

Road Of The Pilgrims



Special Mission Edition

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Scripture: Let Us Study

Let's Look At The Scriptures Part 4

given to Rivqah Yahsepha (Rebekah Josephah Coover)

MattithYah (Matthew) 5:16 Who is the Light who shines in us? Yahshua! It is not us shining! It is us allowing Yahshua to shine through us! Let us be transparent, as the New Yahrushalayim (Revelation 21:10-11), that His Light shining through us be unchanged, unmarred. That He shine through us just as He is.

Mark 16:15-20 Are we obeying Yahshua?

Luke 4:17-19 Let our life's mission be in accordance with Yahweh. Let our lives lift others up to Yahweh.

Yahanan (John) 4:34-38 Yahshua tells us what His meat is, and then goes on to instruct us to partake of the same meat.

Acts 8 This is a wonderful chapter. Two things in particular stand out to me. Shaul (Saul) "made havoc of the assembly, entering into every house and hailing men and women, committed them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word." (vs. 3-4) Rather than discouraging them, these persecutions fanned their flame to get the Word out there. The second thing that stands out to me, is this: "And the messenger of Yahweh spake unto Philip, saying, 'Arise, and go toward the South, unto the way that goeth down

**FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO SAW THE AD FOR JOYFUL MOTHERHOOD
IN THE LAST ISSUE, AND WANTED TO SUBSCRIBE TO IT BUT
NOTICED THAT I FORGOT TO INCLUDE AN ADDRESS THAT YOU
COULD CONTACT, SEE HOUSEWIVES' / MOTHERS' PAGE IN THIS
ISSUE. I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT MISTAKE.**

from Yahrushalayim (Jerusalem) unto Gaza, which is desert.' And he arose and went..." (vs. 26-27) Yahweh spoke; Philip obeyed just like that. Let us be that way. I highly recommend that you read Acts chapter 8.

Romans 1:15-17 Shaul is a virtuous example of devotion to and zeal for Yahweh. May we do as he did. (Philippians 4:9; Galatians 4:12)

1 Corinthians 15:58 We, as Yahweh's children, have the hope and joy of eternal Life. In Yahweh we may have life and victory. (1 Corinthians 15:50-57) We must remain steadfast and unmovable, for if we don't, we will not inherit this life and have this victory. Part of living for Yahweh is giving ourselves to him and to working for Him. "Always abounding in the work of Yahweh." Whether on the job, at the meal table, doing school work, handing out tracts, studying Scripture, or speaking of Yahweh, let it all be done unto Him. (1 Cor. 10:31; Colossians 3:23)

2 Corinthians 6:1 We are workers together with Yahweh and Yahshua. Isn't that beautiful? Let us carry His Light everywhere, to our families, to the children of Light in general, and to the children of darkness. Let's not put on Yahweh as a front; let's live Yahweh, working side by side with Him.

Galatians 1:21-24 The brethren saw Shaul (Paul) and esteemed Yahweh in him. When others look at us, do they esteem Yahweh? Do we seek to live in a way that will cause others to esteem Yahweh? Do our lives (thoughts, words, attitudes, actions, dress, music, likes and dislikes, lifestyles, etc.) esteem Him?

Ephesians 6:15 Are we prepared, eager, ready, willing, glad to take the message of peace wherever Yahweh calls us to take it? Do we take it to the kitchen with us in the morning? Do we carry it to the study-room, garden, etc.? Does that message of peace accompany us when we're visiting with someone? Do our lives speak the message of peace each second? (What a challenge! And yet, how inspiring!)

Philippians 1:14-21 Let us preach the glad news with upright motives. Let us be not ashamed. To live is Messiah, to die is gain. (See Romans 14:7-8.)

Colossians 4:5-6 "Walk in wisdom." Let our speech AND our life answer the questions of those about us, with favor. And let us use the little bit of time we have on earth wisely. We walk this road only one time.

1 Thessalonians 1-2 Behold the zeal and love and self-offering of Shaul and Silvanus and Timothy to *get the message out there*, and to be "*ensamples to all that believe*". (1:7) Notice how loudly actions speak (1:8), making words less necessary. Yet see also

how Yahweh's people still speak. (2:2)

2 Thessalonians 2:3 A very important thing to remember as we seek to be missionaries is that satan has missionaries. And satan sends his missionaries to missionize us. Let us fight him off. Be sure to "let no man deceive you."

1 Timothy 4:12 Our words, day-to-day lives, love, spirit, faith, and purity ought to all show Messiah. Yes, words are very important, but so is the other stuff. We need to walk what we talk.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 There are many who are in bondage to satan. Will we take the time to gently help free them?

Titus 2:6-8 Are our lives genuine? uncondemnable? sober? uncorrupt? stable? sincere? sound? Are we shewing ourselves a pattern of upright works for others to follow?

Philemon 1:23-25 As believers we are to be "fellow laborers". (And in tribulation, we may very well be "fellow prisoners". Let us remain faithful.)

Ibrim (Hebrews) 8:11 Until the time in New Yahrushalayim (Jerusalem) when all do know Yahweh, let us be willing to teach our brothers and neighbors, saying, "Know Yahweh."

Yah'acobe (James) 1:27 Let us read this verse without the added *and*. "Pure religion and undefiled before Elohim and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, to keep himself unspotted from the world." Serving Yahweh and others with our hearts helps to keep us unspotted from the world.

1 Kepha (Peter) 2:9-12 We are to shew forth Yahweh's praises! And to live honestly, that others may esteem Yahweh when they see our upright works.

2 Kepha 1:1-11 Do we want to witness to a lost world? Let us be very careful that we ourselves are in order. Are we virtuous? patient? kind? temperate? Do we have Messiah's love within ourselves? Are we firmly built upon the rock, that we may never fall? Are we living according to these verses in Second Kepha?

1 Yahanan (John) 3:17-19 Part of the ministry is serving others in the physical sense. Is our love one that is manifested in our deeds, thus being a true love?

2 Yahanan 4 The most important missionary work that we can do in all the world is that of making sure our children are walking in the truth. If we do this, we shall have reason to rejoice.

3 Yahanan 4 We see hear that the greatest joy comes not in winning multitudes to Messiah, but in making sure that our children are His sheep.

Yahudah (Judah / Jude) 3-4 Let us rise up, as mighty men and women of Yahweh, defending the true faith, the unperverted and pure truth of the Scriptures. How many there are who are trying

to tear down the truth and create a new message (Galatians 1:6-12), but through the favor of Yahweh, His truth shall triumph.

Revelations 3:20 Yahweh is calling men unto Himself. He is calling us to be His willing helpers in getting the message out there. (Revelation 22:16-17)

I do not mean to make it appear as though only the Newer Writings speak of evangelism / missionary work. Below is a list of TaNaKh Scriptures that you may wish to read.

2 Samuel 12:1-25 Notice Nathan's tact in pointing out David's sin and helping to lead him to repentance.

1 Kings 21 Yahweh told EliYah, "Go and speak to Ahab." EliYah went, and spoke Yahweh's words. Though Ahab did not accept Yahweh as His personal Savior and Elohim, Yahweh did use EliYah for His perfect purposes.

Ezekiel 33:7-16 Yahweh is telling Ezekiel, "Warn these people of their sins. They do have opportunity to repent and turn to Me."

Jonah 1-3 The book of Jonah is a superb example of witnessing to a people and helping to lead them to repentance. Indeed, Yahweh can work in marvelous ways, and DOES.

Psalm 51:12-15 We need to be willing and eager to speak of Yahweh and make His praises known.

Psalm 67:1-2 When Yahweh's face shines upon us, He penetrates our lives, thus showing to the nations on earth His way and His saving health.

***Yahweh bless you, brethren and sisters,
as you serve Him!***

Ecclesiastes 11:1-7

We often mistakenly think that only the newer writings speak of missionary work. Read these lovely verses from the TaNaKh.

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.¹ Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.² If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth; and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.³ He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.⁴ As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child, even so thou knowest not the works of Yahweh who maketh all. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.⁵ Truly the Light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun.

1 Prophetically speaking, the “sea” means the “multitude of people”. Cast thy bread upon the waters (to the people).

2 Give freely of the glad news. Be generous with it.

3 The clouds dump their rain on the earth. Cause the Living Water to reach the people of the earth. The tree falls to the earth. Cause the glad news to fall upon the people of the earth.

4 We have a job to do, a mission to carry out. We must DO it.

5 Don’t be afraid to get the message out there. You do not know how Yahweh will work through it. You do not know what an impact your diligence may have on an individual, or on many. Do as YHWH says, trusting Him to bring about the rewards.

My Heart's Convictions On...

