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hape

wholeness network Hope For Wholeness Referral Ministry

He rescued me because He delighted in me. Ps 18:19b

# THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: And He said to them, "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to all creation..." Mark 16:15

### Drag Queen Story Time at the Louisville Public Library

Last week end, I was invited to go downtown to the Louisville Public Library to pray and worship while drag queen story time was taking place inside the building. I gladly accepted, thinking this was going to be a good opportunity to petition the Lord to move in the lives of those from the LGBTQ community doing the reading, as well as pray for the parents and their children as they engaged in this so-called culturally enlightened activity. I trust the fellow who invited me, as I know he is one who turned to the Lord and left behind his involvement in homosexuality back in the '90's as did I. I am confident our prayers were heard and God was/is intervening, but the experience itself proved to be disturbing for several reasons.

When I arrived, there was quite a lot of disorganized and loud banter going back and forth between those in drag who were not inside the building and those who would identify themselves as Christians, yet obviously not very accurately representing the God of the Scriptures.

Only those in drag who were doing the actual reading, as I was told, were allowed inside; adults with children who had come for story time were the only others also allowed into the premises.

Those outside in drag were shouting catchy phrases through a bullhorn justifying their activity, while also trying to bring shame to those who were there with a different point of view. When families would go into the library they would cheer and when it was over, they would cheer again as the families were coming out.

Unfortunately, some of the Christians had access to a different bullhorn shouting Scripture passages from the Old Testament condemning homosexuality (I didn't hear any of the redemptive Biblical passages from them that talk about leaving behind those sins.) Many of the Christians were holding signs that read things like, "Don't drag our children into your lifestyle," "Stop confusing our children. Teach them ABC's not LGBT," "Children need role models from their parents, not the LGBT community," "Homo sex is sin," and finally "Repent and be converted." Certainly not the good news gospel I believe Jesus had in mind! Naively, it hadn't occurred to me there would be a demonstration of this kind at the event. I don't think it had occurred either to the fellow who invited me to come pray and worship.

The bullhorn shouting from each side was going on simultaneously, as if one trying to drown out the other. The Christian shouters were explicit and vulgar in their verbal descriptions of what takes place in gay sexual encounters as they condemned those practices; the LGBTQ shouters kept repeating the same old and tired justifications for their lifestyles.

To me, no one was right and everyone was wrong. Everyone participating in this display was a loser; there were no winners. However, I was most disturbed by the Christians who believe that attacking the LGBTQ community the way they did was any kind of representation of how Jesus would approach them. Even I, who was not engaging the battle at all except through prayer and worship, was also confronted by one of them, who knows I was rescued out of homosexuality, for not joining in with them. He couldn't hear that he and the others he was with were doing more harm than good. He has forgotten Paul's reminder in Romans 2:4 that it is the kindness of God that leads men to repentance; not shouting, belittling and condemning. That is not our place, not our calling, not our ministry of reconciliation.

There have only been a few times in my 49+ years following Jesus that I have been embarrassed to be associated with others who call themselves believers, and this was one of them. Part of my praying during that event was to repent before the Lord for the kind of display that my brothers and sisters in Christ were exhibiting.

And I came away from that event convinced as ever that the Church has such a long way to go in reaching out/responding to the LGBTQ community; that the Church still has a lot of repenting to do; that the need for the Church to be educated in all things LGBTQ is as vital as ever; and that ministries like Abba's Delight must continue to thrive not only for those who turn away from the LGBTQ identity they've embraced, but for the Church at-large that continues to find effective ministry to them one of its most monumental challenges.

May God have mercy on us all!

#### **Responses From You**

From an Abba's Delight donor: Yeah, it's pretty scary. It is a call to fervent prayers.

#### **Upcoming Ministry Meetings**

Overcomers Group: Thursday, May 30, 2019; Thursday, June 13, 2019; Thursday, June 27, 2019

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, June 4, 2019; Tuesday, June 18, 2019

#### **Upcoming Prayer Initiatives**

Louisville Prayer Breakfast: Wednesday, June 5, 2019; 7:00-8:30am; \$6.00 Continental breakfast; Ramada Inn on Zorn Ave at I-71, Salon D; June speaker is Tracy Murray with RecycloCraftz

1 Voice Prayer Movement: Friday, June 7, 2019, 6:00-7:00pm at New Zion Baptist Church, 1504 S 34<sup>th</sup> St., Louisville, KY 40211; Rev A. Russell Awkard, Host Pastor

## **Upcoming Conferences**

Freedom March: Sunday, June 23, 2019; St Paul, MN Capitol

Hope for Wholeness Conference: Exalt 2019! July 10-13, 2019 Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, NC

# Scholarship Fund for Hope for Wholeness Conference

We need your help! Each year we ask for your financial support to assist those who would like to attend the conference, but are financially unable. Your tax-deductible donations allow those in our Overcomers and Family & Friends support groups to be able to attend this all-important event. If you are unable to go, but can help someone else, please make your checks payable to Abba's Delight and mail them to the address at the top of our newsletter, noting "scholarship fund" on the check's memo line. If you are not part of either group, your contributions are most welcomed, too! Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

A big Thank You to those who have given already!

# **Ongoing Prayer Requests**

- New participants for our Overcomers Group
- New members for our Family & Friends Group
- Ministry finances
- Open doors to churches to pastors and staff can be effectively equipped
- Opportunities to exhibit Abba's Delight ministry at outside conferences
- Those currently being served by Abba's Delight ministry that they would continue to grow closer to the Lord and fulfill each of their destinies in Him

• The Hope for Wholeness Network (of which Abba's Delight is a referral ministry) in selecting a new Executive Director

• 1 new female Director for Abba's Delight's Board. (If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact me).

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