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NEWSLETTER – September 2013

A Hope For Wholeness Network Affiliate Ministry

Referral Ministry of ROCK-Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me, you can do nothing...By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples...These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."* John 15: 5,8,11

[Hope For Wholeness Network: Who We Are, and Who We Are Not](#)

This month, I am sharing the featured article of Truth Ministry's September 2013 newsletter. McKrae Game, its Executive Director and Founder of the Hope For Wholeness Network, of which Abba's Delight is now an affiliate, shares his thoughts about our days ahead in the wake of the closing of Exodus International.

What can be learned by the closing of Exodus? How is the Hope for Wholeness Network going to be different? And how is HFWN going to be different than other organizations or networks? Why is the HFWN even necessary?

It is easy for me to look at Exodus in hindsight and analyze it, so this article is not a criticism, but offers answers for these common questions. My friends at Exodus, Alan Chambers, Randy Thomas, and other leaders across the country, became good friends over the years. I sorely miss the Exodus of old, as do many others. We cannot turn the clock back, but we can learn from these experiences.

I went to my first Exodus conference with my wife Julie, in 1998, in Seattle. A few months earlier, we had our first experience with Exodus at the Mid-Atlantic regional conference, in Harrisonburg, Virginia. At each of these events there seemed to be a palpable focus on the Lord Jesus Christ. The ministry leaders I met over the years seemed focused on Jesus Christ. There were many discussions, teachings, articles, classes, and books on the understanding of same-sex sexual attractions. I don't remember much of a focus on the alteration of attractions, nor do I recall a promise of change in attractions. My counselor, who was an affiliate of Exodus, never promised me a change in attractions. The focus was on becoming a man of God, becoming more confident, and maturing in my relationships.



However, as I got more involved, I saw the diversity of approaches and beliefs and, eventually, a changing focus in the national office. For example, in the summer of 2007, I served on an Exodus team that lobbied Capitol Hill against the Hate Crimes bill which later passed into legislation in 2009. The lobbying was done covertly, and we were only allowed to speak or write about the event after it took place. Many members of Exodus were upset to learn that Exodus had gotten involved and even more troubled to learn that Exodus had hired a lobbyist, who was let go shortly thereafter to appease those members.

This moving target became a repeated pattern. What was the focus? The focus on the Lord Jesus Christ seemed to move, and He was relegated to only a part of the picture. This was evidenced in the mission statement of Exodus which seemed to change about every six months. I no longer understood what Exodus did or what it stood for.

Since Alan's appearance on the Gay Christian Network panel, January 2012, he seemed to be speaking more clearly on the focus and more clearly defining what Exodus meant by "change." I personally wish that he had explained this better on the panel and that he had kept Exodus alive and pointed in that direction. In a recent interview, since the closing of Exodus, Alan spoke of the varying methods used by individual member ministries. Some were promising change in sexual attraction, and, for some counselors, this was their singular focus. He also said that Exodus had a history of being blamed for any type of work with homosexuals, regardless of their connection to Exodus.

Recently, I have seen interviews of former clients of "ex-gay" related (non-Exodus) counselors; I've seen a promotional video from an "ex-gay" related organization, and read articles, all showing that the pattern of focusing on and promising complete attraction change continues unabated by various organizations. A promotional video I watched recently shared truth about origins of homosexuality and some good practices, but never any hint of the reality that most strugglers will continue to experience ongoing same-sex attractions. Ignored by many "ex-gay" organizations is the reality that most who have lived with same-sex sexual attractions will not experience a complete transformation to have 100% opposite-sex attractions. Their focus and language on "change" is often ambiguous, leading to false promises.

I've found disgusting reports and verified practices of counselors (to my knowledge, never associated with Exodus) that helped people try to change their sexual attractions, encouraging its male clients to undress in front of a mirror in their presence. Another organization's fundraising letter recently went so far as to promise "the end of homosexuality." Do they really believe that if people sent them enough money, our world might be completely rid of homosexuality?

