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Encouragement from S.A.M.

The end of February finds Marilyn and Barb trying to move as fast as the speed of light to get all the interesting and exciting things that are happening onto our website and in a form that will bring our message to more people than we have been able to reach before. We are so thankful to our little community and those who are volunteering to make these things happen! We have nearly completed our marketing course and see how much we have yet to learn to be able to harness all the wonderful technical possibilities to provide our services to the Body of Messiah. (We never thought we would actually enjoy working on the internet this way!)

If you check our website, you will see a new "invitation page" when you come in. We hope to identify the people who may be coming on and then point them to specific suggestions of what they might be looking for. We also have our local community guidelines for participation, a page that speaks of the difference between therapy and coaching and several new articles for your review. There is an article addressing concerns with several well known Christian authors, books and movies. The Flow Chart in which we are illustrating the "faith given once for all to the saints" is in the final stages of development to go on line; but even then, we know there will be refinements as we continue to learn more.

We were pleased to hear from Natan Lawrence of Hoshana Rabbah congregation after he completed our Leadership Concerns Survey : *I quickly filled out your survey and found myself marking nearly everything with a 5. You seem to have a good handle on the major issues facing Messianic/Nazarene fellowships. We have been reviewing much of what Natan has written on his site and find that we highly recommend him and his work. You may have seen his article regarding the label of "cult" as we listed it in our last newsletter? There is much more of his sound teaching about timely issues as well as ongoing Torah commentaries. There had been a problem with his service*

An Equipping Ministry

February 28, 2006

Life Giving Relationships: Spiritual Adoption

This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress. (James 1:27a NASB)

From the beginning *YHWH Elohim* had a plan for the family: Father - Mother - Children. Children become parents, parents become grandparents.

Grandparents, having successfully raised their own children, then come alongside those same children as they become parents. Grandparents have grown in wisdom and understanding to raise children in a *YHWH*-honoring way. Generation after generation grows and matures, walking in the ways of *Torah*.

In a sinless world, the pattern would work perfectly. Unfortunately,

provider and some people couldn't access his site, but the glitch seems to be ironed out now. Please try again. You will likely be glad you did.

In regard to our articles about helping people mature in order to handle personal relationships more effectively, we also had the following response: You sure are right about this!! We have been teaching and pastoring people for a number of years now, and they seldom have problems with any of the teachings. It's all their personal problems that they can't get over. A year ago when half our folks quit over this, that and the next thing, we realized that our ministry focus was not to be a counseling/ER/triage center, but to equip and disciple those who really wanted it and were willing to dig in. Sadly, many want it, more or less, but have so many personal problems that they are unable or unwilling to get past... We need the power of the Ruach like Yeshua had to zap these people spiritually. In the absence of that, we need good counselors ...

We empathize with this leader's experience and have had similar episodes, but we want to emphasize that it IS possible to address these matters, and minimize the negative impact on our fellowships, even using the concerns to promote our maturity! By His grace, we can use discernment and exhortation to support the shepherds and the flocks. Isn't it so like our Father to allow us to struggle through complicated relationships refining US in the process?

This issue, we will be heading on to the next subject from our First Year of Torah Observance Survey responses. The next most difficult issue was that of moving into the keeping of Shabbat. You will see more on the process of spiritual adoption. This topic is so important and has such depth, that we can only begin to touch it, even in several issues.

So, do read on! May these words be a blessing to you in the midst of whatever stressing you are in!

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How Do I Go About Keeping Shabbat?

As always in this transition, a change involves both blessings and stressings. You can go to [Biblical Holidays](#) to see a simple

we live in a fallen world. As a result, families are fractured and live in lawlessness. There is abuse--verbal, emotional and physical. Children do not receive all the training and nurturing that is necessary to grow into healthy, mature adults. They suffer from Type A and B Traumas. People enter the Body of Messiah with a lot of unhealthy baggage.

In order for these wounded adult infants and children to mature, redemption is needed. Somehow the lack of parenting from their childhood needs to be restored. How does a community of believers cooperate in this redemption?

In previous articles, we have spoken of **Spiritual Adoption**. This is the process of entering a person's life in order to help fill specific needs. Spiritual adoption can also aid in restoration of maturity gaps. It enables those who have suffered throughout their lives to develop joy. Spiritual adoption has the potential to transform the life of an individual and a community.

One important aspect of **Spiritual Adoption** to remember: it must be

description of Sabbath observance and the history of the change away from keeping it.

Keeping Sabbath has been referred to as our wedding ring of promise as we wait for Messiah, our Bridegroom, to return for us. This heritage came down to us in a distorted fashion. From some historical observances, it seemed a punishment to be restricted in activity. From our *Elohim's* perspective, it is a sign between us, a walking out picture of our rest in Him to accomplish His purposes and stop striving in our efforts each Sabbath day; to rest from our labors and enjoy fellowship, study and worship. Yes, we can do these things on any day of the week, but only THIS day was set apart by Him for this purpose! Our Mighty One, *Elohim*, has set this appointment to be with us especially on this day! Which one of us would want to "stand him up?" You may recall from your studies that there is no confusion about which day is really the seventh day. Although calendars have changed month designations, the days of the week have never changed. Perhaps our "confirmation" from *YHWH* as to the correct day may have been during the Exodus, confirming by the presence of manna which day was preparation day and which day was for rest. Does anyone doubt that *Yahshua* Himself would have had any confusion about which day was the correct day for Sabbath observance? Here is a link to an article about this concern from [Hoshana Rabbah](#).