BEING A MISSIONARY

given to Rivqah Yahsepha (Rebekah Josepha Coover)

11/2002 - 12/2002 (altered some in 2004)

Question: Are all Yahweh's people supposed to be missionaries?

A. Examining "The Great Commission" (Matt. 28:19-20)

"And lo, I am with you always" (Matthew 18:20) "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5) Do we claim these promises? But unto whom was this promise in Hebrews originally given? Unto Joshua. (Joshua 1:5) And what were the requirements that accompanied it? He was to be strong, courageous, constantly meditating on the Law, steadfast. And after these requirements are given, Yahweh restates His promise: "Yahweh thy Elohim is with thee, whither soever thou goest." (Joshua 1:6-9) In what is called "The Great Commission", Yahshua promises, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20) But what was said before this? We are instructed to go to all people, preaching the truth, and baptizing in Yahweh. (Matthew 28:19-20) Are we strong, courageous, constantly meditating on the Law (Philippians 4:8 and Proverbs 24:9), obedient to Yahweh, steadfast, and a light to the nations, or are we just claiming the promises, without meeting the requirements? "The 'Go' in the Great Commission not only means to 'go' to all nations: it also means to 'go' across the street." ⁶ Being a missionary does not mean that you have to go to a far away country -- you can be a missionary in your own home town or community. "All nations" (Matthew 28:19) includes the one you live in. And this leads us to a very important topic, one that is far too often forgotten about:

B. Being A Missionary In Your Home

"Your family is the most important group of people in your life. 1. Give them true love. (1 John 3:18) 2. Speak kindly, honestly, and encouragingly. (Proverbs 31:26) 3. Humbly help

⁶ Beverly Jellison, in Inspirational Treasures Vol 1, p 110

with the household chores. (Matthew 5:5-7; 1 Peter 5:5-6) 4. Be willing to forgive. (Matthew 18:21-35) 5. Set an upright example... in word, conversation (lifestyle), love, spirit, faith, and purity. (1 Timothy 4:12) 6. Be diligent. (1 Timothy 4:13-16) 'Diligence - seeing each task as a special assignment from [Yahweh] and using all my energies to accomplish it.' (Unknown) ⁷ (Colossians 3:23-24) Does your family see you as a wonderful person? Do you notice who praised the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 first? Her family! (Proverbs 31:28-29) Why is this? Why look at how much she serves them! (Proverbs 31:10-31) She is a missionary and servant to her family. The Scriptures teach us to put family first, before other people. (1 Timothy 5:4,8) But what about the other people? We are not to forget them.

C. Being A Missionary In Your Own Community

"No prophet is accepted in his own country." (Luke 4:24; John 4:44) Our own dear Savior said this. So what are we to do? There are obviously exceptions to this. Perhaps it could mean, "No prophet is widely accepted in his own country." There will be those who oppose, yet there will be some who will accept also. Let me share with you some of my present work in the community.

In the Scriptures, we are instructed to respect the aged. (1 Timothy 5:1-2; Leviticus 19:32) There are quite a few aged people in our little community. And I am seeking to minister to them (serve them). What exactly am I doing?

There was one elderly couple who lived close by during the summer. Lydia (my sister) and I visited them quite a few times. That alone is a light. They saw that we are different. We didn't like the TV; we prayed before we ate; we dressed modestly. But I also believe that if our faith is real and vibrant, we should be talking to people about Yahweh. (Psalm 37:30; Proverbs 31:26; Matthew 12:34b-37; John 3:34; Psalms 45:2; Jeremiah 1:9) It really should come natural. I am trying to work on this. I realized this some with this couple, not long before they went to Florida. Then I did mention Jacob and his pillow of stones (Genesis 18:11), in casual conversation. They had never read about that, so I told them about him stopping to rest at night on his journey, and making a pillow of stones. Now that they are in Florida, I send them letters about Yahweh. We also gave them a cassette tape of Lydia and I singing

⁷ copied from Missionary Course for youth, Part 1, Lesson two... written by Rivqah (Rebekah Coover)

hymns and songs, and we sent them our publications (Road of the Pilgrims, etc.) It is nice to be sharing Yahweh with them. (Matthew 10:8 and John 4:14)⁸

There is another elderly woman that we speak to sometimes. Once I mentioned the Almighty to her, and another time, prayer.⁹ (I am also seeking to tie Yahweh into family conversation too.)

I am working on another thing, that is, making scrapbooks. I have one almost completed for an elderly man who lives near us, and I have others I want to make them for too, both in my community and farther away.

I love children. (Mark 10:13-16; 9:42 and Matthew 10:42) I have sought to be a light to two children, and one in particular. Will she ever know Yahweh? I do not know. I have planted seeds. I can keep hoping and praying and giving her Scriptural things and loving her.

For very near future, I would like to make food gifts for different people, with Scripture verses on the outside. I want to do more too, though I won't write all my ideas here. The Scripture tells us, "Cast thy bread¹⁰

upon the waters¹¹: for thou shalt find it after many days." (Ecclesiastes 11:1) In our work for Yahweh, there may be very few who will heed the message. (Mark 4:1-20) "For many are called, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14) But there will be rewards. (Luke 6:35-36)

D. Expanding Your Work To The Local Towns

Yahshua did it. And even in His own Galilee (See Luke 4:24 and John 4:44.) And He had people coming to Him. (See Mark 1:38-45.) What can we do in our local towns? 1. Behave in an upright, testimonial way. Our example speaks far louder than

8 Note: Since I wrote this, this elderly man has died. I pray that he was ready to go. His wife is still living.

9 This woman has died since I wrote this too. How fleeting life is! I feel regret now that she is gone. I did not witness enough to her. I did not show her that I cared.

10 Compare this bread to Deuteronomy 8:3. Also, Yahshua is the Living Bread (John 6:30-35), and He is the Word (John 1:1-3). Bread can be comparable to the Word of Yahweh.

11 In prophetic language, a sea refers to people. Casting our bread on the waters, is casting it to the people.

our words. There is a quote: Your walk talks and your talk talks, but your walk talks louder than your talk talks.¹² 2. Have compassion on people. (Jude 1:21-22) Yahshua did (Mark 6:34), and does now. (1 Timothy 2:3-6) But what must we do for men to be saved? 3. Pray for them. (1 Timothy 2:1) 4. Live quiet, peaceable, righteous, and honest. (1 Timothy 2:2) There is somebody following you. You are looked up to by someone, whether you know it or not. There is someone who bases what they do on what you do. Read 1 Corinthians 8. One thing to remember is 5. Have caution and upright discernment. Alright, for more things you can do, 6. Distribute tracts (in doctor's office; on bulletin boards; in restrooms, etc.). 7. Develop a heart that cares about people, that sees that people are sad, that longs to reach out. 8. If you can get up the courage, talk to people, or hand them a tract. Say something like, "May I share some glad news with you?", or whatever Yahweh leads you to say. I did this recently to a young woman at a convenience store. She said, "Oh, thank-you," and took it. She seemed really glad to take it. I am praying for her (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and have named her Mercy. I don't name most of the people that I give tracts to, but she really made an impression on me, and I named her.

E. Expanding Even Further

1. In Writing

Paul was a wonderful missionary, and look at how he often communicated — by letter. Notice how he opens his letters up: "Mercy unto you, and peace from Yahweh our Father, and the Master Yahshua HaMoshiach."¹³ Notice how he ends his letters: "The mercy of our Master Yahshua HaMoshiach be with you all."¹⁴ Notice the content of his letters, all throughout¹⁵ Does he write about what temperature it's been, what deal he got on a pair of pants, or the ducks he saw on the pond? No. While it is not wrong to write of these things, there are more important things to write about too, such as Scripture, prayer, convictions, virtues, etc. Peter, James, John, and Jude were

12 Author Unknown

13 See Gal. 1:3, 2 Thess. 1:2, 2 Tim. 1:2, etc.

14 See Gal. 6:18, Ephes. 6:24, Phil. 4:23, etc.

15 See Rom., Ephes., Tit., etc.

letter writers too.¹⁶ And look at the Scriptures we have, all of the Scripture. Why do we have It? Because somebody, or many somebodies rather, obeyed Yahweh's prompting to write. And speaking of Paul's letters, what about our letters? Paul said, "Be ye followers of me." (1 Corinthians 4:16) Why? "...even as I also am of HaMoshiach." (1 Corinthians 11:1) So that is why. We are to imitate Paul, because he imitated Yahshua. What was Yahshua's goal? See John 4:34 for the answer. And what did He command us? See John 4:35-36 for the answer. So Paul took these duties serious; and in his writing, as well as his lifestyle and speech, he allowed Yahshua to shine brilliantly through him. But what about our letters? What else did Yahshua say? See John 4:37-38 for the answer. Paul labored. By continuing to do as he did, we are entering into his labors, and thus into the work of Yahshua. Whether writing to fellow believers or to lost sinners, our letters should center around the One whom our lives are to be centered around. (See 1 Corinthians 10:31.)

