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## Encouragement from S.A.M.

An Equipping Ministry

July 21, 2006

**Shalom Aleichem!**

With this edition, we complete our first year of providing this newsletter! HalleluYah! Our prayer is that sheep and shepherds alike are finding benefit in learning about issues related to maturity in all areas. With the development of so many areas of service, we did drop to once monthly newsletters during this time, as we also do a general interest coaching newsletter for the general Christian population and a monthly teleconference; not to mention our weekly Shabbat gatherings for praise, prayer and study and our annual Ha Yesod classes for those newly interested in learning of our Hebrew heritage.

Having just returned from the MIA conference we are pleased to see that things are going to get even more interesting! Eighteen of us traveled together for a week and have come home with more people sharing the vision of a local Messianic community and the services we can bring to the greater body of Believers. There is talk of a Hebrew class, a shofar class, new children's study materials in development and many creative ideas for products for our online marketplace. Our teleconference participants got to meet in person, too. There may even be two new participants! Details on this month's teleconference will be found below. Out of the 1500 people in attendance, there were about 30 people in Ya'acov Rice's shofar training class, about 10 of them from our group! SAM and Wisconsin were well represented as they learned to play, not just blow, the shofar!

Thank you for your prayers! We do believe we found those divine appointments we had been watching for!

We also have a full set of CD's of the conference presentation

## The Truth Shall Make You Free (John 8:32)



I hope you were encouraged by Brian Matuszak's article in last month's column. Brian and his family were also able to attend the Messianic Israel Alliance Conference in Nashville. We all enjoyed being with our brothers and sisters in Messiah.

During the conference, I heard more than one speaker talk about the struggles we all have with our flesh. In today's article, we will continue our teaching from May's newsletter on the "sark." For those of you new to our newsletter and as a refresher, let's briefly review the meaning of "sark."

The book *The Life Model*\* bases the word "sark" on the Greek word *sarx*, which means *the seat of false discernment, false guidance and false knowledge of good and evil* (*The Life Model*, pg. 110 copyright

with permission granted to duplicate them for distribution. There were so many good speakers at the same time, we couldn't get to all of them. Now we have teaching material for the next year in what we have in these CDs and the speakers teaching materials as well.

As for me, Barb, imagine my surprise when I received a bag of goodies for speakers while I was standing at the registration desk! I had been asked to provide a brief summary of the survey preliminary results and did not know I was considered a speaker. I was further surprised to be given the opportunity to speak for the greater part of an hour during the Leadership Support class. My prayer, then and now, is that the *Ruach*/Holy Spirit will use what was said for His purposes!

Thanks to the help of many people, our office is moved and nearly set up again. We are keeping the same mailing address and phone number until further notice but have added an additional number (920) 336-7005. With two new families and two single adults joining us this past month after we sponsored an FFOZ presentation by Toby Janicki, it seems we will fill up the available space all too soon. We do thank Toby and Shannon Janicki and FFOZ for preparing this tour and blessing us through his teaching!

At the moment, plans are being confirmed for Rebecca Park Totilo of Rebecca At The Well organization to come here the weekend of December 1-2, 2006 to give us her presentation on the Bride of Messiah. It may be a three day presentation as there is so much to teach! We have listened to her CD teaching on *Who Is the Bride?* last summer and look forward to hearing her new material on the secret of the stair steps. Watch for details coming soon. David Gipson of Sheep of Israel is available to join us in February 2007 and hopes to bring along his praise team and a worship banner instructor as well. Keep an eye out for further information here too. He says our Wisconsin winters don't worry him!

We were all delighted to meet Natan Lawrence in person and were blessed by his encouragement of one of the younger members of our community. It is always good to speak with Frank Houtz and glean from his understanding and grace-filled leadership. We hope to have Frank come soon and provide advanced level training for those who want to be able to respond to Jewish anti-missionaries. No date has been set for this as yet. Brian and Michele Matuszak and Al and Bee Teixeira were a part of the celebration as well and we appreciate the support they lent to us in many ways. We may have to ask Dean

2000-R). Ever since Adam and *Havah* ate of the Fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, man has struggled with fleshly understanding. What often appears as good, is not! (*For more information, please check out our Newsletter Archives for the May 2006 newsletter at [setapartmingb.org](http://setapartmingb.org).*)

Throughout our lives, we have suffered traumas--the bad things that happened to us and the absence of the good things we needed in our lives. As a result, we have built up a reservoir of lies--"I'm no good; I'll never be good enough; how could God love me, I'm too dirty" and on and on. Our hearts have become sick. The prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel addressed the issue of the sick hearts of the people of Israel, which caused them to fall into sin, away from *Elohim* and the teachings of His *Torah*, which eventually led to their dispersion.

