

# Beit Simcha ("House of Joy") Newsletter

14 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Easton, PA 18042

September 1, 2008 Elul 1 5768 Issue 67

www.beitsimcha.org

610-289-2011

## Ted Pearce Coffeehouse

-- Lawrence Powell



Come one, come all, Ted Pearce is coming to the House of Joy! Save the date of Thursday, 9/11, starting at 7:30pm. Ted will bring a special guest from Germany for a powerful night of ministry, as Ted has been working with German believers in the area of Holocaust forgiveness and healing. Invite a friend for a special evening, with noshes and coffee for all.

## Learn to share good news

Jeffrey Bernstein is a five-fold ministry evangelist who has planted congregations as far away as Kazakhstan. Jeffrey now proclaims the good news to fellow Jews in New York City's marketplace and university campuses such as Columbia. At our Shabbat service on September 6, Jeffrey will teach us how to present the good news and our testimony more effectively to Jews. He will also be discussing possible short term mission trips to New York City

## High Holidays are Nigh

-- Lawrence Powell

What a weighty season we are entering into. The High Holy Days are times to reflect, slow down, examine our lives, with the *Ruach HaKodesh* (Holy Spirit). Rosh Hashanah is traditionally the spiritual new year, when Hashem comes as King and Judge of the world. The Bible actually calls this Holy Day *Yom Teruah*, the day of blowing shofars (Leviticus 23:24). Other than blowing shofars, no work was to be done. It is a day of rejoicing in the camp, because it is also the culmination of the great harvest of the summer. It is thought that the sound of the shofar actually makes the demons run. What a blessed way to start the days of Awe!

What are the Days of Awe, you ask? They are the ten days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur. Their significance? They are days when we reflect on the year that has passed, and, as David says in Psalm 139:23, "Search me, Oh God, and know my heart, see if there be any wicked way in me." Have you been a

*\*mensch* (a good person) this past year? Have you given to the poor? Have you passed the people on the street and been affected by their frowns or their smiles? Are you reconciled with your neighbor and Hashem? If not by Rosh Hashanah, then you still have the days of awe and Yom Kippur to ask forgiveness. It is a season to remember and reflect and make *t'shuvah* (returning or repentance).

Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:26-32 explains that the Day of Atonement, the tenth day of the seventh month, is a holy convocation. The children of Israel are to deny themselves (which they do through fasting and other restrictions). This day was so awesome that anyone who did not follow this command was to be cut off from his people! Now, here's the kicker...it is a permanent regulation. Even though Hashem knew that He would one day send the Messiah into the world to be the sacrifice for the sin of the world, he still made this a permanent event on the Jewish calendar. Why? Well, here's a point to ponder: we still need to be reminded that we are still sinners and of that sacrifice that was made. Though we no longer have the Temple to make sacrifices in, and Yeshua has made the sacrifice for atonement once and for all, the remembrance of this day turns us to intercession for all those who have not yet received his atonement.

Yom Kippur is a time where we seek Hashem's forgiveness corporately, not only for ourselves, but for the Jewish (and believing) community as a whole. In the prayers for repentance, the pronoun used is always WE. WE have sinned, forgive US.

After such solemnity, the mood switches to the Feast of *Sukkot* (Booths), "the season of our joy" when we build temporary dwellings and celebrate the harvest and the joy of the kingdom of Messiah in the world to come.



Our Rosh Hashanah services are Mon, Sept 29 at 7:30pm and Tuesday, Sept 30 at 11am. Our Yom Kippur services are Wed, Oct 8 (*Kol Nidre*) at 7:30pm and Thursday, Oct 9 at 11am, ending with a *Ne'ilah* (Closing the Gates) service at 5:30pm, then breaking the fast. Our celebrations of the first and last days of Sukkot are in the booth Oct 13 and 21 at 7:30pm, and on Shabbat, Oct 18. Come worship with us!

## Train up a Child

-- Pericles Gabriele

Since at least 1780 congregations around the globe have been offering children the sort of education that regular schools could not or would not offer. Religious schools educate not just the mind but the spirit, drawing from the Holy Scriptures. Thousands of years before Sunday schools, the ancient people of Israel taught the Scriptures to their children. They placed such prominence on religious instruction that studying the Torah was considered one of the highest forms of worshipping Adonai. Torah tells us that we are required to diligently teach the children (Deuteronomy 6:7). Moreover, the High Priest Joshua Ben Gamala started education for boys from the age of six (103-76 B.C.). By the age of 10 boys were ready to study the traditions that came to be known as the Oral Torah, and at the age of 13 one was old enough to fulfill the commandments. Some scholars believe that boys in ancient Israel were questioned about the Oral Law on the steps of the Temple. Perhaps Yeshua took part in this (Luke 2:41-51).

