

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **The High Holidays are here!**
- **Hear about the UMB at the UMJC conference!**
- **UMB has a new website!**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Appointment with the Divine 1

A Generation Apart 2

The UMB at the UMJC Conference 3

Upcoming UMJC Conference 4

Recipe for Sukkot 4

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

FALL 2010

An Appointment with the Divine

By: Rabbi Joshua Brumbach

We are currently in the Hebrew month of Elul. Elul is a very special month because it is the month preceding *Tishrei* – the month the High Holidays fall in. Traditionally it is known as a month of preparation. This preparation, called *Cheshbon HaNefesh*, is a time to take an accounting of our soul. We recall our thoughts and actions over the past year and begin to seek *t'shuvah* (repentance) for those things, and with those we may have wronged.

In recognition of this special month, and in anticipation for the upcoming High Holidays, a few additions are added to our daily prayers. One of the most noticeable is the sounding of the Shofar every morning of Elul. Another familiar addition is Psalm 27 – the Psalm associated with the High Holidays. Psalm 27 is added to all of the services beginning with the first day of Elul and continuing through the end of Sukkot.

How are we to understand this preparation period of Elul?

The rabbis teach us that Elul is actually an acro-

nym. Each of the Hebrew letters -- אלול — stands for the beginning letter of each word in the phrase אני לדודי ודודי לי (ani l'dodi v'dodi li) *I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.* A familiar phrase taken from Song of Songs 6:3.



Rosh Hashanah

The holidays in Hebrew are called *mo'edim*, set appointed times when God chooses to meet with us. The High Holidays are the pinnacle of these appointed times. HaShem desires that we should be caught up in a love affair with Him. As Abraham Joshua Heschel points out, God is in pursuit of a relationship with us. God desires communion with Creation and the High Holidays are set times when God “clears away His calendar” so to speak, and chooses to spend an even greater amount of time with us. Although we can meet with God anytime,

the *mo'edim* are specific and special times.

The High Holidays are also when many believe the Mashiach will return – at the final blast of the Shofar. As such, the High Holidays will inaugurate the final consummation at the end of the age when the Groom returns for His Bride, and ushers in the Messianic Age.

The High Holidays
So what are the High Holidays?

Rosh HaShanah is the Jewish civil New Year and commemorates the themes of creation, the coronation of God as our King, and the need for redemption. It is known biblically as the Feast of Trumpets.

Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement, the most holy day on the Jewish calendar. It is a day set apart for reflection and repentance.

Sukkot is known as the Feast of Booths. It is an eight day commemoration of when the Jewish people wandered in the desert for forty years. During that time we did not have a permanent place to live and had to live in temporary shelters (*sukkot*). Every year during the festival of Sukkot we continue to dwell in temporary *sukkot* to re-



The Shofar!

<http://revivalworship.com/catalog/images/S2285%5B1%5D.jpg>

nature of our lives. Sukkot reminds us that everything we have in life is from God, and to be thankful for everything God provides.

Simchat Torah is a lively celebration that occurs at the end of Sukkot and brings to conclusion (and restarts) the yearly Torah reading cycle.

These High Holidays offer us a season of divine appointments – beginning with Elul, the month of preparation leading up to the High Holidays, and ends with the conclusion of

Sukkot. This is our opportunity to meet with God. To declare HaShem as our King, and prepare the world for His soon return.

God is ready and willing to meet with you in this season. Are you ready?

***L'Shana tova tikateivu –
May you be inscribed for a sweet
New Year!***

A Generation Apart!

By: J. David

At this year's national UMJC Conference, young adults (18-35) learned a powerful message about growing up and taking on the roles of leadership in family, ministry, and relationships from Dr. Bruce Stokes, long time Vice President of the Union of Messianic Believers. Dr. Stokes exhorted young adults to be the "generation of strength," by taking on greater responsibility and going against the grain of the typical American cultural expectation of extended adolescence. It was a wonderful, eye-opening discussion with over forty attendees! The Generation of Strength also learned about the UMB and how they could be a part of this ministry as individuals or congregations in order to connect to the wider Messianic community. We were all challenged to take up our responsibilities and follow a Biblical Life Cycle instead of getting wrapped up in the American life cycle which allows for a long period of adolescence, eventually stifling growth and preventing us from become the leaders, parents, and grandparents that G-d has designed us to be. It was a wonderful gathering of five overall sessions designed for the 20s and 30s and was a big hit! Many commented how necessary this type of encouragement really was to bring home and how it spurred them on to make better decisions about their adult lives. Thank you, Dr. Stokes of the UMB, and to all the 20s and 30s who attended! What a blessing!

