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Encouragement from S.A.M.

An Equipping Ministry

February 15, 2006

Shalom Barbara,

This month, our SAM community has begun a study on eschatology. It was been rewarding and exciting to see the interaction and the awareness of the totality of our Father's plan coming into focus within our members. Many thanks to Batya Wootten, Frank Houtz, Joan Gradijahn and Natan Lawrence who have been very helpful in assembling our teaching materials for this complex subject.

Community is such an important concept to those of us who are coming into *Torah* lifestyle. It is quite common to realize that we really can't live such a lifestyle completely independently! It is in the relationship building that we learn who we are and Who He is more fully. Since YHWH Himself is relational, perhaps we shouldn't be surprised that He designed us so that the full expression of who we are to be can only come IN relationships! May we have the courage and the perseverance to **pray and stay** through difficulties as they come, because they WILL come!

Leaders, do you know where you stand in your own emotional maturity? Have you noticed if there are any "holes" in your own umbrella of spiritual authority? If so, those with you, who have shown themselves to be worthy of your personal trust, have probably seen them anyway and would be willing to support you as you address them. Members of fellowships, have you taken a look at your own maturity levels? When you know more about where you stand in these areas, you can more specifically focus on the areas of growth needed. Our goal is to build one another up into Messiah Who is our Head, yes? We can only do that as we find and develop trustworthy relationships with like minded Believers who will encourage us.

All too often, we struggle with such an effort because no one wants to see themselves as being immature in any way. As we

Spurring One Another on to Good Works



In our last newsletter, I wrote that people from all maturity levels are needed for a community to function effectively. A community is needed to help people and children mature. All of this is for the growth of the Body of Messiah.

Immaturity is not sin, but can lead us into sin. Adult infants can be very reactive, wanting their own way. An adult child has not yet learned how to take care of others and are barely able to care for themselves.

People placed in positions that they do not yet have the maturity to handle can lead to many difficulties in communities. We see examples of this in government bodies, congregations and families. Instead of dealing with

have been writing, we see it a little differently. Since we are coming closer to the time of our Messiah's return, we DO want to be ready without spot or wrinkle and so are willing to let those we have grown to trust see our flaws, and help us address them. This Bride needs to be strong and clean, dressed in army boots for the battle!

There is always discretion necessary in the process, as well as love. Fellowships need to know who among them are the truly mature elders and "parents" of their community (not just those who are filling a position) so they can seek out wise counsel. We cringe at the thought of the blind leading the blind in other areas yet have often given too little attention to this area of blindness. While leaders would not generally ask someone at a child level of maturity to help hold them accountable, they may need to hear what that "child" needs to say to them! Our hope is that the information we continue to provide in this series of newsletters will encourage you in just such a process! We stand ready to help and encourage whenever we can.

Below you will find a continuation of the reassessment of our faith article as well as joyful encouragement and the time of our next "Women Only" new to Torah lifestyle teleconference.

As a study help for those re-examining the expression of our faith, we are in the midst of preparing a flow chart of the denominational splits that have occurred down through the centuries. Our goal is to have it available on our website within the next few weeks, and again, we thank Frank Houtz for his assistance in this as well as our community volunteers. Please check our site in the next month for this effort to help us all track the faith "given once for all to the saints."

We are still hoping to receive input from fellowship leaders on our survey about the concerns you experience. If you are such a fellowship leader, please [click here](#). It should only take about 5 minutes to complete and will help us as we plan future writings.

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Reassessing our Faith Expressions

In the past two issues, we have addressed some of the questions related to the reassessment of our faith expression

disagreements in a godly adult way, people resort to yelling, screaming and name calling. They do not have the maturity to respond rationally. They simply have not learned from parents and elders how to deal with conflict, therefore falling into combativeness.

When people begin to understand the gaps in maturity, are willing to be vulnerable and enter a community of grace and love that understands maturity, growth will occur.

