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Daniel Mingo, Founder and Ministry Director

NEWSLETTER—August 2021



Referral Ministry of
Transformation Ministries Alliance

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

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such people as these. 2 Tim. 3:2-5*

"Pray Away" Documentary—Long on Accusations, Short on Accountability

Netflix released its "Pray Away" documentary in early August 2021, depicting the self-proclaimed experiences of several former Exodus International leaders, who have since chosen to re-embrace gay identities they once left behind to follow Jesus. It appears some have completely turned away from the Lord, while others have selected gay-affirming congregations believing God has approved their choice.

The name chosen for the film, "Pray Away," appears to be a reinforcement of the bash phrase "pray away the gay," which critics of post-LGBTQ+ ministries have used for several years to malign their work in helping those with unwanted LGBTQ+ issues resolve those troubles with their faith and relationship with God. The ministries have never used that phrase to describe the work they do; but it has become a catch phrase for detractors, Hollywood, and the media.

Another prominent theme of the documentary was to highlight what has come to be known as 'conversion therapy'. Made up by LGBTQ+ activists several years ago, and promoted by its mainstream media allies, this fabricated term is used to defame reputable ministries and counselors, claiming they perform such practices as electroshock therapy, pain-inducing remedies, and shame. Neither professional counselors nor ministries have ever used the term conversion therapy for the services they provide. Yet, Hollywood took it upon itself to portray that connection further with the 2018 movie *Boy Erased*.

Jeffrey McCall, the founder of Freedom March, was interviewed in the documentary as well. His testimony of leaving his gay/transgender life as Scarlett to follow Jesus was a shining ray of Sonlight in this film. He declared at one point in the film, "The Holy Spirit can give you new desires and wants. The Holy Spirit can transform you." To his credit, while the makers of

the film were using his footage to label him as the new face of conversion therapy as a disparagement, Jeffrey used his involvement as an opportunity to share the gospel, telling how Jesus set him free from a life his Father never intended him to live. This was Jeffrey's act of obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading. I believe Jeffrey's Father was quite well-pleased.

There are numerous messages this documentary is attempting to convey. I am sharing some of them here, and responding to them:

The church is a place where you follow the rules. This idea communicated nothing about being born again, developing a relationship with Jesus, or living in transparent community with a body of believers for the purpose of growing in faith and maturity to be prepared for the calling and destiny on one's life. Instead, it conveyed a performance-based life, set up for failure and devoid of grace.

One person wished to be told, **"You're OK exactly the way you are. We love you, God loves you, and you don't have to change a thing."** To get born again, yes, we don't have to change a thing. But when we are born again, we get conformed to the image of Jesus, which requires changing, adapting, and submitting to His will for us. A bible teacher I knew years ago told a lady questioning his position on sin, "Yes, God loves you just the way you are, but He doesn't want to leave you that way!" The Bible says God never changes, so we must be willing to be conformed to His will in order to be His disciples fit for kingdom use.

I was born gay, gay is what I feel, and gay is who I am. It is my identity. Neither the Scriptures nor science can substantiate these statements. All of those in the documentary appeared to have once lived lives as born-again believers, disciples, Christians. Jesus said in Matthew 16:24, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." Instead of conforming to this Biblical truth, those in the documentary are attempting to conform God to their feelings and their image of Him in their minds, as characterized by Paul in the first chapter of Romans. To demonstrate this point, one fellow describing his life before he again took on his gay identity went so far as to say, **"...killing ourselves inside by not acknowledging who God created us to be."** At our born-again experience, our Father gives us a new identity as His adopted son/daughter. Why would any of God's sons or daughters need any additional or different identity than that?

One fellow declared that **he didn't feel like he could be honest about his (homosexual) feelings** while he was living a heterosexual life. But to me, he seemed to take no action to righteously deal with those feelings, nor responsibility for where the lack of action towards those feelings eventually led him. Rather, he placed the blame elsewhere. He went on to say that he thought to himself, **"If I'm tempted, I must be broken and damaged."** How could he not know that we're all broken and damaged, that we're all born into sin, and we are all in need of being rescued and saved and healed and delivered?

In one scene towards the end of the film, the congregation was heard beginning the Lord's Prayer. Rather than using the Scriptural version of it, LGBTQ+ inclusive language was used stating "Our Creator, who art in heaven...", language commonly used in a gay-affirming congregation tion.

I see this film as yet another step towards attempting to silence the Church from speaking the truth about God's redemptive power in the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals. All the more reason for those of us who have left to follow Jesus to keep telling our stories of freedom from our enemy's clutches.

[Responses From You](#)

From a pastor in OH: "What has kept me plodding on is 51 years of learning and knowing that God is faithful, that I can trust Him, that He will carry me when I need to be carried, that His grace (His power in me to do His will) is sufficient, that His mercies are new every morning, and most of all that He loves me as His treasured son. There is so much security in all this..." Yay and Amen! While you probably already know this, a third of the Psalms are laments. And these are the ordained words of God, fixed and immovable, anchored in the Cannon, and they've often become my literal prayers in this dry and weary land where there's often little water. But I suspect you already know this as well. May our Lord's hands, which are just as beautiful when they give and when they withhold, minister daily, even generously, to your needs—in the natural and the spiritual...

From a ministry leader in MA: A good word, Daniel. A friend said recently the teacher is often silent in the test.

From a business leader in KY: Daniel, I appreciate: 1. Your transparency. 2. Your faithfulness to Christ in seasons of dryness. It is a blessing to count you as a friend.

[Upcoming Ministry Meetings](#)

Overcomers Group: Thurs, Sep 2, 2021; Thurs, Sep 16, 2021; Thurs, Sep 30, 2021

Family & Friends Group: Tues, Sep 7, 2021; Tues, Sep 21, 2021

[Upcoming Ministry Event](#)

Commonwealth Policy Center's Christianity and Culture Conference, Friday, Sep 10, 2021, Knicely Conference Center, Bowling Green, KY

[Ongoing Prayer Requests](#)

New Participants for Overcomers Group • New members for our Family & Friends Group (especially wives) • Ministry Finances • Open doors to churches, so pastor and staff can be effectively equipped • Those currently being served by Abba's Delight ministry, both Overcomers and Family & Friends • Continued freedom to operate ministry in Kentucky • Smooth establishment of new network, Transformation Ministries Alliance

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