



## THE LOVE LETTER

Abba's Arms International, Inc.  
(Kings Kids Unlimited, Inc)

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3rd Quarter

### SAVE THE DATE! **September 18-20, 2015**



**September 18-20** the State College Assembly of God Church will be hosting **Mark Gyde**, Leader of Fatherheart Ministries in the United Kingdom. **Mark will be sharing a series entitled A Father to You. Come ready to let Him be a Father to you and experience more of His Love!** Sessions will be 7-9 PM **Friday** evening, **Saturday** 9:30AM-4:30 PM, and 10 am **Sunday** morning. Mark your calendars, invite your friends and plan to come and enjoy the fellowship and the comforting love of our Heavenly Father!

We trust you will prayerfully consider coming as well as praying for the meetings to impact all the churches in the State College area with the Father's Love. Details for the meetings will be posted on our website [www.abbasarmsintl.org](http://www.abbasarmsintl.org) and the church website [www.scassembly.org](http://www.scassembly.org)

Also, help us get the word out by inviting your friends and posting the announcements on your social media!!

## Seeing Our Father in Nature

Over the past couple years, I (Sue) have found myself seeing more of who my Heavenly Father is as I look at creation and nature that surround me! Father has spoken to my heart numerous times now about who He is and how He made me from what I see in the things He created! I continue to gain a greater understanding of His ways as I examine other parts of His creation too! There is a song, *Wonder*, by Bethel that has deeply impacted my heart. Some of the words that are repeated over and over are: ***"May we never lose the wonder, wide-eyed and mystified, may we be just like a child staring at the beauty of our King! Fill us with wonder!"*** Father spoke to my heart that He wants me to live as His child filled with wonder over Him as I see Him in creation. I started thinking about how a toddler or very young child is truly curious, wide-eyed, and excited as they explore their world. Can I again stand in awe of the beauty of a flower, a sunset, the majesty of a mountain and so much more like a child? In **Psalm 19** David praises God for the splendor of all He created. **Psalm 19:3-4** in the Passion Translation says, ***"Without a sound, without a word, without a voice being heard, yet all the world can see its story, everywhere the revelation report is clearly read so all can know."*** Our Father will never

force Himself into our lives, but I am convinced that He placed His fingerprints on all that He created to reveal who He is and draw us to Him! It is time to ask Him to open the eyes of our hearts so that we stand in awe of Him and His astounding ways!

**Isaiah 9:6** says, ***"His name will be called Wonderful..."*** or ***wonder-filled*** as we haven't begun to fully see and comprehend all that He is! The Hebrew for wonderful means *marvelous, which is exciting to wonder or some degree of surprise*. The Webster's 1828 dictionary says wonder means *to be excited by the sight of something new, unusual, great, or extraordinary; to be affected by surprise or admiration; a miracle*. Our God created all that we see for our enjoyment and to help us see how awesome and big He is! Throughout the Old Testament we see many times where Father took what He created and performed wonders, things that were out of the ordinary! God performed outstanding wonders or miracles when He delivered the Israelites from Egypt. He turned the Nile River into blood and He made the Red Sea a wall of water so His people could cross over while the Egyptians drown in the same water.

Later He fed the people miraculously with water from a rock and manna from Heaven! The Israelites truly saw who their Father God was, yet many struggled to trust and believe in His love and care.

In today's world many fail to see and know the true character of our Wonderful, Everlasting Father! **Romans 1:20-21** says, ***"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because although they knew God they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."*** The eyes of many people's hearts have been darkened with them losing their ability to see the One who created them! Father wants each of His children's hearts to see Him and learn more of His character by looking at nature each day.