Just as we need exercise and good food to produce healthy physical hearts, our spiritual hearts need attention as well. The true heart is the place of spiritual discernment. When our hearts are healthy, we are able to hear through the *Ruach HaKodesh* what is truly good and what is truly evil--we are living as *Elohim* created us.

### Developing a Healthy Heart

- Turn your life to *Yahshua*--be cleansed with His purifying blood. Allow His healing to enter your heart, to erase the traumas of the past. He created you; He has given you spiritual gifts to serve in the body of Messiah.
- Study and obey the teachings of *Torah*. "Love *Elohim* and love your neighbor as yourself."
- Pray to *Yahshua* for the truth to

Wheelock to come and give his instruction on *the Faith Given Once for All to the Saints* and his teaching on *Biblical Music* sometime soon as well.

An MIA Way station! We are grateful to Angus Wootten who made us an offer we couldn't refuse which has allowed us to obtain materials to become a way station! We now have a selection of books published through Key of David Publishing for sale in our library and should be listed online soon as a Way Station. Batya blessed us with copies of her books as well as her encouragement. We also have permission to sell Lenny and Varda's CDs as well as the THRIVE! Dance DVD's: *Worship Dance instruction for Non Dancers*. In addition, we have Mel and Ronen Shalom's CD *Songs of the Bride*. This young couple is planting vineyards in the Negev Desert in Israel preparing a place for Ephraim to come and work in the land. Proceeds from the sale of this CD go to support them in their work as forerunners. They are friends of Jann in Houston who is in our teleconference group as well as friends of Lenny and Varda Harris and Rina and Boaz Dwyer who spoke at the conference on their vineyard project on the border of the Gaza Strip.

Check out FFOZ's website and Boaz Michael's blog spot! He put a picture of himself wearing one of the 5-foot-long tzit tzit that Debra from our community made for sale at the marketplace. We presented him with his own tzit tzit when we learned that he was billing it as the world's largest tzit tzit and a step up to a new level...

Many things are happening as you can tell from this brief description. We will continue our weekly Shabbat gatherings as we now focus on developing our Fall Feast Days plans; still looking for an appropriate site to allow us daily teaching and gatherings away from the blustery winds we had last year in Door county.

Please let us know how we may be of service to you and your fellowship and check our website in the next few weeks for new developments and materials.

Please do pray for the peace of Jerusalem. As we draw nearer to the Restoration of all things, we know that it means increasing chaos in many ways. May you put down strong roots through spiritual disciplines in our Messiah as you prepare to stand firm as part of His Bride--strong, pure and spotless!

## in this issue

- [The Truth Shall Make You Free \(John 8:32\)](#)

destroy the lies embedded in your heart.

- Find people who will speak into your life to counteract the "sark" and see the true worth of your heart.

*Living from the heart does not mean we throw away all the rules and live by our feelings. The heart is much deeper than our emotions. The heart that Jesus gives is the most solid thing about us. Often our emotions become overwhelmed when our soul is unable to bear all that the heart knows but as our joy strength increases we learn to live with our heart (see Newsletter Archives at [setapartmingbb.org](http://setapartmingbb.org), November 15 and 29, 2005 to read more on JOY and the effect it has on our maturity)*

*When we look into God's face with the eyes Jesus gave us, He makes His face shine upon us with joy. God is "glad to be with us" no matter what state we are in--whether in shame, anger, fear, disgust, humiliation or even hopeless despair. We love Him for it and He teaches us how to act like ourselves so we in turn can be with each other and bring each other back to joy, build love bonds and comfort one another with the comfort we have received. (The Life Model, pg. 125, copyright 2000-R)*

## **PREPARED IN ADVANCE**

Ephesians 2:8-10

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. **FOR WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO.** (NIV, emphasis by author)*

Because of the traumas we have experienced, it is often difficult to understand the true characteristics of our hearts. If this is true for you, begin to examine yourself by asking these questions:

- What are you most passionate

- [But What About Grace?](#)
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## But What About Grace?

