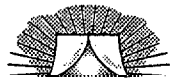


Hineni!



Fall 1999

newsletter of Emmanuel Messianic Congregation

"... God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Hoses!" He answered, "Hineni! Here am I." (Exod. 3:4)

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From the Rabbi...

Messianic Judaism Recognized in Israel!

THE MESSIANIC ACTION COMMITTEE (MAC) led the fight against two proposed laws meant to make Messianic Judaism illegal in Israel, and both of these laws failed to become law in the land. Now, the MAC (under the name "Action Committee for Messianic Judaism" in Hebrew) has been officially recognized as an Israeli not-for-profit organization. This means that the government of Israel now officially recognizes Messianic Judaism!

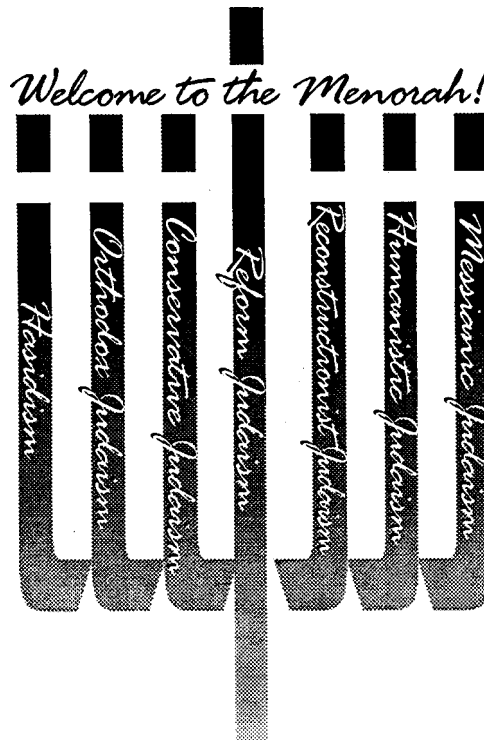
This is really incredible news! Now, because Messianic Jews have stood their ground, Israelis will be faced with a decision. Is whatever type of Judaism they practice (or don't practice) more true than our form of Judaism-Messianic Judaism?

Recently, several books have been published describing Messianic Judaism in a rather positive light. A new book, written by a rabbi and yet to be published, describes Messianic Judaism as a branch of Judaism. I almost fell out of my chair when I saw a sketch of a seven-branch menorah that included our brand of Judaism along with Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, and others (see illustration). This book should be available later this year.

Because the Messianic synagogue movement respects our Jewish heritage and upholds our national homeland, Israel, the Jewish community is beginning to show us favor. But this is not an entirely new thing.

When Yeshua walked through the Land, he was followed by thousands of Jewish people, seeking to know more about God. They sought his comments on the Shabbat (Sabbath) laws, on the greatest commandment, on traditional laws of kashrut (kosher). He was popular-at least with the am ha-aretz (the common folk).

Likewise, as the first Messianic community grew, the Book of Acts states that the believers had favor with the Jewish people. Not only that, but when Rabbi



Shaul (a.k.a., Paul the Apostle) went on his "missionary journeys," he was often asked to address the local synagogues. He was considered a Jew, albeit a Jew that varied from the norm.

I believe that Messianic Judaism will be more effective presenting the claims of Yeshua by making our movement and each congregation within this movement appealing to Jewish people. We will find favor.

God has plans for our people. He called Israel to be "a light to the nations."

But right now, Israel, for the most part, is still in darkness. Only a small percentage of Jews have seen the Light of the World and are truly able to bring light to the world. Only Messianic Jews have that Light.

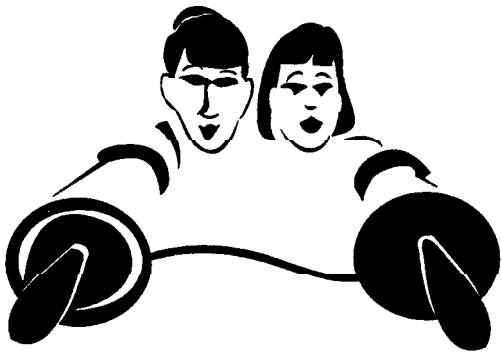
These are awesome times-Israel is softening toward Messianic Jews; some are even embracing us. Books are honestly describing what Messianic Judaism is all about. Less and less are we depicted as "tricky missionaries" bent on destroying the Jewish people, as we have been described in the past.

