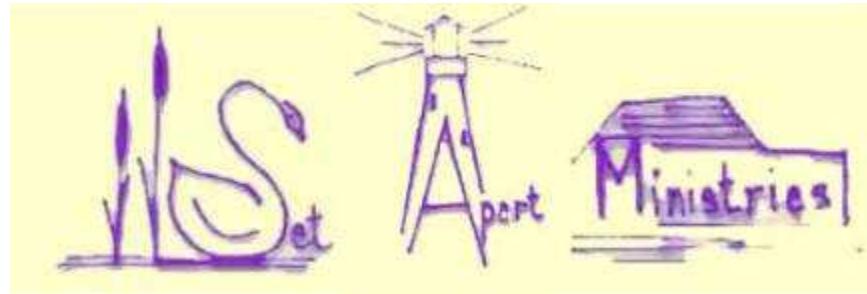


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## Encouragement from Set Apart Ministries

January, 2007

**Shalom!**

Wow, we've just had our first "real" snowstorm of the season. Seems strange for Wisconsin doesn't it? Still, here we are forging ahead however slowly at times.

Locally, we have just had the second of two planned community meetings to discuss how we are doing as a group, apart from the time we normally reserve on Shabbat for praise and study. It is important to take time to discuss the group process and growth by itself. Though we don't have ready made solutions to how we can bring into being what we envision, we do put our trust in YHWH Who alone is able to build the house He wants here.

Our latest area of research and concern is that of intentional community. As we move toward greater understanding of what it means to walk in Torah, we do desire greater cohesiveness and proximity. In this issue you will find the beginning article with some definitions of terms to prepare you for later information.

Our hope is to provide resources for the practical and organizational side of coming together either in shared housing or shared employment arrangements.

We will be hosting the CARE dance worship team the second weekend in February and are looking forward to the chance to learn more worship dances. If you live close enough, maybe you would like to join us for this weekend? Please let us know. Their classes will be provided at all levels from beginner to advanced, and will be held on Erev Shabbat, the following morning and Sunday morning before they head back around Lake Michigan for home.

Our Messianic Leadership Teleconference has been announced and we hope to begin personal email announcements to those

### Construction Zone: Building a Community



In the past month, I hope you've had an opportunity to examine yourself in light of the handouts on **responsibility** and **self worth**. Too often, I've come across people who want to blame everyone else for their struggles, anger and hurt. We cannot change how others act, but we can change our own reactions and respond to situations by having good boundaries in place. Remember that boundaries can be both physical and emotional, serving to protect both ourselves and others. Today, we will conclude our discussion on Boundaries with some final thoughts.

#### SAFETY IN BOUNDARIES

who have indicated some kind of interest within this coming week. You can [click here](#) for our information and registration page. If you have a problem with a member of your group and would like consultation before you take action, here is your opportunity!

You don't even have to leave home.

Plans are also under way now for David Gipson of Sheep of Israel ministry to come February 23 and 24. He is bringing Theresa Bates for instruction in the use of banners in worship in addition to his time of teaching during our Shabbat gathering. Specific times are on our website calendar if you are near enough to join us. Call us for driving instructions!

We continue to join with other Believers in issuing the call to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We have also had confirmation of the need to step up our intensity and frequency of intercession for our own area. There are still many lost sheep looking for the right sheepfold and we pray for all those who, like us, have a calling to reach out to them. May we be found working while it is yet day. (B.K.)

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- Keeping Your Joy Full!
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## A Call To Messianic Community and Commitment

As we have come into Hebraic understanding of our faith in Messiah Yeshua we have found a different pace in life, a different focus and a different calendar. All too quickly, we find that our usual community arrangements don't fit very well. For those who grew up learning Torah from the beginning, there is usually a community already established around them. Their parents and other adults had made choices to be near to those of similar belief and lifestyle. Traditionally, it would be unthinkable for an Orthodox Jew to move anywhere that was not in close proximity to a faith community.