Living a Torah lifestyle is to live in community. In the 12th chapter of I Corinthians, *Shaul* (Paul) describes the distribution of the gifts of the Spirit to serve the Body of Messiah. In verse 25-27 *Shaul* tells us that *the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are Messiah's body, and individually members of it*(NASB).

Forming relationships is the basis for growth. One way is through Spiritual Adoption, which we will discuss in more detail in our next newsletter. People in the parent and elder stage need to be guides for those in the lower levels. In order to mature, people need safety and a place to belong.

We have found that a sense of belonging is one of the most important aspects in a person's life, but also one of the most frightening. Nurturance and love will help a person who has an abusive, traumatic background grow. This love and nurturing is greatly desired, but also greatly feared.

Building trust takes time and patience

as we come into *Torah* observance. In summary form, the main points were:

- The need to assess the truth of things previously learned in order to ensure a firm foundation.
- The potential for fear in the process, urging people to simply confess their fear in prayer, asking for strength and peace; then pressing on in study.
- The change in lifestyle routines as one adopts the moedim, learning the practical applications of each.
- The need to determine the authority and validity of teachers.
- The need for sensitivity in one's spirit to the leading of the Ruach/Holy Spirit in finding these teachers,
- Scripture as the hallmark of Truth and the related caution that any organization or teacher who would deny either the deity or humanity of Yahshua would not be true teachers.
- Willingness to read and study the Word itself with solid reference materials.
- Recognition of the historical movements that confused our understandings of Who we are in relation to Israel.

Natan Lawrence has written an article on this subject that may be helpful to you. ["Is the Hebrew Roots Movement Cultic or is Christianity the Cult?"](#)

We are at such a pivotal point in history! If you are following events in Israel and praying for the peace of Jerusalem, you know that many prophetic things are happening every day. We know that this return to *Torah* was prophesied and that we are living it out! For us at Set Apart Ministries, we understand that we have been given the task of being a part of the process of building up the highway of return to a *Torah* observant lifestyle for those who have yet to hear the message. (Zechariah 8: 23, Isaiah 62:10)

In such a time as this, when there is an expectancy of the signs and wonders that will accompany His return, there is also a danger. Too many times, people get caught up in the excitement and emotionalism of some kind of manifestation of the Spirit's Presence, then seeking the experience more than the Messiah Himself. In no way would we want to deny that He CAN do such signs and wonders; only that there can be a very realistic looking fraud as well. Unfortunately, the Messianic movement is no more free from this potential than others. In fact, because of the understanding that we are coming back to a deeper understanding of our heritage and all that goes with it as part

when helping people mature. It will involve commitment and vulnerability between both parties. When all these factors come together, growth will occur.

Have no doubt, there will be times of strife and struggle. There will be disagreements. There will be instances when confrontation is needed. When relationships are committed, spiritual adoptions, they will not be blown apart during the challenging times. You will suffer with one who suffers.

Then the times of rejoicing will arrive when we can celebrate a "child" making mature choices. We will rejoice as a community as we see "children" growing. We will celebrate as these young adults begin taking their place in the community by using the gifting YHWH Elohim has given them.

As a parent or elder, we will look proudly at "our children" as they begin to come alongside others to spur them on to good works. Challenging, yes, but exciting and rewarding as we begin to see the community grow and function in unity.
(M.G.)

Quick Links...

[Natan Lawrence](#)

[Sheep of Israel-David Gipson](#)

[First Year Torah Observance Survey](#)

[Messianic Community Leadership Concerns Survey](#)

of Messiah's return, there may be even more potential for deception. (Matthew 24: 23-24)

Sometimes it is difficult to tell if a group of believers and their leader are sincere but misguided or intentionally deceptive. Since we are warned that such deception would be part of the end times, it is important for us to know how to be wary. My first *Torah* teacher was a very charismatic man of Jewish heritage who had also been trained in traditional Christianity. Although he taught many things well and I, as well as others, are indebted to him for that, he also began to teach such things as that a Torah observant person need not be wary of becoming involved with anything connected with evil. He believed that the very act of walking in *Torah* did by itself, automatically protect him from harm. I later found that this particular teaching appears to have come from the Babylonian Talmud, not a source of teaching that I would consider equivalent to *Torah* authority. Natan Lawrence has written a very thorough article on a similar subject. You can find it by [clicking here](#).

