

*Truth  
that  
transforms*

The Congregation of Yahweh

# Ha'Shem Magazine

Issue 46 Spring 2010



## “Roots” Getting back to Our Origins



### Inside:

The Disciple's Dugout

The New Age or the Old Way?

Roots to a Tree

## From Us To You – From You To Us?

Dear Readers

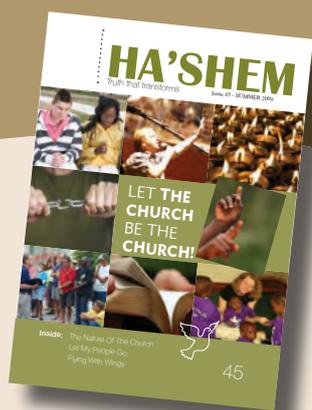
In the last issue of Ha'Shem, we included a questionnaire to find out what you think of the magazine. We really wanted to have your opinion; for example, Are we on the right track? Are we 'hitting the spot'?

Is what we are doing useful? Helpful? Inspiring? What could we do better?

Our grateful thanks go to those of you who have already responded! If anyone has not yet expressed an opinion, we still want to hear from you. Please complete and return your questionnaire. If you have lost it, you can email us and we can email you a copy.

We hope to share some of your thoughts with the readership in future editions. We want to make Ha'Shem the best it can be, and we invite you to help us in this quest.

Thank you!  
The Editor



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## Ha'Shem is Hebrew for the 'The Name' (Yahweh)

### DIVINE NAMES AND TITLES

Throughout this magazine you will see the names YAHWEH and YAHSHUA. Yahweh is the original name for the heavenly Father and Yahshua is the original name of His Son, our Saviour. Also the term ELOHIM (or its shortened form El) may be used. This literally means 'Mighty One' and is usually translated 'God' in the King James Version of the Bible.

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## Editorial

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by Alcot Walker

# “Roots” Getting Back to our Origins

When Alex Haley’s book “Roots” was dramatised on TV it took the world by storm. Black African Americans and people everywhere were glued to their TV sets every week as the beginnings of the Black-American people were unfolded.

Hayley’s highly acclaimed work changed the mindset of many whites, forcing them to take ownership and repent of actions that took away the dignity of a race. It gave black people across the world an opportunity to embrace their past without hatred but with pride and to appreciate the sacrifice that many made to give them the freedom they now enjoy. ‘Roots’ embedded in the consciousness of Black-American and Afro-Caribbean peoples an understanding of their modern beginnings and a desire for the memory of that past to inform their present life.

The community of believers (the church) that Yahshua established and sent out into the world

was nurtured within a Hebrew culture. This ‘faith community’ had roots that were definitely Jewish. The Gospel message that took the world by storm was Hebrew in context and origin; the central character (the Messiah) was Jewish; His coming was prophesied by Hebrew prophets; He was born and reared in a Jewish household; He received a Jewish education; He ministered within the boundaries of Israel; the messengers of the Messiah’s kingdom Gospel were Jewish; and He will return to earth to the nation of Israel. But for generations now the church has lost sight of its original moorings; and today’s church is left ignorant of its roots and proper heritage.



Not knowing one’s roots all too frequently leaves people without a strong sense of identity and purpose, frustrated and unfulfilled. The church must free itself to become more aware of its roots and to reconnect with them; it is only then that it will authentically be what it should in a world that needs to connect with the Elohim (God) of Israel.

The overall theme of this issue – **Roots** - explores some thoughts about the foundations of Yahshua’s ‘faith community’ and encourages believers, in a similar way to the ‘Alex Hayley effect’, to allow the truth of their roots to impact their present life.

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The Disciple's Dugout

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by Richard Willetts

# Consumer or Contributor?

“With the measure you use, it will be measured to you-and even more. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.”

(Mk. 4:24b-25)

This scripture really fascinates me as it has hidden within it one of the keys to a truly successful life. Yahweh imparts gifts and abilities, both natural and supernatural, to all, enabling us to bless, help and serve both Him and others. Why is it then that some are very active and fruitful in their fields of service while others seem to accomplish little of any real value? Some seem to be constantly full of Yahweh's grace and good deeds whilst others seem to spend most of their time in despondency, contemplating the difficulties they face, rarely rising above their circumstances. An answer to this is to be found in an understanding of this verse.

In a nutshell, Yahweh's willingness to use and bestow gifts on us is a function of our own willingness to use what He has already given us to its full potential. Paul urged Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of [Elohim] which is in you” (2 Tim. 1:6).



There's an old saying that advises, 'if you want anything doing ask a busy person'. I have frequently noticed that, in the Church, too often 20% of the people are doing 80% of the work! It is usually the busiest people who are most likely to volunteer to do something for others. D.L. Moody said he never met a lazy Christian. Did you know that the 4th Commandment, as well as being a commandment to rest on the Sabbath, is also a command to work on the other six days?

From the very beginning, Yahweh's command to Adam was to work and tend the garden. We all have work to do for Yahweh. Some of that work

involves actually going out to earn a wage to support ourselves and our families, and to give financially to the work of Yahweh. Some have entrepreneurial gifts that enable them to bless others financially in much greater ways. Yahweh loves (and, I'm sure, will support) a cheerful giver. If you want to be blessed financially then give your time and resources to Yahweh. The measure you 'use' your resources in this way is the measure He will give back to you, thus enabling you to give and use even more. Conversely, if we try to keep our resources to ourselves and only for our own benefit, like the man in the parable who buried his talent

“Ask not what your Country can do for you but rather ask what you can do for your Country.”

- J.F. Kennedy



in the ground, we effectively block off Yahweh's ability to give us more; He will invest in others instead and we will lose.

I am greatly challenged by the words of the prophet Haggai:

“You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home I blew away. Why?” declares [Yahweh] Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house.”  
(Hagg. 1:9)