We grafted-in ones, of Ephraim and those who choose to draw

Good, clear boundaries promote safe fellowships. Leaders need to understand their own personal boundaries. A leader cannot do everything. We all have physical, mental and emotional limitations. What are your priorities? How much time is needed for prayer and family in order for you to function in a healthy manner without feeling resentful of intrusions.

Scripturally, leaders are to be servants. Leadership does not mean being subservient or a doormat. Leaders are to do what's best for the sheep. Leaders need to teach the sheep to be responsible, mature, godly people. It means teaching, exhorting and holding them accountable for what they say they are going to do and for what they should not be doing.

An organization often has hierarchical leadership that may be elected or appointed. As a part of the Body of Messiah, we view leadership as part of the growth of an organism, a living body of Believers. In our view, leaders develop--they are not elected. As people are responsible in the community, more trust is developed and they are given more responsibility. Some people will be able to take on more responsibility than others, which may reflect their talents and giftings but not their worth.

When a leader sees a situation they need to see not only the immediate action involved but should also be aware of future ramifications for the entire community, whether for good or ill. Rather than ignoring misbehavior, a leader will find a way to address it for the growth and maturity of all involved.

### COMMUNICATING BOUNDARIES

No one person's boundaries will be exactly like another's. We have different personalities and different needs. We cannot expect that people will automatically KNOW our boundaries. Specific information

near to YHWH Elohim on the other hand, live wherever it has been convenient to maintain our family connections or perhaps proximity to our employment. We gather together throughout the week and on Shabbat, enjoying the company of those who center their thoughts and desires on His plans for us much as we did in our mainstream church attendance days. If others are like me, at first consideration, it seemed a radical idea to choose to live in close proximity to those of similar faith. As a lifelong member of a church; each time I have moved I have chosen a church family after we have relocated to a neighborhood of our choice. It never occurred to me before coming into Torah that there was something less than desirable about this.

Visions of known cults or vigilante neighborhoods float in the back of our minds, making it seem unwise to get too close together with those of similar faith expression. We may be concerned about being stereotyped and viewed differently as people seem to do with Amish or Mennonite communities in our area.

- Questions of authority and control vs personal autonomy and choice are real concerns because wherever there is strong commitment to an ideal there is the potential for abuse.

These concerns seem to overshadow the positive aspects of living more closely associated with those of like faith. Yet it is those with gifts of leadership within each faith community that will likely be the ones checking out the possibilities of moving into closer community. As we have cautioned so often before, accountability structures need to be built in to whatever endeavors a community undertakes.

Now as more than five years have gone by during which our little Torah pursuant community has been growing, we have come to enjoy and appreciate one another's company so much that our time together is nearly always less than we'd like. As the world grows darker we seem to have less in common with others. Several of our people live within city limits although that is about a 25 miles radius, but several are in outlying communities or rural areas. This seems to be the rule for most Messianic fellowships, particularly in the northern areas of the US. We must make the sacrifice of long travel in order to find pockets of fellowship.

Inevitably at some point as a Torah pursuant fellowship develops, thoughts begin to wander toward the idea of being in

will be needed in order for others to observe our preferences.

Personally, I need at least an hour to wind down before I go to bed. I prefer not to talk on the phone after 9:00 p.m. Other people are able to be on the phone late at night. Neither one is right or wrong. If I don't tell others of my expectations and then get angry at them for calling late at night when it isn't an emergency, whose problem is it? I have the responsibility to be clear about my needs. Others should not need to guess.

Some helpful suggestions may be to develop orientation materials for people new to your community. These materials could discuss such areas as expectations in dress, worship, or food. People come from varied backgrounds with their own ideas and agendas. Sitting down and talking with people about the goals, vision and expectations in a community will help to head off any issues before they cause problems. If these expectations are not clearly established, some people may come in and promote change according to their own ideas.

#### **RESISTANCE TO BOUNDARIES**

People who may be in the infant or child stage of maturity will resist when boundaries are set in place.