Beit Simcha carries on this legacy with our Shabbat school. Shabbat school was brought into being to educate the congregation's children in the Torah, God's character, and the holidays/feasts. The coordinators of Shabbat school are Susanita Levy and Tracy Abush. Classes are held in the education wing of the congregation after the children's blessing during service. The classes are broken down into three age groups of students. The first group is ages 5, 6, and 7; the second group ages 8, 9, 10, and 11. Pre-Bat & Bar Mitzvah training begins at age 12. Soon the classes will be called Beit, Gimel and Dalet respectively. The Beit and Gimel classes are based on a curriculum called *Golden Apples*. The curriculum is currently being used in sixty Messianic Jewish congregations and provides lessons in the five books of the bible, the Prophets, and the New Covenant. The materials begin with a passage from the Torah *parsha* (portion) of the week; then it is amplified by Yeshua's teaching. From there, it draws a life application from the particular lesson, and end with a faith statement. The curriculum threads the scriptures, which means that the Torah scripture, the words of Yeshua and the New Covenant books are closely connected.

This curriculum stresses the continuity of the Torah with the rest of the Scriptures, demonstrating to the children that Yeshua did in fact teach Torah.

From the age of 5 and up, students in Shabbat school also have the opportunity of learning the ancient language of Hebrew. Ages 5, 6, and 7 start by learning the basic Hebrew letters and Aleph/bet, and afterwards graduate into forming more complex words and sentences by ages 8 through 12. Becky Basehore teaches the advanced Hebrew in the Gimel class to the older aged kids. It is the desire and goal of the Shabbat school desire to produce an environment where children will be motivated to learn and at the same time to teach the Bible as relevant to their lives. The coordinators also encourage all their students to become Bar and Bat Mitzvah because it is a very important ceremony to many Jews as the son or daughter takes ownership of the Torah in all its ways. In the end, Shabbat school fosters an environment of learning, growing and walking with the Lord to prepare and train our children in the ways they should go (Proverbs). Our children are our future and more importantly the future of God's kingdom. In many ways this ministry is one of the most important ministries any congregation can have.

## Manna from Heaven

-- Shari Landis

Beit Simcha had opportunity to join with other believers to honor God through the arts at the Lehigh Valley's first MannaFest, held in Bethlehem during the same ten days while Musikfest was in full swing. Shouts of joy could be heard in the tent of the righteous as Beit Simcha's worship team teamed up with the dance troupe (looks like we have one!) as they rejoiced before the Lord with Messianic Jewish dance. Congregational members were out in force supporting their *mishpochah* (family) on this special night. In addition to Beit Simcha's involvement at the Main Stage, several of our prayer warriors joined in keeping the Prayer Room filled with worship and prayer during the 60 hours of the event, and one of our sound guys helped to see that the anointed sounds of MannaFest could be enjoyed by all in attendance. A new level of unity has begun to be manifest through this special time of praying, serving, and worshiping together, and Beit Simcha has been blessed to be a welcomed part of it.

## Prophetic Words, 8/23/08

--Barbara Sittler

Today, before the time of waiting on the Lord, Rabbi Glenn gave a prophetic word about the Father's love. The Father had sent his Son, who is as close as his heart. That is how close the Father wants us to be. He wants you to love Him with all your heart and soul because that is how always loves you.

