

ABBA'S DELIGHT

Established April 2008 Daniel Mingo, Min. Director

An Exodus International Applicant Ministry

Ministry Newsletter February 2010

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THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. They are not afraid of bad news; their heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. Psalm 112:6,7 I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love forever and ever. Psalm 52:8*

Trust is the Word

At the beginning of each new year, my church family at In Christ Church & Ministries embarks on a familiar yet fresh journey of prayer with fastings, with the specific intent of hearing from the Lord what He is saying to us as a congregation in the coming days/weeks/months, and to receive from Him direction about how to accomplish His will in these things, and to get to the place His Spirit is leading us.

This year our primary assignment is focused on trusting the Lord: what it means, how to grow in our daily practice of trusting Him, what it looks like trusting Him as a son or daughter and also as an individual who is a part of a congregation of other believing trusters, what Father's promises are towards those who trust in Him, and even what not trusting in Him causes us to miss out on.

I will be celebrating my 40th spiritual birthday at the end of this month. All through these years I've been learning about trusting Father for things like maturing in Him, bringing me a wife, leading our family, raising our three sons, providing job/career opportunities, carrying out Father's plans for ministry, finances for family and ministry, just to name a few. And just like with everyone else, Father has provided countless opportunities for me to practice putting to good use the lessons I have been learning. And, if all is going according to His plan, practice leads to maturity. My ability to trust Him in my walk today seems like light years ahead of where I was 25-30 years ago. And yet, I believe I still have light years to go.

This year, though, Father has thrown in a twist, a new aspect of the challenge. As a congregation, we have the sense that our old methods or "formulas" of trusting Him will not be sufficient for the days and times ahead. Our new wine, as it were, must be incorporated into new wineskins. Hmm.

I have a close friend, a brother in the Lord, who has spent a good chunk of time in the past couple of years in the ranks of the unemployed. He is a family man who loves the Lord and has been being schooled in trusting Father for his family's provisions. Through those years, I have walked with him through a season of joblessness, a time of employment, and then another stretch without regular work. If I am remembering correctly, during the first bout of joblessness, though trying to trust Father as best he

knew how, much of his time learning to trust Father for his family's provisions was spent with an underlying fear. He didn't know when a job would come, if it would pay enough to support his family, if he had to take one just because something popped up, what he would do if he took something that he didn't care for once he got into it and then what would he do, etc. Then he was offered a position, which was the Lord's provision for many months, but it ended. While closely relating with him through this last stretch of unemployment, I commented to him on a couple of occasions that he was much more at peace in the midst of his predicament; that as he sought the Lord for new provisions for his family in the form of a new career position, Father was providing numerous "odd-job" opportunities both for him and his wife over those several months to meet the family financial obligations. To the best of my knowledge, there were no bill collectors contacting them, and as far as I know everything was paid up to date. I encouraged him that throughout this last time of unemployment, his day-to-day trusting the Lord for a position had changed from the fear-based approach he had exhibited before, to a new approach based in his confidence in God to meet his needs because of His love for him and his family. Father didn't love him and his family any less the first time, but my friend learned from that first period that out of His great love for him and his family, He would not let them go under.

He learned a higher way of trusting the Lord that was "new wine" for him and his family, which would not be suitable for the old wineskin.

Then there are other times when our need to trust the Lord seems to take on Job-like proportions, as in when he declared, "Though He slay me, I will trust in Him." Not only did Job suffer himself over things that happened to him, but also he suffered over things that happened to his family, home, and possessions. Recently, I received a call from a wife and mother who has been going through the enormous challenge of her young adult son deciding to live as a woman. This young man, who had been active in his church youth group and college fellowship, shocked his parents, family and friends with his announcement. No one saw this coming, and his Mom is troubled way beyond anything she has ever faced before in God. She is trying to maintain her trust in Father's faithfulness to bring her son back to Him, yet sometimes stumbling over the very real and present circumstances of her son becoming more and more deeply entrenched in his new-chosen lifestyle. At times, she feels this mountain is insurmountable. I'm sure many of us, if not most, have faced challenges we feel are equal to this kind, and have wondered how can I ever come to the point where I trust God to bring about an outcome that reflects His will and His kingdom on earth coming into my circumstance. But our Mom is fighting the good fight, along with her husband. They are praying, and staying in the Word. They are educating themselves by attending conferences, reading related materials, and talking with godly ministry representatives who specialize in these type family matters. And most of all, they are continuing to love their son, regardless of his choices, seeking God daily to know what that looks like in their lives.

Our trust in God is daily, sometimes hour-by-hour, and even moment-by-moment. If our lives are truly committed to His plan and purposes for us and we are committed to giving over control to Him, then our survival as His sons and daughters depends on our choosing to entrust our souls, spouses, children, families, homes, careers, possessions, our very lives, to Him. I know He loves us with an everlasting love; His word says He will not allow us to bear anything greater than what we are able. I also know that He loves us enough that He sent His only Son to die and rise to secure our eternal life, and if He would do that, then our temporary life-inconveniences, though they sometimes feel overwhelming, are not beyond His reach or control. But we endure it all for His glory and for the sake of His kingdom.

Father is speaking this word about trust to our small body of His followers, not only because it is good and helpful for us as believers to know how to trust Him more, but because in these days, and in the days ahead, we will need to know how to trust Him to greater and greater degrees in order to be the people He desires us to be on the earth.

Responses From You

From a sister in FL: God bless you, Daniel! I am praying for you and your family and ministry!

From a brother in KY: Great letter, Daniel...Blessings to you and your ministry.

From a couple in CA: Daniel, good to hear from you. We will be praying.

Upcoming Events

Adventure Christian Church presents David Janvier, MA, LPC, Licensed Therapist & Sex Therapist/Educator. This Seminar will address: The Sexualization of Children, God's Design for Sex and Sexuality, The Neurobiology of Sex, The Media's Influence, What Parents Can Do. March 20, 2010 Time: 9-3 Lunch Provided Cost: Free Will Love Offering. 3321 Ruckriegel Parkway, Louisville, KY 40299 PH: 502-240-6234, ask for Phillip Branan for more information.

Saturday, May 22, 2010 Time: tba Hope 4 Families, an Exodus Member Ministry presents "Hope Gathering 2010" at Church of the Savior, Lexington, KY www.help4families.com or call Denise Shick at 814-598-4952 Gain a deeper understanding of Gender Identity Disorder in a Christ-centered gathering. This seminar covers the topics of Transexuality and the Roots of Homosexuality by identifying the early signs of gender confusion. This seminar is designed for strugglers, family members and friends, as well as counselors, pastors and the general public seeking further insight

into these current topics. Breakout sessions and personal testimonies of healing and hope are included in the day.

Financial Support of Abba's Delight

We are looking for individuals or organizations willing to support Abba's Delight with a monthly commitment for a period of one year. Any amount gladly appreciated and accepted. Of course, one-time gifts are welcomed as well. You will be helping us reach our goals of establishing and maintaining a quality website, as well as providing on-going education through conferences and obtaining resources to build up our library.

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 file 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