



Winter 2000

# Hineni!

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)

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## From the Rabbi...

### Building Update

### Rough Sketch of Our Building

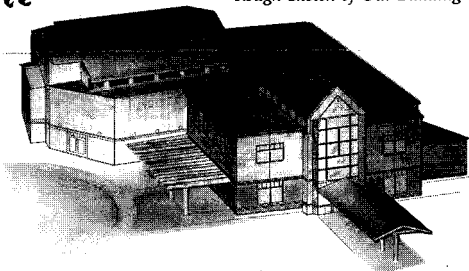
In our last issue of *Hineni*, I wrote that I'd try to show you a picture of the "new building." We're still working with our architects, but I can show you what we've got so far. We're expect to finalize the plans in early 2000, get them out for bid, and start construction in early Spring.

Our target date for having the sanctuary ready for worship is next Rosh Hashanah, September 29. This will be tight, but it's a goal worth striving toward. We sold our Baltimore building several years ago, and need to re-establish permanent roots in Howard County. As this building goes from a faith venture to a concrete structure, we will all know it's been worth the wait and inconvenience.

The price of the property was way, way below market value. James Rouse and his HRD Corporation, the developers of Columbia, set aside property to provide places of worship for the residents of River Hill. This has been done in other villages of Columbia.

Located right behind the Giant, on 2.2 acres of prime real estate, we sit right next to Route 108, about a half-mile off of Route 32. People from all of Howard County, northern Montgomery, Carroll, Baltimore, Anne Arundel and Prince Georges will find getting to our building easy and fast. None of these counties is more than 30 minutes away. For years I've envisioned that our congregation would serve the needs of Messianic and non-Messianic Jews and Gentiles all over central Maryland. This building will make this vision a reality.

Currently, our "partner," Covenant Community Church, is discussing merging with another church, Living Water



Fellowship. Assuming they do, they'll have enough money for their share of the building. This will enable us to build now. Although Emmanuel's membership is steadily growing, our work is seriously hampered not having our own building. We are burdened to get this building built.

We're planning to share the building (the second floor) with another similar organization I direct, Lederer/Messianic Jewish Communications. In case you're unfamiliar with this work, Lederer publishes and distributes Messianic Jewish literature, music, Israeli gifts and Judaica. It owns a building on Park Heights Avenue, from where it's been distributing needed Messianic Jewish resources for decades. Lederer/Messianic Jewish Communications manages Jewish New Testament Publications and helped publish the *Jewish New Testament*, as well as the *JNT Commentary* and the *Complete Jewish Bible*. Many other excellent books have been put in print by Lederer.

We're not sure exactly how much the Emmanuel share of the building is going to be. We will have a better idea by the time you receive your next *Hineni*. We do have a major chunk of the funds we need now, but your support for our building fund would help a lot. I know we'll need additional money as we enter the construction phase of the building.

You'll be getting periodic reports from me about the progress of the new building. We've done a lot of "homework" as to location and feel we've been granted this one to further the work of God all over central Maryland. This facility will greatly increase our impact. I'd appreciate your prayers for wisdom and finances as we begin this awesome undertaking.

Shalom in Yeshua,

Rabbi Barry Rubin

## Meet the Members God's Favor

By Donna Fisher

**M**rs. Fisher, people with MRIs like yours are not walking around—they're dead." Doctor Solomon, my neurosurgeon, used these words to make me realize how serious it was. The MRI showed that I had a tumor attached to my brain stem. He was explaining that surgery was my only option. They would go through my nose and sinuses and peel back my face. "And if I don't have surgery?" I asked. The answer came: "Well, you'd be dead within two months."

On the day of my surgery, I arrived at the hospital with my family, but they didn't understand my calmness. However, I knew and felt the peace of God. Of course, I was

"Please give my family the strength to deal with whatever happens today."

I came through 16 hours of surgery, and then endured several days of excruciating pain afterward. During recovery, I had no feeling in my left side. Returning home, I could neither walk nor do anything for myself. My food had to be pureed; my central line for blood drawing and injections had to be flushed daily. Another test of my faith came after five days of being home. I developed stiffness in my neck and an unbearable headache. I was returned to Johns Hopkins where I was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis. Food that I had eaten had caused the



fearful of going into the operating room, but my main concern was for my family. I tried to reassure them that everything would be okay. God had been with me from the start. Why would he fail me now?

