



*Special Succoth
Shabbat 15 October 2011
17 Tishri 5772*

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NEWS

Among all the workers in Jewish ministry we have two very faithful communicators who send us news about their activities, it is David Barzola from Buenos Aires and Jeff Zeremski from Florida in the States. I am happy to publish here their news about what happens in their respective congregations.

CELEBRATION IN BUENOS AIRES ARGENTINA

During seventeen meetings of these days, members, visitors and neighbors shared worship, fasting and prayers together. Matias Katz gave the drasha (sermon) during the second night of Rosh Hashana. He and his wife Gisela, led the Yom Kippur services at the Jewish Adventist Community in Uruguay.



We saw long ago that during the meetings, unknown persons put little notes in the wall of our temple as well as in the Western Wall in Jerusalem. This year we preach about prayer. We talked about our need to spend more time for personal devotion, just as Jesus did. During the night of Rosh Hashana, we invited the participants to write prayer requests and put them in the cracks of the wall. All participated with joy. Many

said that to write a little letter to God helped them to understand better the experience of prayer.



At the meetings of Yom Kippur we talked about forgiveness in interpersonal relationships. Cynthia Wainz, secretary of our community, preached in the Shacharit (morning service) on Yom Kippur. During the preaching she analyzed the problem of prejudice in connection with forgiveness and salvation.



We are grateful for these days; they brought us closer to the Source of Salvation.



NEWS

CELEBRATION IN FLORIDA

This past Shabbat we marked Yom Kippur in St. Petersburg and New Port Richey.

Parasha

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Newsletter



It was an especially high Shabbat since Yom Kippur came out on a weekly Sabbath. Traditionally the congregation dresses in white symbolizing that our records in heaven have been washed white and that we have been made pure.



Not only does the congregation dress in white but the Torah is dressed in white as well. The Torah ark is left open showing that the door of mercy to God's throne is still open for just a little while longer.

At the end of the service the shofar are blown one last time announcing it is finished, judgment day is over, the book of records have been sealed. The Torah ark is closed indicating that whoever is guilty will be guilty still whoever is righteous will be righteous still.



We had 5 generations of my family in attendance in New Port Richey (see last picture). My grandmother is 101 years of age and my grandkids are 4 and 3.



Chag Succoth Sameach Shabbat Shalom

SUCCOTH READINGS

1st day: Lev 22:26-23:44; Numbers 29:12-16;
Haftara: Zech 14

2nd day: Lev 22:26-23:44; Numbers 29:12-16;
Haftara: 1.Kings 8:2-21

SUCCOTH 2011

Wednesday October 12, 2011 night begins the festive holiday of Succoth. This holiday is celebrated eight days in Israel and nine days in the Diaspora. In Israel the eighth day of Sukkot is called Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah. In the Diaspora, the eighth day of the holiday is Shmini Atzeret and the ninth day is Simchat Torah. Simchat Torah means the joy of the Torah, we celebrate the last reading of the Torah cycle and start reading Genesis 1:1 again. During the first seven days of Succoth, Jews eat their meals in the Succah. Many also sleep in the Succah. Some even eat in the Succah on the eighth day.

SUCCOTH AND GAN EDEN

Rabbi Sweig affirms that Succoth represents the time period when, after having received atonement on Yom Kippur, we enter the Garden of Eden, i.e. the Succah. This is the reason why the construct and decor of the Succah, as well as the four species which we are commanded to take in it are made to resemble a garden. Immediately after Yom Kippur we are preoccupied with building the Succah, displaying our desire to attain this elevated level of closeness with Hashem by joining him in the Garden of Eden.

SUCCOTH AND G-D'S PROTECTION

Rabbi Packouz reminds us that The mitzvah of dwelling in the Succah teaches us trust in God. We tend to think that our possessions, our money, our homes, our intelligence will protect us. During Succoth we are exposed to the elements in a temporary hut. Living in a Succah puts life into perspective. Our possessions are transient -- and our corporeal beings are even more transient than our possessions. Life is vulnerable. Our history has borne out how transient are our homes and communities. No matter how well-established, wealthy and "secure" we have become in a

host country, in the end it too has been a temporary dwelling. Our trust must be in God.

SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED READING
KI SISA - EXODUS, 33:12-34:26
EZEKIEL 38:18 - 39:16

BRIT HACHADASHA
MATTHEW 17:1-9

This text of Mattatyahu, a talmid of Yeshua is interesting at this time of Succoth because Yeshua is with his talmidim and says to them: "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." (Mat 16:28) The talmidim did not understand what was the meaning of these words, but six days after Yeshua took them on a mountain. According to the Tradition it was on the Mount Tabor in Galilee (not far from Nazareth).

There Yeshua was glorified, or as the text says transfigured "There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. (Mat 17:2). That means he was changed from his human appearance to his glorious appearance, as we will see him in heaven when we meet him after his second coming.

The Talmidim knew very well what was the meaning of the coming of the kingdom of G-d. The thought that the kingdom of God was coming. Not only Yeshua appeared to the talmidim but also Moshe Rabbenu and Eliyahu haNavi. Moshe was resurrected and Eliyahu never died that is why they could come in their glorified body to speak with Yeshua. What was the reaction of the talmidim? "Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three Succoth — one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." For them it was the time of the great Succoth. Alleluya.