

[<Back](#) [Print](#)

## Encouragement from S.A.M.

An Equipping Ministry

March 15, 2006

**Shalom,**

Here we are in mid March amidst many developing events and activities. Our local community is deeply into our study of eschatology and is very blessed as we are finding more and more affirmation for our goal of maturity in Messiah. As we compare the set apart feast day of Yom Teruah with the Last Trumpet that announces Messiah's return and calls forth His Bride, we found that the phrase "without blemish" is based on the Hebrew "*tamim*" which refers to being spiritually mature, not to being perfect as some have understood. This same word is used of Abraham, Joshua and David! He is coming again soon, and He is coming to marry a mature Bride, not a small child. May we be found among that number with all the oil our lamps need! At the same time, we are also grateful that He loves all and has already made provision for those who may yet be young in the faith, no matter their chronological age!

Plans for the celebration of *Pesach* Passover are beginning to move ahead now. What a joy that has been, too, as we are seeing more and more of how the feast days are so much the rehearsal for our Bridegroom's appearance. Each year as we learn line upon line, and precept upon precept, we see the picture a little more developed. We will be hosting several days of prayer and fasting and a *mikveh* prior to our *Pesach* meal. How are your plans for this wonderful remembrance coming along? Please contact us if we can be of support to you as you make plans. There are many fine resources that deal with the activities in the celebration and we would like to supplement that information with support for those of you who may be keeping this feast for the very first time and need help presenting this to family and friends. You might also benefit from Frank Houtz new series of articles on "[Theological Reactivity](#)" in which he presents the concepts of maturity and how they relate to discussions about our faith expressions.

Our monthly conference for *Women Only*, coming into Torah

## Becoming a Parent Through Spiritual Adoption



Today, we will continue with our discussion on Spiritual Adoption. For review: Spiritual Adoption must be *YHWH* ordained. If it isn't ordained by *YHWH*, the relationship may result in heartache and disaster.

The three levels of spiritual adoption are:

- Basic - Helping people with specific needs or tasks
- Brother/Sister/Aunt/Uncle-type relationships, becoming family
- Spiritual Parenting

All three levels are important in the life of a community. The basic level will aid in meeting the physical needs

observance will be the last Sunday morning of March, details later in this letter. Our planned topic is observing *Shabbat* but we could probably find time to talk about presenting the celebration of *Pesach/Passover* as well!

Have you considered attending one of the [Messianic Israel Alliance conferences](#)? Our community will be participating in the July Nashville conference and would love to meet you in person, if we don't already know you!

We are delighted to present the new DVD from our friends at CARE. This one is called Steps to Joy and is a training for non dancers who still want to dance before our Messiah in praise to Him. Details below!

*Marilyn continues the series on spiritual adoptions and the next topic for those new to Torah Observance, according to our survey responses is the concern over what to call ourselves as we come into Messianic understanding. Dean Wheelock, of Hebrew Roots, has just this week completed an article dealing with this very question! See the article lead in and link below!*

An article on [Separating the Sheep from the Sheep?](#), a review of issues with C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien is online at our site now. We have met with various delays in getting our timeline looking at the "Faith Given Once for All to the Saints" but have hope it will be up very soon. Will you pray for us as we try to complete this project? There have been 5 researchers and 4 technical assistants working on this project during the past month or longer! We do pray that it will be one more tool to use to convey the importance of our Hebraic Heritage to those who do not yet understand. (It also appears to be well related to Dean Wheelock's comments about our "label" and history!)

Marilyn and Barb are both conducting surveys as we develop our coaching services. If you would like to comment on either your concerns about [Christians and Depression](#), or on [Women in Life Transition](#), click on either of these links to participate in our survey! Your reply will be confidential unless you choose to participate in a follow up telephone survey. Those who respond will be offered a free e-book based on what concerns we find! We have decided to go to once a month for each of our newsletters in view of all the many things that are developing with Set Apart Ministries. We appreciate the time you have spent with us and hope that we can continue to encourage you in this format and also in new ways!

We have several individuals who are praising and studying with us on

of people. Those with the gifts of giving and helps will work effectively in these areas. Here are some practical, simple ideas: People with hobbies, such as crocheting or woodworking, can teach these skills to those who never had an opportunity to find joy in creating. Those with financial expertise are able to help in setting up budgets. Those with computer or mechanical skills can help in those specific areas.

In the Second level, long-term relationships begin to develop. A relationship may begin with a common interest. Working alongside one another towards a common goal can develop into long-term bonds. Giving and receiving and accountability in one's life can begin in this stage.

It is in a growing, maturing community that the Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit are able to flourish. Wounded and immature people begin to learn joy through relationships. They will be able to learn by the example of those more mature than they. The strength to overcome fear bonds will develop as trust grows.

