

Beit Simcha ("House of Joy") Newsletter

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Double Bar Mitzvah!

On the 21st of June, Beit Simcha will be packed with simcha (joy) as Austin Breed and Kyle Levy both become B'nei Mitzvot (sons of the commandments). But who, you may ask, are Austin and Kyle?

Austin Breed was born 10/19/1994 to Scott and Kimberly Breed. Scott and Kim once served as Zakenim (Elders) at Beit Simcha. Hashem moved them back to Scott's heartland in Paris, Arkansas, but the Breeds are still mishpochah (family) for us! Austin is a high energy boy. This year, he played on an undefeated football team, dribbled a basketball, ran for his life in track and now is playing baseball. Don't think for a minute though, that Austin is all sports guy, because he also was on honor roll all year, is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, and Junior National Beta Club. In preparation for his responsibility (and community service), he built the website for his AR congregation—check out www.chiambderech.com!

Kyle Levy was born 3/25/1995 to Aaron and Susanita Levy, who are Shamashim (Servant Leaders) at Beit Simcha. Kyle was just blessed with Matthew and Sarah becoming his brother and sister officially, after a long stretch as foster siblings. If you attend Shul, you probably noticed a can in the foyer marked Kyle Levy Bar Mitzvah Project. For his community project, Kyle has collected funds and gone shopping for children in foster homes. These children are often taken from their homes without being able to take any of their toys or clothes. This project brought forth 75 packs for these kids. What a great way to fulfill Hashem's mitzvah to take care of the alien, the fatherless and the widow! Kyle also serves as an usher in congregation and is getting good at blowing the L-rd's horn (shofar). He is an honor roll student and plays both football and lacrosse. He is also involved in Cub Scouts as a Den chief, and he is a brown belt in Karate.

We at Beit Simcha are proud of what Austin and Kyle have accomplished this year getting ready for this major event. After the Bar Mitzvah, the Breeds and Levys are hosting a carnival-like party and a Remnant 11 concert. We are expecting lots of guests who have never experienced a Messianic Jewish service before, so please join us in praying for family and friends of the Breeds

and Levys. In the wee hours of the next morning, the two families are off for great adventure in Eretz Israel.

Mazel Tov, Austin and Kyle on your Bar Mitzvah and may you be blessed in all things!

Mishpochah Moments

We welcomed nine new members into our congregation this spring, after they completed a nine month membership class! Since then, many more newcomers have expressed interest in the next Spiritual Growth and Membership Class which begins after oneg on July 12.

We celebrated the Shulman family and our daughter congregation Beth El Gibor with a special send-off on April 26. Though we have now sent off six elders in two years, Beit Simcha continues to flourish, raising up 13 new shamashim, two of whom are now an eldership couple—Scott and Anita Smith!

We hosted several family Seders and two community Seders this year. The second one also fell on the eve of the Feast of First Fruits. Since then, we have been counting the omer—the fifty days or seven weeks leading up to the Feast of Shavuot (Weeks), which we will celebrate June 14-15. Since Shavuot is traditionally when Israel received the Torah (see Exodus 19:1 ff), we'll study and celebrate Torah through the night at the Blanks. Since Shavuot is also when the Lord poured out his Ruach on his followers (Acts 2), we will "soak in the Spirit" starting at 2pm in the sanctuary, then have a time of teaching and impartation of the Spirit and his gifts starting at 4pm.

Zemer Levav Coffeehouse

It's coffeehouse time again, and we are in for a treat. Zemer Levav will be joining us on **June 28th at 7pm**. This five member family's lyrics, rhythm and harmony is a Beit Simcha favorite. Sample their music from their new album at www.zemerlevav.com. And don't forget, not only is there music, there's noshes and kibitzing, too. Invite friends to join us for an evening of songs from the heart.

Kingdom Seed

The theme of the Tikkun Conference this year was Seed Time and Harvest. One of the greatest blessings that Hashem has given us is kingdom seed, because when it germinates in good ground, it produces a harvest of abundant, eternal life.

In Matthew 13, Yeshua compares the kingdom with seed. These four parables teach important principles about the kingdom of God.

What is the seed, literally? It is a small package containing the pattern and the potential of new life. What is the seed, spiritually? It is the word of God, containing the pattern and the prolific potential of God's kingdom.

During the conference, several prophecies spoke of the incorruptible seed. The seed of God's word contains the perfect pattern of God's plan. When the rain falls upon it, it will germinate and produce abundant life. There were also many prophetic words about rain: God promises to supply the spring rains that will cause the seed to germinate, bringing forth new life. Whereas this world is in decline, tending toward decay and death, the seed and God's word are always producing growth and new life, "a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." In the parable of the four soils, birds (symbolic Hasatan with his hatred and lies) eat up the seed, rocky soil (our carnal desires and worries), and thorns (the temptations of this world) can destroy thwart or choke new life. Good soil requires cultivation. Though God provides seed and rain, we also have a role, as faithful farmers, breaking up our ground (hearts) for the seed, and trusting the seed to bring forth a harvest. Amen?

