

August 16, 2025
Community
T'hillim (Psalm) 133.1

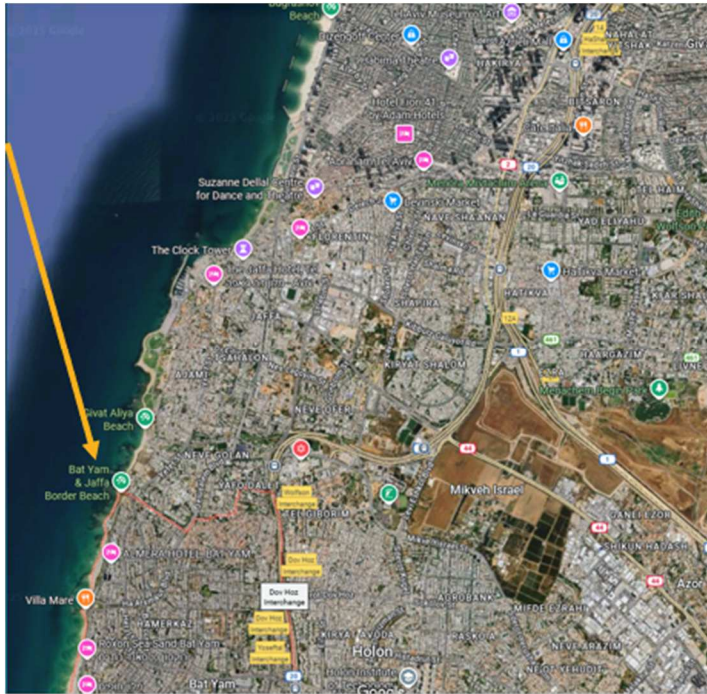
Stewart and Chantal Winograd. Stewart will be our guest speaker from Jerusalem by Zoom next Shabbat. I failed to promote this. My lame excuse is the plethora of special events this summer, since conference. I am grateful for all, especially Amy and Angela and the Youth Camp.



Bat Yam [daughter of the sea], south of Tel Aviv – Oxana's mom lives here.

You can be a part of reaching thousands of hurting and traumatized Israelis like these, bringing them Yeshua's comfort and love.

The city of Bat Yam



Our immersion service Sunday Aug. 10 (photo by our hosts, Glenn and Tamela Stockton)





Free University of NY, near Union Square Park

From summer catalogue, 1966: "The Free University of New York has been forged in response to the intellectual bankruptcy and spiritual emptiness of the American educational establishment. It seeks ... to promote the social integrity and commitment. FUNY began as a home for professors dismissed from local universities for protesting the Vietnam War, or for holding socialist views. *[Greenwich Village to the southwest, East Village to the southeast near the square are several dormitories of New York University where Baron Trump is attending.]*

The FUNY opened on East 14th Street, above a storefront now occupied by a Wendy's.

14th St., near Union Park, NYU.
So, I attended at about age 18, 1967



Free University of NY

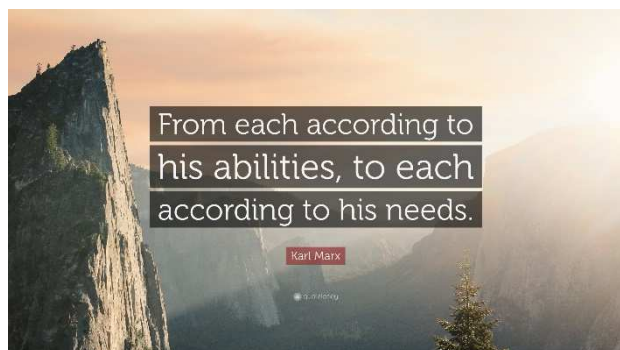
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_University_of_New_York]

[<https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP73-00475R000201460001-4.pdf>]

Sample courses:

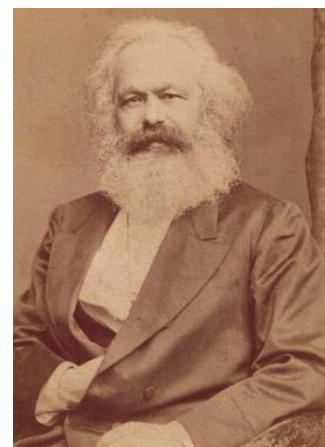
- **MAO FOR BEGINNERS:** Charles Johnson, black Marxist-Leninist, visited Cuba, 1964.
- **MARXISM AND AMERICAN DECADENCE HISTORY OF THE LEFT IN THE U.S.:** George Kruger, editor, The Internationalist.
- **ELEMENTARY COURSE IN MARXIST ECONOMICS:** L. Marcus, professional economist and Marxist. (This may have been the class I took.)