All these things had never been as important before. Keeping Sunday for many of us, meant going to church in the morning for an hour or two and then being free to do whatever we wanted the rest of that day including work or shopping. The Blue Laws used to prohibit businesses from being open on Sundays, if you are old enough to recall that! That practice has dwindled until only car dealerships are required to remain closed now. (As I have come into Shabbat, I am thankful about this because Sunday IS when I work and shop now.)

Recognizing the need to keep THE Sabbath day set apart/holy does require some shifting of tasks and priorities. If you were accustomed to shopping, cleaning or other household work on that day, it will seem strange at first to not use the day that way. It will also seem strange for some to be working while their neighbors go off to church. Your banking tasks need to be accomplished around this time as well. You will probably find that you can make one or two adjustments at a time. When you have settled in those new adjustments you can then make others. Choosing not to buy or sell on this day means we must be a little more prepared, thinking ahead to what we might need for the day so as to avoid last minute crisis. This becomes habit fairly soon. This, too, we regard as practice for our Messiah's

YHWH-ordained. *YHWH* forms the community - **He** builds the house - **He** places people in relationship for **His purpose**.

There are three levels of spiritual adoption:

A basic level is someone who is in a person's life for a specific purpose and time. Perhaps a newly widowed woman needs help learning to take care of financial matters or needs someone to fix her car. A family with a disabled husband needs help to care for the lawn. A person with the necessary skills can come alongside to help with the specific tasks needed.

The next level is someone who is like a brother, sister, aunt or uncle. They are the special people in your life. They are the people with whom you spend holidays. They are the people you call up in times of distress. They **are** family. We are blessed when our biological families also fit in this category. Unfortunately, for many people this is not the case, so they must look elsewhere to fill in the emptiness.

The third level of spiritual adoption is the person who becomes a

return, for we want to be like the five wise virgins who were fully prepared with enough oil, and not like the five foolish ones who had to go look for a merchant at just the time of His coming!

As always, our heart motivation in making these changes needs to be our love and desire to be obedient to our Redeemer. Just as in days of old, there are those who become legalistic or hard in this observance. If you become anxious and overwhelmed as you make changes, do slow down! Settle in with one change more fully, then move on to the next. Be confident as you listen for the voice of the Ruach/Holy Spirit, praying always that you may hear His voice, and not be confused by any substitutes. *Yahshua* promised that He would send us His Comforter Who would guide us into all Truth. And He will if we let Him do so!

There may also be those who will try to convince you that if you keep Sabbath, you are going back under the law and losing your place in Messiah! Remain firm and clear in your resolve to please your audience of One! We need to remember Who it is we will answer to in the end; and it won't be our neighbors or our relatives; it will be Messiah! Perhaps it would be useful to print out the Scriptures on keeping Sabbath along with a paragraph of the reasons you are convicted that it is correct to keep it really set apart and different from the other days of the week. You may want to read over this from time to time, or when you anticipate contact with someone who doesn't yet understand.

Here is another opportunity to develop our maturity as we learn to keep our poise and confidence in what we understand; not being reactive or hostile if someone challenges us; not collapsing into confusion or doubt if someone tries to persuade us otherwise. Oh *Yahshua*! Please be with all these, Your children, as a shield of strength as they turn from their old ways on this set apart day and begin to walk in Yours. Keeping Shabbat: Another way we grow up into Messiah Who is our Head and our Bridegroom!

For a complete list of Scripture references to Sabbath as well as the definitions of important related words: Sabbath, *Shema*, work, live, feast, *Kadosh*/set apart/holy. etc., see [Hoshana Rabbah](#) for Natan Lawrence's pages on Shabbat. The concluding paragraphs list the blessings of coming into Sabbath observance and point to the increasing intimacy with our Messiah that happens as we honor His ways.

Keeping Your Joy Full!

Sometimes it seems

parent. People may even think of them as a mother or father. This level of adoption takes great commitment. The "parent" needs to be at the Elder Stage of maturity.

Adopting someone at this level will mean sacrifice. People at the infant level of maturity will have many unresolved issues from the past. They may be highly reactive, very needy and clingy people. Patience and perseverance will be needed by the "parent" for these children. Only someone who has already learned what it means to be a parent and is ready to give sacrificially in a community is capable of adopting adult infants and children. There will be times of joy as well as great pain.

In all levels, it will take time to develop trust for those who have been traumatized. They do not understand what it means to have a healthy relationship. Any offering of help or friendship is looked at with great doubt and fear. "There **must** be strings attached." They are unable to comprehend someone who will love unconditionally.

