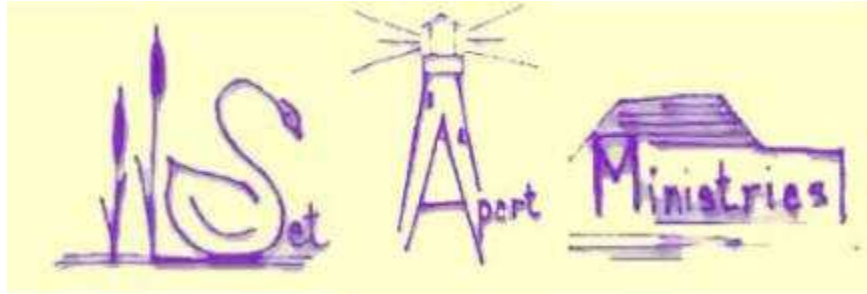


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## Encouragement from Set Apart Ministries

March :

### Shalom!

What a week! Blessings and stressings in the fullest sense! We have seen the the hand of YHWH in blessing and growth, yet there have been daily stressings that never seem to go away. Through it all, we know that YHWH is preparing and purifying us. The enemy may be on the attack, but we are leaning even more into our Messiah as we prepare for the upcoming feasts. That is pure JOY!

Our Feature Article this month, is about our personal deleavening at this season.

Our **audio CD about Maturity in Prayer Life** is now in Rick Wolter's capable hands as he does the final editing before we send it on to Jim Wilder and staff at Shepherd's House for their comments and suggestions. He has composed some original music for the transitions between tracks and has generally worked to make us sound very good. Our joyful appreciation to you, Rick!

As we are seeing the end of this project in sight, several more ideas have come into view. We are considering addressing such topics as joy, fear and *lashon hara* in the context of maturity. Not just *what* they are but how these emotions or behaviors play out in relationships with immature as opposed to mature individuals. [Part of our mission statement](#) involves this teaching of maturity and the building of character that is so necessary to full and gracious interpretation of our Father's Righteous Teachings, the Torah.

This issue includes some thoughts about what is called *lashon hara*; not so much defining what it is as discussing various aspects of how we handle it in a YHWH pleasing way in our relationships and communities.

Our progress on **cooperative housing** has been slow this month. We would like to join the National Association of Housing Cooperatives to take full advantage of their expertise on the subject. The dues are a little steep for us right now, so we continue to pray for direction. It is looking as

### Removing the Leaven



Once again *Pesach* is almost here. It's time to deleaven our homes. We look in every corner closet and cabinet to cleanse out the leaven. In the deleavening process, we come across things that we did not expect: lost or forgotten items and dirt, dust and cobwebs.

For those of us who are Torah pursuant, we understand that this process is a physical picture of the spiritual nature of what Yeshu

though it would be wiser to purchase rather than lease; less expensive over all, though how it could happen is in YHWH's Hands!

This month's **For All Women Teleconference** was a delight with Theresa Bates of Adonai Dance Ministry as our guest. We have the recorded conference available by telephone for the next week if you'd like to listen in! Still trying to get the mp3 file onto the website! Technical skills are NOT our long suit but we will persevere! The next teleconference for Women is April nth so mark your calendar ladies!

We were honored to have received a **commendation from Natan Lawrence of Hoshanna Rabbah** congregation about our last issue. He graciously gives us permission to share his encouragement to us with you.

*I read with interest your Feb. newsletter. Your article on discipleship, control and authority is very balanced and concisely comprehensive. When you write on these types of subjects you evidence a great deal of wisdom and insightfulness.*

*The article on establishing a cooperative is very interesting. Many, including me, have felt for years that this is how YHVH's remnant people will survive the end times—by being in such a living configuration. Perhaps, you are going out ahead of us to help show us the way.*

*I am impressed by the emphasis you're fellowship is placing discipleship, and the opportunities you are giving people to be discipled. This is good. You must have some very busy and committed people! We do the same thing at Hoshana Rabbah/Congregation Elim. It is just a matter of ascertaining the needs of the sheep and then meeting them, by YHVH's grace.*

*Keep up the good work. It is great to be connected spiritually to people and groups like yours. You give a lot of great advice in your columns and I hope that more and more people are connecting to this resource. I'm going to email our folks and encourage them to sign up for you news letter.*

Our thanks to you, Natan Lawrence, for your encouragement and blessings to us.

You will see a floating box when you go to our website now! Your eyes are not deceiving you; it is the place to sign up to receive our introductory email series about the **Messianic Leadership Teleconferences!** Please check it out and tell us when you need the opportunity to consult on those difficult relationship issues that every fellowship must face. You can also click here for a description of what a [leadership consultation process](#) is like.

Our prayer at this *Pesach* season is for our Messiah Yeshua to make

is doing in our lives--cleansing and purifying

There are times in our lives when all is well and our faith is strong. Our relationship with Yeshua is good and strong. It is bright and sparkling.