There are other thing to write besides letters:

1. Books 2. Newsletters - Our family puts out newsletters, and we also are blessed by receiving newsletters that others put out. Also, it is great to put books, newsletters, etc. on the web, that way people from all over the world can receive the message by just going to a web site. 3. Tracts

2. In Traveling

Notice what SamuEl, the prophet, did when he traveled about Ephraim. He served his fellow man by passing fair judgments for the well-being of YisraEl. (See 1 SamuEl 7:15-17.) I always like going on trips, because it gives me great opportunities to distribute tracts, both unnoticeably and also personally. Why did Shaul travel? That he might be a light to others.¹⁷ And what about our own dear Savior? He "went about doing well, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil: for Yahweh was with Him." (See Acts 10:38.) Why can't we be more like Him, having mercy on the sad throngs about us (Luke 6:36), and helping them to decide for Moshiach? (See Joel 3:14.) We CAN be more like Him. Do our travels esteem Yahweh? (See 1 Corinthians 10:31.)

F. Doing Nice Things

Do we want to come across to people as stern, tough religious teachers, trying to push our beliefs down their throats? No, of course not. As my father says, everybody is religious.

16 See 2 Pet.; Js.; 3 Jn.; Jude; etc.

17 See Acts 9:20; Acts 13; Acts 14:1-10, etc.

Everyone believes in something or someone, even if it is themselves that they believe in, and we need to show respect for them. We can't just put them down and act like we are better than them. We aren't better than them. We are simply saved by Yahshua's mercy. It is not because we were righteous that He called us, but because He had mercy on us. And likewise, we need to have mercy on those around us. What is one way we can reach people? By being kind to them, and helping them. In other words, just being nice to them. (See Matthew 7:12.) But it goes deeper than this. (See 2 Peter 1:5-7.) So besides being kind to others, we are to love them. (See Matthew 22:39 and Luke 6:35.) So we are to do well to others, and these kind deeds should spring from a heart of love.

Yahshua did well. One way He drew folks to Himself was by doing kind deeds.¹⁸ Look at Elisha. He certainly took joy in doing well to others. (See 2 Kings 4.) How about the apostle Shaul? (See Acts 14:8-10 and 16:16-18.) So what can we learn from this? Yahshua, Elisha, and Shaul obviously took joy in being kind to others. Shouldn't we also? (Philippians 4:9)

1. In Our Homes

Ideas: 1. Clean out dad's/husband's paint brushes for him (or something else kind, if he isn't a painter. :-) 2. Give Mom a break. Make supper. 3. Grab a rake and help brother with the leaves. 4. Take the time to read the little ones a story, or to help your daughter/sister crochet something. 5. Play a game with the children, even if you'd rather do something else. 6. Write love/encouragement/thank-you/etc. letters/notes to family members. 7. Just say, "Thank-you so much", or "I love you", or "It's great having you as my brother (or whatever word applies)."

2. In Our Communities

Ideas: 1. Make scrapbooks for the elderly or bedridden. 2. Give baked yummies to folks. 3. Take a little bit of time to talk to someone lonely. 4. Take flowers to people. 5. Help someone carry in their groceries. 6. Offer to shovel someone's snow or rake their leaves. (Grant it, I don't do all of these things at this point, but these are ideas for all of us to try doing.)

3. In Our Local Towns

Ideas: 1. Hold the door of K-mart, Post Office, etc. for someone. 2. Smile at folks. 3. Help someone carry their purchase to their car if they're having trouble. 4. If an elderly person is having a hard time walking on the ice, give them a hand.

¹⁸ See Mt. 14:14-21; 20:29-34; Acts 10:38.

4. A Confession

There is so much more that I can do. Just writing this, I see that I have many things to put to practice in my own life.

“Even so hath Yahweh ordained that they which preach the glad news should live of the glad news.” (1 Corinthians 9:14)

G. Examining Love

1. It is a thing of the heart. (Deuteronomy 6:5)
2. It is to be manifested in our actions. (Mark 12:30) What is our strength, or might, but works of love, that is, doing kind things and keeping Yahweh’s Law, out of love for Him and our fellow man? (John 14:15; 1 John 2:5) Do we do nice things for ourselves? Then shouldn’t we also for our family members, neighbors, etc.? (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 19:19; 1 Cor. 16:14) 3. Yahweh loves us. (John 3:14-17) 4. We must first love Yahweh (Deut. 6:5) and also our fellow man (Lev. 19:18; 1 Jn. 4:19-21; Mk. 12:30-31) Love your neighbor as yourself; love Yahweh more than yourself. 5. We must love not only our friends, but also our enemies. (Matthew 5:43-48)¹⁹ A fellow brother in Messiah said something to the effect that we need to love our enemies, and to view everyone as a potential brother in the family of Yahweh.

1. Do we have love in our hearts?

- For Yahweh? (Deuteronomy 6:5)
- For Yahweh’s Word? (Psalm 119:9-24)
- For Yahweh’s people? (John 15:12)
- For enemies? (Luke 6:35)

Do you feel sorry for your enemies? for the wicked? Do you want them to be saved? Would you help rescue them from a fire? Do you pray for them?

2. Do we manifest our love in our actions? (1 Jn. 3:18-19)

- Do we put ourselves first or last? (Romans 12:10) True joy comes when we put Yahshua first, others second, and ourselves last?
- Do we obey Matthew 7:12? (Look it up.)
- Do we fix our wrongs? (See Exodus 21:33-34 for an example.)
- Are our actions truly ones of love, or of grudging? (See 2 Corinthians 9:7 and 1 Peter 4:9.)

¹⁹ The Strongest Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance Greek word #25 - “the active love His people are to have for [Yahweh], each other, and even enemies”

3. Yahweh loves us.

So do we just say, "So Yahweh loves us. Huh, that's nice.", and go on living as before? We're in a dangerous place if we do. Yahshua loves as Yahweh does; we are to love as Yahshua loves. (See John 15:9-14.)

4. Do we love Yahweh first?

Is He our highest Love? Do we love Yahweh most of all? He requires so little of us. (See Deuteronomy 10:12-13. He is faithful, honest, and merciful to those who will just love and obey Him. (Deuteronomy 7:9)

5. Do we love our enemies?

You may want to take the time to completely honestly write down your feelings towards your enemies, and ways you can improve too. But wait a minute! Be sure not to stop there. Pray for help in doing better (1 Peter 5:7), and apply yourself to doing better (James 1:21-25). Concerning the worldly lifestyles of worldly enemies.... Are we proud about the way we are living versus the way they are living? (See 1 Peter 5:5-6) Where would we be if we did not have Messiah? If He had not reached down and picked us up, would not we be in the same lot as our enemies? He did not call us because we were righteous, but because He had mercy on us. (Ephesians 2:8-9) We were once not a people, but now are a people, that we may shew forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9-10), NOT that we may look down on those who have not yet been rescued from darkness, and say, "I'm better than them." Be careful. You may not be literally saying it, but is it your heart attitude? Remember, without Him we would be utterly lost. And yet, even though we have Him, yet how many areas we still have to improve in. We are in no place to esteem ourselves better than another. We have many areas to grow in. And we are growing.²⁰

H. More About My Personal Work

"My tongue is the pen of a ready writer." (Psalm 45:1b) I like this verse. For one thing, we are to be ready to speak of Yahweh, to have Him on our hearts (See Psalm 45:1a) But I like the part about "the pen of a ready writer".

There are many writers. Thousands of books on the market today. There are thousands of students, studying, learning. But does this bring peace? Without Yahweh, all the writing, books,

20 See 1 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Peter 3:18; Ephes. 2:18-22; etc.

studying, and learning in the world are vain. They are weariness and unrest. (See Ecclesiastes 12:12, Isaiah 57:20-21)

I love to write. But... "do all to the esteem of Yahweh." (1 Corinthians 10:31) We must remember this.

As far as literally taking up a pen, I make scrapbooks for folks, as I mentioned earlier. These scrapbooks contain Scriptures, dried flowers, quotes, magazine clippings, original art, etc. They are very enjoyable to make and give to people.

I. For Parents and Parents-To-Be

Home Mission²¹

I may not travel o'er the sea,
Or a foreign missionary be;
But I can rear a son for thee
Right here at home.

I may not stand in public hall,
And multitudes of souls enthrall;
But I can teach my daughter small
Right here at home.

