

Y e s h u a M I S H P A C H A H

UPHOLDING HUMAN
DIGNITY

Matt. 25:31-46

A NEWSLETTER TO THE FAMILY OF JESUS FROM RESTORATION MINISTRIES

The Hebraic family is not simply an individual or private matter. Rather, it is an institution in which the whole community has a stake. Thus, the Hebrew word "mishpachah," meaning family, not only refers to parents and children, but to the whole extended family worldwide in the body of "Yeshua"— our Jesus.

He Has Showed You

Dear Friends,

Our holiday season was busy. No, not with holiday festivities, but with writing! We have finished two works which are free downloads on our website.

The first is a five-part series entitled *He Has Showed You*, found under *Hebraic Articles*. The series incorporates: (1) Our research in Israel (2) The clearer understanding of the Hebraic relational framework we received from the Native Americans (3) The crucial biblical mandate for a *collective, intergenerational responsibility* to raise up successors in the faith.

These articles reflect our burden to reach parents whose children will most likely choose to *not* follow them in trusting Jesus. As we shared before, 77% of the children raised in Christian homes don't succeed their parents in the faith.

We address in these articles how impossible it is for us who follow Christ to also put our trust in *earthly governments*. That misguided trust turns our children over to godless indoctrination through *compulsory public education*. To counter this we must acquire the support of loadbearing relationships in home fellowships to train up succeeding generations—a lifestyle responsibility that our earliest forefathers in the faith upheld.

The second ongoing work-in-process on our website is a study guide of Hannah Hurnard's classic allegory, *Hinds' Feet On High Places*. We consider the book one

of the best in articulating issues all who follow Jesus must face if we are to leave the "valley of our earthly identity" and be increasingly conformed to the character and motivation of Jesus. The first two installments of the guide are already available at our website, listed under *Pilgrimage*. We'll be adding a new part to the guide about every two weeks. This is a great tool for marriages and small groups to work out *together* the inner circle of character development we discussed in the December 2002 newsletter, *Acquire the Character of Jesus*.

If it's impossible for you to access the internet to download these articles, we'll be glad to send them to you. All we ask is that you cover the copying and mailing costs.

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6).

Beginning this month we want to share with you illustrative stories that help illuminate the Hebraic way of living for Jesus. In our booklet, *Christian Halakhahs*, we write,

Life is full of options. Some lead to life and some to destruction. The pattern of choices each of us makes will determine which way our lives will go. Jesus called Himself "the Way." In the Book of Acts the early Christians were known as "the Way": *'However, I admit that I worship the God of our*

fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets' (Acts 24:14).

This use of the term "the way" has a very distinct Hebraic importance known as *halakhah*. The root word, *halak*, means "to walk." Thus, a *halakhah* refers to walking out your life in a way that coincides with God's Word.

Halakhahs represented the best efforts of parents and the community elders to discover and apply one of several true, biblical options to a given situation. The halakhic application of biblical truth that seemed most appropriate was then chosen and followed. A *halakhah* for the resolution of that particular issue was then written down as a guide for the family or the whole community, depending on the situation. The emphasis in all of this investigation was not on interpretation of Scripture alone, but on *correct application and living* the truth!

Their fear of God, their love for His Word, and their desire to *apply* His Word to all facets of their lives made them "peculiar" according to the world's viewpoint. They yearned to bring glory to the Father through their obedience and their trust in His faithfulness.

It's time for each of us to challenge ourselves: ***"How can I represent Jesus to everyone I encounter through the important choices I'm facing right now?"***

Preparing the Family of Jesus for the Dark Days to Come

Whatever circumstances you're facing, especially the problems that confront you now: Have you ever taken the time to search the Scriptures and discern the Holy Spirit's guidance for *His* response to your problem? Has your past been a series of dead ends, never receiving God's confirmation and blessing for your decisions? You can learn more about biblical decision-making in our book *Christian Halakhahs*. Our Lord eagerly awaits your awareness of Him to expand beyond your worship time or Bible reading. He wants your trust to become a *way of life* as you lovingly live out His Word in your day to day decisions!

Illustrating the Hebraic Way

The attached stories illustrate a *biblical way of life* to help you turn the *concept* of a daily walk with Jesus into *living application examples*. The characters are real people who have embraced the Hebraic foundations. The stories are a composite of input and feedback we have received over the years as we have shared the Hebraic foundations.

We hope you'll use these stories with your family and with others in your faith community to help you establish biblical considerations that bring glory to our Father and blessing to your life.

Looking forward to rejoicing with you face-to-face in eternity,

Mike & Sue

We're eager to see *all* the books our Lord has given us find their way into the lives of those He has prepared. Living in a mobile home has made storage of caseloads of books pretty tight! We'll be glad to pay the shipping cost of larger orders to help these materials get into people's hands. Please help us get the word out!

