

# **ABBA'S DELIGHT**

*Established April 2008 Daniel Mingo, Min. Director*

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THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Then on that day David first assigned Asaph and his relatives to give thanks to the Lord. Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders (wonderful acts). I Chron. 16:7-9.*

## **Season of Thanksgiving?**

Growing up, I was not one who would readily say "Thank you" to someone who had done something for me, or shown me a kindness. It certainly wasn't from a lack of training; my parents, especially my Dad, would regularly remind me to be grateful and to thank people who had gone out of their way to be of some kind of service to me and my family. Whether I was the recipient of a gift or a ride or a favor done, I would always be asked if I had said "Thank you." Most of the time I would say that I had offered that proper response, even when it wasn't true.

Somewhere along the way of life, my Dad's words began taking root and growing in me. Looking back now, I suspect the change began to take place slowly when I first surrendered my life to the Lord and became born again. I caught a glimpse of the sacrifice Jesus paid for my/our sins, and Father began developing in me a thankful heart, first toward Him and then branching out from there to others. Much later, I began to realize through the Scriptures that God desires in me a life poised toward Him in thankfulness, not just the occasional "Thank you" spoken in response to one of those kindnesses or provisions, and especially not only during the Thanksgiving holiday we celebrate now every year as a nation.

One of Father's family traits I want to be known for is being a man who has a thankful heart. I desire to cultivate a life of gratefulness regardless of my daily circumstances. I want to be found in thankfulness in my personal life, at work, in ministry. I always want to remember Who is my source, and my strength and to be thankful to Him. I desire to be faithful in thanking God for what I do have, not being discontent about what I don't have.

And I have further realized that Father does not want me to be silent in my thanksgiving. The passage above encourages us to "make known His deeds among the peoples," as we express our thanks to Him with spoken words and songs.

So today I take this opportunity to declare to you my thankfulness to my Father for sending Jesus as the sacrifice for the sin of the world (of which I believe I am personally responsible for about 50% of the total); I am thankful for the Holy Spirit leading and guiding my life in His truth; I am grateful for being saved out of a life of sexual addiction and homosexuality, and for sobriety; I am thankful to Father for creating me a male (because I wasn't always happy about that) and for having come to the place in my life where I have seen masculinity restored in areas the enemy had stolen from me—an ongoing process; I am grateful that Father called me to be a husband and father, and I am grateful for my wife Fran and our twenty-five years together, and for my sons Isaac, Sam, and Joel with whom the Lord has blessed me (He has used them all greatly in that restoring process); I am thankful for the two church families in which the Lord has planted my natural family over the years—the lines have truly fallen to us in pleasant places; I am

grateful to Father for ministry after many years of being on the shelf and fearing I would never be productive for His Kingdom; I am thankful for the lives of men Father brought into my life to influence me towards righteousness, and for the lives of men whom the Lord has allowed me to influence as I have been; I am grateful for my career in credit and collections that has spanned thirty years; I am grateful for the Body of Christ and how I am realizing more and more that we have so far to go in learning from the Spirit how to relate to, encourage, support, and care for one another.

Let's face it! There is enough in our lives by Father's hand that should cause us to express our thankfulness "without ceasing." May we always be found with a grateful heart as we live to serve our King!

### Responses from You

**From** one of my buddies in Indiana, he writes, "I like the newsletter so far...not too long or not too short...it's just right."

**From** SK in response to October's Shame vs. Guilt, "Yes, shame can certainly be toxic, while guilt is redemptive—an excellent distinction to be making. The early church fathers said, 'Do not be ashamed when you come to repent, as your Father is waiting for you with open arms, to heal and restore.'"

**From** a couple in KY, I received this in the mail, "Having just finished reading your October ministry newsletter of Abba's Delight...we were pleased with this ministry and both of us felt we would like to help your ministry with a monthly donation. We hope it will help you to continue doing God's work."

Thank you to all who have taken the time to pray for Abba's Delight and for its continued success in the Lord. Thank you for your kind words of encouragement, and for your financial support.

### Exodus Application Update

I found out that my application for membership status with Exodus International to become an official member ministry was premature, and that the earliest I may apply will be in April 2009. Please be praying that when the time does come, the process will go smoothly.

## HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING

*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.*