I may no jungle pathway plod,
Nor save the derelict from the rod;
But I can point my own to [Yah],
Right here at home.^{22 23}

J. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 Commission

"Let everyone of you lay by him in store, as Yahweh hath prospered him." (1 Corinthians 16:2) It is profitable to remember that is passage is dealing with giving to the set-apart ones (1 Corinthians 16:1); however, we are also told in Proverbs 31, about the virtuous woman, that "She spreadeth out her hand to the poor, yea she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." (Proverbs 31:20) Are we doing this?

I, personally, have many things I don't need. But who can I give them to? My sister and I have thought how lovely it would be to live in a place where there were a whole bunch of poor people that we could give things to. But even though there are not a bunch of poor people around me, yet there are....

21 Deut. 6; 11:18-21

22 Psalm 101:2

23 Claire Lynn... from "Heart to Heart Poetry Album"

The greatest poverty is that of lacking Yahweh in your life. More than all the material wealth in the world, people need Yahweh.²⁴ Along with physical outreach, spiritual outreach ought to be given as well. Or perhaps it would be more fitting to say, along with spiritual outreach, physical outreach ought to be given as well. I do not mean picking up all the children and taking them to assembly. I am not really sure that this is the best way to do it. I am talking about reaching out in a loving personal way to people and families. And let us remember in it all, "Let all your things be done with love." (1 Corinthians 16:14)

K. Family First

Let all our things be done in love. Not just reaching out to the world, but most importantly reaching in to our families.

- HezekYah (Hezekiah) loved Yahweh with all his heart. (2 Chronicles 31:20-21) But he made some drastic mistakes, mistakes that we can learn from.
- HezekYah was very busy turning the nation of YisraEl back to Yahweh. (examples: 2 Chronicles 29:20, 33:1)
- In the course of time, HezekYah died, leaving behind a very young son. (See 2 Chronicles 32:33-33:1.)
- Manasseh (the son) became king. (2 Chronicles 33:1)
- Manasseh is horribly wicked. (2 Chronicles 33:1-7)

Why? Why is Manasseh so perverse? His father was truly upright. Why? Why this? The stinging truth is that this is because HezekYah did not put his family first above other people. He was so busy with YisraEl that he failed to properly instruct his own son in the ways of Yahweh. Look at what a short time he had to spend with his son! Why, when Manasseh became king, he was only twelve years old. And even in that short period, he did not have his father's proper instruction and involvement.

Alas, the sad results. And are not there many similar cases today? What can you do about it? One thing for sure, do not get so busy trying to change other families,... that you neglect your own. The greatest, most admirable thing you can do about it is to raise your family for Yahweh, living and speaking the truth before them daily.

L. Our Influence On Others

"Do not profane thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore, lest

24 See Proverbs 3:13-18, Luke 9:25, Mark 8:36-37.

the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness." (Levitcus 19:29) Who is watching us? Who might fall into sin because of our sin? (Romans 14:13) A sibling (younger or elder)? Perhaps even a parent? A son? A granddaughter? And who else? What drastic results will come about, and on how many people, if we feel to live right, or fail to raise our children right? We are being watched 1. by Yahweh (Proverbs 15:3) and 2. by men.

"You are writing a [message], A chapter each day,
By the things that you do and the words that you say;
Men read what you write, whether faithful or true —
Just what is the [Message] according to you?"²⁵

What message is your life putting out? How about mine?

M. Our Personal Walk

Are you living the Word? Many times we make mistakes. Many times we do not do all our things purely and in truth. Many times we do not set Yahweh apart before the people. (See Numbers 20:7-12.) BUT, we do not have to stay just where we are at right now. Yahweh looks at us and sees our hearts, full of love for Him and yearning to His will. He sees us striving to please Him, and he takes notice to all the times that we do His will, and all the times that we do obey Him. He rewards us by helping us to do better. But we must ask Him to help us; we can't just endeavor to do it all on our own. I read something to the effect that a sign of maturity is when you recognize your immaturity. The first step is recognizing our faults. From there we move on to improving.

Is our personal walk true and pure? Do we truly care how Yahweh feels about us? Are we setting Him apart before our families? Before our neighbors? Before the body of Messiah as a whole? Before our enemies? Before the world? When your little sister, or your young son, your enemy, or a brother in Messiah, or someone who just sees you in town, looks at you, are their eyes drawn to Yahweh?

"Set apart Yahweh of hosts Himself, and let Him be your fear, and Him your dread." YeshaYah (Isaiah) 8:13

Tribute To Linda Woods

Dear Linda, I want to write this in appreciation for you and all you did for Yahweh and for everyone while sojourning on this earth.

My Mother doesn't like to get on the phone and just talk a long time, generally. But I remember that one day either she called you or you called her, and you both talked a long time. Mom was very encouraged, and enjoyed it very much. Your conversation was edifying and inspiring. It was nice to be reminded that there are others out there who stand up for what is true.

I never did know you very well at all, but upon reading the most recent Herald of Truth which commemorates you, I found that you were a very very sweet and giving person, dedicated to Yahweh, your family, and the children of Yahweh as a whole. You lived a life of love, and everyone who knew you can testify to that.

I remember one year we kept Feast of Tabernacles in Washington State at Salmon Falls Bible Camp, and the last night we were there, you and Mom worked in the kitchen together a while and talked while you worked. You made us roast beef sandwiches for our trip home. I didn't like them, Linda, and I don't think I ate much of mine. If you could be here again and would make me a roast beef sandwich just now, I would eat it this time. But I do not wish you back. It was your time to go, and Yahweh took you in love.

I read all the wonderful things people wrote about you in Herald of Truth, and I was encouraged to be as selfless, humble, and giving as you were. In life and death you have esteemed Him who loves you so. I am sure that you could say, and perhaps even did, "For to me, to live is Messiah, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21)

We have been blessed through your life and death. When you were ill, Linda, I prayed that Yahweh might draw men to Him through your life and through your death. I am sure that that prayer was answered. And I know that He used you to draw some of His children closer to Him.

I will close this now. You were a faithful servant of Yahshua, and You shall rise to meet Him when He returns in His splendor.

Love in Messiah, *Rebekah*

Tribute to Matthew Nesser

Dear Matthew,

I just want to write this letter for all those who knew and appreciated you. You were a great inspiration to us, and we are grateful to Yahweh that He put you in our lives.

You truly had a heart for people. You could have lived in a fine house and had an easy life. You had the means to do that, but that was not your choice. Your life was dedicated to serving Yahweh and your fellow man, to doing the kind of service that most of us wouldn't want to do; living in a mobile home, traveling around to very poor, undesirable places to share the light. These places were desirable to you, for your heart cry was to lift others up to Yahweh.

When we heard that you were very ill, it disturbed my father greatly. I still remember how his letter to you began: *Peace be still!* Yahweh gave you rest. Yahweh caused you to be still, and because of the peace you had with Him, you are only sleeping, and will live again.

We heard that the doctors said that you had only two months to live. I felt resigned in my soul. It just seemed that Yahweh was ready for you, who had been so kind and encouraging, to be taken. But I did not want to be selfish and just not care. I knew that you had a burden to serve Yahweh, and I prayed that He might spare you to do His work if it was His will. I wrote a song for you. I wonder if you ever heard it, if you were able in your illness and pain to listen to the song on cassette that I sent you. It was called, *I'll See You In New Yerusalayim*.

One night I dreamed a dream. You were in the dream, and I asked you something about how you were feeling. Your reply to my question was, "Oh no, I feel fine." This was at the time that you were ill, yet in the dream, you responded energetically, healthily, freely, as though feeling fine was just the normal thing. You were well. You felt great. The next day we received an email saying that you had died. Oh Matthew, indeed, you were freed from all your pain!

When Messiah shall return, with the trump of the Arch-messenger, coming in His Father's esteem, you shall rise to meet Him, and live forever with Him. Of that I am sure. Your life was His, and that kind of a commitment lasts for eternity.

Love, *Rebekah*

The Children's Page

Hello, children. Greetings in Yahshua's Name. This issue of Road of the Pilgrims is a special Mission Edition. That means that it is all about being missionaries for Yahweh and letting Him shine through our lives. Did you know that you don't have to go to a faraway land to be a missionary? You can be a missionary right here, right now, by doing what Yahweh wants you to do, obeying Him sweetly, doing everything for Him, and letting Him shine through your life. Colossians 3:23-24 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for Yahweh, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from Yahweh as a reward. It is Yahshua Messiah you are serving." Everything you do should be for Yahshua, even making your bed or feeding the dog. Oh yes, you do these things to make your parents happy too, but also to please Yahshua Messiah. He has a purpose for you, and He will use you, even in the little everyday chores that you do. Smile. Carry His light everywhere. Let His light shine through you.



