



Rick & Sue McCoy

The Love Letter

Abba's Arms International, Inc.
2nd Quarter Volume 14

Update: Chicken Project in Ndola, Zambia

They have successfully raised their first 100 chickens to a size that they can be sold in the market.! PTL! They have learned a lot from raising their first chickens and will be making some adjustments so it can be more profitable!



- Pray for the sale of all the chickens at a good price and wisdom on how to proceed from here.
- Pray for more people to buy chickens where they are raised and for people who will buy bigger lots of chickens at one time.
- Pray for the rest of the funds to come in for the initial costs of building the pens and starting the project. Total cost \$6,000 **Received \$3,600**

Update-Computer projects in Kenya and Zambia



They are learning how to use the computers and we have made and downloaded three videos that have been used for special meetings and church services. We have had many positive responses from both churches. PTL!

- Pray for a better way to download the videos to Africa
- Pray for us in making new videos
- All the funds to come in to cover the costs for purchasing the equipment

Total Cost: \$2,700 **Received: \$1,700**

We have also posted our videos on our YouTube account that can be accessed by searching the titles:

My Banner Over You Is Love
Being Loved by Your True Father
Sonship A Father-Son Connection

You can give towards these projects online at our website: <https://abbasarmsintl.org/>

Or send checks payable to:
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Where Is Your Focus? (Part 2)

In my first Love Letter this year, I (Rick) looked at some things we think or do that can affect how we see life. Like taking pictures, we can mess up our focus and not see or hear things clearly the way Father does. With this second letter, I want to dive a little deeper into how our actions, choices, and beliefs can impact our present and future enjoyment and success in life. Let's get started by looking at "Godsight," seeing things the way Father sees them.

Godsight!

Henri Nouwen encourages us in his devotional "*You Are the Beloved*" to focus on the presence of God who is living in our hearts. He suggests finding a single sentence or word in scripture that catches our heart and concentrate on those words until they remove all awareness of the things of this world. That will clear our heart so we can connect with Father and see things the way He does. Henri also suggests that repeating a sentence, prayer, or words like, "Jesus my Lord and Healer," can create an inner stillness and "empty space" where God can dwell and speak to us. As we do this, the awakening of His covenant love inside of us as His sons and daughters allows us to find His presence in the world around us. It's no longer just filled with corruption, darkness, violence, and evil. Our spiritual eyes are opened to the awareness that God is working in and through everything going on in this world, the good, bad, and ugly. Even though things may not be going the way we would like right now, we can still have the hope and confidence that God has got this too, and He is working His plan for good to come out of it! Clinging to His words and promises have helped me from getting too frustrated, discouraged, or lose hope for the future of our country and the world!

Another aspect of Godsight is seeing everything through the finished work of the cross. When I look at my own body and what might not be functioning according to the Word, I have to take my focus off of the negative symptoms and look at what Jesus accomplished through His death and resurrection on the cross. We also need to see other people through Father's eyes and hear His thoughts about ourselves and others. Instead of seeing what's wrong or missing in their lives, we can look for the treasure in them and what new experience of Him that they still need. Ask yourself, "What would Love do or say to that person?" Leif Hetland says, "Love does not treat people according to their history, but according to their destiny!"

One of the best examples of what Love sees in another person is found in the Prodigal Son story. When the son returned from the far country broken, dirty, fearful, and full of shame, the father ran to his son, embraced him and threw a celebration! The father's love for his son blew past all of his own possible reasons for feeling anger, hurts, loss, or pain over his son's leaving. The father only saw "this son of mine" who was "dead and is alive again, he was lost and now is found." **Luke 15:24** At his homecoming party, the son saw something too that he had never seen before about his father, "*he loves me,*" even though it was there all the time! Just like the younger brother in the story, when we discover that God is *a loving Father*, we too can discover the pleasures and enjoyment of that same Father-son relationship, *Him enjoying us and we enjoying Him!* For me, there is nothing that can compare with the healing of my heart and being able to see God for who He really is to me, **my Abba!** I still get good feelings just thinking about it!

We Need to "Re-focus!"

The only time that we can have an impact on is right now. We can't do anything about our past, and we have little control over the future. We can either be present-past focused where we allow the things from our past to affect how we feel, see our self, and what we do right now or we can be present-future focused where we can have hope and positive feelings, and we can make plans or prepare for a better future. Although we cannot change the past, the past is our history, but we can still use it as a platform or foundation upon which we can make plans for a new and better future. For most of you reading this letter, you have already experienced the Father's covenant love that drew you into accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior and coming awake again in your spirit. This renewed relationship with the Father is meant to continue throughout the rest of our lives here on earth and on into eternity. It needs to become the new way we live the rest of our lives!