- **PERSPECTIVES FOR REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE:** "This course will attempt to define a political orientation for Revolutionary Socialism.



In my undergraduate years, age 18, I bought into Marxism

This is a slogan popularized by Karl Marx In his 1875 *Critique of the Gotha Programme*. I studied and followed this utopian ideal, until one meeting in which I heard a communist leader express his contempt of the socialists.



To me, a hair's breadth of difference, but a blast of vitriol. If there could such hostility and lovelessness, then Marxism was no utopia and answer. Great ideal. No greedy property ownership. Sounds nice. Doesn't work. I didn't know that then.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/From_each_according_to_his_ability,_to_each_according_to_his_needs
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2d/Karl-Marx_%28cropped%29.jpg]

So, I continued to search...

I found a community of supernatural love and joy and hope in Messiah in the Spring of 1969.



Community T'hillim / Ps 133.1

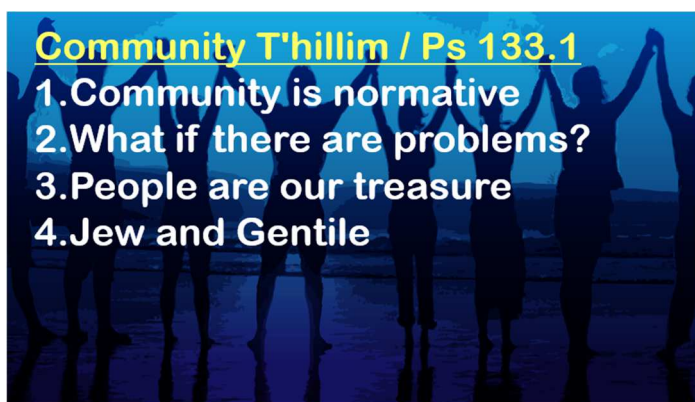
Oh, how good, how pleasant it is for brothers to live together in harmony.

הִנֵּה מַה־טוֹב, וּמַה־נָּעִים, שְׁכֵןת אֲחִים גַּם־יַחַד.

Hinay mah tov, umah naim, shevet akhim gam yadad.

Community T'hillim / Ps 133.1

It is like fragrant oil on the head that runs down over the beard, over the beard of Aharon, and flows down on the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon that settles on the mountains of Tziyon. For it was there that Adoni ordained the blessing of everlasting life.



What empowers our community identity?

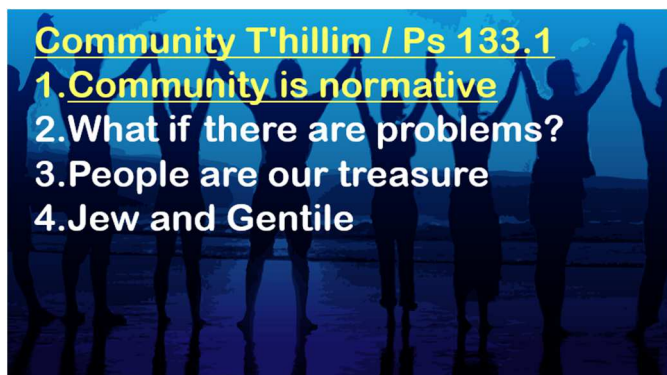
When we say Welcome Immanuel ברוך ה' אלהינו Immanuel, Barukh Haba

1. We are in one word acknowledging the whole plan of salvation: His coming to earth, living among us, G-d with us. Coming to earth of G-d! to be with us, walk with us, suffer with us, then for us, then in us!

[If you have a saving relationship with Yeshua, this invites him into your life.

If you don't have a saving relationship with Yeshua, this concept should draw you to such!!]

2. We are welcoming Him to rule in our lives, our emotions, our relationships as G-d/man with us.
3. We are giving Him authority over our response to life, to difficulties, to needs.



