



Rick & Sue McCoy

You can now Live Stream our Soaking sessions on Abba's Arms International, Inc. Facebook page!

We shared earlier this year that our ministry, Abba's Arms Intl. is on Facebook, but several months ago we started live streaming the short talks that we share at the beginning of each evening of soaking in our home. There are many of you that live too far away to come to our home for the evening, but some of you have started joining us live via Facebook. We start at 7 pm so you are free to join us live and enjoy that time together. However, if your schedule doesn't allow that time to work, once we have completed the talk we post it on our Facebook page so that you can still watch and listen to it and previous ones as well.

For those of you that don't do Facebook, it may take a little bit of time for Rick to get the soaking evening uploaded to our website, but you can also listen to the soakings that way under "Messages From the Heart." If you have any questions, please send us an email abbasarms55@yahoo.com.



SAVE THE DATE! – March 9-11, 2018 Leif Hetland will be coming to State College!

- Ministers globally to the kingdom family by imparting God's love, healings, peace & joy
- Brings the gospel into some of the darkest parts of the world
- Over one million souls have been saved through his ministry

More info at www.abbasarmsintl.org
Registration opens January 9, 2018
Cost - \$35.00/person

A HEART-TO-HEART CONNECTION

Father spoke to me (Sue) earlier this year that He desires that we have a heart-to-heart connection with Him. It's the way we receive love! He helped me see that I don't **love** others with my head, but **with my heart!** Loving someone because you feel you have to is far from what our Father ever planned! He has always loved us! He wants our hearts to experience His unconditional love and know we have a place in His family, but the choice is ours to be connected to Him or not. Jesus came to make the way for us to be in relationship with our Father like Adam and Eve experienced in the Garden of Eden. Our Father wants us to experience Him loving us all the time. He never meant for us to have just an intellectual knowledge of Him! I pray that as I share about **His heart which is for us and always loving us** you will experience more of His limitless, unconditional love too!

The Power of Relationship

In the beginning Adam and Eve had a heart-to-heart relationship with God and experienced His presence, walking and talking with Him in the Garden. But when they chose knowing good and evil over that relational connection, everything changed. Their ability to feel connected to God was lost! Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines **connection** as *the act of being joined; a state of being knit or fastened together... the word is applicable to almost everything that has a dependence on or relation to another thing*. Oneness and unity allow love to be received and flow. Suddenly Adam and Eve were cut off from the true source of life and love. So much was lost! Father told me many years ago, *"You don't know what you lost in the Garden; you lost the power of relationship!"* Later Father shared that He never stopped loving His man, but Adam and Eve sowed a seed of rejecting Him which made them think He rejected them too. Ever since, our ability to sense or receive His love has been hindered.

From the beginning, Father God meant for each of us to know His heart of love and how He delights in us like a father does with his sons and daughters. Despite what happened in the Garden of Eden, the Bible tells us about others that chose to open their hearts and have closer relationships with God like Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David. These men grew in knowing God and His heart which helped them trust and believe His words to them. Moses had a **face-to-face** relationship with God and God spoke of David as being a man "after My own heart ready to do all My will." **Ex. 33:11, Acts 13:22**

But the Israelites, after being slaves in Egypt for 400 years, struggled to believe that God was good and cared about them despite all the miraculous ways He delivered them from Pharaoh. They told Moses “You speak with us and we will hear, but let not God speak with us, lest we die.” **Ex. 20:19** For centuries men have believed the lie that God isn’t good and that they have to do something to merit His love. When our enemy, the devil, can get us to believe the lie that God is mad at us, we don’t have an accurate image of our Heavenly Father either. That lie stops our hearts from receiving His love as well as not seeing our value in His eyes or knowing who we really are.

Revealing the Father

Father sent His Son, Jesus, to reveal Himself to the world and remove the separation between us. Jesus came in the form of a man and lived to do His Father’s will. Do you remember what the angels sang when Jesus was born into the earth? **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!”**

Luke 2:14 Our Father announced that His Son was born to be our Savior and bring peace to men. He is not mad at us! His heart towards us is only filled with love! As Jesus ministered, He preached the ways of the Kingdom of God, yet He was very relational. He interacted with all kinds of people showing great compassion on them by eating with sinners, healing the sick, casting out devils, and meeting the needs of the people. Yet even Jesus’ **disciples**,

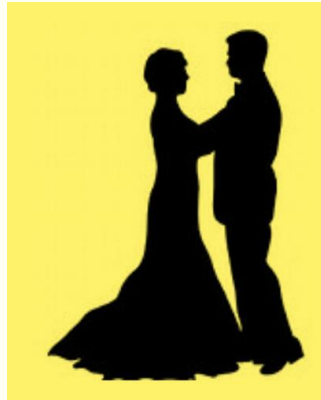
that were close to Him, didn’t get it when Jesus said, **“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also... He who has seen Me has seen My Father.”**
John 14:7, 9