One Sunday years ago, Rick and I were sitting on our patio and suddenly realized we felt more alive than sitting inside our house. Father whispered to our hearts that we were surrounded by life – living plants, flowers, the sky and



sunshine. They were all vibrating with His Zoe life! We have heard many people say they feel the closest to God when they are out in nature and enjoying His creation! Father so desires that we get images in our hearts about His character and who He wants to be for each of us by looking at various aspects of His creation! In this Love Letter I will share a few of the clear images in nature that He has revealed to me about who He is, but my prayer is that this will be the beginning of Father revealing so much more to you personally. May you see Him more clearly so that you may be able to trust and rest in His care! He wants each of us to know in our hearts that He is the true source of all life and all good!

### He is Light, Unconditional and Life-giving!

**1 John 1:5** says “**God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.**” He is *the source* of all light in its various forms and He freely and unconditionally gives it to all! (**Matt. 5:45**) He has provided light from the sun, moon, and stars 24 hours a day. *His faithfulness and constancy* is revealed as the sun comes up every morning and sets each evening. (**Ps. 113:3**) Even when we can’t see the sun because of clouds, if we get in a plane and rise above the clouds, we will see the sun is still shining brightly! The moon and stars light the night making sure we are never in total darkness. (**Ps. 136:9**) The sun also *warms the earth and brings forth life* to all living things, because without it, we would all die. Father showed me the sun shines on all of creation without our doing anything except putting ourselves in a place to receive. Can we be like a blade of grass or a flower and let Him warm our lives and our hearts? He wants to warm each heart with His tender love every day, but do we let Him?

Father also showed me that there is a variety of colors in light that we can see whether we see a rainbow in the sky or look through a prism. He made our world full of color! He is not a dull boring God, but one that loves to paint the sky with brilliant, colorful sunrises and sunsets that only last a few minutes. What an extravagant Father who wants to surprise us with the myriad of colors we see in flowers, birds, butterflies and much more! Just like the different frequencies of light produce a variety of color for our eyes to

behold, Father is helping me see each person as His unique creation, seeing their beauty, and valuing their differences too.

### He is Unchanging and Constant!

He isn’t like people who may change from one day to the next. No matter what else is going on in the world around us, our Father is the constant one that we can count on. That fact should make us feel secure. **James 1:17** tells us He is the “*...Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning!*” I had a dream many years ago in which I saw three golden mountains. He spoke to me that no matter where I may go in life, I was to always keep my eyes on those three mountains for they represented Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! I knew in my heart that He would not change who He is nor desert me no matter what happened in my life. While mountains may look different depending on the seasons, they are beautiful, big, and immovable. Our God is also majestic, strong and solid like a mountain. He is the One who is a constant in our lives, the rock upon which we can stand. He wants us to know He will always be there for us. (**Heb. 13:5**)



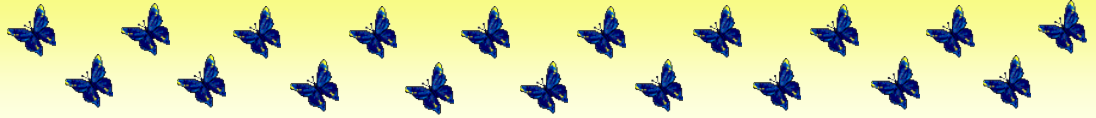
**Psalms 125:2** paints the image of His continual desire to protect us for it says, “*as the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people.*” We have a faithful Father who wants us to trust Him to keep us safe. Just like He is the source of light, mountains can also be *the source* of live-giving water as the snow melts or rain flows down and meets our needs. To see the top of a mountain our eyes must look up. Father has shown me how much He desires that I not look to other people or to myself to solve problems. Each day I am learning to place my eyes on Him as the One who will protect me and be my faithful Father meeting my needs! (**Ps. 34:5**)

### He Cleanses, Refreshes and Fills!

There are two things in our world that are essential for life – the *air* that we

breathe and the *water* that we drink that sustains all life! Father again is *the source* of both! Can we see how He is so vital to our lives? Our bodies must breathe in oxygen to live as our bodies are continually cleansed of carbon dioxide. He has been showing me that time with Him is like oxygen to my spirit! Air in the form of wind is something that can’t be controlled and requires our trusting Father to do what He knows is best. Jesus told Nicodemus that being born of the Spirit was like the wind blowing where it wishes without knowing where it may go next. (**John 3:8**) If we look at nature, a gently blowing breeze can remove and cleanse the stale polluted air in an area. It literally refreshes not only the air but all those that it touches! When the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, He came as a mighty rushing wind and filled all those that were waiting to receive what had been promised. Are we ready to be filled afresh by His great love and life?

