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NEWSLETTER – March 2013



An Exodus International Member Ministry

Referral Ministry of ROCK-Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana

**THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *And of the sons of Issachar, men who understood (knew the meaning of) the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsman were at their command. 1 Chron. 12:32***

### [Understanding The Times](#)

From the moment I became born again 43 years ago, I have been hearing “we are in the last days.” Literalist that I was, I took that to mean any day now Jesus would be coming back. I, and everyone else I knew at the time, was so sure I’d be hearing at any moment that trumpet blast announcing His return, that it became a primary reason I didn’t finish college to get a degree. After all, who needs a degree in heaven!

After all this time, Jesus still has not made His second appearance (at least, I don’t think I missed it!), so the Church awaits, albeit more anxiously at some times than at others, His return. There’s hardly a day goes by that I’m not reading about some sign of the time that continues to indicate the Bride should be in readiness for her Groom. It always seems imminent. Yet, comparing what’s taking place in our present-day culture with where the Church is in its response to the times, it hardly seems like we’re anywhere close to being ready. This is unfortunate! Maybe the Church can learn some things from the tribe of Issachar to equip ourselves better, that we may have a greater influence and impact on our culture “in these last days.”

We don’t know a great deal about Issachar and his tribe. He was the ninth of Jacob’s sons, the fifth he had with Leah. However, In Moses’ blessing over the tribes, he speaks over Issachar, “And of Zebulun he said, ‘Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going forth, and Issachar, in your tents. They shall call peoples to the mountain; there they shall offer righteous sacrifices; for they shall draw out the abundance of the seas, and the hidden treasures of the sand.’” Deut. 33:18,19 This passage seems to compliment well the meditation passage above, speaking to the calling and value of Issachar’s tribe’s contribution to their culture.

As the Body of Christ on earth, if we are to be of any relevance to the culture, if we are to achieve and maintain any influence over it towards holy righteousness, we must understand the times. And, as the old Bob Dylan song tells us, “The times, they are a-changin’.” To me, that means the Church must be willing to change the nuances and methods of our presentation of the Good News, as well! And therein lies the rub! It seems, overall, we have gotten stuck in our ruts. Different denominations believe different doctrines and create different customs from one another, and actively teach that others’ relationships to God are wrong, in error, or

no longer valid past the days of the apostle-led early church. Biblical unity among the brethren has nearly become a thing of the past, as we pick apart other groups' dynamics. I don't see where the Colossian Church criticized the Corinthians for their carnality and the need to be taught about loving God's way. Or where the Church at Rome (with that city's great military empire) chastised the Ephesians for not knowing about the armor of God metaphor.

Though it has become grossly cliché-ish, considering "What would Jesus do?" may not a bad beginning to bringing about the re-shift the Church needs to make again to regain the cultural relevancy it once had. I have no doubt that each group would put forth a different version of what that looks like in understanding the times. But I think that's OK. Everyone responds in different ways to different methods, so we don't all have to be the same.

What we do need to do, though, is stop criticizing one denomination over another, stop idolizing certain congregations and leaders, stop labeling other groups as heretics or "preaching a different gospel" because we happen to disagree with their style or methods or how they are inclusive of those we don't accept, stop being threatened by another church's accomplishments. Rather, we can explore outside our denominational walls, welcome joint ministry with other expressions of Christianity, pray **for** one another, pray **with** one another, embrace para-church ministries which may have anointing and expertise beyond our congregational experience, make it just as important in our own lives to put on a heart of a disciple who learns as it is to carry the heart of a teacher who instructs. If we can do these things and more, maybe the unchurched culture will begin to see the Church's relevance again. Maybe they will again say, as was said about the early Church, "See how they love one another," instead of noting how we snipe at one another. The narrow way to the Father, the Door, is Jesus. About that, there can be no diversity. We don't need to make the methods of making disciples as narrow as we have up 'til now. The Holy Spirit is a big God; He can handle the task. The question is, "Is the Church up for the task?" We'll see.

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

Overcomers Support Group: Thursday, March 28, 2013; Thursday, April 11, 2013; Thursday, April 25, 2013

Family & Friends Support Group: Tuesday, April 2, 2013; Tuesday, April 16, 2013; Tuesday, April 30, 2013

#### [Upcoming Ministry Conferences](#)

Exodus International Annual Freedom Conference: June 19-22, 2013 Concordia University, Irvine, CA Conference Theme: True Story Go to [www.exodusinternational.org](http://www.exodusinternational.org)

Hope Gathering 2013: July 13, 2013 Gateway Fellowship Church Hockley, TX. Contact 814-598-4952 or [help4families2004@yahoo.com](mailto:help4families2004@yahoo.com). Download your registration form at [www.help4families.com](http://www.help4families.com)

### Responses From You

From a Pastor in OH: Very sorry to hear about the loss of your brother. I pray God ministers His comfort to you and your family in this season of loss. Oh to see what your Bro is seeing right now! I understand the worship services in the Church Triumphant are pretty spectacular! With all our love and sympathy....

From a former Pastor and Ministry Leader in CA: I just finished reading your newsletter. I really understand the paradox of God's rich blessing and presence in the midst of sorrow and trial. As long as we live in this fallen world that will ever be the case. His presence sustains us and far outweighs the trial but that is not always felt. Hang in there with contacting the churches...homosexuality is an uncomfortable topic for them. I believe that God will lead you to the partners who are supposed to work with you.

### 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 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***