



THE LOVE LETTER

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

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SAVE THE DATE! June 26 – 28

June 26 – 28 State College Assembly of God Church will be hosting **Mark Head**, executive director for Fatherheart Ministries in New Zealand. **Mark will be sharing a series on Coming Home to the Father and experiencing His Love Friday 7-9PM, Saturday 9AM – 4PM, and Sunday 10AM service.** Mark your calendars, invite your friends and plan to come and enjoy the fellowship and the comforting love of our Heavenly Father!



There will be more detailed information coming out in the next several months, but we wanted to let you know now so that you could prayerfully consider coming and begin 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 and the church website www.scasassembly.org Also, help us get the word out by inviting your friends and posting the announcements on your social media pages!!

Hello! My Name is Father

Imagine going to a meeting where there were a lot of people that you did not know, and among them was somebody who could answer your most troubling question, take care of your greatest need, speak a word that would bring healing to your body, or could protect you from your greatest fears. You only knew this person's name and a little about him, but you had never met him or knew what he looked like. Without a name tag or chance encounter at this meeting, you could miss the most important person to ever be in your life!

That's the way it is with our Heavenly Father. Most of us, including myself (Rick), know Him by name and a little about Him from what we have read and heard, but we really have never had the experience of meeting or being with Him. It has only been in the last several years that I have begun to know and experience the Father in a very personal and intimate way. I had gained a lot of head knowledge about my Heavenly Father through teachings and reading God's Word, but most of

that was tainted by the filter over my heart from the way I saw my earthly father. I had reasoned that these two fathers were a lot alike. As my spiritual eyes and ears have been opened, I have realized how different my earthly father and Heavenly father are and allowed the Heavenly Father and His Love to begin transforming me into a son, just like Jesus.

I want to clarify something before we start looking at our Heavenly Father. I fully agree that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are inseparably united together and considered three parts of one God. However, I believe there is value and significance at looking at their uniquely different qualities that are spoken of in the scriptures. Why would Jesus make such a strong distinction between Himself, the Father and the Holy Spirit? Jesus even went so far as to say that the Father is greater than He was (**John 14:28**), and that when He went away, He would send "another Comforter," the Holy Spirit. (**John 16:27**) *It wasn't Jesus or the Holy Spirit that set me*

free from the fears, insecurities, self-hatred, and addictions in my life; it was the comforting love of the Father!

Getting to Know Dad!

In order to know our Heavenly Father we must have the heart of a son. Paul writes in **Galatians 4:4-6** "...*And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out "Abba Father!"* Through Jesus and salvation we are given the "spirit of sonship" and can call God affectionately, "Dad!" Sonship opens up a whole new and different way for us to relate to and experience our Heavenly Father. Mark Gyde in his book *A Father to You* makes a powerful statement that has really rocked my thinking. He said, "*A lot of people know that I'm a father because I have two sons, but only my sons know me as father because they have allowed me to father them.*" That statement hit me hard because I realized that I had not allowed my father to father me, especially after I was 11 years old and pulled away from a



relationship with him.

I realized that I was looking at this whole idea of being a son from the perspective of how I was a son to my earthly father. I was not a very good son and only allowed my father to “father” me in a few areas. I was very much independent and in control of my own life, and that is how I was with my earthly father and Heavenly Father. I never asked for much help or sought Father God’s wisdom and advice before trying to do something. This created many problems in my life and put me in some dangerous situations because I thought that I knew how to do it! Fortunately, I have learned the importance of submission and allowing Father to work through me, and things are going much better now!

God is love and by nature His only relational characteristic is Father. The only way He relates to us is as Father. He has all of the other titles given Him in the Bible like Almighty God, Prince of Peace, and Creator, but we can only relate to Him and connect in our heart with Him as Father. That’s why for many of us God seems so far away and cold to us. Jesus has several relational characteristics like Bridegroom, Friend, Brother, and Savior and it is much easier to feel close and connect with Jesus. But, if we don’t have the heart of a son, there is no heart-to-heart connecting point for us with God. We can operate in the gifts, cast out demons, and raise the dead and still not experience the Father and His Love.