Soon Messianic Jews will be able to boldly take a stand with the rest of the Jewish community. This will lead to normal discussions about our rabbi, Yeshua, the Messiah. Plus, there is information the non-Messianic Jewish community can share with us. This give-and-take will be used by the Lord to accomplish his purpose. Remember, we're all-part of the same menorah. Get ready! I sense something great is about to happen.

Shalom u'vrucha
(Peace and blessings),

Rabbi Barry Rubin

P.S. Planning for our new building is on track. In the next issue of Hineni, I may even be able to show you the plans.



Bar & Bat Mitzvah at Emmanuel

Cantor Nachum Surasky

Been wondering about the Bar and Bat Mitzvah program at Emmanuel? Here are the answers to some questions concerning the process of becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Emmanuel Messianic Jewish Congregation!

Q: What is a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

A: It's a ceremony that marks the beginning of the transitional period in a boy's or girl's life from child to adult. Literally meaning "son" or "daughter of the commandment," the time of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah is the age when a child starts to be accountable for his or her actions before God. Typically held at age thirteen for a boy, and between twelve and thirteen for a girl, it is also a celebration for the entire family.

Q: Why should my child have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

A: The child who becomes a Bar or Bat Mitzvah publicly expresses a desire to embrace the ways of God as revealed in the *Torah*, and as understood and taught by the Messiah Yeshua. The ceremony is also a means to identify with the Jewish culture and heritage that is ours, either by birthright, or by being grafted in (Romans 11).

Q: Who can have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

A: All those with a heart-felt love for God, a desire to follow his ways, and who want to adopt a Jewish life-style.

Q: What are the prerequisites for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

A: First, there must be the desire and the commitment to complete the course of study. Second, there is a curriculum, which ideally should begin one year prior to the anticipated time of the ceremony. During that year, there will be several meetings with the rabbi and/or cantor. Third, the prospective Bar or Bat Mitzvah will be required, prior to the ceremony, to study the specific *Torah* portion, and prepare a speech, to be developed under the supervision of the rabbi.

Q: What does the curriculum include?

A: The curriculum is divided into several sections. The first section gives an overview of the Bible. The books of the Bible, the order of the books, and their Hebrew names are covered. The second section teaches an overview of the history of the Jewish people. The third section is a brief history of Emmanuel Messianic Jewish Congregation and Messianic Judaism. The fourth section is an overview of various Jewish traditions, and how the Messiah interpreted them. The final section introduces the Hebrew language; in particular, pronunciation and reading skills designed to enable the student to read from *the Sefer Torah* (the Torah scroll) are taught. This final section includes one-on-one instruction.

Q: What does a Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony consist of?

A: Each week, a portion, or *parshah*, of the *Torah* is read aloud, along with a corresponding selection from the *Haftarah* (the Writings and Prophets), and the *B'rit Hadashah* (Renewed Covenant or New Testament). The Bar or Bat Mitzvah chants from the *Torah* and *Haftarah*, and reads the *B'rit Hadashah* selection. There are also blessings to be chanted. Each ceremony should be unique, customized to your wishes, while keeping within the framework of Jewish tradition in the Messiah.

Q: How long before the Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony should we start preparing?

A: The program is designed to begin one year before the anticipated date of the ceremony. At that time, a meeting is arranged between parents, the rabbi and/or cantor, and the child. The commitment is established, and the child begins the preparation. Six months prior to the

anticipated date, a second meeting is held to establish the preparedness of the student. It is then that the date will be finalized.

Three months prior to the ceremony, the student will begin working closely with the rabbi to develop a *d'rash* (short commentary on the Scripture) and a speech to be delivered by the child.

Q: Is there a charge for having the ceremony at Emmanuel?

A: There is a cost involved. The amount is discussed at the first meeting with the rabbi and/or cantor.

Q: Do I need to be a member to have my son or daughter become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Emmanuel?

A: Families wishing to have the ceremony at Emmanuel will be required, during the year preparation period, to apply for and be accepted as members of Emmanuel Messianic Jewish Congregation to demonstrate a commitment to the Messianic Jewish community, our congregation, and the Messianic Jewish lifestyle.