These offensive and dishonest examples show the need for the Hope for Wholeness Network. Jesus MUST be the focus and the reason for our ministry as we guide individuals on their journey and direction in life. If our focus is put on changing one's attractions, we'll try and do anything to obtain it. The problem is, when our attractions don't completely change, we will abandon the Lord Jesus as countless men and women have. We'll start rationalizing ourselves away from God and His word, and jump headlong into the gay culture. We must focus on pouring out our hearts, minds, and souls to the Lord Jesus Christ and being sold out to Him.

Even with Exodus's great intentions, its focus seemed to stray. Jesus Christ can and will change our hearts and lives, if we will surrender to Him. This does NOT mean that our attractions will completely change, but our hearts, lives, relationships, and even our feelings can and do change if our goal is being sold out to Him and NOT on being "normal."

Truth Ministry, and now the Hope for Wholeness Network's slogan is "Freedom from Homosexuality through Jesus Christ." Our mission statement is, "We exist so that those who struggle with homosexuality find freedom to live in sexual and relational wholeness according to God's design (Genesis 1:27)." We will focus on the Lord Jesus Christ, maturing in Him, and our Creator's intent for our lives. Our focus will NOT be set on changing attractions. We will be very clear on what "change" does and does not mean or imply. Our leaders will continue to speak on the origins of homosexuality, of environment and temperament, and how to grow in one's confidence and personal relationships, while pointing to Jesus as our Healer and Redeemer. This is what sets us apart and makes us relevant. Scripture tells us, "But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)



My church just had its annual Global Impact Conference, with missionaries from all over the world. It was very inspiring, and the focus being on Jesus was so encouraging! He must be our focus. Our lives are for Him, not for ourselves. This is what so many in our culture, the gay community, and sometimes even the church forget. When we allow our temptations and inclinations to rule our lives, then we are our own god. When we give God control of our lives He gives our lives back to us to live by His grace. It is only through Him and a healthy relationship with His church that we are able to be successful in life. John 15:15

[Responses From You](#)

From a Ministry Leader in OH: Daniel, my favorite verses in the Bible: Phil 3:10-16 ☺

From a brother in Lexington, KY: Daniel, thanks for the newsletter. Glad to hear of your new network affiliation.

From a brother in Louisville, KY: Thankful for you, brother. Peace.

From another brother in Louisville, KY: Daniel, I think your conclusion says it all. "Father has shown Himself faithful time and again, and as our ministry continues in the path He's prescribed for us, we will continue to be blessed by His faithfulness." It's great to see his hand on your ministry. Continue to walk as He leads you. Zephaniah 3:17-

[Upcoming Ministry Meetings](#)

Overcomers Group: Thursday, September 26, 2013; Thursday, October 10, 2013; Thursday, October 24, 2013

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, October 1, 2013; Tuesday, October 15, 2013; Tuesday, October 29, 2013

[Upcoming Ministry Conferences](#)

Indiana Men of Integrity present the Iron Sharpens Iron Conference; Saturday, September 28, 2013; Madison Park Church of God, Anderson IN; For Registration and more information, go to www.indianamenofintegrity.org

I will be presenting a workshop at this ISI conference called "Sexual Purity: A Calling for All Men; Achieving & Maintaining Sexual Purity." ***Previously I had reported this event to be in Madison, IN, but that was incorrect; it is in Anderson, IN.

Hope For Wholeness Conference: "Rising From the Ashes" Nov. 1-2, 2013; First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC. For Registration and information, go to www.hopeforwholeness.org

I will be sharing my testimony at this event.

[Hope For Wholeness Network \(HFVN\) Member Advisory Board](#)

I have been asked to fill, and have accepted, a seat on the Hope For Wholeness Member Advisory Board. For the last month or so, I have been involved in discussions with other ministry leaders, together with network founder McKrae Game, going over many of the policies, procedures, and opportunities offered through network affiliation. Please pray for us as we seek to follow the Spirit's direction in our growth process.

[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. 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 (both one-time and monthly commitments) to continue providing ministry to those in crisis. And your gifts are tax-deductible with Abba's Delight's 501(c)3 status.

It is not too early to begin planning for your end-of-year charitable giving. Please consider including Abba's Delight in those tax-deductible contributions!

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