Then there are the times when dust, dirt and cobwebs have accumulated in our hearts and minds; a little bitterness tucked in one corner judgmentalism tucked behind or hidden with maybe a little pride and rebellion. Stress in our lives may hinder our relationship with Yeshua as well as the people He has put around us.

Part of maturing is to recognize when we have hidden leaven in our hearts and minds. Just as we do with physical leaven, it is necessary to purposefully look for the sin in our lives. If we do not get on our knees and admit we have sin we may never find it. Our sin will affect those around us without our even being aware of it. Relationships become more strained.

Someone who is immature will blame others for the problems, not understanding that the sin hidden in their hearts is the problem. In this way, they rationalize they don't have to deal with the sin in **their** life. "I'm the one being wronged." "You make me angry." "If you wouldn't (or would) do it this (my) way, there would be no problem." They may not use those exact words, but that is what they mean.

As we've learned in *Life Model*, this immaturity is often a reflection of a lack of nurturing in their childhood. As adults, though, it is time to take responsibility for their own actions and sin.

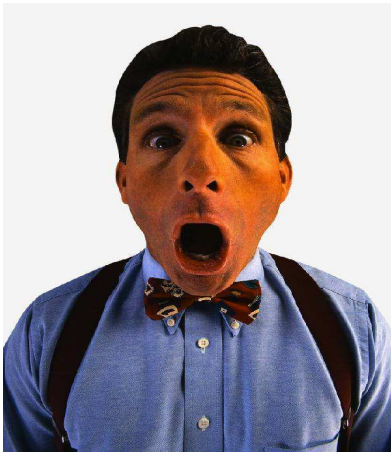
A mature adult will admit, "Yes, I'm wrong, I have sinned." There are times in my own life when Psalm 51 becomes a daily prayer for me to pray YHWH will search out the sin in my life and show me where I need to repent. It is usually a difficult process, but in the end, freedom comes.

Himself more fully known to you and your communities.  
 Until next time,  
 Bob and Barb Klika, Janell Schroeder and Marilyn Guffey

## In This Issue...

- [Removing the Leaven](#)
- [Lashon Hara: When to Respond and When to Leave it in His Hands](#)
- [Keeping Your Joy Full!](#)
- [Teleconferences](#)
- [About Us](#)

### Lashon Hara: When to Respond and When to Leave it in His Hands



A recent conversation brought out a concern as to what the Godly response needs to be when *lashon hara* surfaces. As you know, one aspect of *lashon hara* involves gossip and bad reports of others. It can also involve speaking derogatorily of one's self. Some people fear that providing a warning about unscrupulous behavior is *lashon hara*. It is really quite an extensive subject and is thoroughly discussed in the Hebrew

Roots publication on the subject; *Guarding the Tongue*.

We generally think about the individual responsibility to guard ourselves against falling into this sin, but there is also the aspect of what to do, if anything, when awareness of such behavior of others surfaces. This is an ongoing problem for individuals but it is also a very common and distressing problem for those in leadership positions.

It is such an easy snare to fall into making observations and conclusions about actions taken by leaders, even when the full circumstances are not known.

It may even involve a genuine desire to participate in resolution, though not necessarily in the most productive way.

#### Just One Proper Response?

I submit that there is not a "one size fits all" response but that there are factors to consider in discernment about a response. The quality, type and intensity of the problem relationships of those involved will affect the choice of an appropriate response.

Then there are the times when we know the is there and don't want to look at it. In my experience, Yeshua will continue to point it out until I come in humble submission before Him and confess my sin.

In our [May 2006 newsletter](#), I wrote about what the *Life Model* calls the *sark*. It is that part of us that struggles to understand what is **Truth** and what is **False**. **It is the daily bat with our flesh**. Ever since Adam and Chavah of the Fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of God and Evil, we have had this battle.

According to the *Life Model*, *The sark is the seat of false discernment, false guidance and false knowledge of good and evil*. The *sark*, or the flesh, does not have righteous understanding and will usually be wrong until bring it under submission to Yeshua. We were not intended to determine between good and evil. At times, we **think** we are doing what's best in a situation and it turns out to be wrong.

The *sark* can also cause us to accumulate leaven in our lives, making excuses for our behavior and not being responsible to anyone, including YHWH. This is immature and ungodly. It is difficult to look inside and see what needs to be cleansed out. It is hard work, just as it is to de-leaven our homes.

Our S.A.M. community has come to understand the importance of this cleansing process in our lives. We take very seriously the process of de-leavening ourselves before Pesach. It has become a regular practice for us to take time for a *mikveh* to declare our intent to be undefiled before YHWH.

In Jewish tradition, the head of the household goes around looking to make sure every bit of leaven has been removed. This year, will you allow your Heavenly Abba to search inside you to make sure every bit of leaven has been removed?

Next time, we will discuss what happens when

Our Elohim is Himself, relational. It is impossible to imagine following our Echad Creator without an awareness of the need for relationship; with Him and among ourselves. As Yeshua prayed that we may be one as He and the Father are One, so do we believe that our goal is to move toward that unity with one another, maturing toward becoming like Him; and that this is a central aspect of the kingdom "work" we are called to do.