Two months ago we were addressing the concerns that arise when we see so frequent messages of grace within Christian church circles. It became an issue for people newer to the Torah walk, wondering if grace is missing in the Messianic movement, since it isn't addressed as often. We spoke of historical misapplications of grace in our last edition and will move a little further through the list of possible questions today:

Is Grace the Opposite of Legalism? Is Grace Really Missing in the Old Testament? Can the Concept of Grace be Misapplied to Avoid Learning YHWH's Commands? How Do we Deal in Grace with People who don't trust God and His Grace because they have been Betrayed and Traumatized by Those who Should Have Protected Them? As One Moves toward Torah Obedience are there Precautions to follow to avoid falling into a Legalistic Snare?

**Is Grace the opposite of Legalism?** This concern isn't so hard to answer; if there were no standard that could be no expectation for behavior. If there is no expectation for behavior than every behavior would be equally right or wrong. In order for the concept of grace to exist at all, it stands to reason then that there must be a standard in order for a person to be given grace when they do not reach that standard. How grateful we all are that our Messiah was willing to drink the cup of affliction that is rightfully ours, granting us the grace that is so much a part of His character!

Legalism, as people tend to "throw around" the term today, is a concept that does not really exist in Scripture. (D. Thomas Lancaster has done an excellent exposition on this subject in his new book *Restoration: Returning the Torah of God to the Disciples of Jesus*.) People often use the words of Paul to justify any concern about keeping *Torah*, yet on closer study, it becomes apparent that this was NOT his intended message. At that time, Paul was concerned about the practice of teaching people that they couldn't come to faith in Messiah unless they went through the arduous process of conversion as defined by Judaism. It was insistence on this conversion process for people to become Messianic Believers in that day that Paul defined as "legalistic." He restated "Old Testament" teaching that He who

about?

- When have you taken a stand for something in which you strongly believed and did not back down? How did you feel about taking that stand?
- Looking through the eyes of *Yahshua*, how would you describe yourself?
- How do those closest to you see your heart? Ask them to describe you.

### STUDENTS OF THE WORD

*We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. (I Cor. 10:5-7 NASB)*

*Torah* must be our measuring stick in all situations. By being serious students of the Word, we will understand what *Elohim* expects of us--how we are to live our lives. Not only must we be students of the Word, we must walk in HIS path of righteousness, always seeking His direction through prayer and at times fasting. By learning to understand the lies we have in our thinking, we will be better able to take those thoughts captive and allow *Yahshua* to show us the true way. (M.G.)

\* *The Life Model: Living From the Heart Jesus Gave You*, Copyright 2000-R

### Quick Links...

[Messianic Community Leadership Concerns Survey](#)

is a true Jew is one inwardly. True belief, is and always was a matter of circumcision of the heart! (Romans 2: 29) This picture is a message of obedience and submission to one's God. *Shema!* which means Hear AND obey, is the Hebrew command *YHWH* gave just before He gave what we have known as the ten commandments. *Shema* is a part of the prayer every observant Jewish person will recognize for they pray it daily. It means to love your God and to live out that love by hearing and obeying Him. Sound familiar?

Today, people tend to fear that any effort to obey commands is a form of rigidity, an absence of grace, a loss of liberty or freedom so any effort to observe *YHWH's Torah*/Righteous Teachings- usually defined as Law-- seems to them to be going counter to their understanding of grace and leeway, and freedom with Messiah. Yet in truth, those of us who are parents can perhaps better understand that our children have no less true "freedom" when they obey our teachings that are meant to keep them safe from harm. It is when they move outside the parameters we lay out for them that they can come into harm's way. Do we not experience our children's cheerful obedience to our direction as indicative of their love and respect for us? So it is with our Father, *YHWH*.

Another aspect of grace may be explored by examination of the concepts of "by the letter" and "by the spirit." *Yahshua* is said to have taught principles that seem often to be closer to the school of *Hillel*, one of the two leading Pharisee Rabbinical teachers of His day. The school of *Hillel* was known and respected for it's emphasis on teaching obedience to the spirit of the Law; that is comprehending the intent and heart purpose for instructions in order to lead people toward the desired behavior, thus pleasing *YHWH*. The opposing school was that of *Shammai*, who was known for teaching the need to meet the letter of the law, not necessarily allowing for circumstances. Out of concern for their responsibility to teach people how to obey, it seems that both schools of thought did eventually add what are called "fence laws". These additional rules were designed to prevent people from even getting close to breaking the commandments, but in fact added such stringent requirements that not even the teachers themselves could always keep them. These are two different ways of teaching obedience yet in 70 A.D. when the Temple was destroyed, these Pharisees and the Messianic Believers were the only surviving branches of Judaism. There WERE many Pharisees who did accept *Yahshua* as Messiah and many thousands of Jewish people who believed. All followers of *Yahshua* were of Jewish

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

[Rebecca Park Totilo](#)

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

[Sheep of Israel-David Gipson](#)

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descent for at least the first fifteen years though this fact has often been lost to us. They kept the *Torah* and all the appointed times, while joyously recognizing Messiah had come! They saw no conflict or lack of grace in keeping the commands of the One they served.

