lifestyle. I always enjoying networking with other ministry leaders, hearing their stories of personal victory and ministry programs or techniques that have worked for them. I love to meet parents and families/friends of those who are still involved in the gay lifestyle to see the hope they find by coming to a conference such as this one so that they can learn how better to love and relate to their loved ones. It blesses my heart to see courageous pastors and church ministers seeking to know how to create that all-important foundation for their congregants to assist them in leaving their homosexual lifestyles.

Especially exciting for me this year was the privilege of serving on the prayer team for the Conference. After application and selection, I was notified that I would be part of the team. Not only did we get to pray in advance of the conference for the participants, leaders, and Exodus staff, but we also met with the speakers, moderator, worship team and those who shared their testimonies prior to each general session to pray for them. And if that were not blessing enough, the prayer team would then come to the front of the auditorium at the end of each general session and pray for those responding to

whatever invitation was extended by the speaker or the worship leader. Hundreds came forward throughout the week with various requests, desiring Father to meet them at their point of need. And He did—time after time, soul after soul, request after request, need after need. The Holy Spirit moved in situation after situation, restoring, refreshing, healing, renewing, regenerating, redeeming, and forgiving. And He led the prayer team members as we prayed for each individual, depositing in each one's spirit whatever word was appropriate, according to the need of the moment. It was an amazing experience that I hope I will get to repeat at future conferences.

But with all the teachings, workshops and prayers being as good as they were, the one thing that had the greatest impact on me throughout the week was what took place during the times of worship. Seated in the front row of the auditorium with the rest of the prayer team, I would sometimes turn around for moments at a time and view those in the congregation singing to the Lord, many with arms extended toward the heavens, some dancing in place, some weeping, all of them worshipping and adoring their King and Deliverer. I sensed the Lord's pleasure by this sight. I was reminded of the Scripture verses above, telling the story of the woman who fell at Jesus' feet, abandoning her sense of self and overcoming the shame both of her sin and of that which was probably heaped onto her by the religious leaders, coming before Him to bless, anoint and show love to Him. In earlier verses, she is described as an *immoral woman*. It occurred to me how reminiscent of that woman's story is this particular group of overcomers gathering to worship Jesus. These men and women and yes, even teens, who have chosen to leave a lifestyle that is often characterized by immorality, abuse, pain, sickness and even death, have repented from their sin and have begun to realize their sins' significance to Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and His resurrection, so that they can experience eternal life in Christ. Not many others have known the same degree of heartache, rejection and isolation as this group of saints, and to have found love and adoption into Father's family, their joyful display of adoration was so fitting to see. This group is able to love much because truly we have been forgiven much.

### Ministry Goals

Father has been answering our prayers by blessing the ministry with new participants both in our overcomer's program and in our Family and Friends Support Group. As we grow and expand our vision for ministry, we are experiencing His faithfulness and fruitfulness. It is such a good confirmation, knowing that the Holy Spirit is leading and we're on the right track. Please pray that Father will continue to bring in new participants to both groups.

Please continue to pray for us, too, as we are still looking to add a few new Board members. We have six, including myself, and I would like to top out at about eight to ten.

Upon my return from the Exodus Conference, I mailed to the Exodus Regional Director the completed application and fee for Abba's Delight to begin the process of becoming an affiliated Exodus member ministry. We first had to be in existence for at least one year, which passed a few months ago. The next step is to receive an application receipt date, which officially begins the applicant process that extends another year or two with the final result being that Abba's Delight would be named a member ministry---**HOPEFULLY**. There are no guarantees. Please pray for the acceptance, Father's timing, and my patience. Currently, there is no other Exodus affiliated ministry in Kentucky.

### Responses From You

**From a Pastor in Louisville....**"I saw the piece in which the APA now says there is no evidence of a 'gay gene.' You are right, my friend, this is huge. As you know, in addition to my pastoral duties, I work as a clinical social worker/therapist in a secular setting. Many of my colleagues have bought the hype that there is a 'gay gene.' Thanks for giving us the invaluable information."

**From a Dear Sister....**"I hope you and your family have had a wonderful summer so far. I've had you on my heart lately, and have been praying for you and your ministry. I sense in my spirit that we need to cover our Christian family with prayer more than ever. So I pray today a hedge of protection for you, your family, and ministry."

### With Grateful Appreciation

I want to thank all of you who have been praying for the ministry, for me as its leader, for our participants and support groups, and for our goals to be realized. We have been a ministry for almost 16 months, and in that time we have established an overcomers support group, a family and friends support group, become a 501c3 KY corporation, set up a bank account, opened a P O Box, established a working Board of Directors, elected officers, and approved ministry By-laws. With one speaking engagement passed, we desire to see more opportunities for them so that the word of Father's healing power to overcome homosexuality can be spread and more people set free from our enemy's bondage. Please continue to pray as the Lord lays our ministry on your hearts.

Thank you also, to those of you who have continued to give financially to the ministry. Your tax-deductible contributions make it possible for us to carry on the work Father has called us to do. All contributions go towards ministry expenses. No one, including myself, takes a salary for the work done in Abba's Delight. And in this difficult economic time, your gifts of love and support mean more than ever. Thank you again for your sacrifice and investment.

**If you do not wish to receive the Abba's Delight ministry's Newsletter any longer, please let me know. If you wish to continue to receive it, please be certain to put our email address into your address book, so that this does not go to your spam file 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***