In general, it is safe to say that (and perhaps more clearly understood by Messianic believers than those in traditional Christianity blended with paganism) anything said or done needs to be appropriate and in line with Biblical standards: Genesis to Revelation. In a local church I have heard it said that there was no need to be cautious about any supernatural experiences because the devil is already bound and chained. Thus, this congregation felt great freedom that anything unusual was automatically of God. Needless to say, I wouldn't agree. Because we know that there is to be restoration and healing, many people have been taken in by teachers who claim miraculous healings; and many become disillusioned to the point of despair in no longer knowing who is trustworthy when such a one has been proven to be fraudulent. Sometimes people have been told they need to "release themselves to the Spirit" without inhibition which has led to such phenomenon as people rolling on the floor, feeling "glued to the floor by the Spirit", barking like dogs, oinking like pigs, or maybe hysteria. Phenomenon such as gold dust falling on worshipers, or their teeth being turned to gold while in prayer have been attributed to our *YHWH*. Because these are the end times, people have been encouraged to let go what was past and accept these new things that God promised He would do among us.

While it is not impossible for *YHWH* to do such things, it is still important to test the spirits, to determine if they are of Him or a sly counterfeit. *Sha'u*//Paul warned us that the evil one can disguise himself as an angel of light so we should not be surprised if his workers do likewise.

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Unfortunately, such experiences can easily be counterfeited through the use of mass hypnotism, carefully arranged lighting or extensive use of peer pressure. (ie if you don't receive this phenomenon then you are less "spiritual" than others.)

Repetitive worship choruses with a heavy beat can be used to bring people to a fever pitch emotionally, a form of an altered state of consciousness. Some worship leaders have been known to program such music with this design in mind and is NOT the same thing as worshipping with an expectation of the Presence of our Messiah being in our midst. If there is interest in this particular subject, please let me know and we can expand more on this.

In the meantime as you go about reassessing your faith experience, please do continue to pray about the emotions that erupt in the process rather than let any fear or anxiety go unchecked. Be cautious but respectful toward any practices such as that described above, seeking prayerfully and Scripturally to determine whether or not they are of YHWH. I would recommend that no one allow anyone to lay hands on them or their family members until they know the heart and character of the person, as well as having had an opportunity to become acquainted with the fruit of their work. It is not enough to see the phenomenon itself and judge from that alone.

Just as we sometimes have difficulty determining that there is love and grace coming from Him even in the midst of trials, so must we be aware that what sounds pleasing to our ears and enthralling to our senses may NOT be from Him. We are told that when our Messiah comes, there will be no doubt that it is HE! (B.K.)

Keeping Your Joy Full!

Here in Northern Wisconsin, one of the most joyful sights is a fresh snowfall. The frosty snow clings to the trees and glistens in the sunlight. We see God's signature in His creation, despite the crookedness of the world system.



As you are walking or driving, look for God's special climate "signature" in your area. There is joy in what He has created, pleasing to our eyes and strengthening our spirit in Him.

Teleconference Announcement



Ladies! Mark your calenders!

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

Our next scheduled For Women Only teleconference will be held in the morning this month! It has been suggested that this time may be easier for many.

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.

Our discussion will follow the format below:

- The Blessings of Coming into Torah Observance
- The Stressings of Coming into Torah Observance
- Ideas, Recommendations and Solutions for the Stressings

To register for this months teleconference, please contact us with your email address. We will send out a reminder on February 24, 2006 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 serous 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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