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Daniel Mingo, Ministry Director

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NEWSLETTER – July 2013

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Rom. 1:16*

[The Media Came Knockin'](#)

Last month, even before the final Exodus Conference was over, I had received a phone call from a reporter with The Leo Weekly, a liberal newspaper published here in Louisville. In 10 years of ministry, no media organization has ever initiated contact with me at all. But now with Exodus closing, here was one on my doorstep. His voice mail message said that he wanted to ask me some questions for an article he was writing about the closing of Exodus. When I returned home, I emailed him to let him know that I would be willing to answer questions by email for his article. As it turned out, he only used a couple of quotes for the article itself, but did post the entire interview on the Leo website. So, this month, I am sharing that interview with you in its entirety, just as he did on the website. Write back and share your thoughts!

Take a Chance on Me: An “ex-gay” affiliate chats with LEO

In this week's LEO we spoke with Daniel Mingo, director of Abba's Delight, the ministry the helps homosexuals live their entire lives in forced chastity with the help of Jesus, just as he would have wanted. You know, instead of doing what is natural, perhaps even forming a lifelong bond with someone you love. Sounds so entirely healthy, no?

Since it's not every day that I get to speak to someone who uses The Lord to repress the natural sexual urges of the “sexually broken” — all out of the Christian goodness of their heart — we figured we'd post the entire interview here. Enjoy?

LEO: What did you think of Exodus International's decision last week to shut down and offer an apology to the gay community?

Daniel Mingo: First, thank you, Joe, for taking an interest in this matter, and for contacting me for this interview. In the long run, I think the decision to shut down is for the best, going forward. But it is also bittersweet. Exodus has been a lifeboat for nearly four decades to thousands who have been helped to mature along their Christian journey, while others have been troubled by the organization's message. In today's culture, that dynamic is true of many churches and para-church organizations. Exodus will certainly be missed, but I do not see its closure as a defeat its supporters, or a win for its detractors, but rather an end to a long road that leads to other possible avenues for the future of ministries who are available to those who seek their assistance. I believe there has been a definite need for an apology to the gay community, and since the Church unfortunately has been unable to find its way there, I'm glad the step was taken.

LEO: You noted that there was a need for an apology to the gay community, and that unfortunately the Church has not found their way there. What specifically — in your own words — is the apology for, and what specific actions should the church take to "find their way there"?

DM: In my opinion, and I am neither a pastor nor a scholar, the Church does not need to apologize for presenting the Truth of the Gospel: that everyone who has ever been born is a sinner, that we are all in need of a Savior to pay the ransom for those sins, and that Jesus Christ is the one and only Savior who, by His death and resurrection, paid the price for everyone who has ever lived; when an individual accepts this Truth in his/her life, the salvation experience begins. This is the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What I believe the Church does need to apologize for is the methods some of its Christians have used to communicate that Good News. The gay community has been hurt by the Church-at-large, and I believe is due an apology for those hurts and those methods.

LEO: As an affiliate of Exodus, how will this decision affect Abba's Delight? Abba's Delight will continue in ministry as we have for several years. Though we have maintained an affiliation with Exodus, all of the Exodus ministries have operated autonomously.

LEO: Who and how many people do you serve at Abba's? What does this service consist of, specifically?

DM: Abba's Delight ministers to Christians who only initiate contact with us. We offer discipleship, support and training to those who see their lives incompatible with Biblical teaching on sexuality, and who desire to align themselves in Christ with God's created design for its expression. Also, we also offer encouragement and support to family members, loved ones, or spouses of someone who is gay or same-sex attracted, teaching them to love those individuals unconditionally without sacrificing Biblical truth. Additionally, we are equipped to work with Christian churches, coming alongside pastors and church staff, helping them to provide a safe and welcoming environment within their own congregations for those along this journey.

LEO: Are you the only group doing "ex-gay" therapy (if that's the right terminology) in Louisville/KY, or are there others?

DM: Abba's Delight is a discipleship-driven ministry, and there is no licensed professional counselor on staff. As such, it is not a substitute for psychiatric treatment, psychotherapy, therapeutic counseling or any other form of therapy, in general or otherwise. When the need arises, Abba's Delight does have referral resources available to those who participate in our ministry. As far as I know, Abba's Delight is the only ministry in the Louisville/So. IN area which offers what we do.

LEO: Can you give a rough estimate of the number of people you serve/minister to yearly? You mentioned that you only minister to those who contact you, but do parents ever send their child to you for ministry/service if he/she has same-sex attraction or behavior?

