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NEWSLETTER –May 2013



An Exodus International Member Ministry

Referral Ministry of ROCK-Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana

**THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me..." John 10:27***

### [Knowing the Voice of the Master](#)

Growing up in my family, we never had a pet; we had kids—seven of them. That was my Dad's reason for us never having a dog. When I got married and had kids of my own, I always told them we would get one when we could afford it. You might be thinking that having a pet is like having kids, in that if you wait until you can afford one, it will never happen. But, eventually it did happen for us, except it wasn't until our sons were grown and at least one of them had already moved out, and another was already planning his move away from the nest.

It's been about a year since we got Judah, our black Lab-mix. We're not exactly sure what he's mixed with. We got him through one of the PetSmart locations across the river in Indiana, after he wound up there having been displaced from his unknown home, following one of the tornadoes that came through Indiana last year. Fran fell in love with him right away; it took me some time to warm up to him. It wasn't that I disliked him; I just didn't know how to act, having never been around dogs much. But I have grown to love Judah, have learned his personality, and have picked up a few basics of being his "master."

This morning after Fran had come home from work and gone to sleep, I was in my office, and Judah wandered in to check on me, I guess to make sure I hadn't run off and left him alone. Usually, when he does that, I ask him if he wants to go outside. If he does, his response is either one of two things: he gets excited and starts jumping around, or he rears back on his hind legs and extends his front legs in front of himself in a long stretch. That's his "let me out of here" signal. Occasionally he'll do a shortened version of both. This morning he opted for the stretch. As I was walking towards the door to let him out into the back yard, the Lord said, "This is how I like it when you are with Me."

We've often wondered if Judah truly knows what we are saying to him, or about him. Fran says that when he wants to ignore us, he makes this face where he looks directly at us and opens his mouth really, really wide in what appears to be a yawn, as if he's bored with us or what we're telling him. If we've given him a command, he usually obeys only after the yawn, as if he's letting us know beforehand exactly what he thinks of our idea. But then there are those times when he's super slow to eat anything all day, and I'll say to him, "I'll give you a treat after

you eat.” (Didn’t our parents tell us that when we were kids?) He generally ignores me in his immediate response, but then within a few minutes, he’s scarfing down his Alpo as if there’s no tomorrow.

And isn’t that just how we are with the Lord? Or, is it only me? I have had to train and discipline myself to listen for the Lord’s voice, to know His direction, to discern His leading from my own, or satan’s. It is a path I’m still travelling. Just as Judah came to me this morning, I must present myself to Jesus to hear what He will say to me. When Judah heard my voice and what I was saying, he knew where we were headed and responded with his familiar stretch. When I hear the Lord’s voice, I want my response to be positive and one with which He’s familiar.

One of the meanings for the Greek word “hear” in the above passage from John is to listen with understanding. One way this has helped me to hear the Lord’s voice over the last forty-plus years is to develop that throughout-the-day, ongoing, moment-by-moment conversation with Him, so that I can practice discerning which of the constant voices I hear is His. (Admit it! You hear voices, too.) But He also uses other methods for me to hear Him, such as His Word, both written (logos) and spoken (rhema). And there are times, as well, when He’ll speak through other people, and I have to be careful to be listening closely, especially in what I would consider to be the most unlikely of situations, or from the most unlikely of sources. Remember, He did use a donkey that one time to speak to Balaam. He could do it again; it could happen!

I always want to be postured as a sheep of His hand to hear His voice and follow Him, trusting His leadership. I want to be confident in His word that I am safely heading in the right direction, down His path, not having wandered off onto a different, and possibly more dangerous, way. His promise above is that when I hear His voice, He will know me, and I will be following Him. There is no better place or situation for me, and I know He is faithful.

### [Responses From You](#)

This is a feature of the Newsletter that I normally include, but the last couple of months there have been no responses, so either no one is reading the newsletter (which would be really distressing) or what I’m writing is really boring and not worthy of a response (which would also be pretty distressing). Tell me what you like, what you don’t like, what blessed you, what you disagreed with, what made you laugh or cry. Responses are posted anonymously, so please, **have at it!**

### [Upcoming Ministry Meetings](#)

Overcomers Support Group: Thurs, June 6, 2013; Thursday, June 20, 2013 **CANCELLED** due to the Exodus Freedom Conference; Thurs, July 4, 2013 **CANCELLED due to Independence Day**

Family & Friends Support Group: Tuesday, June 11, 2013; Tuesday, June 25, 2013

### [Upcoming Ministry Conferences](#)

Exodus International Annual Freedom Conference: June 19-22, 2013 Concordia University, Irvine, CA Conference Theme: True Story Register: [www.ExodusFreedom.org](http://www.ExodusFreedom.org) **Scholarships Available**

Hope Gathering 2013: July 13, 2013 Gateway Fellowship Church in Hockley, TX Contact 814-5984952 or [help4families2004@yahoo.com](mailto:help4families2004@yahoo.com) Download your registration form at [www.help4families.com](http://www.help4families.com)

### [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 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 to continue providing ministry to those in crisis. 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***