The ability to understand boundaries IS linked to maturity. People who have gaps in their maturity will have difficulty with boundaries. Community is needed in order for people to understand and learn boundaries. If people are to develop proper boundaries, it is important to be in solid, trusting relationships. Unfortunately, some people are frightened and prefer to leave rather than deal effectively with any conflict. They may never develop the solid relationships they need in order to grow and mature.

closer proximity in order to better support one another in daily concerns, to be able to gather in study more readily, to be near those whose calendar is the same, or at least closer than that followed by society at large.

How exactly does one go about establishing a community; what has been called an "intentional community?" We have much to learn. We could start entirely on our own and make all the early mistakes common to those attempting to establish intentional community or we could examine what has been learned by others and use that as a base.

Over the past two years, we have begun researching what works and what doesn't work for those choosing to live in communities of like minded people. Our interest has grown in determination as the years go by. We would like to present to our Messianic brothers and sisters what we have learned others have tried.

Here are some of the variations of community living arrangements being used:

- Shared household by one or more families or individuals.
- Individual/family owned residences in a neighborhood.
- Lodge-type or apartment arrangements with private family quarters and public living space.
- Dormitory style sleeping quarters with all food preparation and bathroom facilities provided communally.
- Individual owner of larger complex with board of directors.
- Joint purchase of property/living quarters.

*Community income may be pooled as in a *kibbutzim* arrangement or individuals may retain autonomy over their finances while sharing a common responsibility for the housing costs.*

*Members may work independent positions outside the community or they may pursue a cottage industry arrangement within the group. In the US, the term "Cooperative" organization is more familiar to many.*

A basic description of our intent is a good place to start. The following description was found at SchNews, an organization based in England:

[http://www.schnews.org.uk/diyguide/ho\\_wtoseupacoop.htm](http://www.schnews.org.uk/diyguide/ho_wtoseupacoop.htm) on January 16, 2007

*The "housing" for a co-op could be chosen to exactly suit the needs of the members. It could include extra resources - space,*

One member of our community has been learning boundaries throughout her years with Barb and Set Apart Ministries. At times, it was a struggle for her to understand the boundaries that were set in place and why they were set. She would be angry about the boundary setting and be resistant. It was an exciting day for us and for her when she was able to set boundaries with a woman she had come to know who did not have good boundaries. Our member was grateful for what she had learned and she gained even more understanding for herself. Even though there were times when she wanted to run away, she stayed the course and has grown as a result. She had come to know the hearts of the people in the community and had developed trust despite her fear.

#### **BROKEN BOUNDARIES**

What can you do when boundaries are trampled?

Take time to find out if the person was simply having a stressful time or was just not thinking about how their behavior might be received. If so, this correction won't be difficult to establish.

Recognize that some people have never had someone with patience and maturity available to teach them about social expectations. These people are generally the ones who test our patience the most and usually don't even realize they are doing so.

You will need self control. Expect anger and guilt messages in resistance to the boundaries, generally with the people who most need to learn them! How will you react in response? Remember, you are not responsible for the other person's feelings. What is your goal in setting a particular boundary? If people are to mature, they will need to struggle through the consequences of their behavior and choices in breaking

*land, workshops, gardens, extra children's spaces. It could be a large or small shared house, flats, a small terrace, a residential mobile home park, a smallholding. It could be established just to provide housing, and an alternative to the low standards and constant insecurity of private rented accommodation. Or it could be set up with the intention of promoting wider aims, such as providing space for self-employment, supporting home education, giving a secure base for a group of people who are encouraged on a shared project, and it allows the members to tailor the property, once chosen, to exactly suit their special needs.*

*It may take some patience and determination to set up a housing co-op and see it through to fruition, but then the members can reap the reward of relative autonomy in an important area of life, and rents which can decrease over the years as loans are repaid, rather than constantly increase as all other rents do.*

**Basic Terms** There are some general terms that need to be understood before we proceed with this discussion.

**Intentional community:** People who have decided to come together on a daily basis to live out their vision in a corporate manner.

**Kibbutz and Moshav:** Two forms of communal living that have been used extensively in Israel. One involves pooling all members income and one involves each member maintaining autonomy over their own finances.

**Co-operative:** A group of people organized together to promote benefits and savings in business or personal living arrangements. Commonly seen in our area as Farmers Co-operatives.

Details on these and more terms will be coming on our website soon. TO BE CONTINUED

## Keeping Your Joy Full!



Challenging words excerpted today from *Jesus, Man of Joy* by Sherwood Wirt; Harvest House Publishers, 1999, Chapter 8, pp 67-69. Used with permission.

*I would like you to do a little surfing through the Bible on your own, looking for joy. What a wealth of joyful expression! There is Nehemiah's classic statement: "The joy of the Lord is my strength." (8: 10) The Psalms are spilling over with gladness at the goodness of God.*

boundaries and making poor choices.

It is precisely for people who haven't yet learned about appropriate boundaries that it becomes so very necessary for leaders to actually have emotional and relational maturity as well as spiritual maturity. Without maturity in the leadership, these situations can easily escalate and cause much harm. Leaders really are called to be sacrificial in their relationships, much as a parent must be with a young child.

### **SETTING AND KEEPING BOUNDARIES IS A PROCESS**

It can be difficult to watch as people struggle. The process of refinement is as through fire (Jer. 9:7, Zech. 13:9, Mal. 3:3). It will get mighty hot at times, individually and corporately, but if we keep our eyes on the goal of maturity, being responsible to one another, having a healthy faith and standing on the FIRM FOUNDATION of the Word (Yeshua), we will stand. (M.G.)

### Quick Links...

[Set Apart Ministries New Catalog-Click here and go to navigation box for catalog!](#)

[CARE, Baldwin Michigan](#)

[Dry Bones Restoration Company-Frank Houtz](#)

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

[Sheep of Israel-David Gipson](#)

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*Isaiah the prophet sparkles with joy. You will find at least 542 references to joy between Genesis and Revelation and at least 105 in the Psalms alone!*

*...You will find people laughing, skipping, leaping, shouting, singing, dancing, playing instruments, celebrating. There was joy at Jesus' resurrection and joy at His ascension. Everthing Paul the apostle did he seems to have done with joy. Then why don't we see it emphasized in Christian liturgy and literature, instead of the opposite?*

*Janes S. Stewart, my beloved teacher at Edinburgh University, said, "Don't be put off by those gloomy caricatures of Christianity. For God's sake don't judge Jesus, the King of joy, by them! Try the real thing, not that miserable parody of the reality. Make friends with Jesus, stand where Peter and John and Andrew did and look into His eyes, listen to the music of His voice, answer His challenge, rise and follow."*

## Teleconferences



February 28, 2007  
9:00 AM CST

"For Women Only"  
teleconference

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

### Discussion Time

Topic for the Day: What do you say when *they* say...

There are some awkward moments when friends or relatives ask what you got for Christmas, or what your plans are for Easter dinner, aren't there? Today, we'll talk about some responses people have found that work well for them. We want to be clear and non defensive; giving a reason for our hope and our choices when it is appropriate. This also means recognizing when it's not appropriate to say very much. Prayer Concerns and closing

To register for this month's 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 month's discussion!

## Plant & Grow a Strong Messianic Fellowship Teleconference

Registration for this teleconference series opened last month.

Here is an opportunity for those who provide leadership in a Messianic community, even if it's only two other people!

We are now offering this open forum by telephone to discuss difficult relationships, conflict resolution, anger management, and so forth. Without the extra expense of traveling you can obtain support and professional consultation for the relationship issues you deal with on a daily basis.

[Click here for more detailed information on this seminar.](#)

[Click here for registration information!](#)

### 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.

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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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