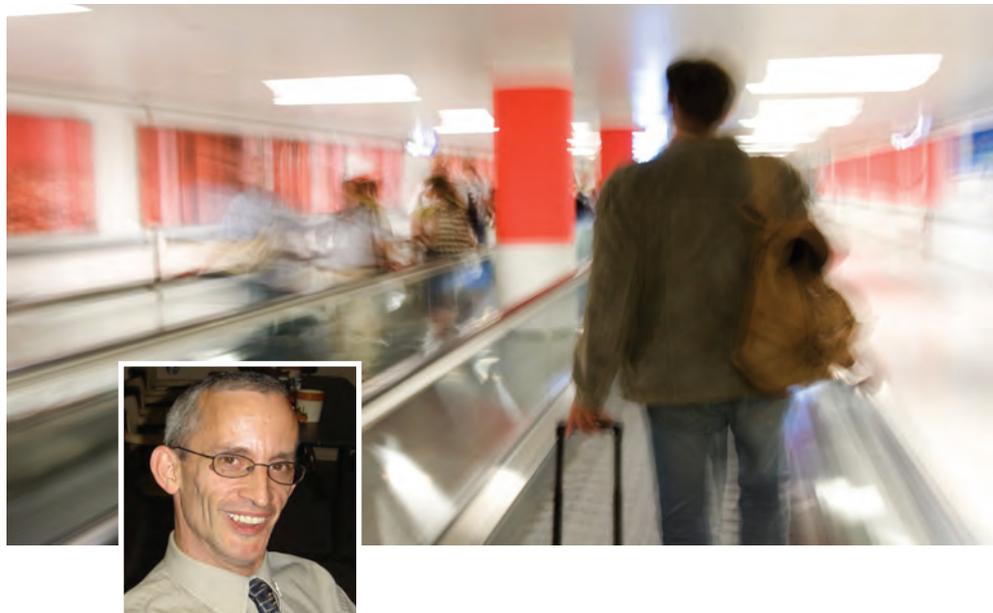
A lot of Christians don't seem to be at all clear what their life should really be about. Many are just consumers of Church events and sermons, basking in the anointing on other peoples lives. This is not a bad thing - after all we need to be receivers, especially those who are new to the faith - but what Yahweh wants is to turn us from consumers into contributors. In the Church, everyone has something unique to contribute. Many wait for some special call from Yahweh before they embark on any activity for the Kingdom. My response to you is **read your Bible**;

you will find that He has already commissioned you to reach the lost, make disciples and to love Yahweh and one another. Start with what you have to give and dare to give it, eagerly desire other gifts (1 Cor. 14:1) and watch Yahweh expand you; don't risk losing what you have.



by Kevin Wichman

# The New Age or the Old Way?



It has become quite alarming these days how quickly things change in our world and how readily they are accepted as being OK.

One such area here in America is the general acceptance among the populace that the New Age way of thinking is not only OK, but is actually refreshing and encouraging. This way of looking at one's spiritual life is becoming very prominent on the television and in the media. Have you experienced anything similar?

Recently, Oprah Winfrey has gone public with her views that each individual is their own god and therefore makes their own decisions as to what is acceptable in life. It is scary that New Age ideas such as this are becoming more and more prevalent in the church these days. I am amazed at the number of times I read, see and hear of the ordination to leadership positions in the church

of those who are living lives contrary to the inspired word of Yahweh! The truth of the gospel of Yahshua the Messiah is rarely heard on the TV, in the news, or through other sources of information that are utilized in our world today

We, as believers, have a choice to make. Yahweh has called us to stand strong in these difficult times. We are to seek His wisdom in dealing with the issues that this world places before us. Certainly Oprah can be thanked for the tremendous impact she has had in the lives of the needy, but this does not excuse us from evaluating the whole picture. Her current view on spiritual life is very tempting to those walking on rocky ground in their relationship with Yahweh and to those who do not know Him at all. It appeals to the carnal mind.

I would like to encourage everyone to return to the 'Old Way'...the infallible

word of Yahweh and its truth. It is in His word that we learn this message: "I am the way, the truth, and the life; NO MAN (emphasis added) cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6 KJV) The New Age way just won't cut it! It is not Yahweh's way and it will lead straight to destruction. Be bold! Take a stand for Him!

"Previously what is spiritually harmful has been coming through the backdoor instead of the front. Now it's knocking on the front door, and many are answering it by opening it and inviting it in".  
- Let Us Reason Ministries



by Andy Hollingsworth

# The Renewed Covenant



When I taught about the Renewed Covenant at a local church I started by asking the following questions:

*"Who has heard of the expression 'New Testament'?"* Everyone, without exception, answered "Yes!"

*"Who can tell me what it is?"* About 50% mumbled a vague definition.

*"Where can you find the 'testament' in the New Testament?"* The hall was quiet, just a few people leaning over whispering to each other.

*"Has anyone heard of the New or Renewed Covenant?"* About three people out of fifty said, "Yes".

Was I surprised by the responses? No! Sadly, this is the reality in most

churches today. The truth is that both words are describing the same thing!

*"If you skip the first half of any good book and try to finish it, you will have a hard time understanding the characters, the plot, and the ending"*

- gotQuestions.org



continued

A well-respected bible scholar, Dr Bullinger, says,

**“The word for ‘testament’ as a translation has been nothing less than a calamity, for by its use the truth has been effectively veiled all through the centuries... The word ‘testament’ as a name for a collection of books is unknown to scripture.”<sup>1</sup>**

Tertullian and Marcion were the first theologians to pioneer the phrases ‘old and new testament’. Marcion was a heretic ostracised from the church. He believed that there were two Gods, an angry, vengeful, bloodthirsty God of the Old Testament and a kind, loving, merciful God of the New Testament. By propagating this doctrine, he effectively tore the Bible in two – separating the Tanakh (Hebrew Scriptures) from the Messianic scriptures.

Much of Christianity was influenced by this doctrine that the Scriptures were divided. The consequence of this resulted in what Paul describes, in 2 Thessalonians, as ‘lawlessness’. When the Tanakh was dismissed as irrelevant, the Torah was stripped of purpose resulting in there being no apparent need for ‘keeping the law’; hence the term ‘lawlessness’ or ‘torah-lessness’.

So what does ‘testament’ mean?

**‘A written instrument by which a person disposes of his estate, to take effect after his death’**

The word ‘testament’ in the scriptures is better, or more properly, translated ‘covenant’. In fact, many modern translations now use the term ‘covenant’ as opposed to ‘testament’. What then is the definition of ‘covenant’?

**‘A two-party agreement in which one is bound by oath’**

You only have a ‘testament’ if the testator is dead. so how can Yahshua’s covenant be the ‘new testament’? Does that mean He’s dead...? The term ‘testament’ speaks of a *one-way* relationship with the effects of a *dead-man’s* estate. So what is the purpose of the Covenant? It is to bring us into relationship with Yahweh. The conditions of the covenant state that we are to be ‘holy’ or set-apart.

Why? Because HE is! You cannot have a relationship unless both parties are in agreement; how can two walk together unless they agree? We cannot walk with Yahweh unless we agree with Him and we ‘agree’ through the Covenant.

What are the conditions of the covenant? Yahweh gives us the Torah as the ‘terms & conditions’ of the relationship. When one reads what Yahshua taught and Paul wrote, it is clear that they both spoke the Torah. What is implied by the word ‘new’? It implies that the thing which went before it is ‘old’ and ‘superseded’ – the word ‘old’ has connotations of being ‘decommissioned’, ‘out-of-date’ and ‘useless’.

Therefore, the term ‘New Testament’ suggests ‘the estate of a dead-man is better than the old, useless stuff before it...’ If, because something is old, it becomes out-of-date and useless over time, then we had better stop reading the ‘New Testament’ right away because it is 2000 years old!

