

Hineni!



Summer 2000

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newsletter of Emmanuel Messianic Jewish Congregation

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

From the Rabbi...

Messianic Judaism: Bridge Between the Church and the Synagogue

Tevye, the papa in *Fiddler on the Roof* was surveying his sad situation — four unmarried daughters, a dry cow, a lame horse, Russian pogroms — he looked up to God and said, "God it's nice that you chose me to be one of your chosen people, but would you mind choosing someone else for a change!"

Obviously, Tevye thought being chosen meant he'd not have to suffer anymore. But God chose the Jews for something else. Through the Jewish people, he planned to teach the non-Jewish world about himself. Moses said,

Look, I have taught you laws and rulings, just as *ADONAI* my God ordered me....Therefore, observe them...for then all peoples [nations /gentiles] will see you as having wisdom and understanding. When they hear of all these laws, they will ask, "What great nation is there that has laws and rulings as just as this entire Torah which I am setting before you today?" (Deut. 4:5–8, *CJB*)

Implied here is that the non-Jews would be envious of biblically Jewish ways.

Yeshua's "marching orders" to his *shlikhim* (apostles) were "...go and make people from all nations into *talmidim* (disciples)." His "Great Commission" instructed his *Jewish* followers to teach *Gentiles* about God and his salvation, and then more.

A *talmid* (singular for *talmidim*) is a student of a rabbi, learning how to live

an observant life. It's clear from the way Yeshua taught and lived with his followers that he practiced this rabbinical method of training. So when he sent out his *shlikhim* to make *talmidim*, he was telling them to teach about salvation, and even more. He, like Moses, wanted Gentiles to learn the ways of God, the ways of Torah. We at Emmanuel Messianic Jewish Congregation do this.

I can't tell you how excited our Christian neighbors were when, at our annual community Passover Seder dinner, they saw the connection between Passover and the Last Supper, and the Lord's Supper or Communion. People said that their eyes had been opened. They really appreciated learning this.

Moreover, each biblical holiday can be meaningful and relevant to Christians. I don't have room to explain all this here (that's why we provide books on the subject), but these special days are a gold mine of riches for Gentiles. And there's even more.

The Torah, the Five Books of Moses, is filled with principles and instructions about life for individuals, families, congregations and nations. If understood and practiced, life just becomes better. That's what Rabbi Saul (the Apostle Paul) meant when he wrote Timothy saying,

All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living; thus anyone who belongs to God may be fully equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16–17, *CJB*)

The only Scripture Timothy knew was the Holy Scripture, the *Tenakh*, the "Older" Testament.

This is to say that Messianic Judaism is accomplishing what God had in mind—that non-Jews (as well as Jews, of course) learn his ways. And Messianic Judaism offers something vital to Jewish people.

It would be untrue to say that Jews understand much about God. Most of our people have not read the *Tenakh*. This is due, in part, to the fact that traditional Judaism has been unappealing to many. Nowadays, you're as likely to find a Jew in an Ashram or at a Unitarian or Bahai meeting as you are to find one in a synagogue.

I'm not disparaging rabbinical Judaism. Neither did Yeshua. He clarified where the rabbis were off-base in their observances. That's clear in the Sermon on the Mount. Yeshua taught his *talmidim* how to interpret the Torah. He didn't cancel the Torah; he confirmed the Torah, with a proper understanding of how to observe it.

Messianic Judaism is poised to be the most popular form of Judaism around today. Jewish people are attracted to Messianic synagogues by the unique teaching of the rabbis, by the moving of God's Spirit in the congregations, by the love and warmth of the members, and by the singing and dancing of the worshippers. I shouldn't forget the food, (but most synagogues have sumptuous spreads, anyway). Messianic Judaism can bring Jewish people back to the teachings of the Torah as explained by the greatest "rabbi" of all—Yeshua haMashiach.

