

June 2007

Father's Day
June 17

Dear Friends of *Abba*, Father,

Lessons on Fathering

This month, as we honor fathers, we want to honor our Heavenly Father by focusing on His love and His heart for fathers everywhere. At the same time, we want to honor the memory of Jack Frost of Shiloh Place Ministries who entered into the Father's eternal embrace on March 5, 2007. Jack taught us much about the Father's love and fathering in general. He taught us about transparency and walking in the light. Jack said, "The light you choose today will be passed down to your children and grandchildren. The darkness you choose today will also be passed down to your children and grandchildren." God is light. We must walk in the light. Other lessons learned from Jack include: "All creation is about a Father longing to have sons and daughters." "Spiritual orphans feel that they don't have a safe place in their Father's heart." "Satan works through the failures of earthly fathers to keep us from knowing God as Father." "The best father is simply preparing you to move on to the Perfect Father." "When we forgive our earthly fathers through prayer, we can begin to receive the Father's Love and the fullness of our adoption." "You can't be a father until you've been a son." "We must come to the place where we can rest in the embrace of God's unconditional love."

Jack was fond of proclaiming, "I am Father God's Happy Thought!!!" This statement, along with eight others and their multiple scriptural references, will come to you on a bookmark as a "thank you" for any donation this month. We all need to be reminded that we are loved by our Father! At a meeting last week, Neil was asked what his passion was—what makes his heart beat fast. His answer: "For people to know the love of their Heavenly Father. If they could apprehend how much God really loves them, most of their problems would be solved."

When our ministry began in the late 1970's, it was called Love Song To The Messiah. Our first message was called "The Love of the Father." Both of us had received a deep revelation of God as "*Abba*" (Daddy) and had experienced His unconditional, inexpressible love many times in many ways and desired to share that with others. We still believe, after thirty years of ministry, that knowing and receiving the Father's love is the key to the abundant life that Yeshua promised.

Biblical Fathering

Biblical fathering took place in a Hebrew culture with a Hebrew mindset. The Hebrew language spoken by fathers in Bible times gives us insight into what it meant to be a father. In order to understand the Hebrew concepts, we must first understand that Hebrew letters have meaning in themselves. The first letter of the Hebrew alphabet is the letter *alef*. The ancient pictograph of *alef* reveals its meaning to be 1) strength 2) a leader, and 3) that which is first. In today's Judaism, *alef* symbolizes the One and Only, Omnipotent God. The name *alef* is related to *aluf* which means "master."

The letter *alef* is also the first letter in three very important Hebrew words: God, father and love. These words are all related! The word for God is *el* (אֵל). The word picture for *el* tells us that God is the first or the strong authority. The word for father is *av* (אָב). The word picture for *av* tells us that a father is the leader or the strength of the family. The Hebrew word for love is *ahav* (אָהַב). The word picture for *ahav*

tells us that love is the father's heart revealed since *ahav* (אהב) is made up of the word for father with the letter *hey* in the middle. *Hey* is the Hebrew letter of divinity and revelation with the underlying idea of "behold." Now the verse from I John 3:1 in the Brit Hadasha comes into proper perspective:

"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"

From the Hebrew root, we see the biblical concept of a father: the leader of the household, the strength of the family, the *baal* (literally lord) and the one responsible for the family's spiritual health and development. As we saw in the word for love, the biblical father was supposed to be a loving father. He was responsible for teaching his sons a trade and providing for his wife and children.

The father of Luke 15 (the parable of the "Prodigal Son") portrays the ideal loving father who welcomes home a wayward child with open arms and lavish abandon. We call it the parable of the "Father's Love." In the Tenach, Abraham's love for Issac also models the biblical ideal of a father. Fathers in the *Brit Hadasha* (Ephesians 6:4) are admonished to not exasperate their children: *"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."*

Possibly of greatest import were the countless blessings pronounced by the biblical father on his sons and daughters. Even today on Shabbat and special holidays, Jewish fathers lay hands on the heads of their sons and say, "May God make you as Ephraim and Manasseh." To a daughter they say, "May God make you as Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah." This is followed by the famous blessing called the *Birkat Cohanim*, the Aaronic Benediction: *"May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."* (Numbers 6:24-26)

A Fatherless Generation

We live in a fatherless generation. Craig Hill, in his excellent little book **Ancient Paths** (thanks, Martha), highlights the fact that before 1940 in the U.S., almost every child had a FATHER, a FAMILY and a FUTURE. To quote Craig: "However, in today's society, it is a rare occurrence when these three qualities are intact in the life of a child growing up. By the time most people enter into adulthood, they have endured countless experiences of identity cursing by those close to them. This builds up a very thick, protective callus. Although this callus is meant to keep out further hurt, unfortunately, it also serves to keep out love, even from God."

