

# The Qahal

# NEWSLETTER

*And El Shaddai bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a qahal of people.*  
*Genesis 28:3*



*O come, let us sing unto יהוה: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Psalm 95:1 (Photography by Grace Sanchez)*

## A Letter From the Editor

Moises Grijalva

Last month, the community came together for a 40-day fast and prayer. It was uplifting and encouraging to see so many come and battle together in the spirit. There was a small glimpse of what could be accomplished when we humble ourselves and put our doctrinal differences aside to work together in unity and love. For this is what Torah is all about: Micah 6:8 - what does יהוה require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your Elohim?

While we prayed privately in our homes, this age of technology allowed us to also meet together on Zoom where we prayed collectively as well. It was amazing to see a Brady bunch-like screen with so many participating. November 29th marked our last and 40th day of fasting as a multi-fellowship group. It came to our attention that the very next day, November 30th, would be Isaiah Fleenor's 2nd birthday. This fact was not even noticed until the very last 5 days of the fast,

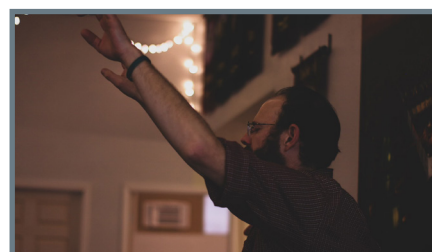
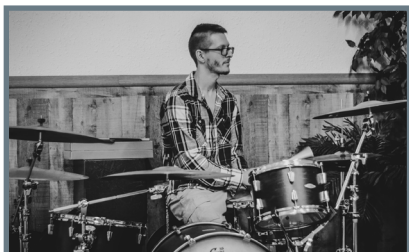
## In This Issue

Shabbat House.....	2
Hebrew Word.....	3
Prayers.....	4
Next Qahal Meeting.....	4
Events.....	5
Business Directory.....	6

something that seemed very remarkable. In our hearts and prayers, we long for this year to be a new beginning for Isaiah, whose name means "Yah saves." (cont. pg 4)

## Monthly Qahal Meeting

The Qahal met on the 8th biblical month on November 11th at Hearts Cry Hebraic Fellowship in Bean Station. It was a packed house as brothers and sisters in Messiah gathered together to worship, praise, study, eat, and fellowship together. Bob Kuhn gave the message which was about family. Meanwhile, the children (who packed the children's room) learned about prayer with Illeana Garland, Donna Reidman, and Tracy Grijalva. Some of their artwork can be found on page 3. Thank you, Grace Sanchez, for the photos you took from this meeting!



# Shabbat House

The major construction on the Shabbat House is complete! It was indeed a work of Yah how it all came together.

The Grijalva's were having Sukkot at their property, and with mere weeks until the feast, the Shabbat house was in shambles. With the number of people expected to come, that house was critical for its kitchen and bathroom facilities. Prayers were said, and prayers were answered.

One morning, Kerry Heflin arrived. Conversations started about him visiting for a while and looking for work...what kind of work?...construction, HalleluYah!

For the following weeks Kerry worked tirelessly to get the house ready for Sukkot. It was prepared just in time and was a huge asset during the feast.

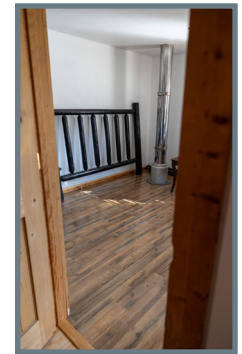
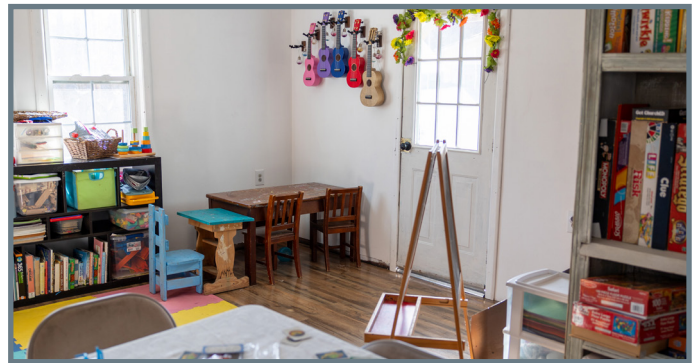


Kerry then stayed several weeks longer and put in a lot of hours to make the house a home. He finished the drywall, flooring, and other issues the house had. We know his nieces in Alabama sure missed him, but we are so grateful that they let him stay with us for this time!