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Meet the Members

The Rollings Family — Return from “Paradise”



Congregation in the local Yellow Pages, Jennifer visited Emmanuel for a few weeks before Jason and David came to town to join her. Their family was warmly embraced as Gentiles grafted into the Jewish faith. One of Jason's first questions upon attending was quietly directed to long-time member Sheldon Mazelis. Jason asked, "I'm not Jewish, but would it be O.K. to wear a *menorah* on my head?" Sheldon replied, "It would be O.K., but it might fall off. Most Jewish men prefer to wear a *yarmulke*."

However, during this absence the family missed Emmanuel intensely. They wondered when, or even if, they would be able to be a part of the congregation they had experienced.

Being able to return to Emmanuel has been an answer to prayer for the Rollings, and the families of Emmanuel who continually remembered them. The Lord accomplished a great work in their lives. Within a mere two days of receiving her orders of discharge from the Army, Jennifer had a good job offer in Maryland; this first attempt at employment was the only one required. By the end of the month, she had signed the offer letter, and Jason had secured an apartment in Ellicott City, Md. Jason was able to return to the job that he had before they left — with a promotion!

The time away was difficult for the Rollings family, although it served a purpose. They realized that an important part of their lives was missing: the excellent instruction and warm fellowship that they received from Emmanuel. To them, these things were more important and brought them more joy than living in a Hawaiian "Paradise."

Jason, Jennifer, and their son David were first introduced to Messianic Judaism at Simhat Yeshua congregation in Indianapolis, Indiana in the mid-1990's. Jennifer joined the U.S. Army in 1996, and her first assignment after basic training was Fort Meade, Md in 1997. Jennifer sought to attend a Messianic congregation in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area. After finding the listing for Emmanuel Messianic

In 1998, Jennifer was assigned to Schofield Barracks, on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. While in Hawaii for two years, the family listened to Rabbi Rubin's weekly messages via audio tape. During this time away from "home" the Rollings were also greatly blessed by mail, telephone calls, and e-mail correspondence from their Emmanuel family. According to Jason, "This contact greatly shortened the distance, and hearing the Rabbi's voice every week was a real comfort."



What if?!?!?

imagine praying...

"Thank you for calling my Father's House.

Please select one of the following options from the selection menu:

- ...For prayer requests, press 1
- ...For giving thanks, press 2
- ...For *kvetching*, press 3
- ...For all other inquiries, press 4
- ...If you would like to hear the menu of selections again, press 9

What if God used the familiar excuse:

"We're sorry, all of our angels are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your call is very important to us, and will be answered in the order in which it was received. Please stay on the line."

Imagine hearing these responses as you call upon the Lord in prayer:

- ...If you would like to speak to the angel Gabriel, please press 1
- ...If you would like to speak to the Archangel Michael, please press 2

Calendar: July-August-Sept 2000

July 2000

Sivan-Tammuz 5760

July 4
Independence Day



1 Tammuz; July 4
Rosh Chodesh (New Moon)

August 2000

Tammuz-Av 5760



1 Av: August 2
Rosh Chodesh (New Moon)

8 Av: August 9
Erev Tish'ah B'Av (Eve of Ninth of Av)

9 Av: August 10
Tish'ah B'Av (Ninth of Av)

September 2000

Elul 5760-Tishri 5761



1 Elul: September 1
Rosh Chodesh (New Moon)

September 4
Labor Day

29 Elul: September 29

Erev Rosh HaShanah
(Eve of the New Year)

1 Tishri: September 30
Rosh HaShanah (New Year)

1 Tishri: September 30
Rosh Chodesh (New Moon)

EMJC on the Internet

Be sure to check Emmanuel's website during the Summer to find out what we have planned for celebrating the High Holy Days this Fall. The website will have the latest and most complete details on the schedule of services and special events. New features are constantly added, and information updated. "So," you say, "tell me already, what is the Emmanuel website URL?"

We're glad you asked!

www.godwithus.org

It's well worth a look!

From the Rabbi...

