

# ABBA'S DELIGHT

Established April 2008

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Ministry Newsletter, September 2008

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THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...Rom. 8:15,16*

## A New Beginning

Welcome to Abba's Delight! I trust this newsletter will be the first of many monthly communications you will be receiving from the ministry.

As many of you know, in December 2007 I resigned a ministry staff position that I had held for over 4 years in a local Exodus International affiliated ministry. Exodus International is an umbrella organization which covers nearly 200 local ministries throughout the U.S, and the world which minister primarily to the needs of Christian men, women and teens who are troubled by unwanted same sex attractions, as well as reaching out to their families, friends, churches and clergy to offer support, education and ministry. As my wife Fran and I prayed, along with our pastor and his wife, about what Father would have for me in ministry going forward, over the following months I became increasingly excited about the possibility of beginning a new ministry. While the excitement mounted, it was mixed with apprehension about assuming responsibilities to lead a work that Father was directing. Though I have served in leadership capacities in other situations, my service was always in supporting roles. I have never been **the** lead person, and have not sought such a position in ministry. But now, for some reason, that seemed to be what the Holy Spirit was directing for this season.

So, Abba's Delight was established this past April. It is a Christian, Biblically based ministry, interdenominational in nature. As a not-for profit organization, it serves the Louisville, KY and Southern IN areas. Like other ministries of this kind, our desire is to provide opportunities for ministry through a relationship with Jesus Christ and His church to those who are sexually broken. Combining God the Father's love of His children with a program of structured learning, teaching, accountability and interpersonal relationships within the Body of Christ, Abba's Delight provides a foundation for healing, maturity and sexual purity to those struggling with unwanted same sex attractions. Though this is our primary focus, we are equipped to meet the needs of those saints in heterosexual brokenness as well. Finding their lifestyles incompatible with Biblical teaching on sexuality, participants in Abba's Delight desire to align themselves with Father's intended will for their lives so that they can learn to function as mature and productive citizens of the Kingdom of God, and the state.

## Our Name

Many people have asked about the name Abba's Delight, and some have commented on how unusual a name it is for the ministry. During the time we were praying between December and April, as Father was laying out what seemed like step-by-step directions for getting established, He gave me the name. I readily agree that it is unique. On the surface it **does** seem like a strange name for this type ministry, but I have found that it makes perfect sense to those who are struggling with their sexual identity and purity. Almost without fail, a person who faces homosexuality or lesbianism has experienced either a real or a perceived breakdown in their relationship with their earthly father. Usually there are abandonment or abuse issues involved, accompanied by the perception of being

unloved and/or unlovable. Because we tend to relate to our Heavenly Father the same way we relate to our earthly father, our view of our Heavenly Father is skewed and distorted. The way our Heavenly Father is portrayed in Scripture looks nothing like what we have experienced with our earthly fathers. So, "Abba's Delight" is a statement that speaks to the misperception, indeed the lie, that God does not love, or could be pleased with, the believer who feels trapped in homosexuality. I heard it said once, and I don't know who to attribute this quote to, that "**God's love is unconditional; His approval is not.**" Romans 8:38,39 tell us that nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus. Father delights in His children **because** we are His children, and that includes those trapped in homosexuality; but that doesn't mean He always approves of our behavior. I believe our name welcomes those sufferers, and offers healing and hope to those who need it.

### Ministry Goals

Currently, Abba's Delight offers a weekly support/recovery group meeting for participants as well as bi-weekly one-on-one mentor counseling sessions with each participant. We always welcome new participants who desire purity and wholeness. We would like to add a support group for families, spouses, and friends of those who have loved ones in the homosexual lifestyle not looking to leave. If you know of anyone who is a struggler or who has concern about someone in the lifestyle, please send them our way.

Earlier this year, I submitted an application to Exodus International to become an official affiliated ministry. This will be a one to two year process. If approved, Abba's Delight would be listed on the Exodus website and receive referrals from them, as well as from Focus on the Family.

Another goal I have is the creation of a website as a means of getting our ministry name out, as well as providing education about the realities of the homosexual lifestyle, to dispel misperceptions, to share my and other overcomers' stories, and to offer help and hope for change.

Opportunities for speaking engagements at churches, clubs, youth groups, Sunday school classes, etc. are welcomed. If you or someone you know has influence in any of these arenas, and are willing to invite our participation in an event, we would love to come and share what God has done for us.

*Finally, if you are receiving this newsletter, it is because we already have a relationship with you and/or you have expressed a desire to support the work we are doing in this highly sensitive and often controversial area of ministry. I/we need and covet your prayers. As I have said many times before, there is nothing that the enemy of our souls loves more than thwarting the efforts of ministries like Abba's Delight which speak Father's truth about sexuality to the church. Pray for our growth, for our success and for the spiritual battle we face in our mission to bring purity and sexual wholeness to Father's sons and daughters. Additionally, please pray and ask Father if He would have you be a financial contributor to Abba's Delight, either monthly or by occasional gifts. I take no salary from the ministry funds. All the work I am doing with the ministry is voluntary and separate as I maintain my regular day job in the credit/collections industry. Funds donated are used for ministry expenses, and are tax-exempt. If you consider this ministry worthy of your giving dollars, please help us. Thank you for your consideration.*

If you desire not to receive this monthly newsletter in the further, please let me know.

***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***