A Purpose

Hello, little friends. Let's start out by reading Jeremiah 1:4-10,17-19. Yahweh had a purpose for Jeremiah, a plan for him to carry out. Jeremiah's job was to *prophesy*, or to tell the people what Yahweh told him was going to happen. Yahweh spoke to Jeremiah and used him, even though Jeremiah said, "I am only a child."

You are a child, but that doesn't bother Yahweh. He still has a special plan for you. Yahweh and Yahshua love children. Read Mark 9:33-37 and 10:13-16. This talks about Yahshua's love for children, but John 10:30 says, "I and the Father are *One*." This means that Yahshua and the Father, Yahweh, are completely *like-minded*, or that they think and act the same. If Yahshua loves children, so does Yahweh.

Yahweh has a job for you. He will speak to you through the Scriptures, and in your heart, mind, and conscience. If you will let Him, He will use you for His purposes. Will you let Him?

If you have a hymn book, you can look up the song Give of Your Best To The Master and sing it. It is a nice song. If you are not sure how to look it up,

have someone older help you. If you do not have this song in your hymn book, maybe you can look up these songs instead: Make Me A Blessing, Take My Life and Let It Be, or I Love To Tell The Story.

Here is a fun activity for you to do. You will need scissors; a square of brown felt or paper, 4 inches tall and four inches wide (Get someone older to help you measure it and cut it.); a sheet of white paper, a pencil, a yellow marker or crayon, and some Elmer's glue. Glue the square onto your sheet of paper. Then draw a light bulb on top of the square. Get someone older to show you how to draw one if you are not sure how to do it. Then color your light bulb yellow with your yellow marker or crayon. You have made a lamp. Remember, we should let Yahweh shine through our lives like a bright lamp or light. When the glue has completely dried you can cut your lamp out if you want to. (Let it sit overnight to completely dry.) Make sure to put your name and the date you made it on the back.

Yahweh bless you, dear children, as you let Him use you for His purposes.

The Poem Page

The Real YOU

If someone should speak ill of you,
So live – that those who hear
Will not believe the untrue tales,
And you'll have nought to fear.
Your actions speak much louder
Than words could ever do.
So others will know by your fruit,
The real Y-O-U!

-Mable Jo Baker

*from Inspirational Treasures Vol. 1, pg. 258
compiled by Verna McCoy and Jean Raver*

Order From:

BIBLE ADVOCATE PRESS
P.O. Box 2370
Denver, Colorado 80201

You Tell On Yourself

You tell on yourself by the friends you seek,
By the very manner in which you speak,
By the way you employ your leisure time,
By the use you make of dollar and dime.

You tell what you are by the things you wear,
By the spirit in which your burdens bear,
By the kind of things at which you laugh,
By the records you play on your phonograph.

You tell what you are by the way you walk.
By the things of which you delight to talk.
By the manner in which you bear defeat.
By so simple a thing as how you eat.

By the books you choose from a well-filled shelf;
In these ways and more, you tell on yourself;
So, there's really no particle of sense,
In an effort to keep up a false pretense.

~Author Unknown

-reprinted from "Rebekah's Pitcher"

(What are our lives telling others? Are they telling them of Messiah? Or of someone else? Let us carefully consider this question. -Rebekah)

Rebekah's Pitcher is a lovely magazine upholding "The Values of Yesterday for Girls of Today". It is published quarterly by Miss Shylie Carrick (16 years old). Each issue of Rebekah's Pitcher has "Poetry Page", "From the Farm", "Shylie's Share" (a letter from the editress), recipes, stories, etc. A year's subscription (4 issues) is \$5 (USA), \$6 (Canada), and \$8 (all other countries). A sample issue costs \$1. Subscribe now. It's worth it. :-)
Rebekah's Pitcher
584 Blevins Store Road
Mount Airy, NC 27030

Fulfilling My Task

Yahweh, You tell me to stay,
And that I will.

Yahweh, You tell me to stay,
So I will stay, still.

I don't have to go to countries far away
To show lost mankind Your blessed wondrous Way.
You stayed, my Master Yahshua, most of the time,
In Your homeland around Yahrushalayim.

There's much for me to do here,
And so I'll stay,
Unless You say, "Now go there,"
Then I'll go that way.

Yahweh, You tell me to go,
That I will do.

Yahweh, You tell me to go,
So I'll go for you.

Though I may miss my family, and friends so dear,
I'll go, whether my spot's far away or near.
You walked to Samaria, and helped them there,
And so I want to serve you – Send me somewhere.

There is much for me to do
Where You want me,
And so I will go for You,
Please, Yahshua, use me.

Yahweh, whatever You say,
That I will do,
Whether it's to go or stay,
I'll do it for you.

I may go to countries and peoples afar,
I might just go a little ways in the car,
Or I may speak to someone right in my home,
And help to point them towards the True Cornerstone.
Whate'er I do, shine through me,
This thing I ask,
When I do, and when I speak,
Fulfilling my task.

Housewives[®]

& Mothers[®]

Page

I know, I wasn't going to have a Housewives'/Mothers' Page in this issue, but I found a wonderful little story in Inspirational Treasures Volume 1 that I thought you mothers (and all readers) might enjoy.

My Recipe

When my daughter Ruth was just a tiny girl she taught me one of the most important lessons of my life, and used a recipe I had written, in doing so. This is how it happened.

One day as I was busy with one of the endless chores of housekeeping – washing dishes – I was also listening to a “Homemaker’s Hour” on the radio. The announcer started to read a recipe which I thought was worthwhile, so I hurriedly wiped my hands dry and reached for a pencil and paper. Needless to say, I paid scant attention to my penmanship, but scribbled the recipe. I placed it on my desk, thinking that I would type a more legible copy later on for my recipe file – then went back to my work.

Later that day my young daughter, who could neither read nor write yet, handed me a sheet of paper and asked me to read it. I took one look at her childish scrawls (I thought) and told her that I couldn’t read it – and asked her what it said. She looked straight at me and said, “Well, you ought to know; for I copied it from your recipe!” At first I could hardly believe my eyes, but upon comparing the two I was amazed to see how

accurately she had copied the grotesque letters and figures I had hastily written.

My heart sank within me as I thought how Ruth was following my recipe every day, not only this poorly-written one, but the recipes that I was *living* before her each day. And I humbly asked [Yahweh] to forgive me for my carelessness, and help me to set a better example for her to follow.

The [Scripture] says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6); and what better way can you train them than by setting a [righteous] example for them to follow? What kind of recipe are you writing each day for some little child or young [believer] to copy?

– RACHEL HAGER, SELECTED

This was taken from Inspirational Treasures Volume 1, page 165, compiled by Verna McCoy and Jean Raver. This book can be ordered from:

BIBLE ADVOCATE PRESS
P. O. Box 2370
Denver, Colorado 80201

And now here are two wonderful quotes for all women, young and old, to ponder. They are taken from True Womanhood, an absolutely wonderful book which you can order from

PEARABLES
P.O. Box 9887
Colorado Springs, CO 80932

for \$18.95 (plus \$9.95 for the companion workbook which really tops it off). I read this book (with its companion workbook) when I was either thirteen years old, or just turned 14 years old (I'm not sure exactly how old I was), and found it to be a wonderful encouragement and inspiration.

"Oh! Aim, then, at possessing first of all this unearthly [splendor] which, though 'all within', sheds a luster on the bodily frame that ravishes the beholder towards our [Master] and Savior!"

"Be ambitious to place that light, the light of that spiritual love you know of, within your daughter's soul. Fear not but when lighted up with it, face and figure will [draw] towards [Messiah] all who look upon them."

True Womanhood, page 160

Attention, young ladies. For those of you who saw the ad for Joyful Motherhood in the last issue of ROTP, you probably noticed that I forgot to give an address where you can order this lovely magazine. Please forgive me.

At present, Christina is working on getting Joyful Motherhood up on the web. I'm not sure what the situation is going to be with sending it out snail mail or that type of thing. You may contact her, though, at the below address, and ask her about that.

Joyful Motherhood
1311 Lakeshore Blvd
Oak Point, TX 75068

Also, I found out that gift subscriptions (if she is still going to be putting it out snail mail) are not free. I think they're a couple dollars. Again, I encourage you to look into this magazine. It's well worth it. :-)

Also, see "The Poem Page" for an advertisement for "Rebekah's Pitcher" magazine. This is a great magazine as well.