Yn 17.17-23 "Make them holy in the truth. Your word is truth. Just as You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I make Myself holy, so that they also may be made holy in truth. I pray not on behalf of these only,
[Holy, Messiah like in character, relationships.]

Yn 17.17-23 but also for those who believe in Me through their message, that they all may be one. Just as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You, so also may they be

one in Us, so the world may believe that You sent Me.

[Essence of holiness of character is deep unity.

This is the primary evidence of the divine mission, the deity of Yeshua the Messiah!]

Yn 17.17-23 The glory that You have given to Me I have given to them, that they may be one just as We are one—I in them and You in Me—that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them as You loved Me.

[Liquid love, Presence

Repeat: Essence of holiness of character is deep unity. This is the primary evidence of the divine mission, the deity of Yeshua the Messiah!]

Eph 4.29-32 Let no harmful word come out of your mouth, but only what is beneficial for building others up according to the need, so that it gives grace to those who hear it. Do not grieve the Ruach ha-Kodesh of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness and rage and anger and quarreling and slander, along with all malice. Instead, be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other just as God in Messiah also forgave you.

Eph 1.4-6 He chose us in the Messiah before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him in love. He predestined us for adoption as sons through Messiah Yeshua, in keeping with the good pleasure of His will — to the glorious praise of His grace, with which **He has accepted us** through the One He loves!
[Rejection is a BIG issue. According to RTF founders, Jim Keelstra, abandonment underlies all other wounds. Disputes are NOT, ≠ personal rejection.]

An illustration of community from nature.



A program by National Geographic gives a powerful illustration for us. In the great annual wildebeest migration in Serengeti National Park in Africa a giant herd, thousands of wildebeest, slowly move in groups across the plain. They are invariably followed by stalking lions.

But the lions never attack the herd – they simply watch carefully for the stray wildebeest, either careless or seeking greener grass, who separates himself from the larger groups of animals. The isolated wildebeest will become the sudden prey of the lions who attack with

lightning speed and ferocity.

*[<https://darkroom.baltimoresun.com/2016/09/annual-great-wildebeest-migration-in-kenya/#1>
More than two million animals migrate from the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania to the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya from July to October annually, [according to Maasai Mara.](#)]*



*[<https://africansermonsafaris.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/serengeti-migration.jpeg>
<https://youtu.be/3syRvllzCml>]*

In spiritual warfare isolation is equally dangerous, as our enemy roams like a roaring lion looking for separated brethren to prey upon. We all need real relationship and spiritual community for protection against our enemy who is constantly stalking vulnerable prey.

It's not enough to simply "go to service." We need to be the community of believers, **actively participating in loving, serving, praying, counseling, giving/ tithing, encouraging, admonishing, eating, rejoicing, weeping, and forgiving as the family of God.**

Living in His inheritance of forgiving, execution stake love also means trusting Him in apparently bad things.

The power of a modest hug



Side hugs, neck hugs appropriate with opposite gender.
Always appropriate



In a carefully controlled laboratory at Carnegie Mellon University, researchers exposed more than 400 healthy volunteers to the common cold virus ... Participants who were hugged on most days had about 60 percent lower odds of becoming infected than those who were rarely hugged. Additionally, those who did get sick recovered more quickly and had stronger immune responses than those who received fewer hugs.

On a neurochemical level, hugging triggers the release of several “feel-good” chemicals. Chief among these is oxytocin, endorphins, dopamine. One-second hugs felt unsatisfying and provided minimal benefit. At the same time, five to 10 seconds proved optimal before longer contact became uncomfortable.

https://www.theepochtimes.com/health/the-perfect-hug-length-to-improve-immunity-and-reduce-stress-5879735?utm_source=Health_well&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=well-2025-07-19&src_src=Health_well&src_cmp=well-2025-07-19&est=BPnHHSFbE39UP1S4tbQyv5%2BV4zkXdpj%2F8Bxht8CsdrCpJ7zqVIZKMwaWc7qReyKx0Q%3D%3D



But what if we have an argument? What if he or she offends me, does me wrong, hurts me?



<https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/z/offended-upset-young-guy-arms-crossed-feeling-mad-someone-teen-maximalism-facial-expressions-emotions-feelings-body-278018304.jpg>
<https://tse1.mm.bing.net/th?id/OIP.KIfHL4wTDZwKYHxDdSho2wAAAA?pid=Api&P=0&h=180>

Mtt 18.15-17 “Now if your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault while you’re with him alone.

