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## Encouragement from S.A.M.

## An Equipping Ministry

**Shalom Barbara,**

As we near the end of this first month of 2006, we are so very aware that we are nearer than ever before to our Messiah's return. Yet, He has instructed us to be about His business while it is yet day. May we continue to press on in our personal and spiritual growth as well as in our community relationship growth.

This week our community was pleased to welcome back Dean Wheelock (Hebrew Roots) and for the first time, David Gipson (Sheep of Israel). for an evening of presentation and fellowship. Meeting with like-minded Believers and discussing Torah is such an encouragement and excitement to us. We are also pleased to be exploring ways we can support one another's work within the Body of Messiah.

Marilyn continues her articles on Maturity with information on the levels of maturity. You may notice a relationship between these levels and the maturity in prayer levels we spoke of recently. Although we did not consciously intend that relationship, it is there nonetheless! As Marilyn has reminded us, it is important for us to be aware of our place in our community in many ways, maturity among them, so that we can serve using our gifts in the most effective ways.

Barb will continue on with comments about the issue that was rated next most important by our First Year Torah Observance Survey: Re-assessing One's Faith. We always appreciate additional input on this subject. If you haven't yet completed our [survey about your experience during your first year of coming into Torah](#), please take a few moments and complete it now! Our Leadership Concerns survey is also available at the same location. We hope to use this information in presentation to people in leadership positions within the Messianic movement by e-book and perhaps in person. All personal information provided is confidential.

## The Levels of Maturity



Today, we will discuss the five levels of maturity. Each stage of life has specific tasks to be completed to mature. Completing age-appropriate tasks will allow us to grow into healthy adults. We will be equipped to successfully move to the next levels of maturity. Uncompleted tasks leave gaps in maturity, which leads to dysfunction, relational difficulties and a path of frustration.

With *YHWH's* help, we can overcome immaturity. With courage and strength as we face our immaturity head on, we can become all that Yahshua has in store for us. We can persevere through the challenges of maturing with the help of trustworthy friends and family. The process of maturing is not easy and takes time.

The introductory teleconference on Life Model went well this past week and we are pleased to be hosting the first Teleconference for Women Only this Sunday evening, January 29th.

Chris Coursey has written an article about THRIVE! especially for us. See the link to his informative piece on our website near the bottom of this newsletter. Thanks, Chris! (If you haven't noticed yet, you can get straight to any article by clicking on it in the section entitled "In This Issue")

Thank you once again for taking the time to review our newsletter! We pray that it's contents will be of help and edification to all as we both re-identify the faith given once for all to the saints and move forward in maturing into Messiah Who alone is our Head.

**NOTE:** We think our email blocking problem is settled but if you try to reach us and can't, please call us at the number below and let us know! Thanks again!

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## Re-assessing Our Faith Expressions

As we noted last time, the realization that we were not taught everything we needed to know in order to fully observe *YHWH's* righteous teachings can be very daunting. We encourage everyone to be prayerfully focused during this process. As we are reminded in Scripture, our forefathers inherited lies! No one alive intentionally obscured our heritage, though it is true that many continue in the distortions.

Once the dawning realization hits that we ARE engrafted into Israel and that as such, we DO have the privilege of coming among the family to celebrate the Feasts of *YHWH*, we then begin to decide how to accomplish such a thing. For many people, we had been on a Sunday schedule with the Christmas, Easter and secular holiday calendar as our pattern for life. These are the routines we are accustomed to in moving back and forth between work and leisure times. Having tried for a transition time to keep both, I can say that they are really quite different and clearly not compatible! In past issues we have spoken about coming into Biblical holiday celebration so we

The first step is taking responsibility for your immaturity. It is **not** your fault that you have suffered traumas and gaps in your maturity. You can, however, discover what those gaps are and how to overcome them.

You may see a description of yourself as you read through some of the different levels. A lack of maturity in any given level **does not** have any bearing on your worth as a person. Being in the child level of maturity does not make you any less valuable than someone who is in a parent or elder level.

In order for a community to function effectively, people from all levels of maturity are necessary. We need people below our level so we can learn to minister. We also need those people that are more mature to continue stretching us to reach higher levels. A parent cannot be a parent without infants or children. Someone who's an elder cannot function in that capacity without a community. Infants and children will not grow without parents guiding and teaching them.

By understanding maturity levels, we are able see *YHWH's* plan for His people. *Yahshua* is our Shepherd, He is the Head. As His people grow in submission to His will and grow in faith and maturity, the Body of Messiah will prosper. In Scripture, the older women are told to teach the younger women. Ephesians 5 and 6 speak of submitting to one another as does I Peter 2 and 3. In I Peter 5, Peter speaks to "elders" and "young men." The patriarchs grew in their maturity and faith as *YHWH Elohim* refined and perfected them.