DM: Joe, I am going to decline to answer the first part of this question. Regarding parents sending their children to Abba's Delight for ministry, I have worked with teens over the years, but only those teens who themselves want assistance. When parents have brought children who are not interested in what Abba's Delight offers, I have recommended they not force the issue, and then have offered to serve the parents in helping them to communicate God's love to their children in ways the child can receive it.

LEO: As far as the techniques or goals for those you serve with same-sex attractions — Is the objective to prevent/discourage them from having same-sex attractions, or to prevent/discourage them from acting out on those attractions? Or both?

DM: The goal of Abba's Delight in ministry is to provide opportunities through a relationship with Jesus Christ for our ministry participants to grow in faith, in Biblical understanding of their heavenly Father's will for their lives, and in maturity as each one lives to become more perfectly

conformed to the image of Jesus. While the main point of the person's initial contact is their request for us to address their homosexuality issues with them, we quickly let them know that we are not here to turn them from gay to straight, and not here to change their attractions. We tell them we are here to point them towards Jesus and to learn to live the Biblical standard of a sexually pure life whether they are married or single. We disciple the whole person. We tell the same things to loved ones who come, as well as to the parents/teens. We are intentional about not giving false hopes or expectations.

LEO: Have you experienced any pushback on the direction Exodus (and perhaps Abba's, too?) has taken over the last few years from Christians who prefer a more confrontational/combatative approach with homosexuality?

DM: No, we just don't hear from them.

LEO: Where did the name "Abba's Delight" come from?

DM: Glad you asked! During the time I was putting the ministry together, the main impression I had was that this was to be a ministry that conveys God the Father's love to everyone who comes to us. So, when it came time to address the name for the ministry, what came to me was the name "Abba's Delight." Abba means "Daddy." Daddy's Delight. Because many who have experienced same gender attractions have felt abandoned and hated by God, (partly, and sadly, due to the whole "God hates fags!" thing that an unfortunate faction of the Church has promoted) I was seeking a name that addressed that specific point. I believe Abba's Delight perfectly fits the purpose, and ministry participants get it! God does not hate them. In fact, the Bible tells us that there is nothing in the world that can ever separate us from His love, and that He longs to be in relationship with each one of us.

LEO When did you get into this line of work? Did it begin with Abba's Delight in 2008, or had you done this work previously?

DM: 10 years ago, with another ministry based elsewhere.

LEO: Did your own views on this type of service/ministry/therapy for those with same sex attraction evolve in recent years (such as Exodus and Chambers have expressed publicly over the past few years), or have you always felt this way (as expressed in your answers)?

DM: My basic views have remained the same.

LEO: I spoke today with a young man from Louisville who says that as a teenager (2004-2009) he was subjected to porn and electroshock therapy (shocked while watching gay porn, not shocked while watching straight porn) as a way to cure him of same sex attraction. He says that the Church officials who subjected him to this were affiliated with Exodus (not you or Abba's Delight, which he has never heard of). I wonder what your thoughts are on that kind of treatment specifically, and if you've ever come across anyone who practices or advocates this?

DM: I do not practice any therapy, since I'm not a therapist, and I have never met anyone either who has practiced it or who has been the recipient of it.

Responses From You

From a ministry leader in CA: Hi Daniel! Thanks for your very thorough remarks about Exodus. I appreciate you and all you are doing for God's Kingdom! We are at a strange place in ex-gay ministry, but I believe God works even in the toughest of circumstances. Many blessings to you, my friend.

From a Pastor in SC: Great article and attitude. I appreciate that.

From a Pastor in OK: Thanks Daniel for your hard work in such a well written newsletter and the overview you gave of the Exodus Conference and controversy. Thank you also for your continued ministry which is so needed....Grace and peace to you and Fran.

From a Pastor in Louisville: Good newsletter.

From a Brother in Lexington: Daniel, Thanks for keeping us up to speed with what's going on with the disbanding of the Exodus organization. From the outside looking in, it is rather disappointing if not disconcerting to see one of the chief ministries involved in outreach to those dealing with same-sex attraction close its doors. On the other hand, having been part a church network which disbanded in the past, I recognize that there are times when certain patterns or approaches to ministry can outlive their usefulness, and we need to patiently wait for God to bring new things to life. Hope all is well. I have many other thoughts running through my head on all this, but I will save them for another time.

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Group: Thursday, August 1, 2013; Thursday, August 15, 2013; Thursday, August 29, 2013

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, August 6, 2013; Tuesday, August 20, 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

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

[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. Our churches have yet to realize how vital the Lord's message through Abba's Delight 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 needed (both one-time and monthly commitments) to continue providing ministry to those in crisis. And your gifts are tax-deductible with Abba's Delight's 501(c)3 status.

Thank you for your prayers 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