After the next song, a sweet silence followed. (Someone called it an awe-filled silence.) Then Kathy Sandt said: I saw a picture of a throne with One wearing a purple robe and a gold crown. Then I saw another throne with a majestic lion on it. The interpretation: Yes, I'm a king, but I'm coming back with the power and fury of a lion. Paul Kofchock: I am getting the same word we got last week: intimacy. He brings it back because we need to "get it", go deeper. Intimacy is there and he wants us to have it. Lawrence Powell: As Rabbi Glenn gave the word about love, I got a picture about a baptism that will be here in the church tomorrow. There is water rising up in this room. The Father was filling this room with the water of his love. We have been soaking in it like in a bathtub. Kim Varner: As we sang songs of powerful majesty, I remembered Revelation 3. They who overcome will sit with him on his throne. Rabbi Glenn: Let's ponder what we have heard. The Father wants us to be as close as his heart. Who is on the throne? The Lamb, the Lion, the Father. We also sit with Him on the throne as we open our hearts to the Father's love. Sue Kofchock: He will come with power and fury, but as we are intimately related to him, we won't have to feel his fury. Vikki Negoescu: He wants to change us to be able to receive his power. He may need to "change our wiring" so we can receive, but we need to stay "plugged in." Sandi Plummer read from Acts: the man was standing before the crowd healed. The people said, "These men have been with Yeshua." Shawn Bogert: Today the congregation is a small crowd, but I felt like I was in the midst of thousands like in the throne room. Mike Sandt: A few weeks ago at work, I felt the presence of the Lord. I heard, "My son, in you is my delight." I couldn't get past this because I know how sinful I can be, but I now realize that his delight is based on what he is doing in us, not on what we do. He says this word to each one of us....

## Get Wisdom: Prosperity

-- Glenn Blank, Shabbat, August 23/30

Today I continue my series of teachings on wisdom, based on Proverbs and other biblical

wisdom. This message outlines ten principles of wisdom about finances. These ten may not be quite as stunning as the ten that Moshe brought down from Sinai—well, those were written by the finger of God! Still, these following these principles will bless you.

Principle #1: Wisdom promises prosperity. Proverbs 8:18. "With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity." Proverbs 22:4 adds, "Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life." The Torah, in Deuteronomy 8:18, promises that "the LORD your God ... gives you the ability to produce wealth." God wants to bless his people. *V'eemru?* (And let us say?)

Now you may be thinking, is our Rabbi preaching the "prosperity gospel"? There is a core of truth in some prosperity teaching, though it doesn't always take into account all that the Bible and wisdom literature has to say about wealth. The core of truth is that Hashem does want to bless his people with prosperity. He wants us to learn how to remove obstacles that may prevent us from receiving this blessing. One obstacle is unbelief. If the Torah teaches that "the LORD your God ... gives you the ability to produce wealth," how should we respond? Amen! Father, your will be done! *V'eemru?*

Yet sometimes believers get caught in lies or curses. For example, some people think that money is the root of evil. What's wrong with this picture? 1 Timothy 6:10 actually says, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." Scripture warns against the love of money, an affection or attachment to money. Our love and attachment must be in Hashem. In God we trust (as it is written on our money)! Money, per se, is not evil, and the Lord wants his people to use it wisely. So Yeshua tells a parable about servants receiving one, five and ten talents of gold, then coming back to reward those who had invested wisely.

Prosperity can be a blessing, if handled properly. The Lord does want to bless us.

Principle #2: True prosperity flows from honoring G-d. Proverbs 3:9-10, "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." The blessing of prosperity flows out of honoring G-d. Otherwise, it's not really a blessing. Prosperity apart from honoring G-d is worthless in the end. *V'eemru?* Proverbs

11:28. "Whoever trusts in riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf."

Principle #3: Godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6). So many people have large houses but broken homes, with rich food on their tables but strife around them. Proverbs 15:16-17, "Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil. Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred." Let your security and trust be in God, not money. Godly trust and contentment is an expression of our abiding trust in God. Hebrews 13:5 says: "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Paul expresses wisdom when he says, in Philippians 4:12, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." The Lord does not want us to worry or be anxious, but to trusting and content. *V'eemru?*

Principle #4: The way to prosperity usually involves diligence and work. Proverbs 11:13 says, "Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow." Proverbs 12:11 observes, "He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment." Proverbs 28:19 repeats the same idea. So it must be important!

Bobby Schwoyer shared with me a story about a family in Israel that trusts the Lord to provide them with airline tickets. Once, when they got to the airport, someone did give them the tickets. But several other times they went, and there were no tickets for them. The Lord does want us to have a child-like trust that he can provide manna from heaven. But He also wants us to be responsible and diligent. So Proverbs 21:25-26 says, "The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing." Laziness is a major cause of poverty. Unfortunately, the welfare system, while well-meaning, tends to reinforce dependency and poverty. Hebrews 6:12 says, "We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."

