



PO Box 991752 Louisville, KY 40269

502-939-9269

daniel@abbasdelight.com

Daniel Mingo, Ministry Director Est. Apr 2008

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Hope For Wholeness Network Affiliate Ministry



Referral Ministry of ROCK-Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...Ephesians 4:1*

[FAQ's and Things I've Learned throughout the Abba's Delight Billboard Experience](#)

I've been asked a lot recently about the Abba's Delight billboard that was up from the beginning of February until the end of April, so in this month's newsletter I am sharing some of those questions and answers.

Why did you put up the billboard? The original intent was to promote the existence of Abba's Delight ministry to churches in the Louisville area to counter the challenge we've faced of not being invited to share our stories of freedom from homosexuality with local pastors or in their congregations. So, seeking the Lord to help us think outside the box was our prayer for a time. When our Board of Directors discussed the possibility, there was a positive response, so I moved forward with the plans.

Did you accomplish what you set out to do? Yes, and no. With media attention (local, nationally, and internationally), the ministry name was out there for a time, and I suppose there are some church leaders who did become aware of the ministry's existence. Unfortunately, we did not hear from any of them (other than the ones I pray with regularly). That was disappointing; and very telling, because the gay community is watching how church leadership responds to these type situations. So, while we did do what we set out to do, we have not yet received the desired effect. Father continues to be in control.

Did you know the selected site was positioned in a highly gay-populated area of Louisville? The final site at Grinstead Drive and Bardstown Road was not actually my first choice. My first pick was not available, and the site we ended up with was still an almost month-long wait. I did know of the Highlands gay demographic but I was not aware of its close proximity to some gay bars. I was asked that specific question by The Leo, but they didn't believe my answer. This intersection was our only location, with no current plans for others.

How did you respond to the original message being vandalized? The original message, "Not everyone who is gay is happy. You have options," was meant to be an expression of God's love, and was secondary to the original intent. However, it was received as highly offensive by the gay community, its supporters, and most of the media. About a week-and-a-half into its 90

day run, someone climbed up in the middle of the night and spray painted in big black letters “WTF.” As I prayed about how to respond, if at all, the Lord gave me the second half of Romans 8:39 NLT “Indeed, nothing in all creation will be able to separate any of us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The second message received no attention whatsoever, but was a more direct message of Father’s love.

What kinds of responses did you receive to the first message? Among email, voicemail, and FaceBook messages, there were over a hundred. They were about half and half supportive and hostile. The negative ones usually had name-calling, vulgar language, hatred, and were anything but tolerant of a different view. One woman said she was going to call the mayor’s office and get the sign taken down. There was a petition going around to have it removed. There was a demonstration held at the billboard site which was promoted in the creation of a FaceBook page. Hundreds were invited to attend; only about 60-70 showed, and there is a YouTube video of what some of the group had to say—mostly about how hateful and intolerant I’m being and how our ministry harms gay youth. There was another FB page created called “Gays Against Abba’s Delight Billboard,” which boasts over 500 likes.

We also received some wonderful positive responses: encouraging our ministry in what we do, encouraging me to continue to speak the truth in love and to share my testimony whenever possible, encouraging Abba’s Delight with prayer and financial support, encouraging us in our calling. Some asked how they could help our ministry. I received calls from different states, offering prayer support. After the billboard was vandalized with the WTF, a couple of people called and suggested that we put up a new billboard with our own WTF message: one was Worship The Father, and the other was We The Faithful. And there was much support from the Hope for Wholeness network of ministry leaders, as well as my home church congregation and pastoral staff.

Some random thoughts: The Lord’s protection and covering was very evident throughout those three months, especially allowing us to feel the effects of the prayers of the saints. I have remarked previously that I was prepared for some pushback, but was surprised by the intensity of the hatred against me and Abba’s Delight’s message of freedom from homosexuality that dares contradict those who promote the gay agenda—total acceptance both in word and deed, with no dissenting opinions of any kind shared whatsoever.

This is another example in my life in which I knew of some of the purposes the Lord had in following a direction He prescribed, but did not, and may never, see all that He has done in this matter.

As far as much of the gay community is concerned, tolerance and acceptance are not two way streets. Those pushing the agenda want to silence completely not only Christians and the church, but also most definitely anyone who has walked away from homosexuality with any degree of success.

The secular media is only interested in their version of the truth, not the actual truth. This is no big revelation to anyone, just recognizing the elephant in the living room. Several accounts of the billboard story were written in papers and internet sites nationally, with only a couple of them taking the time to request information from me. And then when information

was requested and provided, its truthfulness was sometimes questioned. The rest just wrote whatever made the agenda look good, and me/Abba's Delight look foolish. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise.

I have been able to trace directly to the billboard a few contacts that were initiated towards the ministry for help. That is a wonderful thing! If only one struggler is turned, or only one spouse or family member comforted and encouraged, then the whole experience was worth it. Because Father's hand is so far reaching, we may never know this side of heaven all the lives that were touched by His grace.

If ever there was any doubt in my mind as to the calling on my life or the importance of a ministry like Abba's Delight in our culture today, it is no longer an issue. After having gone through this experience with the billboard, I am even more convinced and committed to fulfill Father's calling, purposes and destiny for my life as He reveals His ongoing will.

[Responses From You](#)

From a Pastor in OH: Daniel, I pray things are well throughout the Mingo Nation! Blessings to Fran and all your Kids!...Remain ever tough, bold and courageous, merciful and humble. You are in my prayers and I mean that sincerely. Rooting for you...

From a Brother in Lexington, KY: Take away reproach and contempt from me, for I observe Your testimonies. Even though princes sit and talk against me, Your servant meditates on Your statutes. Ps 119:22 NASB

From a Brother in FL: Hi Daniel, I enjoyed this month's newsletter. Your billboard was/is successful. I truly sense that. It is a time for boldness – not weakness. The Lord's armor is all forward-facing. We do not have to run from issues allowing our vulnerable backs to be targets. The fact that there was controversy is evidence of the billboard's success. And the follow-up message was truly heaven sent. I'm glad the vandalism of the original message took place, only in that it allowed the beautiful Word of God to replace it – I believe both messages actually worked quite well together. And that's a God thing – not something anyone could have seen coming. Less knowledgeable Christians often argue that homosexual behavior is "an abomination" God. I can't imagine that a homosexual could feel anything but attacked by such a comment. Though I do not have the scripture handy, I read further on the bible that ALL sin is an abomination to God. Maybe you can find that scripture. Thank you for the good work you do. I prayed for your ministry today. I know I have not been in touch but all is pretty good. I'm learning so much about my Lord. And that's a beautiful thing. With love and admiration, Your brother in Christ...

[Upcoming Ministry Meetings](#)

Overcomers Group: Thursday, June 5, 2014; Thursday, June 19, 2014

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, June 10, 2014; Tuesday, June 24, 2014

[Upcoming Conference](#)

There is still time to register and plan to attend---Hope for Wholeness Summer National Conference: "Hope Rising" 2014 June 5-8 at Ridgecrest Conference Center, Black Mountain, NC Go to <http://hopeforwholeness.org> for more information and to register. Call today!

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