Can you see why terms such as ‘old’ and ‘new’ testament are misleading and damaging to the truth? We must recognise that the Tanakh (the Hebrew Scriptures) is the foundation of our faith and that time has had no effect on the truth.

Let me ask you a couple of questions:

- Have you bought a book recently?
- Where did you start reading from?

Hopefully you started reading from the beginning because although there may have been many chapters, plots and themes in the book, it was still one book. Moreover, if you had not read it all you would have missed out on important elements of the story. The end result of not having had all the information is that you would’ve simply made up your own version of what happened – sound familiar?

When we read the scriptures from the beginning to the end we see very clearly that it is one book, not two! We cannot understand the purpose of the renewed covenant

without the Tanakh – Yahshua is out of context without it.

Let's look at the contents of the renewed covenant:

### Jeremiah. 31:31 – 33

Behold, the days come, saith Yahweh, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith Yahweh: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith Yahweh, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their Elohim, and they shall be my people.

The Hebrew words for the 'renewed covenant' are 'Brit Hadashah'. **Brit** = covenant, **Hadashah**<sup>2</sup> = renewed or refreshed, to rebuild, repair.

Therefore, it means a 'renewed or refreshed' covenant and not a 'new or replaced' covenant.

An example of this is when Yahweh gave Moses the 10 commandments on Mount Sinai. Moses in his anger breaks them because the children of Israel broke the commands but Yahweh decides to 'renew' His covenant and re-writes them. The question is: did He give a different set of commands and were the previous ones now 'old'? NO – they were simply renewed.

Another example is when you renew your wedding vows. When you renew your vows, do you get re-married? Do your renewed vows supersede your original ones? NO – they renew, refresh or reinforce them!



<sup>2</sup> Also translated "new", however the context of this article positions the translation as "renewed"

Another good example of something being renewed or refreshed is that of the cycle of the moon. Each month there is what is termed as a 'new moon' – this is a term we are all familiar with. However, is it really a new moon? Does the old one pass away and does Yahweh have to create a new one every 28-29 days? NO – it is exactly the same but just appears new to us.

Interestingly, in Hebrew 'new moon' is Rosh Chodesh (Hodesh). The term Hadashah and Hodesh share the same root meaning of renewal.

Jeremiah is clearly stating that the covenant will, fundamentally, be continued, but elements of it will be refreshed or renewed. Many people use Hebrews 8 to refute this and proclaim that the *old* is obsolete and that the *new* is better.

So is Yahweh really contradicting Himself? It appears that He is saying the covenant is renewed and is also saying it is old and passing away.

What He is referring to, is that now Yahshua is the mediator of the renewed covenant the sacrificial system is no longer required because He shed His blood once and for all. Therefore, that part of the renewed covenant is better than the old way of doing it through animal sacrifice. Secondly, what is also better about the renewed covenant is that through salvation in Yahshua, the Torah is written in our hearts and minds, and enabled by the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit), whereas previously, it was something we had to put into our hearts and minds. We now have the advantage of it already being in our hearts and minds through the work of Yahshua, and with the help of the Ruach (Spirit) we are to manifest it in our lifestyle.

### **Luke. 22:19–20**

And taking bread, giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of Me." Likewise the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the renewed covenant in My blood which is shed for you.

Yahshua confirms that He is the mediator of the renewed covenant.

The table opposite shows the parallels and similarities between the Mosaic covenant and the Renewed covenant.

In light of what we have seen, how can it be new? – It isn't, it is simply renewed.

### **CONCLUSION**

Why does any of this matter?

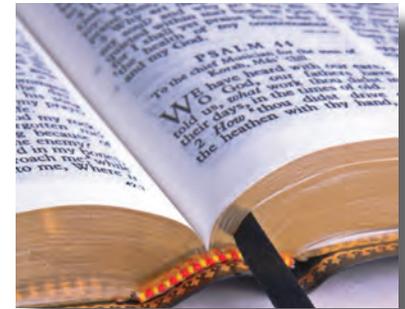
It matters because the Bible is ONE book, not two and, because it is ONE book, the covenants do not nullify each other but build upon and consolidate each other. This means that the TORAH is still relevant to us because Yahshua simply refreshed or renewed it.

We have to understand that, from a Hebraic perspective, the term ONE does not mean 'singular' but 'unity'. To be 'one' in a Hebraic sense means to be in unity so we see that the scriptures are in unity with themselves.

To many Christians, this is alien because of the influence of Marcion and other spurious doctrines. They don't believe in keeping the Torah, but what is the justification for not doing so? Yahshua said in Matthew 5:17-20 that He did not come to abolish the law, but fulfil it.

In all truth, Yahshua has deposited the renewed covenant in our hearts and so the Torah (Yahshua being the fullness of it) is on the inside of us trying to get out. But what do so many people do? They suppress it and try to live without it, choosing instead to live in a state of lawlessness. They deny their very nature and cause the soul and spirit to war against each other, resulting in the most catastrophic dilemma between the body, soul, and spirit.

It is time for the Body of Messiah to return to the truth and fullness of their covenant relationship with Yahweh, and remember that He is faithful to His covenants with Israel forever.



	<b>OLD / MOSAIC</b>	<b>NEW / RENEWED</b>
<b>Who was it given to?</b>	Israel	Israel
<b>What was the method?</b>	Written in hearts & minds (Deuteronomy 6:6 & 30:14)	Written in hearts & minds (Hebrews 8:10)
<b>What was the purpose?</b>	Yahweh to be their El & Israel His people	Yahweh to be their El & Israel His people
<b>How was it mediated?</b>	Moses (Deuteronomy 18:18-19)	Yahshua (Hebrews 9:15)
<b>How will it be performed?</b>	Ezekiel 11:17-20	