When the nurse came to take me to the operating room, questions began to flood my mind. Was God punishing me or testing me? What does God want? He wants us to trust him. He doesn't give us anything we can't handle. Since God offers eternal salvation to all that place their trust in Yeshua (Jesus) as Savior and Lord, I had nothing to fear. I prayed,

infection because my soft palate had not healed completely. To heal, I could take nothing by mouth for four months.

Then more bad news came. The tumor had been cancerous—a slow growing tumor about which little was known. The only known treatment was a special proton radiation therapy only offered in two places in the world. I went to Boston for eight weeks of treatments after my recuperation at Hopkins, and then to a rehab center. About a month after coming home from Boston, I discovered that I was pregnant with our

**"Mrs. Fisher,  
people with MRIs**

**like yours are not  
walking around—  
they're dead."**

first child. Five months into the pregnancy, I learned that the tumor had come back. Obviously, I couldn't submit to surgery while pregnant; that had to wait.

I delivered a premature baby boy, Zachariah. He was perfect except that his lungs were underdeveloped and he had to be on a ventilator for several weeks. When he was able to eat properly, the hospital released him and my husband Ray and I brought him home. We went to bed that night with our son in the bassinet beside our bed, within arm's reach. I fed him in the night and then woke up before the alarm. When I reached for him, he was cold and listless. I called his name, but he wouldn't respond. Ray unsuccessfully attempted CPR. Zach's official cause of death was SIDS—Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. All the doctors could say was that he "forgot to breathe."

I had surgery to remove the second tumor, then went back to Boston for proton radiation therapy once again. When I went for a checkup with my family doctor, he discovered that—surprise!—I was pregnant again. God blessed us again with a chance to bring another child into the world.

Our daughter was born a month early, weighing 5 pounds, 6 ounces. We named her Hannah, which means "favored," and her life truly represents the struggle we'd endured and how God's favor brought us through it all. ✪

## Significant Dates in Jewish History

January 2, 1887

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America opens.

January 6, 1943

American Jewish Congress founded in Pittsburgh.

January 23, 1492

First printing of the Pentateuch.

January 26, 1945

Auschwitz liberated by the Russian Army.

February 2, 1915

~~Abba Simon~~ ~~Israeli~~ statesman, born.

February 6, 1481

First execution of the Spanish Inquisition carried out.

February 14, 1949

The Knesset opened its first session.

February 17, 1949

Chaim Weizmann elected first president of Israel.

February 24, 1912

Hadassah founded by Henrietta Szold.

March 14, 1879

Albert Einstein, physicist, born.

March 22, 1874

The first YMHA was established in New York.

March 26, 1979

Peace treaty between Egypt and Israel signed.

March 31, 1492

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella signed the order expelling Jews from Spain.

## Cookbooks Going Like Hotcakes

Belle's brisket. Gary & Linda's *hummus*.

Scott's *mattzah brei*. Carol's *blintzes*.

Sylvia's *nuglach*. Mark's *falafel*.

Dee's *kugel*. Maria's chocolate chip cookies. These are just a few of the over 100 recipes (including a wealth of traditional and unique holiday recipes!) in our new Emmanuel Cookbook compiled by Carol Asher. Order yours today for only \$10 (that includes postage and handling). Send your order to Emmanuel Cookbook, P.O. Box 615, Clarksville, MD 21029.

## Calendar for January-March 2000

### January 2000

Tevet-Shevat 5760

January 1

New Year's Day



January 10/1 Shevat

Rosh Chodesh (New Moon)

January 17

Martin Luther King Day

January 22/15 Shevat

Tu B'Shevat (Holiday for Planting Trees)

### February 2000

Shevat-Adar 1 5760

February 2

Groundhog Day



February 7/1 Adar I

Rosh Chodesh (New Moon)

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 21

President's Day

### March 2000

Adar I-Adar II 5760



March 8/1 Adar II

Rosh Chodesh (New Moon)

March 20/13 Adar II

Fast of Esther  
Erev Purim (Eve of the Feast of Lots)

March 21/14 Adar II

Purim (Feast of Lots)

March 22/15 Adar II

Shushan Purim (Susa Lots)

NOTE: In this year, 5760, you will notice that there are TWO months of Adar—Adar I and Adar II. This is because the Jewish calendar is based on the lunar month which has to be adjusted by adding a leap month every few years to get things back on track.