Disputes are NOT, ≠ personal rejection.
[Rabbi, fix this ...]

Gal 6.1-2 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught doing something wrong, you who are directed by the Ruach, restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness —
[Cf complaint, denunciation, and tell him or her off. Give him a piece of my mind (assuming you have a piece to spare!)]

Gal 6.1-2 looking closely at yourself so you are not tempted also. Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you fulfill the Torah of Messiah.

Mtt 18.15-17 If he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen, **take with you one or two more**, so that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may stand.’
[That’s where me or Jeremy or Ulises or our wives come in, or a professional counselor.]

Mtt 18.15-17 But if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to Messiah’s community. And if he refuses to listen even to Messiah’s community, let him be to you as a pagan and a tax collector.
[But how do we feel about outsiders, not-yet-believers? Compassion, grief, solicitousness!!]

In 30 years of Or HaOlam we have seen a lot of

- Conflict resolution

[When there is resolution, usually repentance and humbling and tears and hugs. The Ruakh is wonderfully present!!]

In 30 years of Or HaOlam we have seen a lot of

- Conflict unresolved ⇒ dissolution (separation and alienation)

[We have lost some. Never a split, but not everyone who was part of our community is still here. Some are!]

In 30 years of Or HaOlam we have seen a lot of

- Conflict suppression ⇒ isolation emotionally

[This is a half measure that is sometimes the best we can do.]

”

**Unresolved
bitterness
towards others
is like a
contagious
disease.**

from Joel Chernoff's *Daily Nosh*

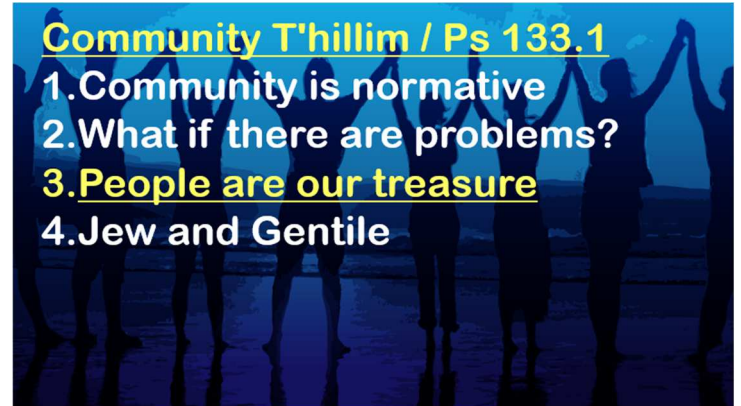
(TLV) Hebrews 12:15

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God; and see to it that no bitter root springs up and causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.

Nosh: Unresolved bitterness towards others is like a contagious disease. The longer one has it the more it makes sick the embittered person as well as infecting and defiling those around them with a divisive and negative spirit.

It is essential that we quickly resolve held bitterness towards others and also choose to minimize or, if possible, avoid those who are carrying such a spiritual infection.

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[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/58/Millionaire_1956.JPG]

The Millionaire is an American [anthology series](#) that aired on [CBS](#) from 1955 to 1960. It told the stories of people who were given one million dollars (\$10.9 million in 2022 dollars) from a benefactor who insisted they must never know his identity.

<https://youtu.be/rjdHrB5YOeA?t=146>

Eph 1.18 I pray that he will give light to the eyes of your hearts,

What?

Yeshayahu/Isaiah 9.2 The people living in darkness have seen a great light; upon those living in the land that lies in the shadow of death, light has dawned.

Eph 1.18 I pray that he will give light to the eyes of your hearts,

What? Mixed metaphor! Our heart has no eyes!

Yeshayahu/Is 35.5-6 Then **the eyes of the blind will be opened**, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped; then the lame man will leap like a deer, and the mute person's tongue will sing.

Eph 1.18 I pray that he will give light to the eyes of your hearts,

What?

Yeshayahu/Isaiah 60.2 For although darkness covers the earth and thick darkness the peoples; on you Adoni will rise; over you will be seen his glory.

[Maybe uses this mixed metaphor because the next revelation is shocking ...]