Take the step to assess your

remind people here that the Biblical Holidays book and website is a wonderful resource as one begins to develop these new celebrations as your own.

**But, how do we understand why these Feasts of YHWH were excluded in the first place? Why is there confusion, even among Messianic circles, as to whether or not Gentiles should even join in to keeping the Feasts? If those we have trusted as authorities about our belief all of our lives have not taught us these things, how do we know whether another person is qualified to teach?**

The Internet is a very mixed blessing in an area such as this. There is a wealth of information available, yet not all of it is Biblically sound. Where too often before, we were inclined to lean back and trust the word of those in church leadership, now the stirrings in our spirit bring us to a greater understanding of the need to test the spirits and to study to show ourselves approved. We begin to wonder just how DID these practices (never mentioned in either what we have called Old or New Testaments) become such a part of our lives?

There is no easy answer to these questions, as much as we wish there was! A thirst for the Truth as we seek our Father and His Son, our Messiah seems to be a prevalent factor among those coming into Torah. Somewhere along the way, in their hearts, each one has deeply prayed for a greater intimacy with God and our Savior and for His Truth. In timing known only to the *Ruach ha Kodesh*/Holy Spirit we begin to break free from the preconditioned beliefs and to seek more deeply in the Word as to its original intent.

An attentiveness to the *Ruach's* leading seems to be very important in the process. We know that spiritual things are foolishness to the natural man. We may find many resources in our search for answers before we find those that seem to ring with the Truth and match Scripture as we understand it. There are often individuals who have planted the seeds of this interest. Their recommendations as to research materials are often a good place to start.

Scripture itself must always be our hall mark. Anything that would deny the deity or the humanity of *Yahshua* is out. Anything that would point to a person or an organization as equal or greater in relation to Messiah or His Word is out. Some writers write out of an intellectual understanding or academically, while others may write more from their hearts. It is always good to be able to speak personally with the author

maturity. If this feels difficult for you, I encourage you to look for help with those you can trust. We are available for [Life Coaching](#) as co-workers and guides. Email us or contact us by telephone if you would like to explore this option. We offer a no-cost introductory call.

Listed below is an overview of the five levels of maturity developed by *The Life Model: Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You*. The *Life Model* book also lists examples of specific tasks, how family and community are able to help and how an uncompleted task may affect a person's life.

***Infant (age 0-3).*** *The infant's fundamental need is to receive unconditional love and care. Receiving always precedes giving. We will never be able to effectively give until we have received. When our fundamental dependency needs have been met, we are motivated to become independent and start caring for ourselves. If our primary dependency needs are not met, we will spend the rest of our lives trying to get others to take care of us. Therefore for most of this stage, parents need to supply the infants needs by recognizing when the young person needs to be fed or hugged or comforted or rocked to sleep. Training and discipline are necessary as the baby enters toddlerhood, of course, but good training does not undermine the overriding need for the 0-3 child to learn to receive. (end quote)*

It is during this time of life that trust is to be developed. A child will bond in fear or in love. When an infant has not received as an adult, they will be emotionally needy, clingy and unable to receive constructive

but not always possible. In this case, we again rely on the guidance of the *Ruach* within us. Our willingness to actually read the Word itself, armed with an array of helps such as a good Bible dictionary, Strong's Concordance, Brown Driver Briggs and so forth will be a critical factor in our search.

As David Gipson experienced the call and the certainty that he is one who is called to be a fisher and a hunter for *YHWH* so you will find similar people. It is often amazing how someone who can help clarify Scriptures will come into your life, seemingly by coincidence! It is wise to ask in prayer for a teacher or teachers that *YHWH* approves!

Batya Wootten has done a fine work on the question of [Who is Israel?](#) She says in her introduction that this was a pivotal point for her so she explains it well for some one in the process themselves. Recently we have been very impressed with D. Thomas Lancaster's book, [Restoration: Returning the Torah of God to the Disciples of Jesus](#). This book covers the entire subject of the transition from the Hebraic roots of our faith expressions to the current day traditions and does so with grace and ease of reading. If you have already been studying such things, you may not read anything new here. You will see it presented in a way that has already proven to be non-threatening even to the family and friends who may not have wanted to hear about it before.

Are there other conditions to be checking for as you reassess your faith expressions? We will continue our discussion next time! (B.K.)