In our next newsletter, we will continue to discuss

difficult to concentrate on study as part of our equipping doesn't it? Yet, we know that one day there will be ten Gentiles clinging to our tzit tzit, pleading us to teach them about our YHWH.

I'm not ENTIRELY certain, but I THINK that may just include all of us grafted in ones who have come to walk in the ancient paths?

So every time we are able to give a reason for the hope that is in us in our Messiah, perhaps we could say a quick little "thank you" for the Written Word as well as the Living Word that is so much our food and our life that is preparing us even now for the task ahead. I am SO glad for the time I have been given to learn before it becomes too dark!

Spiritual Adoption in more depth. If you have not yet come to an understanding about your own Maturity Level, please do so before considering Spiritual Adoption. Perhaps you are not yet ready to become a spiritual parent, but can help at the lower levels. Barb and Marilyn are available to answer any questions you may have by email or telephone. (M.G.)

Teleconference Announcement



Ladies! Mark your calenders!

Sunday, March 26, 2006
9:00 - 10:00 AM CST

Our next scheduled For Women Only teleconference will be held in the morning this month! It did prove to be an easier time to set aside for our conversation.

This teleconference is open to all women who are coming into a Torah observant lifestyle who may be single, divorced, widowed or even married but whose spouse isn't yet interested.

In March, by request, we will be talking about the subject of developing Shabbat observances. What is and what isn't appropriate? What will people say...and what will I say?

To register for this months teleconference, please contact us with your email address. We will send out a reminder sometime between March 22-24, 2006

Quick Links...

[Biblical Holidays](#)

[Sheep of Israel-David Gipson](#)

[First Year Torah Observance Survey](#)

[Messianic Community Leadership Concerns Survey](#)

[Hoshana Rabbah Messianic Discipleship Resources-Natan Lawrence](#)

Join our mailing list!

with the telephone number and PIN number to use to enter into this months discussion!

About Us

Barbara L. Klika, MSW, LCSW, Personal Life Coach is a licensed mental health professional and founder of Set Apart Ministries, Inc., in practice since 1983 with an abiding interest in working with attachment/bonding and maturity issues for individuals, couples, and groups. She has been a congregational leader for over 20 years in several areas, including Bible Study and vocal and handbell choir direction. She is also a certified Bethel Bible Study teacher who has



participated in serious study of the Word since 1993 through such organizations as Precepts Ministries and First Fruits of Zion. She has completed basic coaching training through MentorCoach, Inc. and will be continuing work toward an additional Masters degree in coaching. Barb has provided the clinical leadership in pursuing the Life Model group and individual teaching and processing emotional and maturity issues for the past 3 years. She offers her gifts of exhortation, discernment, intercession and prophecy to the Body of Messiah, both locally and in our extended community via telephone and the Internet.

Marilyn T. Guffey, lay counselor, Personal Life Coach. Marilyn had been a congregational leader in her home church for over 20 years, providing Bible study, worship opportunities and lay counseling for women in transition for most of that time. She has completed her basic coaching training through MentorCoach, Inc. Marilyn has been the coleader in the provision of group and individual teaching and processing emotional and maturity issues for the past 3 years. Marilyn is a serious student of the Word and has participated in and provided many Bible study opportunities, most recently with First Fruits of Zion and numerous additional Messianic Torah study materials. She thrives on offering her gifts of mercy, discernment, encouragement, intercession and helps and has a strong desire to support the Body of Messiah in growing in maturity and faith, both locally and in our extended community via telephone and the Internet.

Board Member (VP) and support person Janell Schroeder, BBA works professionally as a computer reports specialist for a very large transportation company. She has been instrumental in the founding of Set Apart Ministries, functioning as a support person for people going through trauma recovery. She has attended numerous training experiences in this area and has participated in the Life Model program since its beginning. Janell is a certified Bethel Bible study teacher as well as a certified Precepts Bible Study teacher. She has also been in leadership in her previous congregation as a member of church council and in Adult and Child Education. She is currently working on her Bachelors Degree in Messianic Studies and plans to complete a Masters Degree through the Messianic Bible Institute Yeshiva. She brings her spiritual gifts of teaching and helps to our home Set Apart Ministries Community.

Board Member, Secretary Treasurer: Robert Klika, BS Bob currently works

professionally as a supervisor in the area of milk sanitation for the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture. Bob has been a leader in previous congregations through service on church council as well as in men's ministries. He provides leadership in several areas of our home community, particularly in the areas of practical arrangements for gatherings, youth ministry and fun nights, and corporate prayer as well as keeping accounts and necessary organizational paper work. He completed his high school education in a Roman Catholic Seminary and has participated in Bible study since then through several studies, including the Bethel Bible Study series and Messianic Torah for the past 4 years through First Fruits of Zion and many additional supplemental materials. He offers his gifts of helps and administration in our home Set Apart Ministries community.

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[Please pass this newsletter on to those you know who are new to Walking in Torah and those in Messianic Community Leadership.](#)

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