Sometimes the media can get us too focused on what is happening in our country and the world right now and we lose the focus on what God is doing. There is a greater focus right now on corruption, fraudulent elections, increased violence in our cities, runaway inflation, gas prices, and the list goes on and on. Part of what is going on is a greater exposure of the wickedness and evil that has been increasing in our

nation for a long time. God is shining His light on the devil's plans and his attempts to keep a foothold in America and maintain his authority and power over the people. However, in the midst of all of this, Father is awakening His church and positioning us for perhaps the greatest awakening and revival in the history of our country! We have to look past the current events and see things how God sees them, respond with love, and pray with the authority Jesus gave us with His name! I have to keep reminding myself not to get too focused on what's wrong with our country and keep my eyes on Father which always gives me hope and encouragement for a better future.

We can also apply this re-focusing to ourselves too. Too often we tend to look at all the things that are wrong with us: our body, how we look, what we can't do right or well, and our weaknesses. Paul was struggling with this in **2 Cor. 12:8-9** with his "thorn in the flesh." But Father didn't focus on Paul's weaknesses or problems, He saw the opportunity for Himself to be strong in Paul's life! We all need to get our eyes off of our weaknesses and focus on the strengths and what we are good at doing. It wasn't until I began to see myself as a son of my Heavenly Father that I began to get my eyes off of my natural weaknesses and see myself the way God sees me!



This refocusing can be applied to our children or other people too. Recently, I heard Leif Hetland talking about our Heavenly Father, and he said, "I could see my children by

looking at their mistakes and what's wrong with them, but I choose to focus on their strengths and what they can do well." He then emphasizes and encourages them in their strengths and the rest he puts in Father's hands!

My Undivided Attention!

"...he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." **James 1:8**

What we focus on, we empower in our lives, either for good or bad! People can become very ridged in their beliefs, behaviors, thoughts, or how they see things and they may do something that they never thought they would ever do. Just look at things people do during a riot because they have put all of their attention on things that produced anger or rage in them. I see why Paul admonishes us to keep our focus on things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy! These things will bring the peace of God to us! **Philippians 4:8-9**

Because I am more visual, I can get distracted easily and find myself suddenly thinking or doing something entirely different from what I started out to do! I can find myself stopping and thinking, “Why did I come in here?” I have to retrace my thoughts until I remember that I was actually looking for a pencil or a book! I have to stay focused on what I am doing or at least keep bringing my mind back to the real task at hand! Another example is when Sue and I are praying together in the mornings. Sue can say something in prayer that trips me into thinking about that person or event which causes me not to hear what she is praying!

There are lots of other ways that we can get double-minded in our thinking if we are not focused and listening to Father and our spirit. We can vacillate on what we believe or have difficulty making important decisions. We can begin doubting ourselves, become restless or confused, question our own faith, thoughts and beliefs, or never be able to make a decision.

Our double-minded thinking may eventually cause us to question God and His love for us. Left unchecked, we can spiral into self-doubt, guilt, shame, hopeless despair or other negative emotions and thoughts. If you find yourself going in this direction, please seek out professional help or find some positive-focused friends to hang out with!

Another way to freedom and a new way of thinking is to reach out to your Heavenly Father who is always ready to fill you with His Love and hope as His precious son or daughter! Take a step towards Him by expressing appreciation for what He has done and open your heart to receive His love. That is what really began to turn my life around and fill me with His peace and love. We can also engage in interactive prayer and appreciation with Father. Ask Him questions; tell Him what’s on your heart; express your deepest hurts or desires to Him; and then be silent and allow Father to respond back to you. You’ll be amazed at what you might hear – and it’s all good stuff! ***Make Father the focus of your love and devotion! His arms and lap are waiting for you! I know because I’ve begun to do that myself! The adventure can start right now!!!***



A Father’s Blessing for Keeping Your Life In Focus!

I bless you to have a positive attitude about yourself and know who you are in Christ Jesus. I bless you to experience what it means to be called a “Son of God” and to be loved by your Heavenly Father as much as He loves Jesus. I bless you to have a discerning spirit and be able to identify the lies of the devil and to know the TRUTH that will set you free. I bless you to have Godsight and see yourself and others through Father’s eyes and how He sees you. I bless you to be free of all critical and judgmental spirits and only speak words of blessing and love to everyone you meet. I bless you to see the treasure in other people and bring out that treasure in them and in yourself. I bless you to keep your focus on what is true, just, good, lovely and worthy of praise!