The parables of the mustard seed and the yeast both teach a doubly important principle about the kingdom. Rabbi Bernis shared his own version of the parable. When Jonathan went to St. Petersburg to plan a Messianic Jewish festival in 1993, there were long lines to buy bread and often when you got to the front, there was just a sign that said "Nyet!" So next time he decided to bring along a bread maker. He put flour and sugar in it and opened a bag of Fleishman's yeast. But when only a few grains came out, he thought he got gypped! So he emptied another bag, then another. When he came back after a nap, he discovered that his bread machine had been swallowed alive, along with much of the counter! Thus he learned: a little yeast leavens the whole batch! Kingdom seed has a huge upside. One man, who died—like a seed buried in the ground—is transforming the whole world, as billions put their trust in His promises. If we receive the seed of God's word with a trusting heart, it will produce exponential growth.

Preceding the weekend conference, the

Tikkun Leadership Advance provided both inspirational and practical teachings about how to sow kingdom seed.

Rabbi Ira Brawer talked about developing an intermarried ministry. Over 60% of Jews are marrying Gentiles. We want to become the “go-to resource” for church-going Gentiles married to Jews. Ira presented a program that starts with a funny skit, a well produced video, a panel of intermarried couples from the congregation, and food. As with all outreach ministries, it takes faith and perseverance!

Yours truly (Glenn) spoke about the web. Yeshua met people on the streets in villages and cities. But today, there aren't many people on our neighborhood streets. Besides shopping malls, most people are on the web. Even my Mom is meeting people on Jdate and our children network with MySpace and Facebook. When people are looking for something, they search with Google. So I've been thoroughly revamping our web site, www.beitsimcha.org. I realized that many visitors aren't prepared for our worship service. So our Shabbat services page shows what our services are like, with pictures of singing, dancing, reading from the Siddur and carrying the Torah scroll, a video of shofars blowing and a Torah service, complete with explanations based on Scripture. That way, I hope our visitors will be better prepared and stick around for the oneg! There are videos of yours truly giving his testimony—with nearly 2,000 views on YouTube in two months—and explaining our beliefs and services. There are links to Kim

Varner's blog and Michael Sandt's expanding library of audio podcasts. Michael Yu has started adding more sermons. So take a look and tell others to take a look. Of course, the web won't produce the harvest by itself. We still must break up the ground of our hearts, share the good news, and pray for the rain of God's Spirit.

Patty Juster shared an excellent talk about home-based outreach. A well-ordered home, with hospitality and open hearts speaking the truth in love, will attract others to the goodness of the kingdom. Her talk combined much practical wisdom with much godly inspiration. I encourage you to get a copy of this CD from our CD ministry.

Jack Jacobs and Raleigh Washington talked about the potential of partnership with the Church. The greatest harvest follows from a relational oneness between the believing Jew and believing Gentile. That's why we are bringing the *Becoming One* study to local churches. Immediately after we started one with our host congregation, Wellspring Community Church, Pastor Ken sent me a two page letter proposing that our two congregations partner together on Joint Outreach! We are planning a community car wash, Mothers of Pre-School Children, a booth at the Allentown Fair, an end-time prophecy seminar, hospital cancer outpatient prayer meetings, joint coffeehouses, etc.

Are you excited about the prolific potential of God's Kingdom Seed? Do you need to break up some ground for the seed?

Newsletter Survey

One way of serving those who express an

interest in our congregation has been sending out newsletters or e-mails from Rabbi Glenn.

We are considering changing the layout and content of the newsletter with other items of possible interest. We'd like your input. Please fill out the survey below and mail it back to us (use our address above), or fill it out at www.beitsimcha.org/newsletter-survey.asp. If we don't hear from you, we may conclude that you do not wish to receive the newsletter. So please do send us feedback—and thanks!

1. Would you prefer to receive the newsletter through the mail or an e-mail with a link to the newsletter?

Mail ___ E-mail ___ Both ___

2. Would you pass it on to someone else to spread good news? Yes ___ No ___

3. Are the excerpts from Rabbi Glenn's sermons helpful to you? Yes ___ No ___

4. Would you like to see more graphics and pictures? Yes ___ No ___

5. Would you order Jewish-focused tracts from Beit Simcha? Yes ___ No ___

6. Are you interested in upcoming special events at Beit Simcha? Yes ___ No ___

7. Would you like to see an “Ask the rabbi” section in the newsletter? Yes ___ No ___

8. Would a Messianic Jewish perspective on current events interest you? Yes ___ No ___

9. Would you like to see more Mishpochah Moments as in this issue? Yes ___ No ___

10. Is there anything else you would like to see in the newsletter?