When relationship problems such as false reports or accusations arise we find that if we try to apply the same response across the board of all types of relationships, we will find ourselves stymied too often, and may contribute to further harm; equally through action and inaction.

### **Distant Acquaintance vs Intimate Ally**

We find that it is important to consider the "nearness or distance" of the relationship as well as the roles and maturity levels of those involved. If we consider our relationships on a concentric circle, we would put those with whom we have just a distant, nodding relationship on the outer ring. An example might be someone we know by reputation or by their writing only. It could also refer to the cashier at the grocery store whom we know by sight and frequent contact but nothing more personal than that. As the quality of the relationship and the amount of mutual information shared grows, an individual moves from the most outer ring toward the center; from acquaintances on the larger rings, toward mutual friendships, closer relationships with family and friends, down to the smaller rings which include fewer people at each level, perhaps ending in the intimacy of a spouse or a friend "who sticks closer than a brother." By the very nature of these close relationships it becomes apparent that there is a limit to the number of intimate relationships that any one person can sustain, just as the size of the circle diminishes toward the center.

### **Role and Relationship Qualities**

As for roles and maturity levels, with those we know, it is necessary to consider whether the lashon hara is coming from someone who is at more of a child or adolescent stage toward another in the same category, or perhaps toward a parent or elder. It is especially distressing to us when we learn of one who had appeared to be in that parent or elder stage of maturity spreading lashon hara. As a parent is more tolerant toward a child, and considers miss steps as an opportunity for discipline and teaching, so do we as parents or elders in fellowships need to do with other members who have not yet fully matured. But when such destructive behavior comes from one who has the appearance of maturity it seems there is a great necessity to prayerfully investigate and consider what has been hiding under the surface.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

(BK)

people refuse to look at the sin in their lives  
Until then, Blessings for Pesach! (M.G.)

## Quick Links...

[SAM Newsletter Archives](#)

[CARE, Baldwin Michigan](#)

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

[Finding a Coach that's Right for You](#)

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

[Sheep of Israel-David Gipson](#)

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## Keeping Your Joy Full!



*Just how the Word was first proclaimed the Bible does not say, but it does say that "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." From that verse in the book of Job we can gather that there was some shouting going on somewhere. It charms the mind to think that God Himself, the Great Ruler of heaven, could have suddenly started the creation not with a Big Bang so much as a Big Shout! That is to say, God spoke in His holiness and the universe began, and was, and is.*

*A strange expression is found in Psalm 47, which describes a magnificent Israelite victory that was being celebrated with great jubilation. It seems people were clapping their hands and exalting the Lord Most High. Then in verse 5 we hear the psalmist saying, "God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet." How amazing! Imagine God shouting for joy! Yet there it is, in the divine record. ...*

*Joy, I was told, is not an isolated or occasional consequence of faith, it is an integral part of our whole relation to God. The joy of the Lord is something that rises above circumstances and focuses on the very character of God. I learned that there is a holy joy, so pure it exists even in the midst of sorrow. I also learned that joy comes to us from the Holy Spirit along with love, peace, and other virtues described by Paul in his letter to the Galatians.*

Used with Permission of Sherwood Wirt, author of "Jesus, Man of Joy", excerpts from pages 93-95 from the chapter, When God Shouts, Harvest House Publishers, 1999.

## Teleconferences



April 29, 2007

9:00 AM CST

"For (ALL) Women Only" teleconference

The March teleconference has already occurred as I am finishing this newsletter. We had a wonderful visit with Theresa Bates of Adonai Dance Ministry. As noted above, the recorded call is available by telephone for the next week if you'd like to hear it. An email has gone out to those who have expressed some kind of interest one way or another with that number to call.

If you'd like to be among them, please just email and let us know!

This teleconference is open to all women who are coming into a *Torah* observant lifestyle. The teleconference call is open to ALL women, whether single, widow, divorced or yes, even married and even if your spouse is Torah pursuant! It seems we women always appreciate the opportunity to share problems and solutions and coming into Torah is no exception. So, please, all you Torah pursuant women, come one and all to join the discussion.

Our discussion will follow the format below: Introductions and Get Acquainted Time

Discussion Time

Topic for the Day: The subject of April's teleconference is yet to be announced

Prayer Concerns and closing

Every month we will send out a reminder prior to the conference, with the telephone number and PIN number to use to enter into this month's discussion!

Please join us for Messiah-centered and sensible solutions to the concerns we face as we pursue a Torah walk in a non-Torah society! If you have any questions, you can reach either Marilyn Guffey or me Monday through Thursday at (920) 336-7005

## [Messianic Leadership Concerns](#) [Teleconference](#)

Registration for this teleconference series will be found on the first page of our website, the first time you open it, and then again five days later, so as not to be annoying every time!

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 or to sign up for an introductory email series on this seminar entitled \*Plant and Grow a Messianic Fellowship\*.](#)

[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.

email: [info@setapartmingb.org](mailto:info@setapartmingb.org)

phone: 920 336-7005

web: <http://www.setapartmingb.org>

**[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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