

# **ABBA'S DELIGHT**

*Established April 2008 Daniel Mingo, Min. Director*

An Exodus International Member Ministry

Ministry Newsletter May 2011

P O Box 991752 Louisville, KY 40269

A Referral Ministry of ROCK

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living...for this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.*

*Luke 15:13,24*

## **"Out of a Far Country"**

Maybe a month or two ago, I'm not really certain, I went to the ministry P O Box one day to see if anything was there. Inside the box was a larger-than-normal envelope from a publishing company. I didn't remember ordering anything, but I supposed it was a book of some kind, judging from the size and weight of the package. As I opened up the envelope, I discovered I had been sent an advance copy of the new book "Out of a Far Country." The authors are Christopher and Angela Yuan, a son and mother whom I'd met several years ago with husband and father Leon Yuan, when they all shared their testimonies at an Exodus International Freedom Conference.

I brought the book home and showed it to Fran, who began reading it pretty much immediately and, I think, had it finished in just a few days. I, on the other hand, and anyone who knows me well can back this up, took a while to get into it. I'd read a few pages here and there, which was pretty typical for me. Over the years, I've accumulated several started books that I've never gotten around to finishing. This was nothing against the Yuans or any other author for that matter; I'm just not a big reader. It's all I can do to be in the Word every day.

But this book was different for me. I found my opening to begin reading it again a couple of weeks ago on the day of the primary elections in KY. Being a poll worker, I was tied to the precinct location from 5:15am to at least 6:00pm. Because voter turnout was so light that day, I was able to finish the book by early afternoon. I just couldn't put it down. "Out of a Far Country" is an amazing story.

It is the story of a son's rebellion: to God, to his parents, to his heritage, to the establishment, and of his journey into the gay life and culture.

It is the story of a mother's hopes and dreams shattered as she watches, seemingly helpless to intervene, her son making bad choice after bad choice, destroying the privileged life she knows he is capable of having.

It is the story of Father's unfolding plan and purpose for a beloved son, to bring him back home from his prodigal ways, where he has sunk to the deepest imaginable levels of existence, even while indulging in a life of decadence and excess.

It is the story of Father's unfolding plan and purpose for a treasured daughter who, for the first time, discovers why she is sought for and apprehended by God.

It is the story of Father revealing to these two individuals the prison that each was in, and then finding freedom in Him to become the son/man Christopher was destined to be, and for Angela to become the daughter/wife/mother she was called to become.

It is the story of recognizing that Father's ways are not our ways, His thoughts are not our thoughts, and His solutions are not anywhere close to how we think things should be fixed.

It is the story of discovery: of the power of fasting, of persistent prayer, and of Father's will.

It is a story of rebellion, betrayal, pride, arrogance, and shame.

But it is also a story of God's repentance, redemption, forgiveness, revelation, healing, love, transformation, deliverance, restoration, inheritance, humility, Godly sexuality, and probably a bazillion other things yet for me to discover.

"Out of a Far Country" is a book I will gladly add to the Abba's Delight ministry library, and one that I will most definitely read again. I strongly recommend you obtain a copy of this wonderful and inspiring story, and then tell your friends about it, so they can purchase their own copies, or you can give one as a gift.

Included in the book is a study guide at the end of the story that can be utilized for small groups over an 8 week period, or customize it to fit your own situation.

It is published by WaterBrook Press. The forward is by Kay Warren, Co-Founder of Saddlebrook Church and of the HIV/AIDS Initiative there. The book went on sale to the public as of May 3, 2011, so you can go to [Booksellers@WaterbrookMultnomah.com](mailto:Booksellers@WaterbrookMultnomah.com) to order by email or phone 800-733-3000.

### **Upcoming Ministry Meetings**

Overcomers Support Group: Thursday, June 2, 2011; Thursday, June 16, 2011; Thursday, June 30, 2011

Family & Friends Support Group: Tuesday, June 7, 2011; Tuesday, June 21, 2011

### **Upcoming Ministry Events**

**36th Exodus International Annual Freedom Conference**

June 8-11, 2011

Ridgecrest Retreat Center

Ashville, NC  
Contact info: 888-264-0877  
conference @exodusinternational.org

### **“Reconciliation” Movie Public Showing**

Abba’s Delight is working to present a public showing of the film here in Louisville sometime this summer. We will keep you posted as specifics become available. Please pray for this endeavor and for the spiritual warfare that would surround it. We are getting closer to announcing a date. Go to [www.reconciliationmovie.com](http://www.reconciliationmovie.com) for information about the film.

### **Responses From You**

All of the feedback this month is in response to last month’s article, “You Can Shy Away, But You’ll Miss Part of Your Calling,” concerning the church-at-large’s responsibility to love into the kingdom the gay community and those struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions.

From a pastor in SC:

A really great article, Daniel. It spoke to the heart of the church issue very well. When I was pastor in Raleigh we actually walked 4 guys through the process. We saw two of them go on to great freedom and successful marriages. The thing that blessed me is the way the men in our church stood with these men. I remember how blessed I was when one of the men stood in a men’s meeting and shared his struggles, and how all the men, rather than withdrawing, ran to him and surrounded him with prayer, love, and support. It was a testimony to the relational commitments of the church in those days.

Again, I thought the article in this newsletter was really very good.

From an overcomer:

Excellent post, Daniel. I couldn’t agree with you more concerning “A consistent godly influence in a person’s life is the best teacher and evangelist”. Don’t tell me how I am supposed to live my life or how I’m supposed to deal with the struggles and sin that I am burdened with. Show me how it is done by example. We as Christ followers that have been delivered from same sex attraction need to mentor those that are trying to come out of the lifestyle/still battling same sex attraction.

I also agree with your statement about how the church has contributed to the problem. And I agree, it is the church that is going to have to bring about the change needed to make people with same sex attractions feel welcome in our places of worship. I'm not saying to sugar coat the issue of the sin, but we need to find a common ground where we convey the truth of what sin is and the reasons for the sin. I think it's important to stress the fall of man and the total depravity of man. Most gay people will tell you they were born that way and that is a tough statement to refute. Until the homosexual struggler realizes that they are a sinner and need to turn away and repent they will be hard to reach. I can tell you in my own life that it was not me that turned away from the lifestyle it was after God called me and then my eyes were opened to the sin in my life. Sorry for the rambling on and on but I wanted to share my thoughts on your post. Thank you, Daniel, for your dedication to Abba's Delight and for being the role model that we all need.

From a CA brother:

Daniel, Keep up the good work. Your writing is easy to read.

From a Brother in my home church:

Daniel, Thank you for your courageous newsletter! Love you, man, and I am praying for you and your family right now.

From an Exodus Ministry Leader:

Daniel, Great article. Right on bro'. Hope I'll see you at Ridgecrest.

From an IN overcomer:

Daniel, Very, very good newsletter... it gave me a reminder of what I'm supposed to be doing.

### **Financial Support of Abba's Delight**

As every month, I am thanking each of you who has contributed financially to Abba's Delight. I believe your support of our ministry to those impacted by homosexuality is of eternal value, as well as the help it is on an everyday basis to meet our ministry expenses. We thank you for each individual gift and for each

monthly commitment. If anyone wishes to be a monthly contributor, please contact me either by email or by phone to establish your pledge.

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*