

LUBAVITCH OF N. C.



Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

Status of the Holy Land

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

The great Torah commentator, Rashi, explains at the very beginning of his commentary on Genesis that it was G-d who created the land. He gave it to whomever He desired. First He gave the Holy Land to the nations; then He took it from them and gave it to us, His people. The Almighty desired that this land should be designated as Eretz Yisrael, the land of Israel. G-d gave it as an inheritance to the Jewish people for all generations to come.

We are told by Torah that there will be a time in our bitter exile when some of our people will be possessed by an illogical fear, a "faintness of heart." They will flee imagining that they are under pursuit by an enemy, when in reality they are fleeing from the sound of a leaf driven by wind.

Today we see the unfortunate fulfillment of this prophecy. There are some who allow themselves to be frightened by the threats of other nations; they stand in fear and trembling.

The issue of our rights to the land, including Judea and Samaria (on the west bank of the Jordan river), has to be put into perspective. It is part of the Jewish land and cannot be separated from the Jew. Furthermore, the issue here is one of Pikuach Nefesh, danger to life. Make no mistake about it. From a Torah perspective nothing else is the real issue here; the interpretation, significance or wording of various resolutions is not the issue. Even promises to withdraw from this or that territory is not the issue. The central issue is the endangering of the lives of all the inhabitants of the land of Israel posed by the proposed return of certain areas of land.

According to Torah law, if a person is ill and must take ad-

vice regarding his therapy he can take into account neither the opinion of good friends, nor of neighbors, relatives, plumbers, nor even learned professors of philosophy, history, etc. etc. The one and only individual qualified to give an opinion on this matter is an expert in the field — a doctor.

In exactly the same way, the only person whose opinion is to be considered as regards to retaining or returning parts of Israel is a military expert, a general in the field, the opinion of all the politicians, diplomats and statesmen in the world carries no weight whatsoever in this question according to Torah. At stake in the doctor's decision is the life of one individual; at stake in the expert's decision are the lives of hundreds and thousands of our people!

The situation currently in Israel is strange; it is exceedingly worrying; it is completely incomprehensible. Everyone knows that to return areas on the west bank of the Jordan River to the Arabs is a danger to life. All we have to do is look at the map and see how close the west bank is to the sea, and study who Israel's neighbors are on all its boundaries. It is quite obvious that there is imminent danger to life.

When Jewish representatives unrolled a map in the Oval office of the President of the United States and pointed out to him the distance of the territories in question to the sea, and the ease with which an enemy could cut through those areas, the President agreed that the return of those areas to the enemy constituted a danger to the lives of the inhabitants of Israel.

Let us hope that through the courage and strength of our people we will achieve true freedom and genuine peace and hasten the coming of our righteous Moshiach now.

Students Ready to Go Back to School

As the school year begins, students at Lubavitch preschool and day school are gearing up for a most exciting year. New teachers and new classrooms are adding to the excitement as new children are being introduced to each other.

The morning teacher at the preschool is Fern Sanderson, who excels in her ability to relate to the young student in a personal yet professional manner. Parents of the students now entering kindergarten are amazed at the readiness of their children and their advanced learning and social skills developed in the Lubavitch preschool program.

The new addition this year is the kindergarten and first grade classes. Susan Doobrow will head the program in a new facility adjacent to the Chabad House. The new classrooms will allow the children to receive the best in Judaica and secular education.

Debbie Maslov teaches the two-year-olds with a unique program that was very successful the previous year. Chanie Weiss, Judaica teacher,



Fern Sanderson conducting cooking class.

has prepared an exciting curriculum for all grades.

Lubavitch Talmud Torah is moving ahead with new plans for an excellent supplementary program. The Talmud Torah which meets three times a week is taught by Mariashi Groner and by Rabbi Binyomin and Chanie Weiss. For more information on these and all Lubavitch programs, call 366-3984.



Matthew Gordan (L) and Jason Rosenberg participating in a play. Photos/Debbie Burks

Shabbatons Held At The Chabad House

During the summer we commemorate two events, each symbolizing two opposite moods. The first is Tisha B'av, the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av, when we lament the destruction of both holy temples which stood in Jerusalem.

The second is the fifteenth of Av, which is a very joyous and important holiday. This day was designated as match-making day in Jerusalem. In fact, the Talmud cites many reasons why this day is a holiday, the most important reason given is that the Jews were ready to enter Israel after forty years of wandering in the desert.

On Shabbat Nachamu, one day after this holiday, a great celebration was held at the Chabad House in the form of a Shabbaton. Many guests from out of town attended this

event, including some former residents of Charlotte.

The main theme of the celebration was "Judaism on the Increase." This day has been designated as a time to add and increase in the study of Torah and the observance of Mitzvot.

A full Shabbat meal was served at the Shabbaton, with the traditional "cholent" and "kugel." Most enjoyable were the stories and songs shared at the Shabbat table.

The Shabbaton also served as a farewell party for Eleanor and Mark Weinglass and Ziva and Andy London. The Weinglasses moved to Wilmington, Delaware, where Eleanor will direct the local Jewish day school. The Londons moved to Greensboro, where Ziva took a teaching position at the local Hebrew Academy.

Series of Educational Workshops Planned

In preparation for the month of Tishrei and its many holidays, Lubavitch of North Carolina is planning a series of educational workshops which are designed to enhance the meaning of the observances.

The most exciting project is the Shofar factory, where children will craft their own Shofar from a genuine ram's horn. The shofar is the instrument used to blow specific sounds according to Biblical instruction, during the Rosh Hashanah service. The factory will take place on Monday, September 5, at the Chabad House. It is advisable to call and make reservations.

There will be an array of educational programs during the High Holy days for adults and children. A grand Succoth party at the Chabad House is planned and a Lulav and Ethrog will be available for use there during the holiday. The culmination will be on Simchat Torah with the traditional lively Hakofot. A holiday meal, buffet style, with lots of singing and dancing awaits all participants at this festive service.



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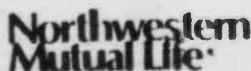
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