Principle #5: Avoid debt. Proverbs 22:7. "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." In Solomon's day, this happened literally: if a

man couldn't pay off a debt, he sold himself (or his children) as a slave. How do people sell themselves into slavery today? Today too many consumers become slaves to MasterCard and Visa. With their high interests and fees, it's wise to pay off all credit card bills immediately!

Proverbs 22:26-27 says. "Do not be a man who strikes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you." Solomon was warning about borrowing money without sufficient collateral. A mortgage is one thing – it is borrowing against the equity of a house. Credit card debt is another – get out of credit card debt! Still, I paid off my mortgage as quickly as I could. Now I am free to help my children go to college, or reduce what our family needs to me to serve you as your Rabbi full-time! And just because a new car smells nice, beware of borrowing for one you cannot afford.

The Lord's wants to free his children from the trap of debt. The Great Madison Avenue Lie is this: you need to buy things you don't need, with money you don't have, from people you don't even like.

Principle #6: Whatever you earn, spend less. Or as Proverbs 21:20 says: "There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man swallows it up." The wise have a dwelling place filled with the treasure of security and the oil of the Spirit.

The foolish swallow up the treasure and oil so that there is nothing left to live on. The way to create financial security, whether it is for retirement or sending children to college, or devoting yourself to a mission for the Lord, or simply to be prepared for a crisis, is to spend less than you earn over time.

The wise understand the discipline of creating "margin" – a buffer zone between where we are and our limits. Living without margin, you live from paycheck to paycheck worried that you will run out of money before you run out of month. Living without margin, you figure you can keep your head above water—as long as nothing catastrophic happens. Living without margin is a stressful way to live! Living without margin can make you more vulnerable to anxiety and depression.

Proverbs 10:15 says, "The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor." In other words, wealth can be a form protection—though not as a substitute for the LORD! Yeshua warned against this in Luke 12:16-21, in his parable of the rich man who tore down his barns to build bigger ones, to be

complacent. "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." Yeshua warns against trusting in riches instead of G-d. The problem with the rich man was not his wealth but his pride and complacency. Prosperity with godly trust, though, is a fortified city, a place of protection, a place of margin. People with financial margin have options and freedom.

So how do you get this margin? Instead of borrowing to buy a car or take a vacation, wisdom says, consider the ant, which "stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest." Proverbs 6:6-8. An ant has a brain so small you cannot see it with the naked eye. Yet God built some wisdom in the ant: when there is abundance, set some aside for future needs. Develop a budget and set aside a part of your present income for the inevitable needs of the future. What was Joseph's advice to Pharaoh? During the time of plenty, store up for the times of need.

Principle #7: You cannot out-give God. Proverbs 11:24-25 says, "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. The generous man will be prosperous and he who waters will himself be watered." Remember what I said about uncommon sense? The way to prosper to give it away. Proverbs 17:5 says, "He who mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker." On the other hand, Proverbs 19:17 says, "He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord and He will repay him for his good deed." Now the idea here is not to looking for the payback! It often comes in ways and when you aren't expecting it.

Principle #8: Invest in friends. Proverbs 19:16: "Many will entreat the favor of a generous man and every man is a friend to him who gives gifts." In Luke 16:9, Yeshua amplifies this principle: "I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." Have you ever thought it odd that Yeshua counsels us to use worldly wealth to gain friends? He warned against worshipping money, not against using it wisely. And it is wise to use money to gain friends, to build relationships. You can't take your money or fancy cars into heaven, but you can take godly relationships. Even in this life, investing in relationships is wise.

Successful businesspeople know this. Businesses that stop investing in people eventually go out of business. Proverbs 19:4 frankly says, "Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him." Everyone can apply these principles. Give a little out of the little wealth that you have. Use whatever substance Hashem gives you to bless others, and you will be blessed.

Principle #9: Get good advice. Proverbs 15:22: "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." Whether it be with making wise investments, or finding a good mechanic, or succeeding with a budget, wisdom tells us to seek good advice. Just a few weeks ago, I went to our savings bank to talk to a financial planner about my plans for retirement. She gave me a few good pointers. Next, I will discuss a draft of a budget for full-time ministry for with Scott and Anita. Proverbs 19:20 counsels, "Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise." Accepting advice may require some humility. But remember: God gives grace to the humble!

Also, seek good, godly advice! Proverbs 14:15 warns, "A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps." There are plenty of people out there ready to give you bad advice—more than ever on the Internet! Don't believe every pitch you hear. Give thought to your steps.