If anyone needs work done and Kerry is in town, be sure to give him a holler. He is a trustworthy, hard-working brother in Messiah.



*On Shabbats, the lower space is being used for children's lessons. There are plenty of games, books, and crafts to potentially have other youth events.*



*There is a bathroom and unfurnished bedroom upstairs. If anyone has a bed and/or sleeper couch they would like to donate, we would appreciate it!*

## Shabbat House B&B

Are you looking to visit Berean Echad in Sneedville but are concerned about the long drive over the mountains? We have you covered with the Shabbat House! Stay a night or two! We are still working to get it furnished with a couch and beds, but otherwise, it is ready for guests!

Contact Moises to reserve your date(s) at 423.300.2089.

(There is no cost to stay, though donations to help cover the accrued construction costs are appreciated).

# Hebrew Word of the Month

Prayer: tefillah

Root: palal- to pray

Adapted from <https://hebrewwordlessons.com/2018/06/10/tefillah-debunking-thoughts-and-prayers-part-ii/>

I searched all over the Tanakh (Old Testament) to find a grand definition of prayer, and there was none. But Hebrew scripture is full of shining examples of prayer: Hannah's prayer of Joy (see below), David's prayer of Thanksgiving (2 Samuel 7:22-24), Solomon's prayer of Dedication (see below), Jabez's prayer of Protection (1 Chronicles 4:9-10), Habakkuk's prayer of Awe & Exultation (Habakkuk 3), Jonah's prayer from the belly of the fish (see below), just to name a few.

And so, without a definition, what do these examples tell us about prayer? Biblically, prayer appears to be a personal, sincere conversation with God. It's that simple. How you speak to your Creator is different than how anyone else speaks to Him. Consider conversations with your Mom and how that is different from conversations with your friends, your teacher, or your uncle. It is because you have different shared histories together, different inside jokes, and different ways of looking at the world together. It is the same for God. Your relationship with Him is unique to you and Him, and your prayers will reflect that.

Your life experience, at each moment that you pray, also shapes your conversations. If you're angry at your co-workers, it changes the tone of your conversation with them. If you are nervous about something, the words you speak reflect that. Just as we can pray in our distress, we should also pray in our great joy! When barren, Hannah asks God for a son, and God hears her prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-2).

Just like a conversation with any friend, we can ask God the tough questions, we can be thankful, joyful, angry, sad. We can speak in awe and we can also speak candidly. We need to be honest in our communication with YHWH. Otherwise it's an empty prayer. Yeshua was clear about making prayer personal and in the moment in Matthew 5:6-13. God calls on His people to seek Him out and pray with a sincere and humble heart. Yeshua was particularly concerned about sincerity in prayer (Luke 20:45-47). Conversing with God without sincerity is not praying; it's acting. It's a show, a one-man play for the benefit of others. God is not interested in listening to the drama.

If we learn anything from these great prayers in the Bible, we should know this: Always praise God, but also take time to chat, share your happiness, get mad, cry out, question, and laugh with God. He is YHWH, full of gentle lovingkindness and He wants to hear everything you have to say. Life is funny... it's okay to say, "Good one, God!" Life can be frustrating... it's okay to say, "What's going on, God?!" Life can be hard... it's okay to say, "Help me, God!" Say what's on your heart! God is listening.



Some of the artwork from the children this month.

If your child would like their work featured in next month's newsletter be sure to send it to Tracy Grijalva by 12.27.23!  
(tracy.m.grijalva@gmail.com)

Next Month's Word:  
Emunah

Coloring pages can be found at <https://bereanechad.com/childrens-resources/>

## Letter from the Editor: Prayer Requests (cont. pg 1)

The fast and prayer did not go unheard by Yah. We were told of some praise reports where Yah used His hand to heal. Kara Genia (Richard Fisher's niece) has had an ongoing fight with liver cancer. Surgery and chemotherapy were without avail. Kara was put on the prayer list and has received complete physical healing. Praise Yah!