Throughout all of community life, people in the Elder Stage of Maturity are the "parents" and maintain the identity of the family. They are the shepherds who lead the flock to the right paths, to the streams of living water. This will mean sacrifice and dependence upon the *Ruach HaKodesh* (Set Apart Spirit), not our own understanding.

*YHWH* gives us life so we can then give to others—to the widow, the orphans and strangers in our midst. Who are these widows, orphans and strangers? Much in today's American

*Shabbat* who come from over an hour way but have no Messianic study groups in their areas. We are looking for ways to encourage them and help launch them in their own areas, even as much as we enjoy having them with us!

On Friday, Barb, Janell and Marilyn will be visiting an area study group that has been looking at the Hebraic Roots of our faith and is now wondering what comes next. We are looking forward to the opportunity to share what we have learned and offer encouragement to these people who have shown themselves to be approved by the study of the Word. Remember us in your prayers as the *Ruach*/Holy Spirit leads you please!

*May you, too, be blessed and strengthened as we enter this new season of His appointed times!*  
(B.K.)

### in this issue

- [Becoming a Parent Through Spiritual Adoption](#)
- [What do I call Myself if not Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist.....???](#)
- [Keeping Your Joy Full!](#)
- [Teleconference Announcement](#)
- [About Us](#)

## What do I call Myself if not Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist.....???



Yes, the next most serious concern our survey responders indicated from their troubles during the first years of Torah observance was the issue of identity! It seems that this is a puzzle, maybe not so much for ourselves as we see that we are just becoming more attuned to the family as we are grafted in (Romans 11) but for those who

just don't know what to DO with us when we don't fit the usual mold of Christians!

(Recently, I listed Messianic on a form at the physician's office, only to see it the next visit listed in their records as "other"!)

There are many options but each of them seems to carry some kind of message to someone! I am so pleased that Dean and Susan Wheelock of Hebrew Roots have been thinking on these same lines and have, just this week completed an extensive article on this very point of concern! We provide the opening paragraphs here, and then a link to the remainder of the article. Thank you Dean and Susan for your work and for your willingness to let us share it here as well as in your newsletter! B.K.

culture has contributed to isolation and family struggles. Some of those issues are:

- Divorce--one-parent families
- Independence is admired and encouraged
- Age-divided groups
- Isolation of singles and seniors in communities
- Fear Bonds
- Abusive History

Instead of the elderly growing into their roles as community parents, they are "put out to pasture," either by choice or not. Many adults reach the later stages of life burned out from stress by attempting to be successful according to the world's standards. Age is looked at as a disease, not with respect for the wisdom and knowledge gained throughout a long life. The expertise and knowledge that people have gained throughout their lives may be looked at as out of date. As a result, few are prepared to be spiritual parents for the third level of Spiritual Adoption.

To be able to become a **Spiritual Parent**, one must have successfully raised their own children to adulthood. Being an Elder is much more demanding than being a parent. Unless, one has first mastered parenthood, one will not be prepared for the sacrificial giving that will take place as an elder in a community.

**Spiritual Parenting** is not just a part we play or an office given—it is relationship! It is not merely a way to bring healing to the broken. Success is not guaranteed in this process. There will be pain. It is more than just soothing the pain. Just as in

## What's In a Name?

### Searching for Identity

Frequently we are asked "What church do you belong to?" Our usual answer: "We do not belong to any church or denomination."

Then people usually ask: "What do you call yourselves?" Most of the time we answer: "We are Messianic Believers." This answer is sometimes misunderstood. Even when the words are understood, it is often not satisfying to those who ask, because they do not really know what it means.

People love understandable labels because, once they have labeled you, they can put you in to a box (in their mind) where they hold their own special beliefs about your religion. Whether or not those beliefs are correct is usually not an issue for them, as long as they have that "box" in which to place you. Such an attitude can lead to religious prejudice, because the "box" in which they have placed you may contain misunderstandings about your true beliefs. The history books are full of persecutions, and even wars, which have been fought in the name of religion, many of them because people believed something about their "enemy" which was not true. (Today is no exception.)

Several years ago we received e-mails from a man who always closed them with the phrase, "Labels are for soup cans." We fully concur with his sentiment, however, to give an answer such as that simply would not satisfy the average person who is accustomed to putting religious labels on people in an attempt to understand what they believe.

Sometimes people will ask: " Are you Jewish?".....

After being asked if we are Jewish, usually the next question is: "Are you Christian?"....