# Understanding Water Baptism

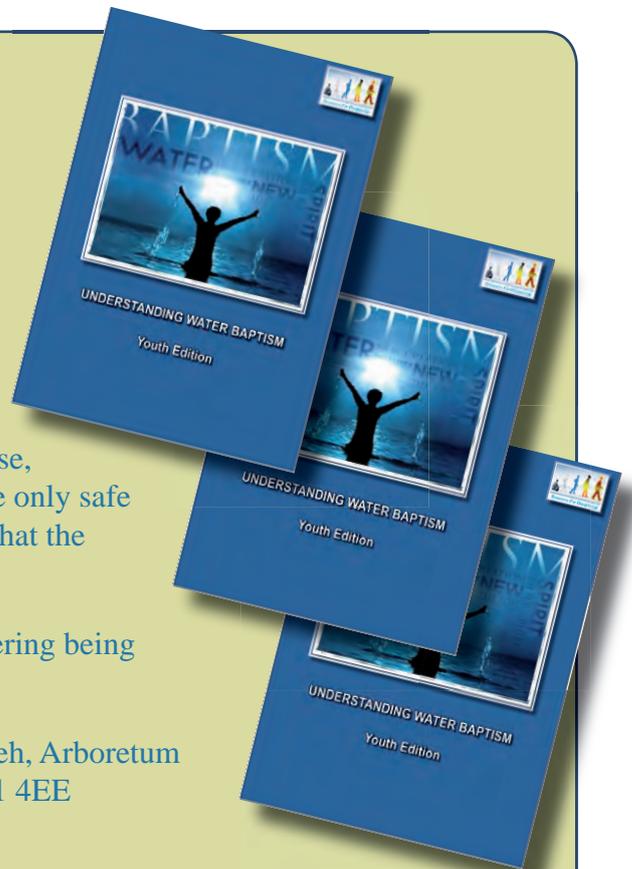
Adult & Youth editions available

Water baptism is important to the life of anyone who professes faith in Yahshua. Today some church groups still don't practice baptism, and the ones that do have done so with variations in its purpose, timing and method. Regardless of popular opinion the only safe position to take on the question of water baptism is what the Scriptures show us.

This resource is really useful for those people considering being baptised.

These are available from: The Congregation of Yahweh, Arboretum Gate, 92-94 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham NG1 4EE

Tel: +44 (0) 115 9509314



# 2011 Feast Dates

Now you have the festival dates, book them now as holidays from your work, so you can have the full time to celebrate with the community of believers.

**Passover**  
**18 April**

**Unleavened Bread**  
**(1st Day) 19 April**

**Unleavened Bread**  
**(7th Day) 25 April**

**Feast of Weeks**  
**(Shavu'ot) 12 June**

**Memorial of**  
**Blowing of**  
**Trumpets**  
**29 September**

**Day of Atonement**  
**8 October**

**Tabernacles**  
**(1st Day) 13 October**

**Tabernacles**  
**(8th Day) 20 October**

## Extras

by David Townsend

# Roots to a Tree



The first function of a tree's root system is to anchor the tree into the soil, which keeps the tree straight and stable in the ground. This helps the tree to cope with high winds and human and animal damage, also helping the tree to grow upright, so that as it gets heavier it won't fall down.

These underground roots have a diameter 2-4 times bigger than the diameter of the canopy (branches above ground). Most of the roots are found in the top 6-24 inches of the soil as this is the richest soil, whereas deeper down, the ground is more compacted and there are fewer nutrients to be found. At this lower level the tree normally puts down big anchor roots or a 'tap root', which can grow very deep, and this type of root stabilizes the tree as it matures.

Small 'feeder' roots, which are mainly found in the richer soil, absorb water and minerals from the soil, storing them up and then distributing them

to the trunk, where they are passed on to feed the branches, leaves, and fruit. If the roots are growing in deep, rich soil, full of nutrients, this will cause the tree to be strong and healthy with a good stem and good branches. The tree will grow fast and have healthy looking leaves. The fruit of this tree should be strong, healthy, and resistant to pests and diseases.

In Romans 11, Paul talks about the Gentiles being 'a part of Israel'. He explains that "...if the root is holy, so are the branches" (v16).. We are branches, grafted into the Olive Tree (Israel), to feed off the goodness that comes from the root. "You do not support the root, but the root supports you." (v18) We have access to the goodness of the root, thanks to Yahshua. Without being attached to it and feeding from it, we cannot grow healthy, spiritually, or bear good fruit.

Yahweh's plan and love is for Israel. If we want to fit into His will, we should accept that we are Gentiles, brought near to Him and able to feed off healthy roots, the well anchored roots, filled with endless goodness, that supported Israel.



“Remember that at that time you were separate from [Messiah], excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without [Elohim] in the world. But now in [Messiah Yahshua] you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Messiah. (Eph. 2:12-13)

“Storms make trees take deeper roots”.

- Claude McDonald

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Heart and Soul

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by Valerie Warsop



# Maintaining Intimacy



During the time I was a theology student, I went with some friends, for a short summer break. Five of us were caravanning in the heart of the English countryside, and we had a

prime objective – to spend each morning in personal reflection and quiet study time.

So we travelled with Bibles, concordances, study books and notebooks; and each of us had chosen a subject. You will realise just how young I was when I tell you that I had chosen ‘Yahweh’ as mine!

I still remember sitting around outside the caravan with my friends, the sun warm on faces and backs, books and papers everywhere, the gentle rustle of pages turning, the scratch of pens on paper, the hum of bees and the trilling song of the birds. It was idyllic. As I began to look up references to my Father, I was, of course, overwhelmed with information. I became so excited; I made copious notes; I drank in thoughts of His faithfulness, His changelessness, His goodness and mercy; His truth; His power, and a profusion of other qualities. I found I had tapped a deep-running well of the purest water, and was amazed and thrilled. The notes I made during those halcyon days became the foundation of many sermons; a bedrock of trust, a blazing wealth of understanding and a deep appreciation for the Almighty, but, most importantly, started me on the adventure of a lifetime.

I have always been awed by the fact that Abraham was Yahweh’s friend; it seemed such an intimate relationship to have with the Creator of the Universe. Through the prophet Isaiah Yahweh said, “O Israel, my servant... descendants of *Abraham my friend*...” [Isa. 41:8 italics mine]. Friendship with Yahshua I could understand, because I had experienced it, but I found it hard to imagine being able to enjoy a friendship with Yahweh. Was it possible? Those hot, sunny days sent me to my Bible and my knees and I was to discover a timeless principle; “[Yahweh] is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you...” (The prophet Azariah to King Asa: 2 Chron.15:2) There is a subtle difference in this statement to the more usually quoted scripture, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:13) I began to understand that if I would seek for Yahweh with all my heart He would allow me to find Him. The Amplified Bible puts it like this, “If you seek Him [inquiring for and of Him, *craving Him as your soul’s first necessity*], He will be found by you...” [Italics mine] I began to realise that friendship with the Almighty would require effort, time, energy and determination – as do all meaningful relationships!

Increased intimacy grows through increased understanding; love expands with expanding knowledge of the loved one. Discovering intimacy with the Holy One

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## Heart and Soul

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Increased intimacy grows through increased understanding; love expands with expanding knowledge of the loved one.

is a lifetime commitment to reading His word, studying His attributes and worshipping at His footstool. I believe it is possible to have definable relationships with both Yahshua and Yahweh, and the depth and quality of these will be the power source, inspiration and strength of our lives. Therefore, taking personal time out to know and understand them is an invaluable investment!