Gary Benton contracted Dengue fever for the second time years apart. We have been informed that the second time Dengue fever is contracted can be much deadlier than the first time. Gary prepared his Will and made his peace with life and death. Gary was placed on the prayer and fasting list and, since then, has received full recovery and is currently attending the Rogersville Fellowship. Praise Yah!

Donna Passamonte is thanking and trusting that Yah is continuing her healing.

Timothy, Michelle, and Cyrus Williamson welcomed Gideon Ezriel on November 29th! Praise Yah for a new beautiful, healthy boy to this family.

Thank you for being part of this team of Royal priests fighting and praying against principalities in the Spirit. While the 40-day fast and prayer is over, we continue to pray for restoration and Yah's will to be done in every case. We want to encourage prayer for the people on this prayer list. (Please contact Moises to add to this list, 423.300.2089):

- *Angie Carroll* is doing better from her artery blockage but is benefiting from prayer.
- *Donna Passamonte* whom we are praying for the healing of her cancer as she continues cancer treatment.
- *Isaiah Fleenor* is a precious baby boy for whom we are praying for the healing of his body, for cancer to leave his little body, and for all adverse effects from his treatments to be healed as well.
- *Kris Stephenson* who ripped two ligaments in hand and broke his bones on a wood router that he may recover quickly.
- *Larry Parker* whom we are praying for his cancer to not return as he continues treatment.
- *Malinda Dwyer* who was in a rollover car accident; we pray that her knee and wrist will recover quickly and all her needs be met.
- *The Mulrooney Family* as they mourn the loss of Joe.
- *Nancy Stewart* we pray for healing of her breast cancer.
- *Tyler Weber* we pray for healing of his cystic fibrosis.

## December Qahal Meeting

December 9th, 2pm at Hearts Cry Hebraic Fellowship  
112 Adriel Drive, Bean Station, TN

We will be celebrating Shabbat with Hanukkah festivities after the sun sets. Please bring a kashrut dish to share.



## Local Fellowships

Local fellowships can be found on the website as well. If you would like your group listed, please send the information to Tracy (tracy.m.grijalva@gmail.com) <https://theqahal.org/fellowships/>

### Greenville, TN

Contact: Bill Fuentes – 860.794.7018  
434 Old Knoxville Hwy  
Greenville, TN 37743  
Services begin at 3pm.

### Rogersville, TN

Contact: Bob Kuhn – 252.634.4100  
Contact: Kate Coffelt – 513.807.9654  
110 Strahl Drive  
Rogersville, TN 37857  
Services begin at 11am.

### New Tazewell, TN

Contact: Tyler Pahl – 865.279.1710  
1993 Snodgrass Rd  
New Tazewell, TN 37825  
Services are flexible, Hours 2pm-Till Evening.  
(Please call)

### Sneedville, TN

Berean Echad Springs Fellowship  
Contact: Eric Schaefer – 423.426.0923  
Contact: Moises Grijalva – 423.300.2089  
2392 Sherm Mountain Road  
Sneedville, TN 37869  
[bereanechad.com](http://bereanechad.com)  
Services begin at 3pm. Call or text for more information.

# Community Calendar

The calendar can now conveniently be found at the new website:  
<https://theqahal.org/events/>

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Community Fast and Prayer: ALL TEAMS FOR A 40 DAY COMPLETION						
			8:00 pm - 9:00 pm Men's Zoom Prayer			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			8:00 pm - 9:00 pm Men's Zoom Prayer			2:00 pm - 7:00 pm December 9th Qahal Meeting & Hanukkah Celebration
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			8:00 pm - 9:00 pm Men's Zoom Prayer	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Women's Zoom Prayer		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			8:00 pm - 9:00 pm Men's Zoom Prayer			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			8:00 pm - 9:00 pm Men's Zoom Prayer			
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
			8:00 pm - 9:00 pm Men's Zoom Prayer			

## Camp Mashiach

Mark your calendar! Registration for Camp Mashiach opens on January 1st! Camp dates are Sunday, July 14th - Friday, July 19th.

