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Encouragement from S.A.M.

An Equipping Ministry

June 21, 2006

Shalom Aleichem!

As you read this newsletter, we will be very involved in moving our office and all that goes along with that process. Your patience is much appreciated if we miss a communication or drop the ball somehow in the next few weeks.

It has been wonderful connecting with various leaders of Messianic Fellowships around the country this past few weeks! Although we have had trouble connecting with some people, those we have spoken with have been very receptive and interested in the services we have to offer. We have a longer prayer list now, as we lift up all of their concerns along with our own. The Preliminary Report on this survey is in process, to be delivered to MIA Leadership next week. We will also be sending this report to those who participated in the survey, and hope to have copies available at the MIA conference in Nashville next month at our table in the Marketplace.

Plant and Grow a Strong Messianic Fellowship is a new project; an outgrowth of what we have been learning through this survey, as well as 30 years of Barb's professional and personal experience with group dynamics in various settings and our own experience over the past five years with our local Messianic community. There are at least two main ways in which our Messianic Fellowships seem to come into being. The pros and cons of these methods, pitfalls to watch out for, and steps to take to prevent some of the inherent conflict will all be a part of this project. Watch for it and please pray for us as it is completed!

We are hosting FFOZ's Toby Janiecki this coming weekend for the Restoration! seminar, and have been pleased with the number of people we have found in our area who didn't know about us, and we didn't know about them. So, a new Ha Yesod class is just beginning as well. May our Savior be praised and

From Submarine Sandwiches to Subscribers



Many a believer who comes to the understanding and conviction of Sabbath observance will inevitably be faced with the challenge of being asked to work on the Sabbath. I truly believe that the decision lies between you and our Almighty. We should not make our choice because of what someone tells us what we must do. It must be an act of love and obedience to our Father and not out of an obligation to any person because of what they may think of us. Please, don't misunderstand me. I am not saying to do whatever you please; we must carefully bring our concerns before our Father and then be obedient to what He tells us. We must test that what we are told aligns with scripture. For often times we will opt for what make us feel comfortable in our own minds and believe that Abba would understand our "unique" situation.

Before I begin with my story, I must first tell you that we all come from many different backgrounds

glorified in these things, too.

The next big event is the MIA International Conference, One, in Nashville in July. We have been blessed with significant donations to help defray costs and are very thankful for those individuals who understood the need and accepted the prompting of the *Ruach* to help us. For several people, those costs are still prohibitive so we continue to pray for resources for each one. Our materials are all being prepared for the marketplace as well as the chuppah and display materials we will need. Please look for us in the marketplace!

Our monthly teleconference For Women Only! is scheduled for next week, Sunday June 25th. We hope to "see" you there! This past month we had women from four states together. Details in the article below.

Please come!

We are pleased to welcome a guest writer for our featured article this month. Brian Matuszak and his wife, Michele, have been long time friends and a source of encouragement and help. As part of our efforts to address the concerns of those just coming into a Torah lifestyle, Brian has written a personal account of his transition as it applies to his employment. Thank you and blessings to you both, Brian and Michele. We are quite sure others will appreciate what you have said. (Look for them in Nashville,too.)

We will return to our series on Grace and on Maturity Concerns next time.

Blessings to you all as we enter into the summer season with great expectation of what Our Messiah will do.

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Keeping Your Joy Full!

and belief systems. We all react differently to the same situations. We must help and edify our brothers and sisters who are being molded through this journey and not judge them harshly with condemnation. We are all on a journey; none of us have "got it all right". We must realize that we have areas in our lives that are also being refined and I highly doubt that any of us would embrace harsh judgment as we strive to grow in our living out of our faith.