The various forms of *water* are life giving and bless all of creation! The first image Father showed me was a winter *snow*. Each snowflake is one of a kind and that is the way He made each of us – unique and just right! He desires that we see ourselves spiritually and physically of great value and worth. The fact that snow falls silently and covers all the dirt of the world touches my heart with how Jesus’ blood has cleansed us from all sin and washed us whiter than snow! (**Isa. 1:18**) He removed anything that would hinder us from being His children. We are continuously cleansed by the washing of water by the Word. (**Eph. 5:26**) All plants, animals, and humans need water to live and grow. Father has provided for rain to fall from the sky and bring life to whatever it touches. (**Isa.55:10**) He again is *the source* as none of us can make it rain! But the Bible tells us, “*... He will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing!*” (**Ez. 34:26**) Have you ever seen a desert after a rain? A totally barren looking area can suddenly come alive with flowers and plants blooming. That brings me comfort knowing that no matter how dry I may feel spiritually Father will bring refreshing rain and cause what He has sown in my heart to grow and bloom! We simply need to let the rain fall on us until we are drenched and filled up with His love and goodness. Then we will experience His life and have something to give others!



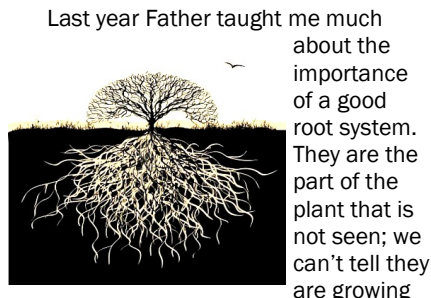
As I mentioned at the beginning, we can only live a few days without water. About 60 percentage of our body is water too. We must continue to take in water so we do not get dehydrated. Spiritually speaking we need to drink of Him often and daily. A large portion of our earth is covered with water. I believe Father put the rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans here for us to enjoy and find pleasure in them. Yet, they can speak much about who He is. The bigness of the oceans represents the vastness of His love which will never come to an end. (Eph. 3:18) We can throw all our cares and problems onto Him and allow His love to sustain and care for us. But more recently He has shown me that He wants me to trust Him more by going out into the deep waters where I can't touch bottom and letting the water take me wherever He wants me to go. (Ez. 47:3-5) For several years Father has been showing me how much easier it is to live my life simply flowing with Him rather than trying to navigate life on my own.

#### He is a Nurturing, Caring Gardener

Jesus shared many parables with the people talking about seeds, plants, vines, and trees, all things that we're familiar with. Here again I see He is **the source of the life** in seeds, vines, or whatever plant we see. In **John 15** Jesus refers to Father as the farmer that makes sure good growth happens. Having helped with both flower and vegetable gardens since I was a child, I remember the wonder of planting a very small seed in the soil and seeing it sprout, grow and produce a harvest which is still amazing to me. I see Him wanting to be **the true skilled gardener** in each of our lives. Our hearts are like gardens that need someone to tend and prepare them to grow good seed. Whatever is sown into our hearts (gardens) will spring forth and grow, so we need His help to get rid of the weeds that may hinder growth and only allow positive images (seeds) in our hearts. Men have found natural seeds in the pyramids that were centuries old and yet when they were planted, they grew! We have been **"born again of the incorruptible seed of God's word."** (1 Peter 1:23) His seed can be planted in our hearts a long time before the conditions are right for growth, but He never gives up on us or the seed. A

seed produces after its kind, so planting His seed in our hearts will cause us to be more like Father!

