

ABBA'S DELIGHT

Established April 2008 Daniel Mingo, Min. Director

An Exodus International Applicant Ministry

Ministry Newsletter May/June 2010

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THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his fellow. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up! Ecc. 4:9,10*

Every One Of Us Needs To Be A Disciple

On Saturday mornings for the last ten years, I have attended a support group for born-again men who are in recovery for sexual addiction. Yes, even Bible-believing, Spirit-filled men of God battle lust, and some of us have stronger emotional ties to it than others. Isn't that right, guys? In our groups, and in many others like ours, we have come to realize that we have used sex as a medicine or drug to help us escape the pain(s) of life, much the same way as alcoholics, nicotine addicts, drug abusers, comfort-eaters, workaholics, etc. escape into their addictive worlds.

You may be thinking, "Daniel, why don't you just pray about it? Have you fasted about the problem? Ask the Lord to take this away. Submit yourself to deliverance ministry. Have more faith." While all of these suggestions are wonderful in themselves, and all of them Biblical approaches, they are just not enough. If they alone worked, I would have been free decades ago. So would the hundreds of other men whom I've encountered along the way these last ten years who have drifted in and out of our group. Through continued prayer and exercising my growing faith, I have made great strides in overcoming the power this addiction had over me in years past, but it is simply not enough. When I asked the Lord to take it away, one of the things He told me was, "I have the power to take it away, but I want you to give it up." His miraculously taking it away, and me giving it up are two very, very different concepts. And finally, deliverance ministry breaks the power over the compulsivity of the addictive behaviors in a person, but it does not affect the emotional or soul ties to those behaviors, and the results of those behaviors in our beings. We need more if we are to be truly healed. Sometimes Jesus healed people miraculously on the spot. But there are different Greek words used for "healing" in the New Testament, a couple of which suggest a process or progression of healing. One of these words is **therapeuo**, from which we get the words therapy and therapeutic—an ongoing process.

So this week's meeting was no different. As we were going through our workbook study, (there are Biblically-based workbook curricula available to assist in the recovery process) our discussion turned towards what is the best way to effectively combat the triggers in our lives that tend to draw us as Christian men and addicts back into the

throws of our addiction, and obviously away from the Lord. Some of the approaches I have mentioned above were thrown into the discussion as things helpful. Another was allowing Father's transformation in our lives to take place by the renewing of our minds, with particular emphasis on the written Word of God as the main tool to accomplish this. But our final conclusion that we came to in our discussions as being the most effective tool that the Lord uses in our lives for recovery boils down to discipleship.

Having another person who is farther along in their journey to walk along side someone else serves best to assist an overcoming addict in his/her recovery process. Nowadays, the work "mentoring" is often used. Either way, the principle is the same. You have a teacher and a disciple, a trainer and a trainee, an advisor and an advisee, a counselor and a counselee, and so on. Our meditation passage above is very applicable in this context. Two souls along the same journey are able to help the other up if one falls, and seeing the dangers of not having another to assist them along the way. James 5:16 states that when we confess our sins to one another and pray for one another, we are healed, (this is one of the times a progressive word for healing is used) and that the effective prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much. Think of how much can be accomplished in prayer this way, when the righteous ones praying know first hand of the struggles and dangers that can befall us. Praying from personal knowledge can always give us a leg up.

I am so thankful Father has given me these marvelous comrades with whom I get to walk out this aspect of my salvation. In this process, there are some to whom I look towards for strength and support, and there are others who look to me for the same. I've often said that Father doesn't have me on this healing journey just so I can be a swell guy before I leave the earth to go to be with Him. He has invested Himself in me in this way because there are others who are coming behind me in this journey who will benefit from my experiences, and then they will pass it along themselves as they mature in their journeys to those who will come behind them. 2 Corinthians 1:3,4 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all of our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

Who has Father brought into your life to whom you can look for strength, encouragement, support and comfort? Every one of us needs to be a disciple; you don't have to be an addict in recovery for that to be in place in your life. The great commission is about making disciples, and that doesn't stop after our initial commitment to Jesus. Are you willing to be discipled by someone farther along life's journey than yourself?

And who has He put in your life looking to you for those same things? Are you willing to give of yourself in this way? We were not created to be isolated from one another. We were created to be in families, in community with each other. All believers make up the Body of Christ, and each of us must find our place in the Body to serve and our roles in the Body in which to function. Have you found yours, and are you influencing those around you for the Kingdom as you are called to do?

Successful Seminar

The May 22nd Hope Gathering 2010 at Church of the Savior in Nicholasville, KY was a great success. There were about 60 people in attendance, experiencing wonderful worship, life-transforming testimonies, and excellent teaching on Gender Identity Disorder and the Roots of Homosexuality. Abba's Delight was present exhibiting the ministry, which provided a great opportunity meeting new people and some ministry. Thank you to Stewart Thompson, staff Counseling Pastor, for the invitation to participate.

Responses From You

From a Brother in Louisville (one of my marvelous comrades): Please keep sending me these updates....I want you to know how proud I am to know you, and how proud I am of your ministry. You are greatly loved and greatly appreciated.

Another Brother in Louisville: That's a great newsletter. We were in Charlotte, NC over this past weekend, and a pastor there spoke about accepting others such as homosexuals, rather than condemning them, because if we don't welcome them or befriend them, we will never reach them for the Lord. He said he will welcome all homosexuals into his church because he wants them to hear that the Lord cares about them....Keep pressing on and remember we are on a journey that never ends until we are welcomed home in heaven.

Financial Support of Abba's Delight

We are still looking for individuals or organizations willing to support Abba's Delight with a monthly contribution for a period of one year. Any amount you can do will be gladly accepted and appreciated. Your one-time gifts are welcomed as well, and all contributions are tax deductible. Please give prayerful consideration to helping Abba's Delight carry the word of hope for freedom to those struggling with unwanted same sex attractions. Your gift can be mailed to the P O Box at the top of this newsletter.

Exodus International Conferences

I leave on Sunday, June 20th for the Exodus Conferences in Irvine, CA. The leaders' conference begins on the 21st, followed by the annual Freedom Conference, and then on the last day, Exodus will host a Love Won Out Conference. I will be back in Louisville on Sunday night, June 27th. Please pray for the trip, the staff, the attendees and for the Spirit of God to move powerfully over all of the proceedings. I am privileged again to be serving on the prayer team, which I am really looking forward to doing.

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 your our email address in your address book, so that this mailing does not go to your spam file and report to your carrier. The email is danielmingo.abbasdelight@insightbb.com

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.