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NEWSLETTER– February 2018

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 Hope For Wholeness Referral Ministry

Daniel Mingo, Founder and Ministry Director

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *"...And if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them..."*
Luke 6:32

Those Pushing Gender Boundaries Need Father's Love, Too

I always look forward to the Olympics. Thank God for DVRs! Of the winter sports, I especially enjoy Figure Skating; I always have. My kids grew up hearing terms like "short programs," "triple axles," "degree of difficulty," and others. Familiar names were Scott Hamilton, Kristi Yamaguchi, Brian Boitano, and Tonya Harding. I love the athleticism, the strength, the self-discipline, much of the music, and even many of the costumes. I continue to be a fan.

I have, though, been very disappointed in seeing those skaters who are openly LGBT celebrated and encouraged in their prideful displays. And in more recent years, one who has retired from skating has become a network commentator. His choices of on-air feminized outfits seem to become more flamboyant as time goes on. I don't see these kinds of displays with any other country's representatives. And I do not believe it is a distinction that is in the best interests of the United States, especially from a spiritual perspective. Psalm 33:12a says, "Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord..." We can no longer say that righteously about the United States, in my opinion.

Be that as it may, I/we have a choice. I can condemn, ridicule, or belittle those men I've described, or I can pray for them. Their LGBT identity should not be a deterrent from being introduced to Father's love. Just as anyone else, it is not Father's will for them to perish without having the opportunity to inherit eternal life. We Christians tend to do well at providing the **truth**, but not so great at combining equal amounts of **grace**. We want to beat them over the head with Scripture and doctrine, but we don't want to take the time to invest in their lives with love and mercy. In John 1:14, Jesus is described as coming from the Father, full of grace and truth. Jesus was both. He wasn't one or the other. He wasn't one, then the other. He is full of grace and truth together all at the same time. The aspects of His grace cannot be separated from His love. And His love cannot be there abroad without His grace. We are to be the same.

The best definition I've seen for the New Testament Greek word used most often for grace is: the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life. In other words, God's power in us to do His will, His Spirit moving upon us to represent Jesus to those we engage.

I'm not suggesting a Kumbaya-fest with everyone standing in a circle holding hands, trying to manufacture empathetic platitudes. That is a weak, humanistic counterfeit. As Christ-bearers, we need to demonstrate a true reflection of Father's love: strong, powerful, able to change lives, yet humble, compassionate and merciful as well. Full of grace and truth! This is what can bring redemptive change into anyone who is in need of the Savior, not only those in the LGBT community. It is only when they are apprehended by Jesus that there will be cause to celebrate.

We believers certainly have our work cut out for us!

Your Responses

From a friend in Lexington: Awesome article on repentance! As we walk daily with our heavenly Father, we should remember that "those whom He loves, He disciplines." He loves us as we are, but is daily conforming us to His image. His love endures forever!

From a sister in Christ: Well said. Lord, search my heart. Open the eyes of my heart to what grieves you.

From a co-laborer: Daniel, Amen! There is a void of teaching on the total surrender to Christ, which means that we are continuing to strive to serve God with our whole heart, mind, body and soul. Thus, when we recognize sin in our lives, we repent and turn. It needs to start with God's people that the world may see. Well put.

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, Feb 27th; Tuesday, March 13th; Tuesday, March 27th
Overcomers Group: Thursday, February 22nd; Thursday, March 8th; Thursday, March 22nd

Upcoming Prayer Initiatives

1 Voice Prayer Movement: Friday, March 2, 2018, 6:00pm, New Covenant Baptist Church, 1190 South 40th Street, Louisville, KY 40211

Louisville Prayer Breakfast: Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 7:00-8:30am, Ramada Inn on Zorn Avenue at I-71, \$6.00 Continental Breakfast. Speaker is Nathan Ivey of Seed to Oaks Ministry.

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. Last year we began to see some answered prayer around being invited into churches, but that has slacked off quite a bit, so the need is ever present.

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 the bondage of homosexuality.

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. Pray they would find their way to Abba's Delight for assistance.

Please pray for the Hope for Wholeness network and Board of Directors to find a new Executive Director, the one whom the Lord is choosing to lead the ministry. We are not in a huge hurry, and would rather take our time to find the Lord's choice.

Thank you for your prayer and financial support. God bless 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