Eph 1.18 I pray that he will give light to the eyes of your hearts, so that you will understand the hope to which he has called you, what is **the richness of His glorious inheritance in the holy people kedoshim קדושים**

[I have good news and bad news. The inheritance is in love direct from G-d in Messiah, but it's ALSO in the people. The people around you. \$10 meg.]

These people? The ones with the faults? The wrong opinions, annoy me, rude, wrong Siddur/prayer book, too charismatic, not charismatic, old Earth, young Earth, pre-trib, Sunday Shabbat, Saturday Shabbat, holidays. These that are [at times, in your opinion] inconsiderate, impolite, abrasive, difficult.

Look at someone. "You are my glorious inheritance."

Community. Support. Revolving door?]

klēronomias	autou	en	tois	hagiois
κληρονομίας	αὐτοῦ	ἐν	τοῖς	ἁγίοις
inheritance	of Him	in	the	saints

T'hilim/Ps 2.7-8 "I will proclaim the decree: Adoni said to me, 'You are my son; today I became your father. Ask of me, and I will make the **nations your inheritance**; the whole wide world will be your possession.

The person next to you is your \$10 million treasure!!

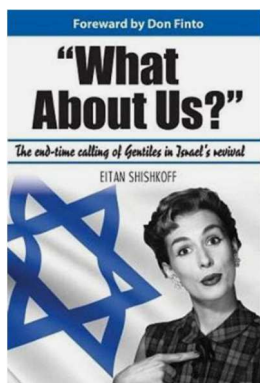
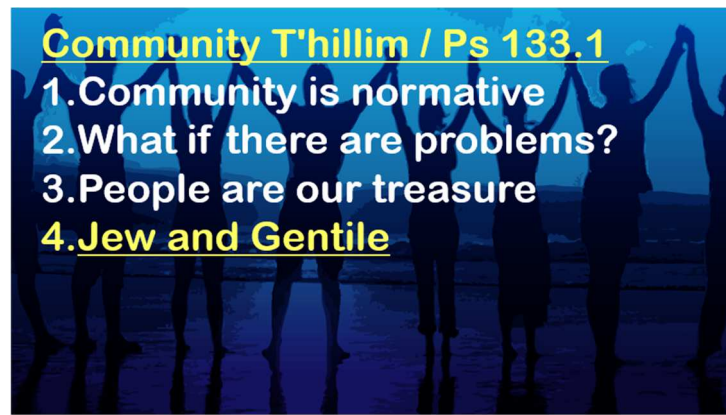
[Francis Chan: can only understand the love of G-d through the community of believers.

Cf: expect rejection ki guilt, hurts.]

Iyov/Job 1. 20-21 Iyov [Job] got up, tore his coat, shaved his head, fell down on the ground and worshipped; he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, [into the world] and naked I will return there [from the world]. Adoni gave; Adoni took; blessed be the name of Adoni."

[There is one thing/possession that we WILL have in eternity.]

1 Thes 2.19-20 For when our Lord Yeshua returns, what will be our hope, our joy, our crown to boast about? Won't it be you? Yes, you are our glory and our joy!



From the Or HaOlam statement of faith: P 55-57

From Or HaOlam's statement of faith:

7. I believe we are in unity with all believers, Gentile or Jewish.
[We NEVER bad mouth other groups.]

Mtt 23.11-12 The greatest among you must be your servant, for whoever promotes himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be promoted.

Yermiyahu 31.9-13 Nations, hear the word of Adoni! Proclaim it in the coastlands far away. Say: "He who scattered Isra'el is gathering him, guarding him like a shepherd his flock." For Adoni has ransomed Ya'akov, redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They will come and sing on the heights of Tziyon, streaming to the goodness of Adoni... "Then the virgin will dance for joy, young men and old men together; for I will turn their mourning into joy, comfort and gladden them after their sorrow.

[Easy for the girls to dance well.

Here is the commissioning and call of the old men.]

Yermiyahu 31.9-13 I will give the cohanim their fill of rich food, and my people will be satisfied with my bounty," says Adoni.

Wonderful movie on Messianic Music



I believe on key identifier of Messianic music and identity omitted: The Covenant: Maintaining Israel's covenant identity is what distinguishes us from the body of believers around us.

[I shared my thought with Greg, who received it graciously.]

Rabbi Michael Wolf at Messiah Conference:

“It’s more important to love Jewish people than to love Jewish things.”