Follow Camp Mashiach on Facebook for news and updates. The 2024 Not Ashamed logo reveal will be posted soon!

CampMashiach.com



## Men's & Women's Prayer

Every month, we have men's and women's Zoom prayer meetings. These are times to fellowship with others in the community and come together to pray for specific needs. If you go to the calendar on the Qahal website and click on the event, it will bring up a page with the link and password to the Zoom meetings.

Men meet every Wednesday at 8pm and women meet the second Thursday of every month at 7pm.

Meeting ID: 677 063 0462  
 Passcode: shalom

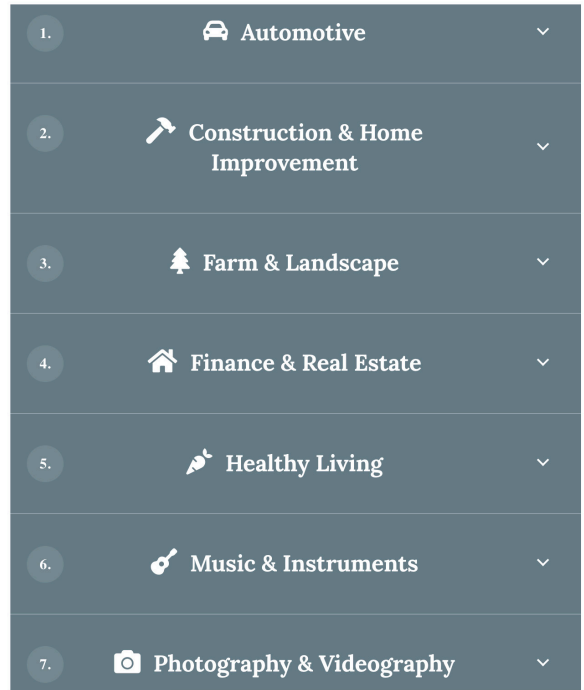
# Business & Skills Directory

The business directory has moved! Check out its new and improved location on the website: <https://theqahal.org/business-directory/>

This is an improvement to just having the business name listed here because if you click on the business name, a new web page will open describing the business/skill so you can find out more. (Note: if you are the owner of the business and haven't already sent Tracy content for that page, please do so. Also, if you would like your business removed from this list, let her know.)

You may notice that this new web page also includes "Skills." So, if you do not have a business, but still have a skill that you would like to share with the community, this is the place to put it.

We hope for this directory to continue to grow and even expand outside of East Tennessee. If you would like your business or skill listed, please send your information to Tracy ([tracy.m.grijalva@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.m.grijalva@gmail.com) or 423-300-1389).



**Moedim of יהוה 2024**

<b>Pesach</b> (Passover)	4.22
<b>Chag HaMatzot</b> (Unleavened Bread)	4.23-4.29
<b>Yom HaBikurim</b> (First Fruits)	4.28
<b>Shavuot</b> (Pentecost)	6.16
<b>Yom Teruah</b> (Trumpets)	10.3
<b>Yom Kippur</b> (Atonement)	10.11-10.12
<b>Sukkot</b> (Tabernacles)	10.17-10.23
<b>Shemini Atzeret</b> (8th Day)	10.24

Days to request off work: 4.23, 4.29, 6.16, 10.3, 10.11 (sunset)-10.12 (sunset), 10.17, 10.24.  
 All feast days begin at sunrise except Yom Kippur.  
 Lunar conjunction time used is from Knoxville, TN.

## 2024 Feast Days

We have been asked a few times recently what next year's Sukkot dates are. The dates shown in the image here are the dates for Berean Echad. This image is located at [BereanEchad.com](http://BereanEchad.com) if you would like to print it.

Berean Echad makes the following assumptions to find these dates:

- A new day begins at sunrise.
- A new month begins with the first sunrise following the new moon conjunction.
- A new year begins with the first new moon following the vernal equinox.
- The sunrise and new moon conjunction data were taken from [timeanddate.com](http://timeanddate.com) using Sneedville, Tennessee as the location.

*We acknowledge there are other calendars that are observed within this community, and we would like to share those as well.*

*If you would like your local fellowship's feast dates shared in next month's newsletter, please email Tracy. [tracy.m.grijalva@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.m.grijalva@gmail.com)*