[The remainder of this informative article can be found by clicking here.](#)

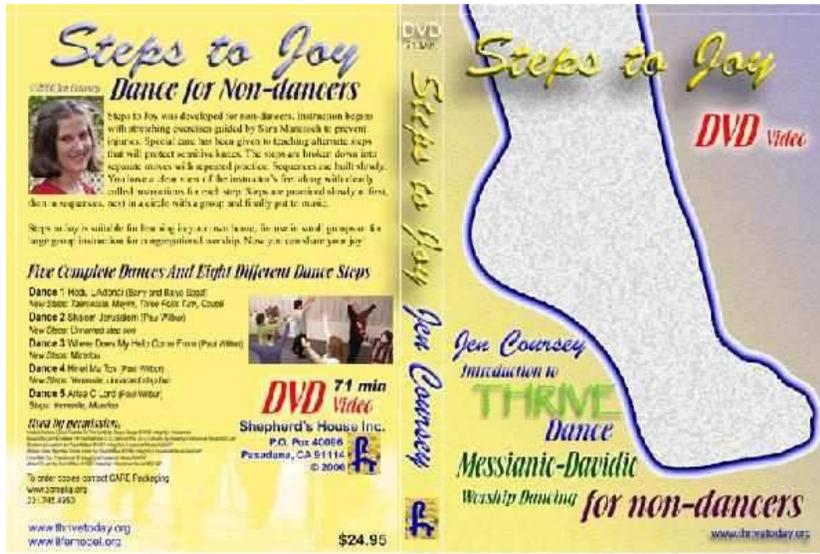
## Keeping Your Joy Full!

parenting children, there are no set rules (except walking in Torah, of course!) or programs. There is no time limit. There will be struggles, heartache and frustration.

As a spiritual parent, be prepared to discover the gaps in your own maturity. You will continue to grow and mature throughout this process as well. There will be times when you wonder if you can or should continue as your own immaturity comes to the surface.

The spiritual parent must have good boundaries in place. Your "child" may become angry at times with those boundaries, because they have not learned what it means to have boundaries. It is up to the spiritual parent to remain resolved and confident in the boundaries they have set in place. You will have to remind yourself that this is for the growth of your "child." Being a spiritual parent, does not mean treating the adoptee as a little child. They are adults and should be treated as such. The goal is interdependent relationships, not dependency.

Then one day, you begin to see a little fruit for your labors. Your "spiritual child" will make a good choice and you will celebrate. The day arrives when your "child" ministers to others or even you. This is an important step forward in maturity. The "child" begins to think about the needs of others, moving toward adulthood. They may begin to see the self-centeredness in which they have been walking. These small steps may take months or years, depending upon the extent of the trauma these "children" have experienced. You will need every ounce of patience and perseverance



Our friends at CARE have developed a wonderful teaching tool in cooperation with Shepherd's House Ministries. This DVD, narrated by Jen Coursey, with warm up exercises by Sarah Manassah, whom we have also met, provides instruction and encouragement for non dancers to be able to dance as part of their worship of our Messiah! Yes, five dances, with step by step instructions given with the music, after several slower practices. Thank you Jen and company, for your work to help even those who may have physical disabilities that make it hard for them to dance by providing alternate steps for those who need them!

We are also pleased to let you know that the very act of joining in worship in this way is actually one part of the restoration that needs to happen in order for people to both grow toward maturity AND to establish the pathways to joy within our very brain function!

This wonderful DVD and an accompanying CD with the music, both with and without the steps being called out, is available through their website. We know you will be pleased with an opportunity to learn and grow while in praise at the same time! For a limited time, get both at a discounted price! These and other products are available at [CARE Packaging](#).

There is also a [short video clip](#) of one of the dances as it was taught during one of their THRIVE conferences. (This clip is NOT the same as on the teaching video, but shows the results for an entire group of people with Jen calling the steps.)

*Let us dance before Him with all our might as David did, and Miriam! He IS our JOY!*

## Teleconference Announcement

that *YHWH Elohim* has taught you throughout the years. You will need to be strengthened by prayer and your "brothers and sisters."

This may all sound discouraging--"How is anyone able to be a Spiritual Parent?" It is only through the power and authority given to us in *Yahshua* our Messiah. As we willingly submit to His authority in our lives along with the pruning and discipline, we will mature into the plan He has set in place for our individual lives and communities.

There is great joy in watching our spiritual children grow. There is great joy in giving love to a person who has never understood what godly love is. There is joy in receiving trust from a broken soul that has never been able to trust before. It is a privilege to watch as people grow and mature and begin to take part in the community as *YHWH* leads.

Next time, we will look at **Spiritual Adoption** through the eyes of some **Adoptees**.

Blessings in *Yahshua* our Soon and Coming King! (M.G.)

## Quick Links...

[Biblical Holidays](#)

[Sheep of Israel-David Gipson](#)

[First Year Torah Observance Survey](#)

[Messianic Community Leadership Concerns Survey](#)

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

## Ladies! Mark your calenders!

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

**Join our mailing list!**

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: Introductions and *Get Acquainted Time* *Shabbat* Celebration Concerns and Solutions *Pesach/Passover* questions

To register for this months teleconference, please contact us with your email address. We will send out a reminder several days prior to the conference, 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.

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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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