Remember 20s! You can join the UMB – be a part of this organization as an individual and find resources on messianic life and receive the newsletter! Get the application for membership here: <http://umjc.org/umb-mainmenu-105!>

UMJC CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE! SUMMER 2010

By: Rev. Trevor L. Embry

The 2010 UMJC “Walk the Talk” conference took place in Seattle, Washington. Many members of the UMB were there supporting the Messianic movement and enjoying fellowship with people from many different congregations. Because there is a close relationship between the UMJC and the UMB, this year, special sessions were offered to provide the opportunity for individuals to learn what the purpose of the UMB is and its goals for outreach to the larger community of believers, leadership training, and empowering the next generations!

The first of these sessions was led by Dr. John Fischer (President of UMB) and Dr. H. Bruce Stokes (Vice President of UMB) and allowed UMJC conference participants to learn about the benefits of the UMB membership and how they could be involved. This session provided insight on the different types of memberships in the UMJC (corporate membership) and the UMB, as a place where individual members may join to support the movement. The UMB also emphasized their desire to be an encouragement to the greater messianic movement, providing opportunities for discussion and fellowship, whether one is Jewish or not.

In another session, Dr. Stokes discussed the importance of the unity of the body of believers, focusing on Ephesians 4:1-5. It became clear as he spoke about Apostle Paul’s words, *“Always be humble, gentle and patient, bearing with one another in love, and making every effort to preserve the unity the Spirit gives through the binding power of shalom.”* (*Complete Jewish Bible, D. Stern*) that we would not all agree on each theological point. However, the Scripture is clear that we can preserve the unity of faith with one another in our discussions, whether we agree or disagree, as we are all united through the Spirit, Meshiach and the Father of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It’s by our joining together at the UMB that we can individually support the UMJC movement and have discussions that glorify the Lord.

Throughout the conference, the future generations of leaders were encouraged to take on some of the responsibilities of the movement. This was also discussed in one of the UMB sessions where Dr. Stokes spoke to UMJC participants in their 20’s and 30’s. Many identified with the struggle of wanting to take on more responsibility personally and in the movement but feeling unequipped and unable to do



so. They were encouraged to begin this transition, following a Biblical life-cycle, rather than hanging on to a cultural American life-cycle, which discourages taking on responsibility and being the leaders that G-d has called young people to be. These ideas brought many new difficult challenges that had not been faced by earlier generations and Dr. Stokes presented tools to help enable leadership among young messianic believers.

Overall, the conference was an encouragement to all and worthy of the LORD. Fellowship continues to bless all who attend and the UMB hopes to be a place where *all* people are welcome to come and glorify the LORD. At each conference we look forward to the time together and encourage each person to join with us in sharing the opportunity to support the UMJC by individual membership in the UMB. May the LORD continue to work through all who bless Him in Walking the Talk!

Throughout the conference, the future generations of leaders were encouraged to take on some of the responsibilities of the movement.

UMB

529 Jefferson St NE
Albuquerque N.M. 87108
Phone: (800) 692 - 8652

Web Address:

<http://www.umjc.org/umb-mainmenu-105>

UNION OF MESSIANIC BELIEVERS

Watch for our new website, coming soon!

Find the latest information and more about how you can get involved in this important ministry! We hope to post helpful content, including learning opportunities such as our "Ask the Rabbi," and "Ask the Professor," sections, information about upcoming conferences, and helpful resources just for you!

Get ready! Get set! ... and GO!

Dallas, here we come!

Are you ready for another amazing conference! Next year, the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC) will be hosting their conference in Dallas, Texas. It will be hot but it will be fabulous! Start getting ready TODAY so that you don't miss all the goodness Texas has to offer! Join the Union of Messianic Believers for a very unique track all their own of workshops and teachings!

Don't miss this opportunity! Mark your calendars for July 14-17, 2011. Stay tuned to the UMB newsletter and website for more details about what will be offered!

Pecan Pumpkin Loaf (Parve) for Sukkot Celebration

This is a great recipe for the upcoming High Holidays, especially for Sukkot. You can substitute chocolate chips for the pecans, or just add them to the recipe. It can also be served as a muffin if you prepare it in muffin tins

Ingredients:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - 3 cups flour | - 1/2 tsp. salt |
| - 2 cups sugar | - 1/2 tsp. cloves |
| - 2 tsp. baking powder | - 1 cup oil |
| - 2 tsp. baking soda | - 1 (16oz.) can pumpkin puree |
| - 1/2 tsp. cinnamon | - 1 cup pecans (optional) |
| | - 1 cup chocolate chips (optional) |



Preheat oven to 350° F.

Grease 2 loaf pans 8 x 4 inches).

In a large mixing bowl, using an electric or hand-held mixer, mix flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and cloves. Add oil and pumpkin puree. Mix until smooth. Stir in pecans and or chocolate chips. Pour batter into greased loaf pans. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes.