

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

Encouragement from Set Apart Ministries

December, 2006

Dear Friends,

As I am writing this greeting we are nearing the end of another calendar year. It has been a momentous year, both locally and internationally.

We've been through another cycle of expansion and contraction of members, growing overall in the process, both in numbers and maturity.

Internationally, things continue to heat up for Israel on the world stage with indications that a Palestinian state may be in the wings for 2007. Eddie Chumney, among others, sees this as part of the events of the Day of the LORD. There is no doubt that we are nearer to His return than we were before.

Yet, we must continue in the daily process of life, continuing to work as we are led while it is yet day. As we see the fabric of civility come apart in relationships around us, more than ever we are confirmed in our desire to live set apart lives, growing in maturity in all ways toward our Messiah Who is our Head. One of our members just related an experience with her landlord in which the person reacted in very childish, untruthful ways. Marsha says she was shocked because she somehow thought that the situation would be handled as we handle concerns in our community: presentation of facts on all sides, consideration given to all, and above all, a focus on truth and behaving in a way pleasing to our Elohim. This was her second recent reminder that our pursuit of Torah observance and maturity in lifestyle is not the way of the world. We do praise Yeshua for His work among us, but it is sometimes easy to forget this is not the "norm."

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

Toxic Faith or Healthy Faith?



Today we will continue with our discussion on healthy boundaries. As a reminder: *Boundaries define us. They define "what is me" and "what is not me." A boundary shows me where I end and someone else begins, leading me to a sense of ownership.* (*Boundaries* by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend. Copyright 1992 by Henry Cloud and John Townsend).

Please take a moment now to look at two charts from our website--one on [Responsibility](#) and another on [Understanding Self Worth](#). Barb developed these charts and often uses them in her work. We just recently discussed these charts in our monthly Women's Teleconference, especially in regard to the holiday season and coping with friends and

and proximity. It makes sense to us to learn what others who have gone before us in efforts to develop Biblically based communities have learned. We especially appreciated several comments: one, that the prophetic and the pastoral needs will tend to be in ongoing tension; and two, that lofty spiritual goals at the beginning can all too often yield to daily practical concerns like making certain one person leaves the washing machine clean for the next. We are compiling a list of resources for those who are, like us, moving toward greater commitment to community life in Torah. It will be announced in our upcoming newsletters and on our webpage.

In this issue, Marilyn continues her series on development of boundaries, examining love and fear bonds, relationship dynamics and a YHWH-pleasing understanding of self-worth. These are concepts not usually discussed but they have great bearing on our ability to live and walk in Torah. Barb will begin to address concerns about leadership issues; specifically this time talking about spiritual abuse of authority. These concepts can also be better understood through concepts of self worth and relational dynamics.

Our Messianic Leadership Teleconference has been announced although we are still having "email dilemmas" in trying to get the individual announcements out to our list of interested people. 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.

Thanks to a generous donation we are able to offer our For Women Only Teleconference this month as a free call for each participant, as well as making a recording of the call available by phone for 10 days after. Individual email announcements have gone out but there is still time for more people to register.

We are very pleased with the preliminary results of our audio teaching on Maturity in Prayer Life. We listened to the first edited portion and are excited to finish reviewing it. One of our group who hadn't participated in the process leading to this teaching had an "aha!" moment as we went through it in our local Life Model class. We hope to make this available through our website in the near future and that it will be a blessing to others as well.

Barb was able to visit our "sister" community, CARE, in Baldwin, Michigan in recent weeks. (It's really almost straight east across Lake Michigan, but a 1,000 mile round trip!) We are

relatives who have made different choices than we have.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A HEALTHY FAITH, LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.

An elder will understand the necessity of self-care. Many people in our communities have suffered some kind of betrayal or woundedness. Often those in great difficulty may also be in denial as to their own issues. Ministering to both those who admit their fears and those who deny them can be draining.

Yeshua understood the importance of time to go off to pray with His Father. How much more do we need to be "refueled" in order to serve effectively. If not, burn out will occur, which will take us in a direction we don't want--into a toxic faith, and unhealthy relationships.

When we attempt to serve in our flesh, we tend to forget that YHWH's purposes will be accomplished **THROUGH US, NOT BY US**. The fulfillment of His purposes does not depend upon us. The battle belongs to the Lord.

We believe that staying in the middle column of loving others AS ourselves is pleasing to our Elohim, whereas skidding to one extreme or the other is not.

As a community develops healthy faith-based individual worth and relational strength, there will be challenging interaction, especially between newer and established members or leaders. No doubt there will be testing of these relationships, especially as new people join.

An example might be that a newer member may not yet have learned that our community values directness and honesty in holding one another accountable. This new person could misconstrue this accountability for condemnation or inappropriately controlling behavior. A healthy set of relationships and a strong bond of unity should be able to provide enough strength for a member to calmly hear out such a one's fears and accusations, while

now pleased to plan to welcome their dance team, headed by Jessie, coming in January to teach us some of their praise and worship dances.

"Rest in Messiah and cease striving." As I hear and strive to obey, so I encourage you to do the same. (BK)

In This Issue...

- Toxic Faith or Healthy Faith?
- Spiritual Abuse: Leadership Authority and Accountability Patterns
- Keeping Your Joy Full!
- Teleconferences
- About Us

Spiritual Abuse: Leadership Authority and Accountability Patterns



A leader in any organization is often called upon to make quick and important decisions. In a Messianic fellowship/community, we have the added responsibility to discern between matters of our own flesh and the leading of the

Ruach in making those decisions.

In our life in mainstream churches, the leadership was in place when we arrived, and was validated by some kind of ordination process and affirmation by the group. There was an accountability structure set in place both locally and in larger regional, state, national or international levels for many. This is not to say that accountability was or is always well-maintained. In many of our Messianic fellowship groups, the leadership was established in a more informal way and may have less of an obvious accountability structure.

As we look for a body of believers with whom to worship, study and have fellowship how can we tell if the leadership is maintaining a YHWH-pleasing standard in their actions? It is important to get to know the leadership both in and outside of the worship setting. Know their beliefs and their actions, in order to watch for who is consistent and who is not. We believe that spiritual abuse can and will occur wherever there is inadequate understanding of relationships, authority and a lack of accountability.

maintaining confidence in the established bonds of relationship. The goal is for all to learn that in this community it is possible to grow in faith and maturity without fear of condemnation along the way. Fear and doubts expressed by newer people will give way to quietness and confidence as they begin to see the established peace and cohesion that is not easily broken.

In a community with a toxic faith, spiritual and emotional abuse will happen. The "I'm Nobodys" will be overrun by the "I'm Somebody." The passive people will be operating in fear of the aggressive people. People will not feel safe in this environment. Chances are, they will leave or not grow spiritually or mature. Fearful people may start "whispering campaigns" or accusations of improper behavior by established members or leaders of the group. This is usually due to their lack of comprehension of what is actually valued. It could also be called a passive-aggressive type of behavior, in which real or imagined slights are not addressed directly but by complaining to anyone BUT the person involved. If the community members do not have a solid base of mutual respect and trust, such accusations can all too easily spread like wildfire and bring destruction to the group.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE TO OTHERS.

I still remember the first time I saw this chart; it made quite an impact on me. I grew up feeling responsible **for** others. I learned the hard way that this is a difficult way to live. I spent time in fear and worrying about others' feelings and their expectations.

I found that when I did try to fix people and it didn't work, I became frustrated and would sometimes not want to feel any responsibility. Through trial and error (and through the help of the Ruach), I learned to be more Responsible **To** others. That's why I was excited when I saw this chart. It explained in black and white what I had experienced.

I've known other "fixers" who have fallen into the same trap. They expect people to listen to their

Please [Click Here](#) to read the article in its entirety. Click here for [Understanding Self Worth](#) and Click here for the [Responsibility Chart](#).

Keeping Your Joy Full!

One way to keep joy flowing is to be certain that there is variety in your daily routine. If you do heavy physical activity routinely, find a way to rest physically and do mental work such as reading. On the other hand, if you have a desk job that is quite sedentary, a balance can be kept by intentionally choosing physically active hobbies.



For me, my daily involvement is usually with language, either spoken or written. I have found that taking the time to relax with something that involves color, shape and texture rather than verbal skills brings me rest and refreshment which leaves me better able to keep my joy. One option for this is to relax with a jigsaw puzzle. I much prefer one that is a beautiful picture of some part of creation, and not one that is intentionally frustrating, like the all one color puzzles.

Recently, I have found an [online free jigsaw site](#) that offers puzzles by email on a daily basis if you sign up. You can also just go to the site and pick a puzzle, the number of pieces, and even the shape of the pieces. Your solution time is kept and you can compare to others doing the same puzzle. You can even submit your own photos to use for puzzles.

Be careful! Use it for a break, and not to hide out for hours. Enjoy. (BK)

Teleconferences



[Get out your red markers! Find your yellow highlighter](#) Unbury your calendar!

- Sunday, December 31, 2006
9:00 AM CST

"For Women Only" teleconference

"advice" and think that will cause everything to be just great. When that doesn't happen, they give up and want to become uninvolved. After a while, they'll go back to feeling responsible for people and try to start fixing all over again. This cycle will go around and around with nothing ever being resolved; ongoing relational conflict in the process.

I CANNOT FIX OTHER PEOPLE.

Repeat that to yourself 10 times a day if you need to.

I CANNOT FIX OTHER PEOPLE.

It is only through Elohim and His Ruach, His mercy and grace that people will change. There is no formula. Only He has the answers. He uses us to come alongside each other and will often speak through others, but only He can change people. His action to cause us to change will only bloom as we choose to yield to His promptings.

In Set Apart Ministries, as in other communities, we've had people come and go. We teach the same things; we're the same people, yet one person will understand and grow and one won't. We can't fix anyone but we can encourage and teach what we have been taught about maturity and relationships as we grow toward our Messiah. Some people will turn their backs on our teaching. Others will grasp it and bear fruit. What blessings when someone grasps the relational truth and becomes a new creation! What joy! On the other hand, there is sadness when someone walks away from our community, and even sometimes from the Word, our Living Torah.

When this kind of departure happens, we learn more about trust as we place that person in the hands of Yeshua. Perhaps that person has another path to walk or lessons to learn from others in His kingdom.

These are especially difficult lessons to learn with people we love. As Torah-pursuant believers, we often grieve for our family members who do not yet understand Torah. Many of us have loved ones who haven't even made a commitment to Yeshua, let alone following Torah. If we have a healthy faith

This is the first time we are able to offer this teleconference as a toll free call! It is also the first time we will be able to make a recording of the call available for ten days after the call. Look on our website for access information or call us at the office.

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: Coping with Holiday Challenges and Family Matters

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!](#)

and have learned to be responsible to others, it will be easier to place these loved ones in Yeshua's hands.

As congregation or fellowship leaders, we will be able to allow the Ruach HaKodesh to more fully work through us than working in our flesh. We will be at peace regardless of the outcome because we know Elohim is at work in people's lives.

As you look over these charts, perhaps you can see where your actions tend to fall. Next month, we'll continue with our discussion of Boundaries. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email us at info@setapartm ingb.org. We'd be blessed to hear from you and answer your questions.

Blessings to you and your family. (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](#)

Join our mailing list!

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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