Menfolk's Page

Young men, this page is not just for fathers, but also for you. That is why I changed the title from "The Fathers' Page" to "Menfolk's Page". The following article is entitled "A Father's Role", but it applies to you so much. If you are one day husbands and fathers (Yahweh willing), it is best that you learn now how to carry out that role as a husband and father. I hope you all, fathers and sons, and grandfathers too, enjoy the following article. It is taken from "Inspirational Treasures", Volume 1, which was compiled by Verna McCoy and Jean Raver. It is truly an inspirational book for the family. It can be ordered from:

BIBLE ADVOCATE PRESS

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In Messiah, the editress

P.S. I know I said in the last issue of "Road of the Pilgrims" that I wasn't going to have a "Menfolk's Page" in the Special Mission Edition. But why not? A father who raises his family for Yahweh is one of the greatest missionaries in the world. Thank-you, Dad, for being one of those missionaries.

The Father's Role

"For I know him that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of [Yahweh], to do justice and judgment..." (Genesis 18:19)

This noteworthy commendation was made of Abraham and his ability to fulfill the father's role.

Since Abraham "...is the father of us all" it would be wise for all fathers to learn from his example.

To command a household or children demands daily diligence; or as specified in Deuteronomy 6:7, "...talk of them (commandments and instructions) when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

This doesn't mean constant preaching, nagging, and "Don't do that!" but consistent daily examples of what is right.

There definitely are times for verbal teaching. It is often the father who can and should assume responsibility for this assignment. While it is true that in most cases mothers spend more time with the children than does their father, the father's role and responsibility should not be minimized. Children should hear directly from their father many of the instructions their mother will enforce and implement from day to day.

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father..." (Proverbs 4:1)

It behooves each father to give [righteous] instructions. He should warn of the snares along the broad way and give instructions how to follow the narrow way.

A wise father will admonish his children to get wisdom and with it, to get understanding.

A father concerned about the spiritual welfare of his children will show them the joys of serving [Messiah] by the daily (as well as Sabbath) example of happy [righteous] living. If children are taught to love [Yahweh] and to keep His commandments because they love Him, then we need not worry about their future, for their hope too will be set in [Yahweh].

Words often carry for meaning if supplemented with action. "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Proverbs 19:18), "...for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die" (Proverbs 23:13).

This doesn't justify a father or mother giving vent to anger and frustration by unfair and cruel correction of their children.

Firm and just discipline will result in a more peaceful home for everyone.

Whining, fussing, and fighting jangle the nerves and tire one out but "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul" (Proverbs 29:17).

Children will give reverence and respect to a father that corrects (Hebrews 12:9).

Mother should not greet Daddy with a paddle and a list of the offenders and offenses as soon as he come home, but neither should the father's role be one of just a doting daddy giving piggy-back rides.

Children are admonished to obey their parents, but with this admonition fathers are exhorted, "...provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the [Master] (Ephesians 6:4).

All fathers that would command their children must declare and do, "...but as for me and my house, we will serve [Yahweh] (Joshua 24:15).

-VERNA MCCOY

(Note from the editress: As far as the command in Deuteronomy to speak of the Law as we are sitting in our house, walking by the way, lying down, and rising up, Verna is right. Yahweh does not desire fathers to constantly be condemning their children. I do think, though, that we all need to learn to speak of Yahweh in our daily conversation, and to find it a delight to discuss and point out His wonderful ways, laws, and love. This is a challenge for everyone, not just fathers. Yahweh bless you all as you pursue His way.)

“IN THE HEBREW TONGUE”

בָּשָׂר BA-SAR' = TO ANNOUNCE
(GLAD NEWS) See Isaiah 52:7.

"Let your Light So Shine"

HE Is The Picture

By Rebekah Josepha Coover, age 15, 04/2004

It is easy as we go about this life to give ourselves credit for the things we do. However, if we will look at the Scripture, we can see that this is wrong. "Let nothing be done through strife or vain esteem; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Philippians 2:3) "Let us not be desirous of vain esteem, provoking one another, envying one another." (Galatians 5:26) "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the esteem of Yahweh." (1 Corinthians 10:31) "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many messengers round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and esteem, and blessing.' And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, 'Blessings, and honor, and esteem, and power unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.' And the four beasts said, 'So be it.' And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshiped Him that liveth for ever and ever." (Revelation 4:11-14)

Here we see that Messiah, NOT man, is worshiped and esteemed. Doing things for the esteem of man leads us astray, for men will want us to do things that are not right. However, if we are doing things to bring Yahweh esteem, rather than ourselves, we will walk in the narrow way. This is because doing things that please carnal men does not bring esteem to Yahweh, and we know this. Yahshua says in Matthew 5:16, "Let your Light (Yahshua) so shine before men that they may see your upright works and esteem your Father which is in Heaven." We see here that Yahshua is shining through us, and Yahweh is getting the esteem.

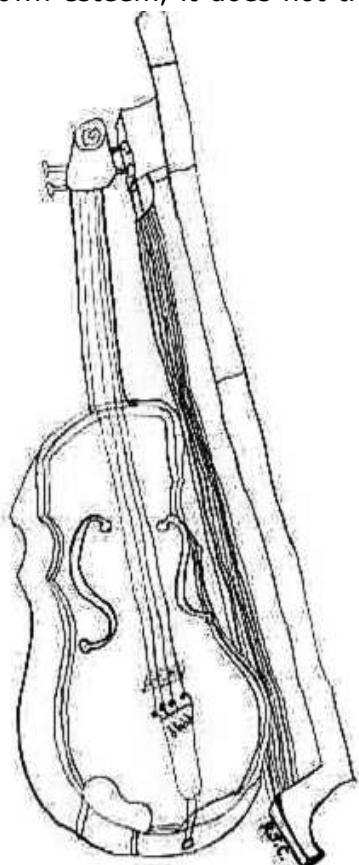
The point of this writing is to say that we are not live for our

esteem, but rather, for Yahweh's esteem. HE is the picture that everyone is the see. HE is to stand out, not us. We are only the picture frame. We must allow Yahshua to shine clearly through us.

When men behold a lovely picture in a frame, is their first thought, "Oh, what a beautiful frame"? No, of course not. They say, "Oh, what a beautiful picture." Unless of course the glass over the picture is dirty, smeared and ugly, hindering their viewing of the picture. Do you know what? Even this does not bring the picture frame the esteem. If the glass is dirty, people simply think, "Well you can't see that picture very well. Someone ought to clean the glass off." When we do not allow Messiah to shine clearly through us, but rather live for our own esteem, it does not truly bring us esteem. It may bring a

temporal esteem, but not one that will last. And what it will really bring is dishonor to Messiah. People will say, "That person is a child of Yahweh? Why they're just as dirty as the rest of us. Actually, they're dirtier. We don't try to pretend we're something we're not." Be not deceived. The world can see when the glass on the picture frame is dirty.

Is your glass dirty? Won't you just come before Yahweh in sincere repentance and let Him wipe it clean? Won't you allow Him to shine through you? Won't you be content to be the picture frame, humbly holding Him up for all to see?



Missionary Course for youth (and for the whole family)

written by Rebekah in 02/2002
revised some in 04/2004

**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye
steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding
in the work of Yahweh, for as much as ye
know that your labor is not in vain in
Yahweh.** 1 Corinthians 15:58

Part One

Lesson 1 - Making Sure Your Own Life Is In Order

So you want to be a missionary. You want to help others to victory in Messiah. Everyday people are watching you: family, friends, enemies, neighbors, and people in general. You may not have thought of this, but the way you live speaks loud and clear. Your daily actions greatly effect your impact on others. If you want to help others to know Messiah, you must be sure your own life is in order.

A. Your Walk With Yahweh

1. Prayer

How often do you talk to Yahweh? In our busy lives, it is so easy to forget to talk to Him. Or to just not take the time. Yet He is always there, and is waiting for us to talk. Read the following verses on prayer. It might seem like there are a lot of them, but please take the time to read them. We must seek Yahweh's Word in these areas of our lives.

- a. 2 Chronicles 7:13-15
- b. Psalm 27:7-8; 145:18

- c. Ecclesiastes 5:2
- d. Isaiah 55:6-7
- e. Matthew 6:5-13
- f. Mark 9:17-18,28-29
- g. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- h. James 5:16

2. Scripture Reading

Do you hunger and thirst after Yahweh's Word? Many of us children of Yahweh often slip in that area. Read of and obeying the Word daily is a vital part of the believer's life. Notice in the following Scriptures how several "Scripture people" felt about Yahweh's Word.

- a. Psalm 42:1
- b. Acts 17:11
- c. 1 Kings 3:3-9 Solomon desired wisdom. Where do get wisdom?

3. Being Filled With the Set Apart Spirit

In order to live upright before Yahweh, we must have the Set Apart Spirit dwelling richly in our lives. We must be careful not to grieve this blessed Spirit, the very Spirit of Yahweh, lest with It's blessings, It should depart from our hearts. (Ephesians 4:30; Wisdom of Solomon 1:3-6) The Set Apart Spirit is a gift from Yahweh, one that is to be greatly treasured. (Proverbs 4:5-13; 8:11; John 14:26; 15:26-27)

B. Your Walk With Your Family

Too often, we forget the most important people in our lives — our family members. We "put them on the back burner", treating Mrs. Smith better than Mom, neighbor Jacob better than Grampa, Lynn better Sister, etc.