Jesus Revealed the Father

Jesus came to reveal His Father, an image that had been lost to mankind and one that religion had replaced with a judgmental old man who will get you if you mess up! Jesus also came into an orphan system to **reveal the image of a true son!** In John’s gospel Jesus used **Father** over **110 times!** Jesus came from the bosom of the Father! It is a place close to His heart. We’ll be there too because Jesus has prepared a place

for us! Jesus said He was the way to the Father who is the destination! **John 14:6.** We have lost our way home since the garden and lost the reality of who Father is and what He is like!

Even at the age of 12 Jesus knew His identity. He was in the temple about His Father’s business! **Luke 2:49** He walked as a son to His Father saying that His Father was greater than He was and He only did what He heard or saw His Father do! (**John 5:19 & 8:26**) If we **look at Jesus** and His actions, we will sense Father’s heart and **we will see the Father.** Jesus met people spirit-to-spirit and heart-to-heart. They experienced Father’s love and care no matter what their need. Jesus was being just like His Father! When Jesus rose from the dead, **He referred to us as brothers**, not friends, because He said He was going back to “*My Father and Your Father!*” **John 20:17**



Some Characteristics of Father

1. **Motherheart of the Father** David is probably the greatest example of a man’s man. He was righteous, courageous, bold, fearless, mighty in battle, yet gentle, compassionate, and intimate with the Father. He wrote poetry about love, played the lyre, and sang songs. He is the best example of both the feminine and masculine in a man. God created male and female in His own image and called them both man. (**Genesis 1:27**) God is every bit feminine as He is masculine and He has created us in His image. Every man has all the qualities and characteristics of the feminine even as women do the masculine; it’s just that the masculine is the more dominant in men and the feminine more dominant in the women. Father exhibits the masculine when He pursues us (the masculine initiates), and our feminine side receives His Love (the

feminine receives!) Men have a loving nurturing heart that can be expressed towards their wife and children. Men can show emotions and feelings, show compassion, express love, give gentle affectionate touches, speak in a gentle voice, and have loving looks just like women. In **Psalm 131:2** David uses the image of a mother to describe his relationship with the Father. One of His names is “El Shaddi” which literally means the “full-breasted one.” His gentleness makes us great. (**Psalm 18:35**)

2. **Dad!** I’m guessing the first time Adam opened his eyes and looked at the Father the first word he spoke was “DAD!” In **Romans 8:15** Father is referred to as “*Abba Father*” which literally means Daddy. It is meant to be an endearing term for someone who is loving and nurturing to his family. **Psalm 18:19** says that He “delights” in us. He desires to be with us all the time. Have you ever been with someone who you did not want to leave or be separated from? That’s the way I was with my wife Sue when we were dating! That’s the way our Heavenly Father is with us. He never wants to leave us; He enjoys being with us too much! He never takes His eyes off of us just like He did with Jesus. **Psalm 22:24** says that even at the cross Father never hid His face from His son! (*Jesus quoted Psalm 22:1 on the cross. The Hebrew for “forsaken” literally means loosen, relinquish, permit, move away from or change position – Father just moved away enough to allow sin to come on Jesus!*) He will never leave or forsake you either. He wants to take care of all our needs (food, shelter, clothing, supplies, and provisions) and give us more than we need so we have some to give away to others. He puts desires in our heart so that He can have the joy of fulfilling them! He wants to give you the desires of your heart. He is ever mindful of us and is always thinking about us.

3. **A Family Man!** Father created us to have relationships – family, friends, and



church. We are social beings because Father wants to have a relationship with us. He wants to know that we have a place in our heart for Him. We also have that desire to know that someone has a place in their heart for us. It's unnatural to want to be alone or isolated. Father is saying, "Come on into the house!" **The Christian walk is all about finding our way home.** Father doesn't want us to just have soulless surface-level relationships that are shallow, dull, and unfulfilling where conversations never go beyond news, weather, and sports. He wants us to have spiritual-level relationships that are from the heart-rich, deep, fulfilling, and intimate.

Our relationship with Him must be heart-to-heart. There is love flowing between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and we get caught in the middle of it! It's a Love Triangle!



