ABBA'S DELIGHT

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An Exodus International Applicant Ministry

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THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: 'For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' "And the King will answer and say to them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, you did it to Me'. Matt. 25:35-40

Louisville Aids Walk 2010

Earlier today I participated in this year's Aids Walk in downtown Louisville. This is probably my 5th year. This is something I feel like the Lord has directed me to do, at least when I am in town, especially because of Abba's Delight ministry. I began joining in this annual event because one of my ministry participants who has been with me for several years now, used to help run the event when he was still in the gay lifestyle. Even though he is no longer gay-identified, he continues to participate in the walk. He has only missed it one time since he moved to Louisville back in the early 90's. He was diagnosed with AIDS 25 years ago, and has been told on more than one occasion that he would have no longer than six months to live. But our God has had different plans. Today, this man is a walking miracle, and has a dynamic testimony of Father's loving faithfulness and healing touch, and Father has gifted him in praying for the sick and intercession. So, we make the walk together every year.

In previous years, I've approached the event hoping to see people I've met in the past, either in support groups or through social connections. But this year was different. Going in, I had the sense that Father wanted to speak to me about what was taking place today, and my involvement. While my ministry participant was waiting for some people he'd invited, I walked around observing the crowd and the activities prior to the walk itself actually starting.

There were hundreds of gays milling about, many of them engaged in public displays of affection. There were many who brought their pets to participate in the walk, and I was pretty sure I saw a table set up for the pet participants to register for the fundraising aspect of the event, just like their humans did. T-shirts were abundant, covering every topic from re-electing a particular judge or mayoral candidate to those reminding

us exactly who is our "neighbor" that we are instructed to love. I saw at least one participant in drag, as well as what I believe was introduced as an all-gay choir. I'm sure there were probably participants in the walk directly affected by AIDS or whose loved ones caught the disease, but did so apart from any connection to the gay lifestyle, but you wouldn't have been able to tell just by their presence. There were some carrying signs promoting the Fairness Campaign, which seeks equal rights for gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals and transgendered individuals.

I felt so out of place. I found myself praying, but it wasn't out of a heart of compassion, or caring for their souls, their lives, or the healing Father would love to bring to their lives. It was at this point that the Lord pointed out to me that I was judging them, and what I thought of as their "circus." **Oh, what a Pharisee I am!!!!!!** After Father has brought me so far in my journey, and still with such a long way to go, how could I be doing this? What He showed me today in my heart was just horrible. I certainly did not experience this event with Father's heart and perspective. You'd think with my background, childhood difficulties and insecurities that the Lord has been working on in my life for dozens of years, I would know better than to take the "at least I'm not like them" attitude.

I am repenting for where I have allowed my heart and my mind to take me today, and probably many other times as well. I didn't have much opportunity to speak with other individuals while I was there, which may have been a good thing, given the state of my heart. But I want my heart to change; I need for my heart to change. Father, please help me to love the way You love!

Responses From You

From a ministry leader in Indiana: Great newsletter and testimony...Keep up the good work.

From a fellow overcomer: I enjoyed reading your newsletter. It was like I was reading about myself. Moved me very much. I'm still touched at how He brought me out of all of that. Blessings.

From a brother in Louisville: Another great letter, Daniel.

From a ministry leader in Louisville: What a great letter of explanation. I always know you are on target with your ministry, but this particular letter makes the struggle more clear to us who only understand the problem with our spirit and not our flesh. Thanks for your clearness of mission. And I'm proud of you, and the fact you call me friend.

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Support Group: October 7, 2010; October 21, 2010

Family & Friends Support Group: September 28, 2010; October 12, 2010; October 26, 2010

Ongoing Prayer Requests

Please pray for our web site creation, and for the finances to sustain it. We are moving closer to getting it established.

Please pray for the addition of a couple of new members to our Board of Directors. There are currently six, including myself. I would like to maintain eight to ten members of the Board. Please ask Father to lead me to those who He has selected.

Please pray for the ministry's finances. We depend on monetary gifts and ministry fees to operate. Upcoming expenses will be a Leaders' Conference in January, the costs associated with the building and maintaining of the website, and the replacement of this computer I'm using that I believe is over 10 years old. Thank you to those who have been giving already. Father is blessing your generous hearts.

Please pray that Father will bring new participants to Abba's Delight who are ready to be set free from the bondage they have lived in, and for new family members to find our support group to receive healing and support regarding their loved ones still in the lifestyle.

FaceBook

Check out the Abba's Delight page on FaceBook. Become a friend.

If you do not wish to receive the Abba's Delight Ministry Newsletter any longer, please let me know. If you do wish too 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