Scott could you come up to share something with us? Scott Smith shared about a resource for financial counseling. Contact Scott for details.

Principle #10 (last, but not least): Be faithful with your tithes and offerings. The Scriptures promises that when we trust God with our tithes and offerings, he will bless us. The Torah portion which Pamela chanted, from Deuteronomy 12:11 says, "then you will bring all that I am ordering you to the place Hashem your God chooses to have his name live -your burnt offerings, sacrifices, tithes, the offering from your hand..." When we keep the covenant commandment, Hashem promises to bless us, as the next verse says, "and you will rejoice in the presence of Hashem your God—you, your sons and your daughters." How many of you have experienced the joy of giving tithes and offerings to Hashem? (Almost everyone in the sanctuary raised their hands!)

Haggai 3:10-11 says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw

open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." If we are faithful to give 10% of their income to the house of Hashem, He promises to bless the remaining 90% by throwing open the floodgates of heaven and pouring out blessing. On the other hand, if we refuse to give 10%, He warns that the 90% we be consumed by the devourer. What good is what we have if we consume it all on our appetites instead of God's house?

Robert Jeffress, in his book *The Solomon Secrets*, tells the story of a pastor who made an impassioned plea for money to repair an old, crumbling church building. At the end of the message, the richest man in the congregation stood up and said, "I'll give one hundred dollars to the building fund." At that precise moment, a piece of plaster from the ceiling fell on his shoulder. He said, "I'll give one thousand dollars to the building fund." Before he could sit down, another piece fell on his head. He screamed out, "Pastor, I will double my pledge!" This prompted one of the deacons to shout, "Hit him again, Lord. Hit him again!" Hashem may not hit you on the head, but the Holy Spirit will nudge you...

Consistent giving of tithes to the house of God and offerings as the Spirit leads will produce godliness and faithfulness. In Mark 12:42-44, consider what Yeshua says about the offerings of a poor widow: "But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Yeshua said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything— all she had to live on." Why did he honor her gift, even though it was financially less? Because she gave it in faith: that's the most important thing about giving tithes and offerings: give in faith, rejoicing that you are able to trust Hashem and obey his commandments. If you find it hard to give, ask Hashem to give you more faith. That's a prayer He will answer! Moreover, He promises he will open the floodgates of heaven to bless you. Test him in this! *V'eamru?*

Let's review these ten principles:

1. Wisdom promises prosperity.
2. True prosperity flows from honoring God.
3. Godliness with contentment is great gain.
4. The way to prosperity usually involves diligence and work.
5. Avoid debt.
6. Whatever you earn, spend less.

7. You cannot out-give God.
8. Invest in friends.
9. Get good advice.
10. Be faithful with your tithes and offerings.

Last week, I closed with a prayer to cancel any curses that may block God's blessings. How many you know that God is restoring and renewing and blessings in your life? Shari got some good news since last Shabbat? A new job! *Baruch Hashem!*

To receive God's blessing, some of us may need to ask Him to remove curses that keep us poor. How many of you are struggling with debt? How many of you are not experiencing the blessing of good jobs, struggling to make ends meet? How many of you are not experiencing contentment with the Lord's daily provision for you? How many of you lack the trust to honor God with your finances? How many of you are struggling with a spirit of poverty?

Isaiah 61:1 announces, "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor." Messiah Yeshua came in the anointing of this Spirit, proclaiming good news to the poor. He came with the power to destroy the strongholds of poverty and He gave this power to us, when we put our trust in what He did for us on the tree. Galatians 3:13-14 proclaims, "Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to [us]." The curse of the Torah is upon those who disobey the Torah. But Messiah atoned for all our sins, paid all our debts, and cancelled every curse against us!

Let's pray: "Our Father in heaven, I give you thanks for the blood of Yeshua that redeemed me from all my sins, paid all my debts, and cancelled every curse against me! I repent of believing any lies or curses spoken about me or my family. I rebuke the curse and the spirit of poverty, debt, or discontent right now. By the blood of Yeshua, shed through his crown of thorns and all his wounds, every curse against me is broken and reversed. I receive the blessing of prosperity, contentment and generosity that you intend for me as your child and your servant. And as you bless me and my house, I will honor you. I pray in the name of Yeshua our Messiah and King. Amen."