

PO Box 991752 Louisville, KY 40269

502-939-9269

daniel@abbasdelight.com

Daniel Mingo, Ministry Director Est. Apr 2008

NEWSLETTER-May 2017

www.abbasdelight.com





THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Eph 6:4

We Are Allowing the Culture to Steal Away Our Parental Choices

God, through His Word, has spoken that it is the parents' obligation and responsibility to raise their children according to His ways, as He has set forth. However, on social media this week, an article reported that two more states have passed laws which take away parental rights and choices to seek professional counseling when determining the well-being of their same-sex attracted minor children. Even when those attractions are unwelcomed and unwanted by the minor, and even when the minor is the one initiating the process with his/her parents to get help. As of the passing of this latest legislation, there are now nine states whose legislators have declared they know better than parents what is best for those parents' children.

The counseling being robbed from these families is often referred to as "reparative therapy" or "conversion therapy." According to Wikipedia, "Conversion therapy is psychological treatment or spiritual counseling designed to change a person's sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual." According to the FaceBook page description for the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), it declares, "The Alliance for Therapeutic Choice and Scientific Integrity upholds the rights of individuals with unwanted homosexual attraction to receive effective psychological care, and the right of professionals to offer that care."

We could debate the rightness or wrongness of this method of counseling ad nauseum, but the bigger concern for us as Christians and as citizens of the United States is, and should be, that the government has again intruded its way into our lives to tell us they know what is best for us and our families. Only 1%-3% of the population of the United States is LGBTQ, but you would think it was the majority, the way the culture, courts and media would have us believe.

For the record, Abba's Delight ministry does not practice any kind of therapy, reparative or otherwise. Biblically-based lay-counseling and discipleship are what is offered, along with support/recovery groups. As a referral ministry of the Hope for Wholeness network, www.hopeforwholeness.org, our ministries, churches and Christian counselors agree not to engage in reparative therapy, mostly because we do not promise that someone will change from same-sex attracted to opposite-sex attracted. God can do anything, and if He chooses to

bring about that kind of change in someone's orientation, He's perfectly capable of doing so, and has.

Most importantly, though, in this article, I want to call up the Body of Christ not to sleep through yet another issue that affects the entire Church. A friend of mine commented on the online article, "For every one Christian parent who tries to find a therapist who can help their child understand their emerging orientation and desires for intimacy, there are many, many more who want the therapist to "fix" their teenager so their family life won't have the mess of a non-straight orientation. If conservatives focused on fixing this in-house problem, then there wouldn't be a need for this specific public policy conversation." I agree with my friend's premise; still, I believe it goes beyond conservatism; it is the Church who must act in righteousness. The Church should be leading the conversation and the healing process. The Church should be the one with the solutions. The Church should be viewed by the culture as God's answer to any of life's issues, including LGBTQ issues. We've got a long, long way to go to be Jesus, the Body of Christ, to the culture.

Responses From You

From a brother in Canada: Thank you for the scripture in this newsletter - it was very powerful for me at this time.

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Group: Thursday, June 1, 2017; Thursday, June 15, 2017; Thursday, June 29, 2017 Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, June 6, 2017; Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Upcoming Monthly Prayer Initiatives

Big 4 Bridge Prayer Walk: Saturday, May 27, 2017 10:00am-1:00pm Hosted by God Belongs In Our City

1 Voice Prayer Movement: Friday, June 2, 2017 6:00pm Bethel Baptist Church, 3540 Garland Avenue, Louisville, KY 40211

Louisville Prayer Breakfast: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 7:00-8:30am Ramada Inn on Zorn Avenue at I-71. \$6.00 Continental Breakfast. Speaker is Joel Gerdis of Iron Bell Music

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

Aldersgate Renewal Ministries Conference, Lexington, KY Convention Center, June 29-July 2, 2017. Daniel Mingo of Abba's Delight will present a workshop called The Power of God's Word. Abba's Delight will also have a table to exhibit the ministry.

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Scholarship Fund for the Hope for Wholeness Conference

Thank you so much to those who have contributed so far to the conference scholarship fund. We still have more folks to help. If you have the financial means to go, but will be otherwise engaged from July 11-16th, please prayerfully consider subsidizing someone else's opportunity. The average cost for conference fee, accommodations (sharing a room) and meal plan is \$600 per person for the six day event. Please make your tax-deductible checks to payable to Abba's Delight, noted for the HFW Scholarship Fund, and mail them to the address at the top left corner of the first page of this newsletter.

Ongoing Prayer Requests

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. We are beginning to see some answered prayer around being invited into churches. 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 prepared Biblically 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 and transgender life in our culture. 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