Yahweh has given us families for a purpose, for many purposes in fact.

1. Genesis 1:27-28 (a family unit of replenishing and subduing)
2. Proverbs 17:17 (Family members are to hold each other up in peace and in adversity.)

We are to love each other (John 15:17), help each other, and learn and grow together.

Well, my friends, you see, there is more to "missionizing" than handing out copies of the Scriptures in Africa. It starts in the heart. And in the home.

Lesson 3 - Being A Missionary To Your Own Family

Are you being a light to your family? That is one of the first things you should be doing. See 1 Timothy 3:1-5. Likewise, how can we be a true light to the world, and bear its many offenses patiently, if we can't even do these things with our own families?

Turn to Proverbs 31. Read verses 10-31. Notice how the "virtuous woman" serves her family. Also see 1 Timothy 5:8. Serving your family is an important job.

Sometimes parents are very busy. Although they would like to read the Scriptures more, it seems they don't find the time. You could help your parents out by reading a Scripture passage to the family at suppertime.

My friends, do not save your missionary work for the outside world — start with your family. Remember, your family is the most important group of people in your life.

- a. Give them true love. See 1 John 3:18.
- b. Speak kindly, honestly, and encouragingly. See Proverbs 31:26.
- c. Humbly help with the household chores. See Matthew 5:5,7 and 1 Peter 5:5-6.
- d. Be willing to forgive. See Matthew 18:21-35.
- e. Set an upright example. See 1 TimoYah (Tim.) 4:12 "an example... in
 - word...
 - conversation...
 - love...
 - spirit...
 - faith...
 - Purity"
- f. Be diligent. See 1 TimoYah 4:13-16

"Diligence - Seeing each task as a special assignment from the [Master] and using all my energies to accomplish it."

-Unknown

Read Colossians 3:23-24.

Lesson 3 - Mission Fields In Your Own Country

My friends, do not think that you have to go to Africa, Mexico, etc. in order to be a missionary. Remember, it starts in the home... and also in your home land.

What about your community? What do your neighbors see you as everyday?

My sister and I like to visit elderly people and take them a pie or something. Doing nice things for people and brightening their day can be a great way to let Messiah shine through you. Yahshua went about doing kind things for people (Acts 10:38). Yahweh is very loving and does so much for mankind (Matthew 5:45). And there is so much you can do too! Visiting people and taking them something nice is one thing you can do. While you are there, you can touch on the subject of Yahweh too. Comment about Yahweh, what you have been reading in the Scriptures, etc. Be careful to not push yourself on people, but try sharing the things of Yahweh with them in a casual, relaxed, every day manner. And be always open to new ways you can share Yahweh's Light with those around you. Pray, and seek Yahweh's direction and help.

Your community is a mission field at your finger tips. Yahshua said to go to all nations. This includes your nation and your community.

There are other mission fields for you too. Read Romans 1:16. When you go away, hand some tracts to the people you meet.²⁶ Make sure to do it with a friendly smile and a gentle voice. We all need to work on being as Shaul says he is in Romans 1:16.

I like bulletin boards. They are everywhere: at public sales, in the post office, in grocery stores, etc. They are such a wonderful place to put tracts. And it is always exciting to see an empty spot where the tract was, and to be able to put up another one.

Read James 5:19-20. See the rewards of spreading the glad news? Also see 2 Thessalonians 3:1. Our desire should be to spread the Word to as many as possible, "that the Word of Yahshua may have free course.".

Read Jeremiah 1:4-10 and 1 Kings 22:14. Yahweh's Word should be in our mouths. We should witness about Him. Going

²⁶ You can print out tracts from www.JoyInTheWorld.info/tracts for free.

on a trip across the country, etc. would be a wonderful opportunity for missionary work. Let Yahweh lead you to speak to people, and to hand out tracts.

You see, my friends, there is so much that you can do in your own homeland. Read John 4:34-37. This should be our heart attitude.

We must remember though, brethren and sisters, we will not always be accepted. We will be refused many times. Mankind refuses Yahshua, and likewise will they refuse us. See Luke 4:24 and John 15:16-27. However, we must not give up. Do remember though, you don't want to push the truth on anybody. You want to present it with love. Don't be a whining witness of Messiah. Present the truth lovingly, gently, and patiently. Be careful that you do not turn people off by being too pushy. But do not be discouraged either. (Galatians 6:9) We must keep up the righteous work. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:13, Hebrews 12:1-3, and Matthew 28:18-20.

Lesson 4 - Foreign Missions

Friends, I know not much about foreign missions. Thus far, I have been a missionary in my own homeland. However, there is a place for foreign missions too.

Remember how our families are the most important? My friends, if you someday marry, do NOT neglect your family in order that you might bear fruit in Africa. There is nothing wrong with being in Africa, but you MUST NOT let Africa take first precedence. You must not even let you HOMELAND take first precedence. YOUR FAMILY IS YOUR FIRST MISSION FIELD.

There is a possibility that you will never marry. Some have lived a single life, and had powerful influence on others. That is the kind of life Shaul lived. On the other hand, Priscilla and Aquilla did work for Yahweh, being married (Romans 16:3-4). It all depends on what way Yahweh calls you.

Concerning foreign missions, Shaul did much of that. However, there are adversaries in that field too. (See 1 Corinthians 16:9.) Wherever Yahweh leads us, there will be opposition.

Read the following verses on spreading the Word.

- A. 1 Chronicles 16:23-24
- B. Jonah 3
- C. Revelation 14:6-7

My friends, wherever Yahweh calls you, go there. Don't base what you do on somebody else's calling. Yahweh has a special work for you, one that only you can do.

Part Two

Lesson One - Escribo

Escribo. What does that mean? It is pronounced es-kdee'-vo, and is a Spanish word meaning, "I write" or, "I am writing". That's what we're going to talk about — writing.

We see much of Shaul's ministry as writing letters. Let us take a look at his letters.

Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; etc. Notice how Shaul begins his letters. He desires that his fellow man have favor and mercy and peace in His life. These are very important in the lives of Yahweh's children. Through Yahweh's marvelous mercy we keep the Law with joy, and we are at peace with Him.

Now notice how Shaul ends his letters. Romans 16:27; 1 Corinthians 16:23-24; Ephesians 6:24; 1 Thessalonians 5:28; etc.

Now I would like you to take one of his short letters and read it. How about his letter to Titus. Read through it carefully. Notice how spiritually minded his letters were, and how they revolved around Yahweh. Notice how he ministered to others and reminded them of spiritual doctrines through his letters. Let us use our writing to esteem Yahweh.

Lesson Two - More Escribe

Besides writing letters, what else can you write? Stories. Stories can have a powerful impact on people. I am one who likes to read. Stories can move me to bitter tears, or they can lift my ideals up high. And poems. Poems can touch people's deep emotions and call out the best and the noblest in them. They can appeal to the desire for love and beauty, or to the longing for peace. Yes, stories and poems can say a lot, and work with people's hearts.

Read Ecclesiastes 12:12. Many people waste their time and energy writing ugly, harmful books. Don't be among those people. Many people waste their time and energy reading or studying ugly, harmful books. Don't be among them either.

Now take a look at Psalm 45:1. Yahweh can work very effectively through us when we pick up a pen for His esteem. Writing can be very profitable. Writing positive things strengthens you as well as your readers.

My friends, essays can be very good too. There are many different types of things to write; whatever Yahweh leads you to do, do it.

Another idea of something to write is a tract. Pray about it. Ask Yahweh to show you what to write. Provide Scriptural backing for whatever you write. Tracts can be a very effective way of reaching people who would not pick up a Scripture-related book and read it.

I have a word of caution for you. Be careful to use wisdom in writing, and to know enough about your topic that you will be able to convince/touch/inspire people. The following kind of paragraph will not convince anybody.

Killing is wrong. There is a quote, well, a Scripture verse, that says something about not killing. Self defense is one thing; then there is also protecting others. The Scripture says something about laying down your life for your friends. Wait a second, I think this was talking about Yahshua. I'm not exactly positive; you'd have to look it up to be sure. But anyway, it's O-K to protect someone else, but that is not the main point. My main point is that unless it is absolutely necessary, we should not kill.