Intimacy in such ongoing relationships is essential for our ongoing development as ministers and leaders. So often the *spark* in our relationship is missing because the energy we put into our service far outweighs that which we put into developing our 'divine friendships'. We find ourselves in a place of imbalance; our service far outweighing the practice of those disciplines that produce intimacy. During a lifetime of walking with Yahshua I have found myself in the dry desert of exhausted service more times than I care to remember; limp and shrivelling like a thirsty plant with not a relationship spark in sight! Times without number I have cried to Yahweh, and always the response has been the same – I must find the answer within myself. Sometimes it feels as though He is simply not listening, that the heavens are like brass and no communication is getting through. The answer is always in me! I have been neglecting those things that draw me close and enable me to feel His presence. For numerous reasons time has seemed to be of the essence and to

be demanding I be elsewhere; but I know the answers, I must get back to those disciplines that work for me. I must once again be '*craving Him as my soul's first necessity*'.

Busy ministers and leaders have multiple calls on their time; we are so busy preparing sermons, taking Bible studies, drafting teaching notes, visiting and counselling with people and attending to all those other tasks that no-one else has time for that we neglect ourselves. I used frequently to get myself into a situation where I thought that indulging in 'non-productive' times with Yahweh was actually selfish!

In fact those 'non-productive' times were the very source of the strength that keeps me going. What do I mean by 'non-productive'? I mean simply spending time with Yahweh reading, studying, thinking and praying for *me!* I know what draws me close and I had to learn to make regular space in my schedule for these activities – space for Yahweh and me. *You* know what activities are good for your soul and which ones water your spirit; carving out time for these is not selfish but mandatory for your spiritual health.

Scripture applauds King Jotham, saying he became mighty "... because he ordered his ways before Yahweh his Elohim." (2 Chron. 27:6 NASB) What a wonderful accolade! This is something that I strive to achieve too. Although I often fail in this I do go back again and again to find a loving Father waiting just where I left Him, for He is faithful. A vital lesson I have learned is that maintenance is, in the long run, far less time consuming than restoration.



My Story

by Jasvinder Chana-Glen

# The Search For Belonging (Part 2)



Inevitably, my family disowned me, since not only had I rejected their traditions, not conformed to misplaced honour and shame, not accepted 'Izzat' as a guiding influence, but I had rejected their religion and become a Christian. My teacher at school, Pam, helped me to move to the home of two teachers at her church. I was with them for about 6 months before I moved to a nursing school to train as a nurse...at the age of 18.

However, the love of Yahweh that I found as a child, and the personal relationship that I have with Yahweh through Yahshua, has been a lifeline to me since I was 11 years old.

I have had to face that, I will have committed 'apostasy' in the eyes of the Sikh community, because I believe in Yahshua. Due to this, the wider Sikh/Ramgharia community no longer accepts me, as most of their life events move around traditional/religious practices. This has meant that I have had to evolve another identity, one where my church family accepts me.

I also could not marry a Sikh, nor, as a Christian, would I have been able to marry into another Asian background.

My marriage to an Englishman was like the 'icing on the cake' for my family and community, because in their eyes, Izzat held their values together, and this was finally a reason everyone could use to deny me the right to the choices for my life.

When, at the age of 25, I met my husband, who is also a believer, I knew that Yahweh was giving me the chance to have the family that I needed so much. Yahweh has been good to me. I have now been married for over 24 years and have two grown up children, who are also believers. Since I made that commitment to Yahweh, for my children and generations to come, I know that salvation is possible. I have had much joy in having a family of my own. Yahweh has provided well for us, despite everything, and is a guiding force in our lives.

Even when I have not known what to do, and strayed from my faith, making excuses that I was at my lowest, and could not handle the rejection that ensued from my family, Yahweh has been there holding my life together. People wonder how we have managed to raise a family without the support of my own family

or anyone else's; they wonder how I have maintained working in my profession as a social worker, as consistently as I have for over 26 years, and how I cope. There are days when I am reminded of the pain of my past, (because you do not stop loving your family). But I have had to accept that they will never see me again; it is over 32 years since I was first disowned. The difference now is that I know Yahshua is forever present in my life, and always has been since my birth. Yahweh has also given me a strength that I did not think was possible; this is a gift for which I humbly give thanks.

Disownment brings its own problems; for example learning of the deaths of my parents after the event (in my mother's case three years later), and not knowing (or even seeing) the people of my wider family. I have been asked how I have coped; I admit I have felt saddened by this throughout my life. Not that I would place any blame on my family, for I cannot be angry with them, rather it is because I was not allowed contact with the family due to bringing shame on them. These things have been difficult for people to understand.

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## My Story

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Yahweh has provided well for us, despite everything, and is a guiding force in our lives.

However, one is forced to humble oneself in adversity and learn about forgiveness. I understood that without forgiveness I could not move on; and I can say that I have forgiven all my family. In this situation it can be so easy to feel like the perpetrator because you can be 'blamed' (or blame yourself) for what happened... especially when it concerns your family. Sometimes, for me, this translates into the fact that I feel I have to carry everything that happens to me on my own shoulders; after all, I have chosen to take responsibility for myself. Consequently, asking for help can be a huge issue!

Many people hold the family as sacred, but Yahshua understood and said that to follow Him it would be necessary to leave mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters. I have also learnt to pray, and when I have surrendered everything to Yahweh and placed my trust in Him, I have seen amazing things happen. I know



without doubt that He has answered, and He has never let me down. I have battled with depression, and

at times did not see the purpose of continuing, but Yahweh has been there to pick me up again and again.

In recent years, Yahweh has given me the chance to love those who have felt rejected in mixed relationships nationally and internationally, as well as those in forced marriages and some who are suffering honour-based violence. Also many like myself who have been disowned by their families. For those surviving these situations I recognise a common thread between us, the chance to thank Yahweh for each day, to give thanks for the simple and meaningful things that Life has given us. I work in a voluntary capacity in these areas. Most days I am involved in this work one way or another, to support those less fortunate than myself. It should be no surprise to me that this has all come at a time when Yahweh has given me my first experience of a church family in the Congregation of Yahweh. Yahweh has been present

throughout, because without Him none of this would be possible. I pray for His guidance in these areas and I am learning to listen to Him.

For many years I have not been part of a church; I did not know how to go about this, finding it a difficult thing

to do for myself. Consequently, my faith had not developed as it should; I was still like a child when I came to

the Congregation some three years ago, and I have much to learn. However, Yahweh is teaching me and showing me how to trust Him and be part of a community of my own. The love that I have experienced in the Congregation has been very powerful. For instance, I had not cried for many years, always wanting to be strong, but my tears at church are evidence that Yahweh is doing a great work in my life through His People. I am thankful to Yahweh for you all. My church has given me many opportunities to grow and I have felt loved by a community for the first time. I pray that I can serve Yahweh as He has planned.

### Message:

Yahweh planted a scripture in my heart from the time of my conversion... Rom. 8: 31. This remains very important in my life.