The word "identity" is key in this context. With the breakdown of the family, and the lack of security that comes with fatherlessness, we have a "Generation X" who don't know who they are. An identity crisis results from not having a significant relationship with a father. This was not the case in earlier days—especially in Bible times. As we see in the Scriptures, people were always identified as the son or daughter of a certain man. For example, Jesus would have been called *Yeshua Ben Yosef* (literally, Yeshua, son of Yosef.) Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46 was the son of Timaeus. *Ben* or *Bar*, before a name meant "son of." *Bat* meant "daughter of." The father's first name was used since there were no last names in Bible times. Even today, in English, we have reminders of this father/son naming practice: Johnson, Anderson and Erickson to name a few.

Children knew who they were related to, to whom they belonged. The spirit of sonship prevailed. Consider the recent paternity debate concerning Anne Nicole Smith's baby. Jamie happened to be called to jury duty on the day of the trial at the courthouse in Fort Lauderdale. She ended up on the same floor and witnessed the unbelievable circus of television cameras, trucks and tents swarming around the courthouse. Not to be believed were the vendors selling t-shirts that said, "I'm the baby's father!" Our definition of "father" has surely degenerated from the biblical standard. This poor baby is somehow symbolic of the times in which we live.

Did you ever wonder why a child is considered Jewish today only if the child's **mother** is Jewish (even though in the Bible, Jewishness comes through the father)? The Anna Nicole Smith case helps us understand the traditional Jewish ruling even though her situation had nothing to do with Jewishness. **The Jewish Book of Why** tells us that: "Jewish law considers the child Jewish if the mother is Jewish. A child is considered non-Jewish if the mother is non-Jewish, regardless of the father's religion. The rule was established because one can be sure who gave birth to the child, whereas the paternity is sometimes questionable."

Our oldest son, Jonathan, now almost 22 years old, has a burden for "fatherless boys." We remember the summer that he served as a camp counselor at a Christian camp here in Florida. Week after week, Jonathan welcomed a new group of campers ages 14-17. Night after night they opened their hearts to him with stories of father rejection, father abandonment, father absence, father abuse, and a lack of relationship in general. Even though Jonathan was a youth himself, he asked their permission to pray a father's blessing over them. None objected. Jonathan also has a burden for the poor, especially in the Hispanic world. Because of this, he has chosen to go to Costa Rica this summer, leaving June 25, 2007, for intensive Spanish study. For Jonathan, this will be a mission trip. One of his deepest desires is to master Spanish well enough to reach **hearts** with the Good News of Messiah. We covet your prayers for our son for provision and protection. If you feel led to be a part of what God is doing through Jonathan, you can email him at jonlash@ufl.edu. We covet your prayers for our younger son, Jesse, as well. He will be in El Salvador this summer on a surfing/mission trip. Jesse will be ministering to orphans—and surfers!

A Personal Revelation

What is the answer to the problem of fatherlessness in our generation? A personal revelation of God as Father. It is one thing to know about the fatherhood of God, and another to personally experience it. According to the Holy Scriptures, Yeshua the Messiah is the One who can reveal The Father to us: "*All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him*" (Matthew 11:27).

"Lord, please reveal God, our Father, Avinu Shebashamayim, to every one of our Jewish Jewels partners so that they may know the peace, the joy, the love, the security and the sense of belonging and destiny that comes with knowing God as Father!"

This "knowledge" is not a "given." We were very surprised to find out that Derek Prince, a highly respected and anointed Bible teacher who had used the phrase "our Father" for more than fifty years, received in one moment of time a revelation that moved him from a theological position to a personal relationship. He was probably in his 70's when he began to refer to God as "my Father," and also began to think of heaven as his real home, which is where he is now.