Would it not be better to have someone to walk with us in a loving, caring spirit as we try to have a better understanding and pursue obedience? Obviously, everyone has a story and sometimes using your own story is the best way that we can share a concept or conviction. I would also like to add that pursuing a life of Torah obedience is not an easy one. I wish I could tell you differently, but I believe in honesty. When we are called to live holy (set apart) lives, it will cause us to question and change many of our belief systems and "traditions". As we read through the many accounts of the lives used in scripture, we can see that the roads the "called out ones" were asked to travel were not smoothly black topped highways, but instead, "the roads less traveled" were filled with many obstacles, potholes and curves. But, none the less, when we are called we must be obedient to that call. There is joy in knowing that we are striving to please our Father in ways that He prescribes for us.

When we choose His ways, we are fulfilling the reason for our creation. (Eph 2:10, Ecc 12:13) This is the very reason why I chose to pursue His path in which I am about to share with you in the following story.

At the time that I began to become convicted of observing the 7th day Sabbath, I was in a partnership in a restaurant. The restaurant had long been well established and the community it was in was accustomed to the hours of operation. Now, had the business been my own and in a community in which the only ties that I had to it were the business, the transition would have been a much easier one. But, as you can probably guess,



Once again this month, we quote a portion from the book *Jesus, Man of Joy*.*

Meanwhile as we enter the new millennium the Holy Spirit is still pouring out love into individual lives. The ugly spirits of resentment, hostility, and bitterness are being dissolved by a divine solvent tipped from heaven into the heart. Reading the Bible for some people is no longer a tedious chore but is becoming a feasting on the Word. Worship is becoming a joyous celebration. The casual churchgoer is becoming a believer, an object of grace and a tributary of love. The water has become wine--not the alcoholic drug, but the wine of a contented heart, the wine of peace and gladness.

In a hundred places the Bible tells us that the message of salvation in Christ is not of judgment but a message of love and joy. The very words "evangel" and "gospel" mean "good news, glad tidings." Many of the great hymns of the faith that we sing so majestically are really effusions of joy.

What is joy? It is the enjoyment of God and the good things that come from the hand of God. If our new freedom in Christ is a piece of angel food cake, joy is the frosting. If the Bible gives us the wonderful words of life, joy supplies the music. If the way to heaven turns out to be an arduous steep climb, joy rigs up the chairlift.

That fact is that joy is an attribute of God Himself. It brings with it pleasure, gladness, and delight. Joy is merriment without frivolity, hilarity without raucousness, and mirth without cruelty. Joy is sportive without being rakish and festive without being cheap. Joy radiates animation, sparkle, and buoyancy. It is more than fun, yet it has fun. It expresses itself in laughter and elation, yet it draws from a deep spring that keeps flowing

that wasn't the case.

My business partner was my older brother who had absolutely no interest in the Sabbath or pretty much any "religion" for that matter. Also, the restaurant was located in my home town of about 3,000 populace; in which many knew me from the local church, school or just plain knew me (if you were from a small town, you know what I am talking about). I knew that there were going to be some difficult hurdles to face and I wasn't expecting God to just make them go away. I knew this was going to be a test of my obedience, but I also knew that as long as I was being obedient, it didn't really matter what the outcome would be. The way I looked at it was, "Well Father, if you want me to succeed, I will succeed. If not, I know you have other plans for me." After much questioning, bewilderment and frustration from the customers (due to the required ever-changing hours and closings due to the commanded feasts) a steady decrease in revenue became the norm over the next two years.

Not only could I not work on the Sabbath, but I could not be open for business or allow my employees to work on this day either. For the commandment states:

- "But the seventh day is to be a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it, you shall not do any work; neither you, nor your son or your daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates." (Ex 20:10)

Now, all I needed was the strength and courage to do what had to be done; close Friday nights and all day Saturday. You probably already know this, but those are the prime hours of the restaurant business. How was I going to tell my partner who had a 50% investment in the business that we needed to close down during the best business hours of the week because of my new found convictions? Not to mention, what would the pastor and head elder of my church who were part of our

long after the laughter has died and the tears have come. Even while it joins those who mourn, it remains cheerful in a world that has gone gray with grief and worry.