Have you ever seen a plant, tree or some living thing that you knew needed some extra TLC? That is our Father! He isn't upset if our hearts are weak and insecure. **He is a gentle, patient gardener** who will tenderly care for the plants that are struggling no matter how long it takes till growth comes. Jesus revealed the Father's heart as He treated each one with gentle love, not harshness. The writer of the Message Bible puts it this way, **"He won't brush aside the bruised and the hurt and He won't disregard the small and insignificant, but He'll steadily and firmly set things right."** (Isa. 42:3) A plant or tree must be firmly planted in rich soil and watered for healthy growth to take place. He is the One who will orchestrate others crossing our path to make sure we get what we need to be strengthened so we can grow. Yet it's not about what we do versus what someone else does. I had a friend share that He is as excited about a small flower as a giant sequoia tree!



and yet they take in the nutrients needed for growth. We will have healthy roots if we stay close to Him, becoming rooted and grounded in Him, in love! (Eph. 3:17 & Col. 2:7) Just like the roots stabilize a plant or tree against wind and storms, the deeper our roots are anchored in His love, the more we will remain unmoved during the storms of life. Remaining in a place where there is a constant supply from Father will allow us to be fruitful no matter what is going on around us! (Ps. 1:3) When a tree is first planted, it is fairly easy to pull them out, but after ten years of growth, it is hard to uproot it! The deeper the roots, the bigger the tree and the more it may benefit and impact others. Father wants us to be like Him glorifying Him with our lives! (Isa. 61:3)

In **John 15** Jesus gives us a wonderful picture of how Father always planned for us to draw our life from Him living totally in union with Him. The Passion Translation catches the heart of our Father saying, **"I am like a sprouting Vine, and the farmer who tends the Vine is My Father. He cares for the branches connected to Me by lifting and propping up the branches that are fruitless, and pruning every fruitful branch to yield a greater harvest...So step into life-union with Me, for I have stepped into life-union with you. For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, so your life will be fruitless unless you live your life intimately joined to Mine. I am the Sprouting Vine and you're My branches. As you live in union with Me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you, but when you live separated from Me you are powerless...I love each of you with the same love that the Father loves Me. Let My love nourish your hearts."** (John 15:1-2, 4-5, & 9) Those verses say so much! We as the branches need to see the vine as our source! The vine gives all and holds nothing back. It lives not for itself, but only for the branches. I stand in awe that just as the vine truly needs the branches to produce fruit and bless the world, Father needs each of us to be healthy fruitful branches revealing Him as the true source to all that cross our path!

There is much more that I could share but I will stop here. Father impressed upon me how much He desires that we each be continuously awed by what He has created knowing that He did it all for us, His children! It is time to be filled with wonder about the details He put in each part of His creation. Ask Him to show you new things and stay curious and wide-eyed like a little child eager to see more of who He is and all that He planned for us to enjoy and be a part of so that we can bless the world!





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## A Blessing of God in Creation

I bless you with your eyes being opened to seeing God's fingerprints around you in His creation. I bless you with walking as His wonder-filled, wide-eyed child eager to discover more of your Father's ways. May He surprise you with special glimpses of His desire to touch your heart with the beauty of His creation. I bless you with your Father reminding you of Him through the majesty and glory that is in all of nature that surrounds you. May you see Him as the life-giving source of your life more and more! I bless you with an attitude of thanksgiving and gratitude for His work in your life. May you appreciate the awesome, overwhelming creativity and intricacy of your design and the design of everybody and everything in your world. I bless you with an ever increasing level of trust in who your Father is so that you can rest secure in His faithful, constant, never-ending love and goodness. May you experience your Heavenly Father more as He reveals Himself to you through all of nature that surrounds you!

Though our feelings come and go  
His love for us does not  
- C. S. Lewis