## Keeping Your JOY Full!



One image that often comes to my mind when thinking about joy is a picture of a baby taking his first steps. In the process, he will fall many times picking himself up again and again. Eventually, he will be able to walk steadily without even thinking about it.

There is great joy in accomplishing a difficult task. Procrastination keeps us from experiencing the joy of a job well done. Avoidance has the appearance of decreasing stress, but in the long run actually adds to it.

As you encourage the babies in your life, encourage yourself too! Celebrate each step you take toward your goal.

criticism. It will be very difficult for "adult infants" to have stable relationships.

***Child (age 4-12).*** *When the infant learns to say what is needed, that marks a transition to the next stage. It is cause for celebration when a child can leave babyhood behind and begin learning to care for self. As the child moves toward puberty, it is still important to receive love without earning it. Rewards to be earned, but not love--it is to be unconditional. Whenever a child is required to take care of a parent, things are backwards. Although "parentified" children who have to physically or emotionally take care of adults can appear mature on the outside, their needs are not being sufficiently filled and this will at some time impair their emotional development, leaving deficiencies. (end quote)*

When children do not learn to effectively care for themselves, they will remain self-centered into adult life. They will be unable to express their own needs. An "adult child" will only be able to take care of themselves and will be neglectful of others.

***Adult (age 13-birth of first child).*** *You will know when a person has graduated from the child level of maturity to the adult level because he will shift from being a self-centered child to a both-centered adult. While a child needs to learn me-centered fairness (how do I make it fair for me), an adult learns we-centered fairness (how do I make it fair for us). Mutuality is the trademark of an adult because he can take care of two people at the same time. When people with adult bodies are functioning*

## Teleconference Announcement

We had some confusion on which week was the fourth Sunday of the month, so our first Women Only conference for women coming into Torah will be **tonight, Sunday, January 29th 7 - 8 pm CST**. This teleconference is for women who are single, widowed, divorced or even a woman whose spouse or family doesn't yet understand her interest in Hebrew Roots. We will discuss three subjects after a brief review of teleconference guidelines: The Blessings of coming into Torah for each, the Stressings involved and Solutions found. We will continue to offer this conference on the LAST Sunday evening of each month. Please join us or tell a woman you know who may welcome the opportunity to talk! On such short notice, I will provide the telephone number and code for this conference here: Call: 1 (712) 580-7706 Code: 9261617



## 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

*below the adult level of maturity, you will know because in the end your interactions with them will never feel mutual. You will go away feeling like in order to maintain a relationship with them you will always need to give more, listen more or tolerate more than they would ever be willing to do for you. (end quote)*

**Parent (first birth until youngest child becomes an adult).** *Biologically being a parent does not automatically put you at the parent stage of maturity. In fact, many parents are not at this level. You know that you are at the parent stage, however, when you can sacrificially care for your children without resenting the sacrifice or expecting to receive anything for your efforts. You may feel exhausted or overwhelmed at times, but you still will be able to appreciate, not begrudge, your sacrifice. Unfortunately, an "entitlement" philosophy also pervades modern parenting. "I'm entitled to do all the things I was doing as an adult, and I should not have to make any sacrifices of time, money or social activities." We want to be clear here. Parenting does involve sacrifice, but it is not about giving up who you are. It is about becoming who you are! (end quote)*

**Elder (beginning when youngest child becomes an adult).** *Few people make it to the elder stage of life. It is necessary to have elders who will lead and guide in order for any community to be successful. Someone in the elder stage of maturity has the ability to remain who they are despite the difficulties of any circumstances. Elders will see beyond the gaps in people's maturity to their potential in YHWH. Elders give sacrificially to a*

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.

### THRIVE! Information from Chris Coursey



We are pleased to include Chris Coursey's article on THRIVE! on our website. Please do check out what CARE of Baldwin, Michigan has to offer you and your fellowship! Both SAM and CARE are concerned about the maturity of the Body of Believers and we share belief in our Messiah as the One Who alone is able to heal the broken hearted. [Click here for the](#)

community and are prepared to spiritually adopt those in need. Someone in the elder stage of maturity has gone from sacrificially giving to their own children to taking all they've experienced into community life. Communities without elders will flounder and struggle, never moving forward. Becoming an elder is the goal. We will always be growing and maturing until *Yahshua* calls us home. Praise *Yahshua* for His perfect example! (M.G.)

### Quick Links...

[Biblical Holidays](#)

[Sheep of Israel-David Gipson](#)

[First Year Torah Observance Survey](#)

[Messianic Community Leadership Concerns Survey](#)

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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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