*Here is how we know we love God's children: when we love God we also do what He commands. For loving God means obeying His commands.* 1 John 5: 2- 3 Complete Jewish Bible Translation  
*Everyone who keeps sinning is violating Torah— indeed, sin is violation of Torah.* 1 John 3: 4 Complete Jewish Bible Translation

Interpreting God's Righteous Teachings/ *Torah* in such a way as to lead people toward the desired behavior would seem to me to be a form of grace. This is far different than simply imposing a set of requirements on people with no concern for the impact on them. THIS is what *Yahshua* was holding the Jews accountable for doing! Adding unnecessary burdens to His own Righteous Teachings/*Torah* that added to the stress of people rather than benefiting them. It was NOT the Law/Righteous Teaching itself that He opposed! The Pharisees were scrupulous in their efforts to obey YHWH and keep His commands, no matter which school they followed. If the Righteous Teachings themselves were in question doesn't it seem that they would not have been permitted to survive, when all other branches of Judaism were destroyed?

If one doesn't have a set of expectations by which to live; or in the case of parents a set of guidelines for expected behavior of their children, there would be no sort of boundary for appropriate and inappropriate behavior. If there were no boundaries for appropriate and inappropriate behavior, there would be no need for *chesed*/grace because there would be no way to DEFINE grace. (If I never say "no," just what is my "yes" worth?)

It was the added burdens that *Yahshua* spoke out against. He also affirmed repeatedly that "If you Love me, you will obey my commands." Which commands are *Yahshua's* commands? Well, it is said that there are (only) 613 commandments in the Old Testament and (over) 1050 in the New Testament. Every one of the 1050 has it's root in the 613; and even more specifically in the 10. And when we understand that *Yahshua* said that ALL the Law could be summarized in two and that *Yahshua* was THERE at Mount Sinai when the Law tablets were given to Moses, we get a clearer picture of which commands we are to obey OUT OF LOVE FOR HIM. (NOTE: A summary may come before or after a larger report but the summary itself has never yet replaced or done away with the main body of the report it restates in

brief form.) As Paul said to Timothy: *ALL Scripture is God breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training of right living thus anyone who belongs to God may be fully equipped for every good work.* 2 Timothy 3: 16- 17 Complete Jewish Bible Translation What existed of Scripture when this letter was written? Why what we call the Old Testament of course! From Genesis to Malachi: the Law, the Prophets and the Writings! Do you recall how we can know that *Yahshua* really IS our Messiah? That He fulfilled the prophecies spoken about Him, particularly in Isaiah, but also pictured in every aspect of Old Testament teachings. IF He had deviated even one small jot or tittle from anything that *YHWH* directed, HE would not be our Messiah! Check out John 17, in which He confirmed that He and the Father are One, and that He did nothing unless it was of the Father. Recall the words He spoke on the road to Emmaus, when he spoke to the disciples of the Law and the Prophets and how it was written that the Messiah must suffer and die, for all the Law and the Prophets was written about Him. (B.K.)

## Keeping Your Joy Full!

What joy in attending the MIA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Although traveling with eighteen people can be a challenge, hot and humid weather and some other struggles along the way, we had a wonderful time and are already planning for next year.



As small Messianic communities gather from around the world, it is a haven of peace and rest to come to a place where we are united in our belief of *Torah* and *Yahshua* (*Yeshua*, *Y'shua*, *Yehoshua*) HaMashiach!

We encourage you, especially if you are alone or in a small fellowship to attend the conference. It is exciting to see 1500 believers coming together to Worship and learn, to hear the teachers that are coming out of the churches into a *Torah* pursuant lifestyle!

## Teleconference Announcement



Ladies! Mark your calenders!

- **Sunday, July 30, 9:00 AM CST**

**Our next scheduled For Women Only teleconference will be held in the morning again this month!**

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

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!**

## 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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