“And we know that in all things [Elohim] works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those [Elohim] foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If [Elohim] is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:28-31)



# Pray with the Promise



'Global Prayer' is put together to help us to focus on issues that concern the Global Church Community.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching (Elohim): if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

(1 John 5:14)

Knowing Yahweh's will? How can we know His will and pray with confidence, faith and boldness? By knowing His word and knowing what He promised. These promises were the basis of faith for many of the Saints under the old and new covenant and they used them to remind Yahweh of His covenant.

There is an example of this in Exodus 32:7-14. Yahweh is angry with His people - enough to destroy them.

He said to Moses, "*Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them.*" (NKJV, verse 10) But Moses stood firm and did not move; instead, he reasoned with Yahweh that by His own hand He had brought them out of Egypt, and they were His people. Then Moses reminded Yahweh of His covenant promise and said,

*"Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'*" (NKJV, verse 13) One man, standing before an angry Elohim, stayed the hand of judgement, because Moses knew the power of the covenant promise sealed by blood!

I believe that Yahshua alluded to this principle when in Luke 13:16, He says, "Should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham..." In other words she, living within the covenant, had a right to be delivered and healed even on the Sabbath day. This can be seen as being in accordance with the promise Yahweh had given to His people in the covenant; He had said, "[Yahweh] will take away from you all sickness". (Deut. 7:15 NKJV)

'[Yahweh] heals us because we give Him evidence that it is our legal right based on His promise'. - Dr Myles Munroe

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## Global Prayer - Prayer Points

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Let us pray according to Yahweh's word, reminding Him of His promises.  
For the weapon, the sword of the Spirit, is Mighty!

Ps. 119:41, Is. 62:6 (Amp), Eph. 6:17



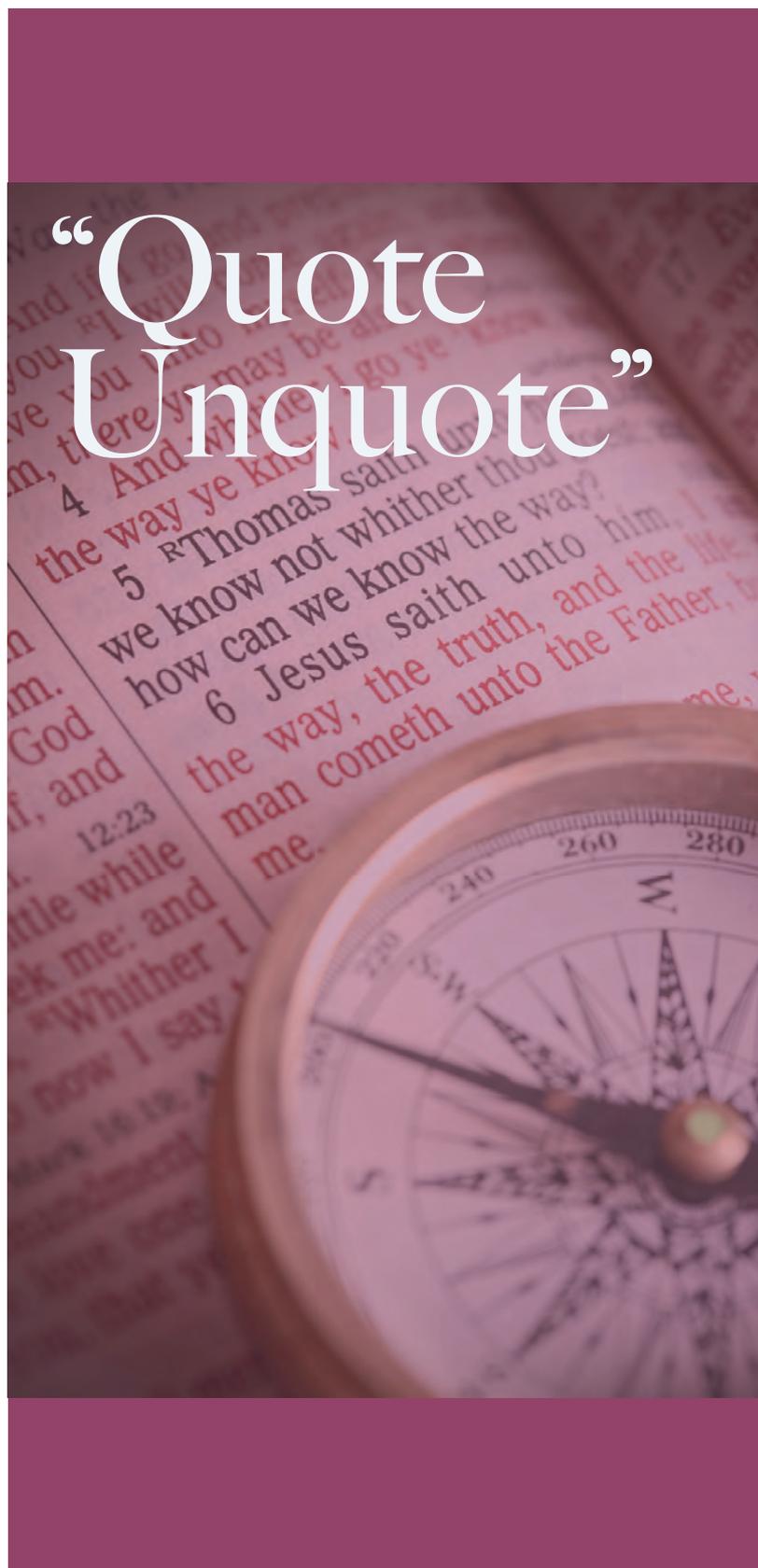
- Pray that your fellowship will follow its unique calling to fulfil Yahweh's purpose for it as a church. (Rom. 8:28, Eph. 1:18)
- Pray that Yahshua's Body may have a renewed passion for souls both locally and in missions. (Is. 42:4, 6b, 12; 49:6)
- Pray that our love for Yahshua will increase and overflow into acts of kindness and mercy, showing no partiality; and in this way reflect the Acts 2 community.
- Pray that Yahshua will come to judge His house, refining His people, that we may minister unto Elohim in the spirit of Holiness. (Mal. 3:1-4)
- Pray that our shepherds will be filled with wisdom to lead, and power to serve, the body, doing mighty works through Him who works mightily in each one of them. (1 Cor. 2:1-5)
- Praise Yahweh for His mighty acts in fulfilling the words of His prophets, for He is restoring and keeping His people Israel against the odds.
- Pray that, in these days, Yahweh will fulfil His promises concerning His people. (see Ezek. 36:24-32)

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Quote Unquote

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by Yisraeli ben Yaakov



“If the Bible was given to reveal truth and not to hide it, [Yahweh] must intend that we understand it. If we do not, the fault must lie with us, not with Him. If we are not understanding His communication, it is imperative that we determine the reason.”