Q: Can I still qualify to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah even though I am an adult?

A: Yes! There are many people today who are having Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies as adults. For one reason or another, they did not have one as a child, and now feel strongly about their commitment to God and a Messianic Jewish lifestyle. They wish to demonstrate this in a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Details can be worked out with the rabbi.

Q: Where can I obtain more information?

A: If you would like to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah for yourself or your child, please talk to the rabbi to set up an appointment. ✨

This Quarter in Jewish History

October 6, 1973

The Yom Kippur War began.

October 7, 1920

The first session of the supreme governing body of the Jewish community in Palestine was held.

October 11, 1860

The first Hebrew newspaper in Russia began publication.

October 14, 1958

Foundation stone of the Knesset building was laid in Jerusalem.

October 16, 1886

David Ben-Gurion, Israeli statesman, born.

October 20, 1930

British white paper on Palestine issued.

November 2, 1917

Balfour Declaration issued.

November 8, 1949

“Operation Magic Carpet,” which brought Jews from Yemen to Israel, began.

November 9, 1938

Kristallnacht—“night of broken glass”—when the windows of Jewish shopkeepers throughout Germany were broken.

November 27, 1874

Chaim Weizmann, first president of Israel, born.

November 29, 1947

UN General Assembly adopted a resolution requiring the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine.

December 13, 1949

The Knesset voted to transfer Israel’s capital to Jerusalem.

December 15, 1918

The first meeting of the American Jewish Congress was held.

Calendar for October–December 1999

*Denotes Recommended Emmanuel Activities and Special Services

October 1999

Tishri–Cheshvan 5760

October 1/21 Tishri

Hosha'na Rabbah
(The Great Salvation)
Erev Shemini Atzeret
(Eighth Day of Assembly)

October 2/22 Tishri

Shemini Atzeret

*NOTE: Holiday service at Emmanuel
10:00 AM (coinciding with regular
Shabbat service)

#October 2, 7:00 PM, **SPECIAL
SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION**
at Emmanuel!

October 3/23 Tishri

Simchat Torah (Rejoicing of the Law)



November 1999

Cheshvan-Kislev 5760



November 10/1 Kislev
Rosh Chodesh (New Moon)

November 11: Veterans Day

November 25: Thanksgiving Day

December 1999

Kislev-Tevet 5760

December 3/24 Kislev

Erev Hanukkah
(Eve of the Feast of Dedication)

December 4/25 Kislev

Hanukkah
* NOTE: Tentative Emmanuel holiday party, Saturday 7:00 PM



December 10/1 Tevet
Rosh Chodesh (New Moon)

What's Happening at Emmanuel?

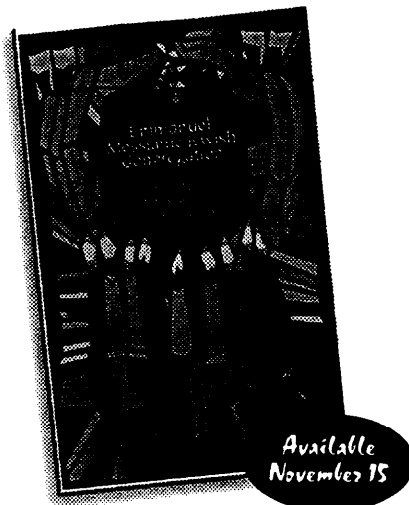
The beginning of the Jewish year in Autumn is a great time to be at Emmanuel! After the long summer, with its dog days, barbecues, and vacations at the beach, it's time to get back on track and begin things anew.

Emmanuel's Shabbat school is rewed up for another exciting year of teaching our kids all about Yeshua the Messiah and biblical Judaism. The Men's Group is continuing with a dynamic Bible study on the life of King David. The Sisterhood is preparing to start up regular meetings again and continue its lively Bible study on Spiritual Warfare for believers today. The Youth Group is gearing up for more stimulating discussions, and fun and adventurous activities. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparation Program has been charging along, preparing our youth for the soon-approaching time when they

will take their place of responsibility in the congregation. *Havurot* (fellowship groups) are meeting at members' homes once again for a time of getting together in a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere.