**Jesus Man of Joy (pages 45-46) by Sherwood E. Wirt
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Teleconference Announcement



Ladies! Mark your
calenders!

Sunday, June 25, 2006
9:00 - 10:00 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

Topic for today: Does "coming into Torah" mean the same thing as "being saved?"

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



Saturday morning Men's Group that I hosted every month at the restaurant think? I wrestled with this for several weeks until one Friday night I attended an Erev Shabbat (Sabbath Eve) fellowship.

In this gathering was an individual who was very black and white and had absolutely no tolerance for someone new to grow in their understanding. When someone in the fellowship mentioned working on the Sabbath, this individual became very agitated. He/she stated that you must quit your job; even before looking for a new one if the current employer will not compromise. This caused me to tremble inside because I felt I was being condemned.

The next morning I awoke crying in a fetal position because of the fear and guilt of having to open the rest of the Sabbath; knowing what was just said the night before and that I would be breaking the command. I decided not to open the rest of that day. I called all of my employees and I called my partner; my brother. After a very long talk with him, it was reluctantly agreed upon to close on the Sabbath.

During the months and years to follow, I underwent a myriad of emotions and challenges. On one hand, I felt guilty for no longer going to church on Sunday. But on the other hand, I was finding it difficult to learn how to "rest" for an entire day on the seventh day Sabbath. A dear friend of mine shared with me some very valuable and wise council: He said, "You feel guilty for not going to church on Sunday, which is not one of God's laws. But, you did not feel guilty for not observing the Sabbath; which is God's command. Guilt is not a feeling, but a state of being."

This really clarified my personal understanding of what was actually taking place. Needless to say, the feelings of abandonment of friends and family during this time were painful. Within the next year, I began to experience "a new normal". I also had to cut myself off from certain lifestyle choices and friends during this transition period. The cutting off of friends was very difficult for

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.

me because some of these guys were like brothers to me. It took awhile, but I realized that they were not necessarily pursuing my friendship either. I really valued and looked forward to Shabbat; not only to get away from the secular work week, but also to develop relationships with my new brothers and sisters.

Meanwhile, back at the restaurant, people were asking me questions as to why I closed on Saturday and on other various days of the week. (Feast days) I eagerly answered their questions, but sadly found that they were either just curious or angry because they drove 20 minutes on a Saturday to eat at the restaurant; only to find it closed.

My relationship with my brother (business partner) became very strained because of the changes in the business hours and also the changes in my lifestyle. Though, during this whole time, I was constantly being reassured by Abba that I was walking down the right path; regardless of the challenges I was facing.

Again, I cannot say it enough, but the strength I gained from fellow believers' prayers and friendship, really helped carry me through. I know for a fact, that God uses His servants to uplift and strengthen each other. Through it all, I have learned that remaining obedient to His commands to the best of our ability truly can bring about peace in your heart and abundant blessings. I can also tell you that if you have to experience a similar situation such as this, that your will probably be stretched, strained, crumpled and then uncrumpled. Like I said before, I believe in honesty.

The purpose of this letter is not to scare you, but to prepare you for things you may experience emotionally, spiritually and financially. I want to encourage you to not be afraid to do what is right and to actively seek out a relationship with your Heavenly Father and like-minded believers. A life of Torah pursuance is never stagnant and it brings with it a deeper understanding of who our Father is and what He expects of us.

The restaurant has now been closed for almost a year and a half. During this time, I was given the opportunity to work as a "fulfillment center" for a ministry in Northern Wisconsin. This has been a huge blessing; not only do I get to work from home and raise our son, but I am helping spread the word of the God that brought me and my family to this place today. Shalom Brian Matuszak

Quick Links...

[MIA International Conference in Nashville](#)

[Sheep of Israel-David Gipson](#)

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

[Messianic Community Leadership Concerns Survey](#)

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

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