Robertson McQuilkin<sup>1</sup>

### **Jewish Roots of Interpretation**

Often our misunderstanding of the Bible can be remedied by approaching it from a ‘Jewish Roots’ perspective. In fact, when speaking of interpreting the writings of the New Covenant, whatever our ethnicity, it is right to use the term ‘getting back to our Jewish roots.’

### **A Jewish Way to Interpret the Bible**

The reason for this is that most of the writers were religious Jews of the first century who often used a unique Jewish method of interpretation (Acts 21:20; Acts 28:17). Therefore, to best understand the things they write we often need to look through ‘Jewish eyes’, as it were, despite our own ethnic origins. After all, it was possibly among unlearned Jews and Gentiles themselves that Paul’s difficult rabbinic terminology created some confusion (2 Peter 3:15-16). How much more for untrained Jewish and Gentile Yahshua believers 2000 years removed from the immediate context!

Such methods of early rabbinic interpretation are like those the writer of Hebrews uses in Hebrews 3:6, 4:13 and are called ‘gezera sawa’. That is, if

<sup>1</sup>McQuilkin, Robertson. Understanding and Applying the Bible, Chicago, Moody Press, 1992, page 15. Robertson McQuilkin is chancellor of Columbia Bible College and Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina.

# Scripture:

one finds an identical word or phrase used in two different passages of Scripture a comparison can be drawn between them. This analogy frees the interpreter to apply all the principles, assumptions, and applications of both texts to the new argument or purpose. A study of Hebrews 3:6, 4:13 reveals this is the method the writer is using to reapply the 'rest' of Yahweh, mentioned in Genesis 2:2 and Psalms 95:11, to the Messianic community's experience in the light of Yahshua's exalted position.

The writers throughout the whole of the writings of the New Covenant use these forms of Jewish approach. Equally, Yahshua used rabbinic methods of teaching.

## Consequences of Leaving this Jewish Root

Jacob Prasch wrote "Meanwhile, this supercessionism<sup>2</sup> has resulted in much of the church ditching a Jewish interpretation of Scripture, resulting in it missing out considerably in its interpretation and application of the Bible<sup>3</sup>."

A result of the Church moving away from a Jewish method of interpretation is the bolstering of many problems. Like 'Replacement Theology', i.e. the Church is some kind of a 'New' Israel<sup>4</sup>, anti-Torah and anti-Judaism within the Church, and even, in some cases, outright persecution of the Jews by 'Christians<sup>5</sup>'. It can even affect how we perceive Yahshua Himself. He is often perceived as a heavenly 'Christ' without a country, almost irrelevant to the social context of faith, and unable to respond to our contemporary challenges. His being the physical seed of Abraham, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the son of David and King of Israel is too often overlooked in its Jewish context. Malcolm X said:

"The white man has brainwashed us black people to fasten our gaze on a blond-haired, blue-eyed Jesus!"<sup>6</sup>

He was not far wrong although I would add that an accurate image of a brown-eyed, dark-haired, dark-skinned Yahshua can only be arrived at by a Jewish approach which is neither 'black' nor 'white'.

Today's Yahshua-movement needs to reconsider its approach to interpreting the Bible and return

in this instance to its Jewish roots if it wishes to save itself from the damaging bi-products of 'ditching' the source.

## Conclusion

On Yom Kippur we Jewish people beat our chests in repentance and pray a prayer called 'Vidduy' when confessing our sins. As one example, we confess sins done by **בבלי דעת** 'a lack of knowledge' because this is a basic cause of sin. An example of sin resulting from 'a lack of knowledge' is evident in anti-Semitic acts or white prejudice against the Black community. Similarly, when we ignore Jewish ways to interpret Scripture we needlessly lack knowledge. By this we empower error like 'Replacement Theology' or anti-Judaistic attitudes, and so forth.

Is it not a prophetic cry that calls out to us even today:

"My people are destroyed because of a lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6).

Maybe it would be proper for us to 'beat our chests' alongside our Jewish brethren?, as we seek these Jewish roots waiting to realise the inevitable restoration of truth it will bring.

Reflecting on Robertson McQuilkin's quote above, once 'reason' has been determined it is our responsibility to fix the flaw.



<sup>2</sup> Supercessionism is Replacement Theology.

<sup>3</sup> Smith, Calvin L. The Jews, Modern Israel and the New Supercessionism, page 48.

<sup>4</sup> Wilson, Marvin R. Our Father Abraham, Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1994, pages 88ff.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, pages 3-99.

<sup>6</sup> Cone, James H. Black Theology and Black Power, Orbis Books, New York, 1997, page viii.

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Word for Today

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by Beverly Nembhard



# Move On From the Past!

Have you ever wondered why there are so many 'bitter' people in churches today? Why, after years of service, some people appear to be riddled with doubts? Why feelings of failure and regret punctuate their existence? Why individuals can't forget those things which are behind and reach forward to those things which are before? (Phil. 3:13 -14)

Is it possible to be in the church for years and yet still not be transformed

into the image of Messiah? Is it possible that some individuals will spend their entire life conforming to rules and regulations, thus forfeiting their chance of becoming a 'new creation'?

Recently the Holy Spirit has been speaking quietly to my heart about the importance of 'being in Messiah'. I began to realise that a person can be very active 'in' the church and yet not be 'in Messiah'. According to

the apostle Paul we are chosen 'in Messiah' to be holy and blameless. I conclude then, if I am not being transformed daily into 'a new creation' I will never attain to the place of holiness, contentment and wholeness in Messiah. The quest for holiness can only be reached when we are 'in Messiah' because "*He (Yahweh) chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight*". (Eph. 1: 4)

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## Word for Today

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Being 'in Messiah' means to be totally submitted to Yahweh's demands, to be consumed with His ideals, His desires and His goals. It is to live in daily communion with Him; to know His voice and to obey His commands. It is to be transformed by the renewing of one's mind; then, we will no longer get our substances from the cisterns of this world. Instead, we will "share in the nourishing sap from the root of the olive tree". (Rom. 11:17 paraphrased)

It is crucial to understand that discipleship is not about conformity but about transformation. Paul emphasised this to Gentile believers who had been grafted into the 'Olive Tree' by urging them to present their bodies as living sacrifices to Yahweh; which is the spiritual worship of all disciples in Messiah. He also urges them not to conform to the pattern of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of their minds. (Rom. 12: 1-2) Only then will we be able to test and approve what Yahweh's perfect will is for our lives.

Self-examination time! Am I 'in Messiah' or just conforming to rules and demands made by men? Am I living my life because of the conviction of the Spirit? Am I propelled into service because of my personal encounter with Yahshua? It is time for every member of Yahshua's body to evaluate his or her position. Are you in Messiah or in the church? Let us pray, "Search me, O [Elohim], and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalms 139 23-24)

"One reason [Yahweh] created time was so that there would be a place to bury the failures of the past"  
– CoolnSmart.com

"...it is only when we have Conformity to the world that we can not see His will, and walk away from Him all the while thinking we are alright with Him".  
– Philosophy By Me



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## For Youth

by Jemrose Walker

# Offering a helping hand to Rwanda's youth



It is more than a year since I stood up in my local church and announced that I would be giving up everything to go to Rwanda for one year. I wanted to explore the possibility of setting up a non-institutional project for some of Rwanda's orphaned and vulnerable young people.