That kind of paragraph will leave readers scratching their heads and looking for something sound to read. Keep in mind as you write that you want to build others up, not tear them

down. Do not let this warning discourage you from writing. You CAN write. But be careful to write in an edifying way. Study your topic. If you're not sure how to express something, pray about it, and put some thought into it. In short, do your very best, and do it unto Yahweh. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Regardless of what thing(s) you choose to write, what is most important is that you choose what Yahweh wants you to. Don't write stories just because your brother does. Don't envy Grandmother's poetic ability. You write whatever Yahweh wants you to write.

The prophets wrote about what Yahweh told them, and how important are their writings! Read Jeremiah 36. Here we see writing of a book for the profit of the people (vs. 3) and making the book public for the same purpose (vs. 7). And you see, my friends, though the king was stubborn, some people's hearts were more willing to heed the message, and Jeremiah and Baruch did NOT give up. You be the same way. Don't give up. Heed the voice of Yahweh, and be courageous. Yahweh says to you, **Only be thou strong and courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the Torah, which Moshe (Moses) My servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the Torah shall not depart out of they mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong, and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for Yahweh thy Elohim is with thee whithersoever thou goest.** Yahoshua (Joshua) 1:7-9 **And Yahshua came and spake unto them, saying, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Set-Apart Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded thee, and lo, I am with thee always, even unto the end of the world. So be it."** MattithYah (Matthew) 28:19-20

Lesson Three - Lifestyle

Are our lives pictures and examples of Yahshua? When others view our lives, do they see Yahweh? Are our lives reflecting Yahshua?

Read Titus 2:1-10. Also see 1 Timothy 4:12-16.

There is a little poem that reads as follows:

You are writing a [book],
A chapter each day,
By the deeds that you do
And the words that you say.
Men read what you write,
Whether faithful or true:
Just what [does the book say
That's written by you]?

-Author Unknown (altered a little bit by me)

You see, my friends, our lives say a lot. "A glad countenance does more than a lot of words."²⁷ And in the same way, a righteous life and influence does more than a lot of words.

Read the following verses, and notice the lifestyles of the people that are written about:

Psalm 141:3-4

James 2:23

2 Thess. 3:6-13

Read Matthew 25:31-46. Yahweh is judging us by our lives. Live for His now. Minister to others through your life.

27 Dora Esh, in "The Making of a Princess" cassette series These are excellent cassettes for young ladies, and can be ordered (as can many other wonderful cassettes on family and righteous day-to-day living and virtues), free of charge, from: Charity Gospel Tape Ministry, 400 W. Main St. Ste. 1, Ephrata, Pa 17522 (800) 227-7902 * (717) 721-7775 www.charityministries.org Look up the web site soon, or write for a free catalog. You will be blessed.

Lesson Four - Music

How can we minister to others through music? Oh my friends, we can do a tremendous amount through music! Yahweh can use you to inspire others and minister to them through music.

The psalmist David loved music. Read Psalm 149-150. Do you see David's attitude? He LOVED to praise Yahweh with music. And couldn't that inspire others as well? Also read Ephesians 5:15-21 and Colossians 3:16 and Psalm 22:22-26. See how we can minister to others through music?

Through music we can bring hope to those who are spiritually ill, and we can encourage fellow believers too. If we will be true missionaries, we will minister to more than sinners — we will minister to the righteous too. See Galatians 6:10.

My friends, there is a song in Exodus 15:1-21. Read it. It was a song of joy, a song of lifted hearts, and a song that would lift doubting hearts.

Let us sing to Yahweh! Let us praise His Name! Psalm 92

Lesson Five - Personal Testimony

One thing that would greatly encourage others would be your personal testimony of your salvation. Not everyone would want to hear it, but some would. I am not advocating going into details about a life in sin, but I am encouraging you to tell others what Yahshua has done for you. Tell them of the wonderful peace and joy He has given you.

When David plotted out a way to get Bathsheba, and succeeded, Yahweh showed him his sin. (2 Samuel 12:1-15) In repentance, David cried to Yahweh for forgiveness. (Psalm 51) Notice that he tells Yahweh that if He will forgive him, he (David) will teach others the way (verse 13), and he will praise Yahweh is song too (verse 15). We should be full of Yahweh's joy (Nehemiah 8:10), and always ready to give an answer to any man that asks a reason of the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15).

Let us be full of joy, full of peace, full of righteous fruit, that sinners may "be converted unto Yahweh". (Psalm 51:13)

Part Three

Lesson 1 - Tact

A very important thing for a missionary to remember is to use tact. Approaching someone tactlessly and with no consideration or respect for them will most likely not bring about positive results.

As missionaries in the home, community, foreign lands, or local areas, we must remember to speak the words of Yahweh. (See Isaiah 51:16, 1 Kings 22:14.) How can we do this? We most certainly need Yahweh's help. (Psalm 141:1-3, 19:14) And so we must seek it. (Matthew 7:7-11)

Besides praying for Yahweh's help, we need to read His Word. His Word is pure, and if we want to have pure, true, and tactful words, we must meditate on the Word of Yahweh. See Matthew 12:34-35, Philippians 4:8-9, and Joshua 1:8.

You see, if you speak untactfully, you will turn people off. Here are a few pointers for writing tracts, speaking to people, writing letters, etc.

1. Do not speak as though you know it all, and your reader/listener knows nothing.
2. Show respect for your reader's/listener's beliefs, feelings, emotions, likes/dislikes, etc.
3. Know what you are talking about. Know Scriptures that back up what you believe.
4. If you are talking to someone, look at them as you talk. Seek to make eye contact.
5. Speak/write in a way that shows personal interest rather than in a way that indicates you are trying to win a battle.
6. Pray for wisdom in speaking and/or writing.
7. Seek to conduct yourself in a way that is pleasing to Yahweh.

Be careful, my friends, to not put people in hell rather than win them to Messiah. You can speak to people in a way that you will make them NEVER want to hear about Yahweh again. Or you can speak in a way that encourages a desire to know more. Be very careful with your words. Damaging words are better not spoken. (Luke 17:1) Be sure to speak with tact, love, and concern. May Yahweh bless you.

Lesson 2 - "Keep The Faith"

There is an old saying, "Keep the faith and milk the cow." We are to keep the faith and not give up. One of the most fatal mistakes we can make is to take on the world's ways. The results?

1. We will be lost.
2. All those will be lost that would have been won, had we remained true.
3. Those who are interested in truth may turn from it when they see our hypocrisy.

My brethren, do not accept the world's way. Keep the faith and live by the Word. (Galatians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13) How can we keep from being weary? Hebrews 12:1-3 has a beautiful answer for this question.

Remain true always, beloved brethren and sisters. (Proverbs 23:17)

If you want to be "unspotted from the world" (James 1:27), think on pure things. Have a pure heart. A pure heart has no room for wicked thoughts. Wicked thoughts are sin. (Proverbs 24:9)

My friends, remember the admonitions of Proverbs 23:17 and Philippians 4:8-9. Think purely, and do purely. Live in the fear of Yahweh. Let your Light (Yahshua) shine freely in you.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of Yahweh, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in Yahweh.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Pentecost and the Great Commission

And Yahshua came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto Me in heaven, and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Set-Apart Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world. So be it.** (Matthew 28:18-20)

And He said unto them, **It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Set-Apart Spirit is come upon you, and ye shall witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.** (Acts 1:7-8)

The Jewish rabbis believe that it was on Shavuot (Pentecost) that the Torah was spoken from Mount Sinai. How significant! We see in Acts 2 that on Pentecost, power was given to the apostles, when they received the Set-Apart Spirit. Wouldn't this be having the spirit of the Law? And by all means, this spirit does not do away with the Law. It rather wells up in us a great love for the Law of Yahweh, and a desire to share the glad news with others. Yahshua instructed His disciples to go forth as missionaries to the world, which included both their homeland and other areas as well. But He commanded them to first wait for the Set-Apart Spirit to come upon them. On Shavuot the Set-Apart Spirit did come upon them, with great power, and they began working mightily for Yahweh.

Pentecost is the Feast of Firstfruits, Yahshua Himself being the loaf broken for our sins. (See Leviticus 23:15-17.) Pentecost is the Feast in which it is believed that the Torah was spoken of Yahweh on Mount Sinai. Pentecost is the Feast in which the apostles received the Set-Apart Spirit. And Pentecost is a Feast which reminds us each year of the Great Commission. Are we working mightily for Yahweh? Does His Spirit live, active and working, within us? Are we instruments of

righteousness unto Yahweh?

Know ye not, that to who ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But Elohim be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh; for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity, even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto set-apartness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to Yahweh, ye have your fruit unto set-apartness, and the end Everlasting Life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of Elohim is Eternal Life through Yahshua Messiah our Master. (Romans 8:16-23)-

Rivqah Yahsepha (Rebekah Josepha) Coover



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Road of the Pilgrims
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