The Nature of the Father's Love

Those of us who have received Yeshua as our Messiah and have received the revelation of God as "my Father," know that His love is many faceted. The following list is a sampling of some of the aspects of our Heavenly Father's love:

Unconditional: He loves us just as we are, "as is," yet He paid "full price" for us. (Romans 5:8)

Merciful: His mercies are new every morning. (Psalm 103:13, Lamentations 3:22-23)

Ever-Present: His love for us began when we were in our mother's womb. (Psalm 139:13-17)

Initiates: He loved us first! (1 John 4:19)

Forgiving: He forgives all sins, big and small. (Isaiah 1:18)

Giving: He gave us Yeshua to save us, and wants to give us the kingdom! (John 3:16, Luke 12:32)

Jealous: He is passionately in love with us. (Song of Songs 7:10)

Protective: Nothing can separate us from our Heavenly Father's love. (Romans 8:38-39)

Corrects: He corrects us for our benefit. (Hebrews 12:6-11)

Blesses: He blessed us at creation, and blesses each of us with our own blessing. (Genesis 49:28)

Forgive and be Blessed!

No earthly father is perfect. Some are performance oriented, some passive, some punitive and some pretty good! But all have failings, and therefore, have not given their children an accurate picture of God as Father. Forgive your father. **Release him.** Choose to forgive his sin of misrepresenting God to you. Forgive him for the ways he has hurt you. Forgiveness will release you to receive the love you have always wanted—the unconditional, eternal, deep, pure, abiding love of God. As you begin to receive the love from God that your earthly father was not able to give, God's grace will help you ask your earthly father to forgive you for your rebellion and the ways in which you closed your heart to him.

God, your Father, wants to bless you! Receive these words from His heart:

"My precious child, I knew you before you were born. My thoughts toward you are and have always been good, loving and full of peace. I love you with an everlasting love. You are always in My heart. You are special to me. I bless you with the ability to receive My love and My truth. I bless you with an awareness of My presence and the assurance that I will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid. It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

In Our Father's Love,



P.S. **Breaking Generational Curses**, a book by Don Nori, father of 5 boys who imparts important truths about releasing our children into their destiny.

Hineni "Here Am I"—a CD by Phil Klein. Anointed messianic music—a must for your collection!

P.P.S. We still have some spaces left on our October 2007 Mercy Mission to Israel. Come with us as we minister the Father's Love to hurting Israelis.

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - June 2007

LOCAL TV STATIONS

STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:	AIRTIME:
AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4	TUE 6:00 PM
CA	Sonora	PUBLIC ACCESS 8	MON 8:30 PM
FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV22	SUN 2:30 PM
FL	Orlando/Cocoa	WLCB TV 45	SUN 1:30 PM
FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45	THU 11:30AM
FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61	SAT 10:30 PM
IL	Chicago (New)	WEDE TV 34	TUES 6:00 PM
IL	Peoria	FAITHALIVE CH 20	FRI 6:00 PM
NJ/NY	NJ/New York	WMBC TV 63	SUN 4:00 PM
OH	Columbus	WSFJ TV 51	SUN 3:30 PM
OR	Portland	K26GJ TV 26	SUN 12:00 PM
OR	Salem	K21GX TV 21	SUN 12:00 PM
PA	Philadelphia	WFMZ TV 69	SUN 9:30 AM
SC	Greenville	WGGS TV 16	FRI 10:30 AM

SATELLITE NETWORKS

SKY ANGEL

Angel Two - SUN 2:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9702]
GTN - SUN 3:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9707]

DirectTV

World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 3:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 321]

God TV - The GOD Channel

WED 4:30 AM (GMT) & 6:30 AM (Jerusalem)

Australian Christian Channel (ACC)

THU 8:00 AM (AEST)

SKY Digital - New Zealand

Shine TV - WED 11:30 AM & 10:30 PM [ch 99]



INTERNET

www.jewishjewels.org

www.acctv.com.au

www.shinetv.co.nz

INTERNATIONAL

Philippines - Shalom TV THU 6:00 PM