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Messianic Judaism, as it is maturing, is helping Christians restore the richness of their Jewish roots. Rabbi Saul/Apostle Paul said that gentile believers were "grafted in" and had become part of the Commonwealth of Israel. In other words, all the wonderful teachings and practices Moses taught his people are available to grafted-in non-Jews, as well as Jews.

Furthermore, Messianic Judaism, as it grows in acceptance by the Jewish community as another "branch" of Judaism, will enable our people to receive the message of the Messiah pertaining to salvation, better biblical interpretation, and more sanctified living. This, then, will enable our people to fulfill the purpose God had for us chosen people—to tell all the world about him.

Messianic Judaism has a lot to offer both Christians and Jews.

Blessings and Shalom,

Rabbi Barry (Baruch) Rubin

...and hearing the following all-too-familiar responses:

...For a directory of other angels, press 3
 ...If you would like to hear King David sing a psalm while you are holding, press 4
 ...To find out if a loved one has been assigned to heaven, press 5, enter his or her social security number, then press the pound key. If you get a negative response, try area code 666.
 ...For reservations at "My Father's House," please enter J-O-H-N, followed by 3, then 16.
 ...For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, and the current location of Noah's Ark, please wait until your arrival here.

...We're sorry, our records indicate that you have already prayed today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow so that others may have a chance to get through.
 ...This office is closed from sundown Friday evening until sundown on Shabbat. Please pray later.
 ...If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, please contact your local Messianic rabbi.

Our Conclusion: *Baruch HaShem* that the Lord Almighty doesn't need voice mail, and he always listens whenever we pray! Hallelujah!

Did You Know These Scripture Fun Facts?



THE OLDEST HEBREW BIBLE

The oldest complete version of the Hebrew Bible still in existence dates from 1008 C.E. It is part of a valuable and comprehensive collection of old Hebrew manuscripts in the Russian Public Library in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), brought there in the late 1800's. It is known as the *Leningrad Codex*.

THE MOST EXPENSIVE BIBLE

The world's most expensive Bible is the copy of Gutenberg's Old

Covenant, containing Genesis through Psalms. It was printed in 1455, and it brought \$5.39 million at an auction at Christie's in New York on October 22, 1987.

THE BIBLE IN CHAPTER AND VERSE

The Bible was not written with chapter and verse numbers, which made it difficult to locate specific texts. The first paragraph markings of the Hebrew Bible were added in the period before Yeshua, and divisions by verse were introduced by Jewish scribes early in the time of Messiah. Chapter divisions of both Old and New Covenants came in the thirteenth century.

THE LONGEST CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE

The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119, with 176 verses. It is an acrostic poem, with each group of eight verses beginning with successive letters of the alphabet. This psalm is a massive composition in praise of the Torah. Each verse refers to God's Word in some way.

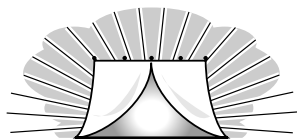
THE SHORTEST CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE
The Bible's shortest chapter, Psalm 117, comes just two chapters before its longest chapter. It is a beautiful little gem, a burst of praise to God, urging people to praise God for his goodness and faithfulness. It is only two verses long!

THE LONGEST BOOK IN THE BIBLE
The Book of Jeremiah is the longest book in the Bible. It has the most words, even though it doesn't have the most chapters (52). Jeremiah was a passionate prophet, pouring out his heart at great length and with great emotion to God. The book with the most chapters is the Book of Psalms, with 150 separate psalms.

The Longest Verse in the Bible
The Book of Esther contains the longest verse in the Bible—Esther 8:9. It consists of 85 words in the New Revised Standard Version, 43 words in the Hebrew. Its subject matter: it tells of Mordechai (Esther's uncle) issuing an edict allowing the Jews of Persia to defend themselves. ☆

One
Last
Word

Search your hearts through the month of Elul for the High Holy Days are soon upon us. Watch the mail or Internet for an announcement of the location for High Holy Day Services.



**EMMANUEL
MESSIANIC JEWISH
CONGREGATION**

P.O. Box 615
Clarksville, MD 21029
www.godwithus.org

Address Correction Requested

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