4. **God is Love (1 John 4:8)** Father is the God of all types of love: Romantic Love, Eros (sexual) Love, Phileo (friendship) Love, Storge (family) Love, and Agape (unconditional) Love. It's not that He has Love, but that He is Love. Love is a person. Love has substance; it can be poured out. You can give and receive Love. You can sense Love in the atmosphere of a home or in a person. Love can be expressed to others. Father loves everything about us. It's not that we look beautiful; it's that we are beautiful to Him! Father sees us through the finished work of the cross. He has great delight in being with us and doing things with us. He knows everything about us and everything that we have ever said or done and He still loves us! He knows my name, the number of hairs on my head, all my thoughts, and what's in my heart. There is nothing that we can ever do to cause Him to love us any less, and there is nothing that we can ever do that would cause Him to love us any more than He loves

us right now. That's just who He is!

His nature and character are to love. Father loves you, but you have to open your heart to receive it. We can't love God until we first receive His Love; you can't give away what you haven't received first! "*We love Him because He first loved us.*" **1 John 4:19** His loving kindness and goodness are the foundation of our faith. Faith works by love. **Galatians 5:6** We must have an experiential knowledge that He loves us before we can really trust Him, submit our lives to Him, and walk in His blessings and protection by faith. Knowing about Father's Love and experiencing His love is like the difference between having a picture of someone and actually hugging them. One is distant and the other is personal. Jesus said that Love is like the curtain rod upon which everything else hangs. (**Matthew 22:37-40**) There are no limits to His love for us. It is everywhere continuously flowing towards us all of the time. The only limit is our capacity to receive it!

5. **God of all Comfort** He's the Father of mercies (compassion) and the God of all comfort. **1 Corinthians 1:3** Comfort is part of the nature of God and is expressed through all of the Trinity. Jesus told the disciples that when He left, He would send another Comforter, the Holy Spirit. Jesus comforted the people through His actions, words, looks, and touches. The Holy Spirit brings comfort to us inwardly through His indwelling presence. It is the comforting love of the Father that heals our wounded hearts and set us free.

Father created us with a need to receive comfort. From the earliest age when we were hurt, our immediate response was to run to our mother to receive her comfort through her gentle words and touches. Unfortunately, our orphan-focused world tries to convince

us that we don't need comfort and should "take it like a man," "grow up," and "stop crying." The orphan heart believes that there is no one out there to comfort us, so we have to comfort ourselves with "false lovers" like food, sex, drugs, masturbation, religious striving, or alcohol. However, the only one who can really comfort us is Father with His Love! It was when I finally received the comforting love of the Heavenly Father that I was set free from the addictions in my life!

Dependence on Father

The more I learn about my Heavenly Father, the more I realize how much I need to depend upon Him for everything in my life. **Romans 8:21** talks about the "glorious liberty of the children of God." The more I trust in Father to protect me, provide for my needs, help me with everything I do, the more freedom I have experienced from fear, from what other people think, and from worrying whether I'm doing it "right" or not. It's a whole lot easier when I let Father be in control and not try to control everything myself. Jesus gave us the perfect example of being a son by His complete submission to the doing only what He saw and heard the Father doing. Jesus had to completely trust and depend on Father each day submitting fully to His will.

Barry Adams sums it up best in one of his "A Son's Life" blogs, "I truly believe that the more we know that we are loved, the more we will be willing to yield control of our lives to the One who loves us with an everlasting love. Sons and daughters are happy to live a dependent life."





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A Blessing for Experiencing the FATHER

I bless you to have a greater revelation of the Father and His Love for you. I bless you to experience the Father loving you all of the time and pouring out His Blessings on you. You can have the experiential knowing that He is your Daddy who you can run to for comfort or help any time or place. He is interested in your life and is ready to have fellowship and intimacy with you. I bless you with the peace and rest that comes from knowing Father is protecting you and providing for your every need. He is a good Father and every good and perfect gift comes down to you from His hand. He is your Comforter when you are troubled or challenged with life's circumstances. He holds you on His lap and close to His heart releasing His love and comfort into you. I bless you to walk in the reality that the Father loves you just the way you are and there is nothing that you can ever do that would cause Him to love you any more or any less than He loves you right now. You are a natural extension of His divine nature in the earth, a carrier of His love everywhere you go. And as you go, His love will subdue the whole earth and reclaim all that satan has stolen!