

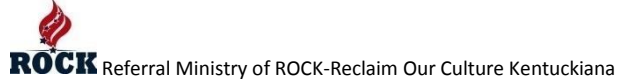
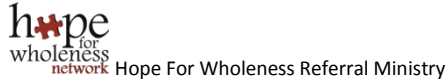


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Daniel Mingo, Ministry Director Est. Apr 2008 NEWSLETTER– August 2015 [www.abbasdelight.com](http://www.abbasdelight.com)



**THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own interests, but also for the interests of others. Phil. 2:3,4***

### [My 45<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion](#)

Earlier this month, Fran and I attended my 45<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. We had not been to one since my 15<sup>th</sup>, and there always seemed to be a conference or some other conflict which prevented us from going. But this year we were free and clear.

My high school years were difficult for me. I was very insecure, having carried my secret of being sexually molested a couple of years earlier. I felt unloved and for the most part was friendless. I can remember one really close friend in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, but he moved with his family to Beirut, Lebanon the summer after 8<sup>th</sup> grade so his Dad could take a job at the American Embassy there. After he moved, I never had any really close friends for many years. During my junior and senior years, I got into choir and theater classes, which afforded me more opportunities to socialize and bond with class peers. By the end of my senior year and after being born again midway through it, I was voted by my co-graduates The Friendliest Guy in the senior class.

So, not having seen some of my classmates for 30 years and most of my classmates for 45 years, I was looking forward to going and reconnecting. With some, I'd already connected over the years on FaceBook, but even with them, it's not the same as physically being together.

There were three people I wanted to see especially. One of them made it to the reunion and the other two did not. The first is a fellow who got born again in high school around the same time I did, but we were not really close. I was unkind to him many times during those years, and at the time was too immature to realize it. The Lord gave me an opportunity to talk with him at the reunion and ask his forgiveness. He was very gracious and merciful, the Lord having done quite a work in his own heart. He has been the Campus Minister at one of the Baptist Student Centers at one of Kentucky's state college campuses for many years.

One of the others I'd wanted to see was a girl of whom we'd performed opposite each other in the lead roles of our musical South Pacific during our senior year. We had become fast friends when her family moved to Lexington during our junior year. We both acted and were in choir together. She lives in California now, and was not able to make the trip this year.

The other one who didn't make the reunion was a girl who now lives in Atlanta with her family, but Fran and I did get to meet her in Lexington a few weeks ago for breakfast and got to catch up on 45 years as much as you can in just a few hours. She was making an annual trip to visit her sisters and some family friends. I had gone to Catholic school through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and heading into 9<sup>th</sup> was my first year in the public school system. I didn't know anyone, but she and I had Latin and (I think) typing classes together that year. In high school, we were both in choir and theater classes. She played Bloody Mary in our South Pacific production.

Of the rest who were at the reunion, we had some good conversations with old friends and made some important contacts in the Spirit. There were two gay-identified individuals who were there, both with whom I'd reconnected years ago on FaceBook. The guy has moved back to Lexington from NYC to care for his elderly parents, and the lady lives here in Louisville with her partner of many years. In both of those relationships, we'd been through my history and ministry story long ago, so these encounters were primarily to be able to introduce Fran and to extend Father's love for each of them. I asked about the lady's partner and how she's doing, wondering why she wasn't there. My friend said she doesn't do these reunion things. I saw how haggard my other friend was and wondered about his health. He was still there when Fran and I were getting ready to leave, so I went over and hugged him and told him how good it was to see him again.

Every class has that number of students who were just too cool to talk and hang out with the commoners, and some of them were there as well. To my surprise, and pleasure, though, a few of them went out of their ways to greet and engage me and Fran, being very warm. They seemed genuinely glad to see me and more than a few commented on how beautiful Fran is. Of course, I agreed! I was very blessed to see that they had matured; some had gotten born again and were very active in their churches. It goes to show that we are capable of change with God's help. There were also a couple of these classmates who seemed not to grow out of the snobbery of their youth and appeared to avoid contact actively, showing some things haven't changed.

There's a popular saying that you can't go back home. That may be true for a soul outside of the kingdom of God, but I believe I was privileged with the Lord's help to go back and connect in a much more godly way than in my youth, and that made a world of difference to me. I pray that the difference that has taken place over the last 45 years by the Lord's hand in my life made a difference a couple of weeks ago in some of the lives of my classmates as well.

### [Responses From You](#)

From a Chinese brother in Christ: Dear Brother Daniel, It is awakening call to me. Blessings...

From a sister I met at a recent conference: Hello Daniel, I met you at Aldersgate. Thank you for the newsletter. I found it very well written and informative. I just want you to know that I believe in your cause and would like to support you financial however, at this time, we are not yet able to do so.

From a participant in the Abba's Delight Family/Friends Group: Yes, we as Christians say we love the gay people, but do we welcome them into the church? What better place to hear about the love of Jesus? And how comfortable are we when they sit next to us? Do we limit their involvement in the church?

***We welcome your feedback to all of our articles, positive and negative. Please be respectful in your comments.***

### **Upcoming Ministry Meetings**

Overcomers Group: Thursday, Aug 27, 2015; Thursday, Sep 10, 2015; Sep 24, 2015

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, Sep 1, 2015; Tuesday, Sep 15, 2015; Tuesday, Sep 29, 2015

### **Upcoming Ministry Events**

Saturday, September 19, 2015 Symposium on Biblical Sexuality in the Black Church. Forest Baptist Church, 4500 Peterson Rd, Louisville, KY 8:00am-5:00pm. No charge for admission, including a free continental breakfast. Register at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) using the search engine prompt "biblical sexuality." Seating capacity is 500, so register now. The following attachment



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covers the topics to be discussed.

October 5-7, 2015 Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) Annual Conference 2015 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. Abba's Delight is a Bronze Sponsor of this event. The Conference is open to the public. Go to <http://www.biblicalcounseling.com/annual-conference/> for more information and to register.

### **Ongoing Prayer Requests**

**Abba's Delight needs to fill two seats on its Board of Directors that will become vacant after our November 2015 meeting. Meetings are held quarterly. If you have a heart for the work we're doing and you believe the Lord is leading you in this way, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Please pray that the Lord brings those He wants to serve.**

As always, we covet your prayers for our ministry to grow, financial support to increase, to move forward proclaiming freedom to the captives, and that churches would open their doors to Abba's Delight. Please pray for our ministry participants, our Family & Friends Support

Group, our meetings, our conferences, events at which we sponsor and exhibit, our Board of Directors, and most importantly that many lives will be touched by the Holy Spirit to draw closer to Jesus, seeking freedom from their bondage. Please pray that church leaders and congregations will awaken to the necessity of being Biblically prepared with wisdom and God's love to face head-on the growing numbers of those in our congregations who are being impacted, either directly or indirectly through a loved one, by homosexuality and the ever-increasing acceptance of gay life in our culture.

### **Ministry Finances**

If you would like to become a monthly donor to Abba's Delight, you may go to [www.abbasdelight.com](http://www.abbasdelight.com) and make arrangements on PayPal. You may also send a check or money order to our mailing address at the top of the newsletter's first page. All donations, monthly or one-time, are appreciated and much needed. If you believe and trust the Lord to work in the lives of those in the Church who have been impacted by homosexuality, then please consider supporting us financially along with your prayers. Thank you!

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***