And have you seen the newly-designed Emmanuel website lately? Just go to our URL (www.godwithus.org) to see all the fantastic features—with many more to come! Our website is a great way to keep up with what's happening at Emmanuel if you can't be here on Shabbat. If you haven't been here for a while, or have never checked us out, why not come this Shabbat? Join us as we sing praises, dance joyfully, partake of the Word, fellowship, and most importantly, worship the God of Israel in Yeshua **HaMashiach**.

Give the Emmanuel Experience a try!



Reserve your Emmanuel Cookbook!

Emmanuel Messianic Jewish Congregation is probably best known for our incredible edible *Oneg Shabbat* ("delight of the Sabbath"). One of our particularly memorable *oneg* specialties is Belle's brisket. Well... now you can get this and over 100 others (including a wealth of unique holiday recipes!) in our **new Emmanuel Cookbook**. These make perfect holiday gifts for friends and family! Order yours today for only \$10 (includes postage and handling). Send your order to P.O. Box 615, Clarksville, MD 21029, and we'll reserve yours!

Recipe for Stuffed Cabbage

1 head cabbage
 2 tbsp. oil
 1 large onion, chopped
 1 lb ground beef
 1 egg
 1/2 cup bread crumbs (or cooked rice)
 1 garlic clove, mashed
 1 tsp. salt
 1/8 tsp pepper
 2 cups tomato or V-8 juice or canned tomatoes
 1 tsp beef bouillon powder
 2 tbsp. sugar
 Juice from 1 lemon
 optional: 1/2 cup seedless raisins

Lower the cabbage into a big pot of boiling water. Turn off the heat, cover, and let soak while you prepare the filling.

Saute the chopped onion in oil until golden yellow. Add the onion to the ground beef along with the egg, bread crumbs (or rice), mashed garlic, salt and pepper, and raisins.

Lift the cabbage out of the water and separate the leaves. Grease a big saucepan or dutch oven. put a little filling into each leaf; fold over the sides, then roll it up so that the filling will not fall out. Secure each with a toothpick (just remember they're there!) Place the stuffed leaves (very close together) in the saucepan, folded-side down.

Combine the tomato juice (or V-8 or canned tomatoes) with the beef bouillon powder, sugar and lemon juice and pour it over the stuffed cabbage. Cook, covered, for about an hour on a moderate heat.

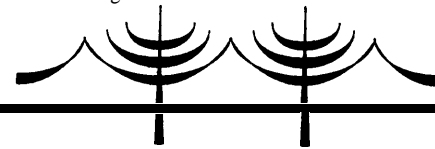
NOTE: You can make vegetarian stuffed cabbage by using rice or texturized vegetable protein instead of ground beef and vegetable instead of beef bouillon.

The Meetings in River Hill

by Heidi Ortmeier

Messianic Judaism

A Bridge Between Jews and Christians



Rabbi Barry Rubin led an open discussion on the topic "Messianic Judaism: A Bridge Between Jews and Christians" on Sunday evening August 22nd, at the River Hill Community Room in Columbia.

The presentation explained how Messianic Judaism meets the needs of both Jews and Christians. For Jews, Messianic Judaism introduces the teachings of the greatest rabbi, Yeshua, whose purpose was to teach proper understanding of the written Word of God, the Torah. For Christians, Messianic Judaism offers an understanding and appreciation of the much-ignored Jewish roots of their faith.

Let us remember to follow the teachings of the Messiah Yeshua, who told us that he did not come to abolish (misinterpret) Torah, but to fulfill it (interpret it correctly). (Matthew 5:17)

This was our first public meeting in the River Hill community; we are looking for more opportunities to present the Messianic Jewish position. ✡

Don't forget!

Join us for a special Simchat Torah (Joy of the Torah) party on Saturday evening, October 2nd at 7:00 PM, as we gather to bring this holy day season to a close.



EMMANUEL
 MESSIANIC CONGREGATION

P.O. Box 615

Clarksville, MD 21029

www.godwithus.org

Address Correction Requested

• Weekly 10:00 am Shabbat Services • Holy Day Services
 • Monthly Family Night • Havurot • Men's Group
 • Sisterhood • Youth Croup • Children's Education
 • Singles • Counseling • Bar & Bat Mitzvah Training
 The true solution and home for intermarried families

Canoe 1800s
 Additional Nonprofit
 Postage Paid



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