Many of the people in Jesus’ day were living by the Law and thought it was about pleasing God by what they did. The church I grew up in made me believe similar things. I believed what I did on the outside - my good works and being a good girl - were how I pleased God and where I got my identity and value. After being saved for many years, my heart didn’t feel connected or close to Jesus or Father. I had become focused on what I should do as a believer – read the Word, pray, fast, witness, give, serve, etc. We can get so caught up in doing good things that we lose the closeness that we may experience when we are first saved. We can live more from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil than from the Tree of Life!

True life flows from knowing Him and seeing

ourselves in Him! John gives us a clear picture that **God is love** and **He sent His only Son into the world so we might live through Him. He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they’ve done to our relationship with God.** **1 John 4:8-10 Mess.** Love is relational! Love is the substance of what the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts. As we receive His love, then we have love to give to Him and others! **“We love because He first loved us!” 1 John 4:19** James Jordan has said, *“It’s not enough to know God loves you; you need to experience God loving you.”* Just like a plant needs water and sunshine to continue to grow, our hearts need the life that comes from Him - more of His love and comfort.

Today many people have lost touch with their hearts. With a lack of heart connections growing up, we don’t have the images or emotional experiences in our hearts that let us know we are seen, valued, and understood by our Heavenly Father. I can attest to feeling unseen and not valued as a girl. I had a good dad that loved me the best he could, but when I got to be about twelve, he



spent over 1,000 hours restoring a sailboat. My love language is quality time so that left my heart aching for his time and attention. I felt emotionally disconnected from him. In turn I closed my heart to my dad and emotionally disconnected from my Heavenly Father too. Recently during a time of soaking, I saw myself and my dad in a big ballroom. I had on a long evening gown and my dad came and extended his hand to me asking me to dance with him. My heart was overcome with his love, attention, and understanding of what I had always longed for! After dancing a time, he waltzed me over to a huge throne and presented me to my True Heavenly Father where I took my place beside Him! Wow! It felt like my heart came alive as I received their love and felt our hearts connected in a way that had never happened before!

One Thing is Essential

To develop a relationship with anyone requires spending time and energy to get to know them. Our Father desires that we spend time getting to know His heart, character, and nature from experiences and not just quoting something from your head about who He is. Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life which He says is **“to know and experience the only true God and... the Son whom you sent.”** **John 17:3TPT** But the condition of our hearts greatly affects our lives and what we experience. The scribes and Pharisees thought they knew God and were following the Law, but Jesus showed

them how they weren't honoring their own parents. Then He quoted **Isaiah 29:13** "**These people draw near Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.**"

He desires that we experience more and more of His love and goodness so that others will see Him in us! **John 15** gives us a simple image of total dependency on Him. He is the vine and we are the branches. The more we see ourselves connected to Him, the easier it is to live at home resting in love. The Passion Translation presents the tender caring heart that our Father has towards each of us as He just wants us to step into life-union with Him. Jesus prayed that "**they may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.**" **John 17:21** As we experience His love in our hearts, our lives will reveal His heart too!

How do we become more aware of Him and His heart of love for us in this busy, natural world? He took me to the story of Mary and Martha. **Luke 10:38-42**

I can identify with Martha aware of all the things that needed to be done. Jesus asks her why she was troubled, anxious, upset, and distracted by these natural things. Just how important are the things of this world compared to my heart connection with Him? Then Jesus talks about how Mary had chosen what is better, to sit at His feet, which won't be taken away from her! In the various versions it says Mary chose "**the only thing that is essential, the only thing that matters, the only thing worth being concerned about, the only thing that is necessary.**" As we approach the joy of the holidays, may you rejoice that Jesus came so that we can come home and take the time to be connected heart-to-heart forever!

HEART-TO-HEART BLESSING!

I bless you to know Father God isn't mad at you, but deeply loves you. May you experience more of His abundant love so that you can rest and depend on Him more and more. I bless you to make time to sit in His Presence and let His love, grace, and goodness flow over you and fill your heart afresh! I pray that He would breathe on your heart and awaken every place that has been dead or hardened by life's experiences. May He reveal any place that you got the wrong image of Him from what you experienced as you grew. May He help you to give the gift of heart forgiveness to those that have caused you hurt. Then I pray He reveals who He has always been and wants to be for you from this day forward. May you feel His love and closeness in a brand new way! I bless your heart to feel more connected to His heart with every new day!