As part of my research, I opened my Rwandan home to some of the young people still living in the orphanage where I spent three months as a volunteer. They came during their school holidays and, in their own words, experienced 'another way of living'. It was a break from institution and routine, and there was plenty to eat.

The concept of a home for Rwanda Orphaned Youth (ROY) began its embryonic life soon after I returned from my first visit to Rwanda in 2000. Nine years later the vision has grown

and finally is taking shape.

Having the young people in my home was partly experimental. I wanted to see whether we could maintain a 'family spirit' with three to ten people. Would two weeks be long enough to make a difference in their lives forever? Would they like my method of working? Would we be able to communicate? Thanks to the generous donations of friends in England, we had an amazing time, packed with a range of activities, including traipsing to the local market to buy huge amounts of fruit, vegetables, eggs and other foodstuff. (I'd forgotten how much young people can eat!) We had great fun hopping on and off the backs of motorbike taxis (the most convenient way to get around!). However, the highlight was our visit to the Genocide Memorial Centre – it will be a profound and lasting memory.

Since arriving in Rwanda, I have carried this notion around in my head, repeating it like a mantra: "No child should have to go hungry!" Yet millions are starving and dying every day. One Friday afternoon three scruffy little girls, each with her little sack, accosted me, begging. They asked me in Kinyarwanda (local language), if I could spare any food. They looked so pathetic and helpless; so grubby from head to toe and...so HUNGRY! After a few questions I discovered that they had a mama but no papa, which by UNHCR definition meant that they were also orphans. I recognised immediately that they were not only vulnerable but in danger. They could be lured by unsavoury characters, bad young men, even paedophiles (yes, they do exist in Rwanda), who would make them perform dreadful acts with the promise of food and money. I sent them home laden with dried beans and sweet potatoes and big hugs!

Then the grim reality hit me! They, too, will one day become teenagers – survivors, not of a cruel genocide against their ethnic group, not of HIV/AIDS, but of STARVATION. Every surviving teenager has potential. The majority do not want to remain 'victims' or 'beneficiaries' for the rest of their lives. They want the opportunity to go to school, study, gain a university degree, find a job, work hard, be independent, and become a vital player in the development of their country. They want to have access to enough food to eat, clean water, secure shelter, adequate health care and, most of all, real love.



"No child should have to go hungry!"



# The ROY Project

That's why, with the dedicated support of a small committee of people, I wanted to set up the '**ROY Project**', but we also need your help. Every aspect of the Project is dependent on donations received from sympathisers, families, friends and sponsorships. Our Mission Statement is: *Shaping future citizens; shaping Rwanda's future.*



Our Motto is:

**GIVE A  
LITTLE  
so they can  
LIVE A LOT**

# It's Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

A time to...

## ***Celebrate the Past***

For our 50th year celebrations we will be remembering the journey of the Congregation of Yahweh from its beginnings in Nottingham, when the late Elder Peter Warsop was led to take on responsibility for a Caribbean Church in need of a Pastor. This small, multi-racial fellowship eventually took up residence in a building on Hungerhill Road, Nottingham; it was fondly known as 'the tin hut'. It was from the city of Nottingham that national, and then international, work developed, fuelled by a heart full of vision for the authentic truth of Scripture and a desire to share this with others.

Throughout 2010 there will be opportunity to meet together to find out more about the roots of the Congregation, and to join together in joyful celebration as we trace a journey - one that has not been free from trial and hardship, but which has made a significant impact on the lives of men, women, boys and girls who now look forward with hope to the future.



## ***Embrace the Future***

Whilst we are remembering where we are coming from, we also aim to carry the jewels of the past into the future – holding on to those things that make us unique and investing them in future generations.

We will encourage children and young people to participate in celebrations and we will continue to provide opportunities for them to connect and have fun in a wholesome environment.

# 1960 2010

Not to  
be missed ...

# The Feast of Tabernacles Celebration

Wednesday

22 September -

Thursday 30 September

Our 50th-year celebrations will culminate in an international event hosted by the Congregation of Yahweh UK. We will spend a week at the Cefn Lea Conference Centre, situated amongst the beautiful and peaceful hills of mid-Wales.

Here we will experience community, engage in praise and worship, and enjoy rich fellowship.

If you have not already booked please contact the Training and Administration Centre on

0115 9509314

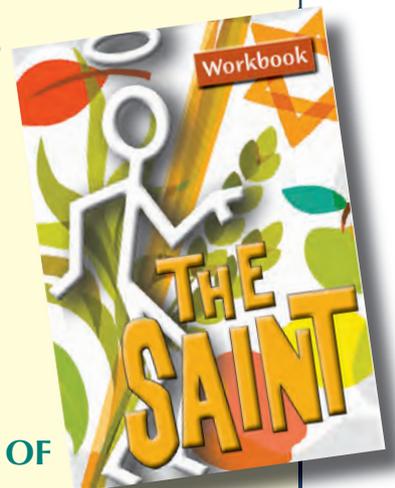
to see if there are any more places available.

# The Saint

This is a fascinating four-part course to help believers discover who is and what makes a saint.

The course is born out of four messages that were delivered during the Feast of Tabernacles 2008. It comes with:

- Trainer's guide
- Participant's workbook
- Set of CDs
- PowerPoint CD ROM



The workbook is split up into four lessons:

- THE MAKING OF A SAINT
- THE CHALLENGE OF THE SAINT
- THE WAY OF THE SAINT
- THE BIRTHRIGHT OF THE SAINT

Before beginning each lesson, we recommend that you listen to the relevant audio message.

These are available from:

The Congregation of Yahweh,  
Arboretum Gate, 92-94 North  
Sherwood Street,  
Nottingham NG1 4EE

Tel: +44 (0) 115 950 9314

# Music to Remember

'Music to Remember' is a compilation series of live recordings spanning over 25 years, comprising of a wide range of inspirational songs, music and spiritual psalms, selected from the worship services and Feast celebrations of The Congregation of Yahweh.

The majority of the songs were composed by members of the Congregation; many were produced and performed by the renowned 'Covenant College Singers'.

'Music to Remember' is a treasure-trove of archival material digitally re-mastered to carry on the work of the Holy Spirit for decades to come. Powerful, challenging, restoring the human soul: a call to all true worshippers to come up higher, delve deeper and experience pure worship of the King of Kings. There are five CDs to the series.

**You can buy the whole set for £30 or single CDs for £6.50 each**

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