## Jewish Humor (provided by Barbara Saville)

Did you hear about the dyslexic rabbi?  
He walks around saying "Yo."

Here are some classic Jewish Country song titles:

- "I Was One of the Chosen People (Till She Chose Somebody Else)"
- "Honky-Tonk Nights on the Golan Heights"
- "I've Got My Foot on the Glass, Where Are You?"
- "My Rowdy Friend Elijah's Coming Over Tonight"
- "New Bottle of Wine, Same Old Testament"
- "Stand By Your Mensch"
- "Eighteen Wheels and a Dozen Latkes"
- "I Balanced Your Books, But You're Breaking My Heart"
- "That Shiksa Done Made Off With My Heart Like a Goniff"
- "The Second Time She Said 'Shalom,' I Knew It Meant Goodbye"
- "You're the Lox My Bagel's Been Missin'"
- "You've Been Talkin' Hebrew in Your Sleep Since That New Rabbi Came to Town"
- "Mamas, Don't Let Your Ungrateful Sons Grow Up to Be Cowboys (When They Could Very Easily Have Just Taken Over the Family Hardware Business That My Own Grandfather Broke His Back to Start and My Father Built Up Over Years of Effort Which Apparently Doesn't Mean Anything Now That You're Turning Your Back on Such a Gift)"





*Monetta Fishbeck died on November 23, 1999. Some were unable to attend Monetta Fishbeck's memorial service. Others have asked for a copy of the eulogy. This is what I read at Monetta's memorial service. If you knew her, you would understand why there were a lot of tears in the congregation that day. She was a special lady!*

**EULOGY FOR MONETTA FISHBECK**  
Rabbi Barry Rubin

A wise man wrote, "The day of death is better than the day of one's birth. It's like two ships laden with merchandise sailing the seas, one coming in and the other going out. People praised the one coming in, not the one going out. When asked why, they replied, "We praise the ship

# Remembering Monetta

coming in because she went out in peace and has returned in peace. As to the one going out, we do not know what her fate will be." When a person is born we do not know what his deeds will be, but when he departs this world, we already know his deeds.

Monetta Fishbeck has departed this world. We who know her deeds can praise her. She was a good friend to so many people. She sincerely cared about them. She was a wonderful wife to her husband Glenn, always concerned with his well-being. As a mother she was magnificent, although I know she was able to cause her fine son Jeff some occasional consternation.

She was always aware of doing the right thing. When it was someone's birthday, she remembered to send a card. She saw that as one of the ways she served at Emmanuel. When it was time for her financial report as our bookkeeper, she made sure everything balanced to the penny. If it didn't, she wasn't happy. She wanted things to be correct. Monetta knew how things ought to be, although, often she was frustrated that things were not that way. She was a woman that cared.

On the night she died, my wife and I visited her in the hospital. The word was that she was near the end. She breathed laboriously but was not in any pain. Her nurse said she thought she could hear people, but couldn't respond, so I read

some scripture to her, recited some prayers, and talked to her. Steffi sang some of her favorite songs, songs that Monetta used to enjoy singing. I hope she was able to receive these blessings before she went into "the world to come." If nothing else, they demonstrated how much we loved her.

Now she is with the Lord. We trust the words of Scripture, "Absent from the body, at home with the Lord." All of us will die one day; God is the judge. Monetta did not live a perfect life. She made many mistakes and like all of us committed many sins.

But she had the faith to know that because she had made a decision many years ago, accepting God's gracious offer to transfer her sins onto Yeshua the Messiah, he had already forgiven her and accepted her as his child. Right now, our friend's body lies in a grave, but her spirit, her essence, her real self, is with God. The pain she experienced in her flesh for many years; the problems she encountered here on earth almost daily, are all behind her. She is truly at peace.

We who remain behind can't understand why God took her at such a young age. But we can know that she is in a far better place, and that if we have trusted in God's provision to reconcile us to him—Yeshua the Messiah—we will see her again in Paradise. I, for one, look forward to that day. ☆

**Don't  
forget!**

Join us for the annual Emmanuel Community Passover Seder on the evening of Thursday, April 20 at the Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville. Call for information: 410-521-9779.



**EMMANUEL  
MESSIANIC JEWISH  
CONGREGATION**

P.O. Box 615  
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