

NEWSLETTER

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



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

A Letter From the Editor

Moises Grijalva

In alignment with the Spirit of Moses, Elders should be appointed to bear the burdens of the people (Num 11:16,17). We have left church denominations behind, led by pastors, Elders, and deacons. Perhaps the sound of “being under an Elder” leaves a bitter taste in our mouths. But it is not about mimicking denominations; it’s about the Biblical standard that Yah set for us. In the escape from church doctrines, many leaders have emerged who have started fellowships, teaching, and even taking on the Eldership role. However, standards in the books of Timothy and Titus outline characteristics and traits that Elders must have. Eldership is not a subject to be taken lightly. The failure of the Elders of old led Israel to succumb to idolatry, turn their backs on Yah, and be taken into Babylon (Eze 14:1-11). Presently, Mystery Babylon is in our midst, and we, as a chosen generation, have been called out to be a holy nation. Let us not fall into the same old bad habits of doing whatever feels right in our eyes, like the failure of the Elders of old. Let us test our feelings and thoughts on Scripture. Let us follow the way laid before us.

A group of men have been deliberating about the characteristics and requirements of an Elder based on Scripture. The intention is for this group of men to agree upon qualities that an Elder must possess and what aspects of one’s life would disqualify someone. On the battlefield, a standard of hope is raised that leads the charge. Not all men can raise the standard knowing the attack and duty are intense, but through the Ruach HaKodesh answer the call. With this hope, men who have felt called can apply and see if they meet the Biblical standard of this role. None of this is an attempt to rule over people, to become their “head,” but instead, it is to select men who have shown through their lives and choices that they can lead their family and, therefore, lead the larger body together (1 Tim 3:5). It is evident that this position was created by Yah to bear the burden of the people (Num 11:16,17). An Elder must lead Yah’s remnant so they will not backslide and fall back into idolatry like the Israel of old. We must know that each member of the body has been given gifts in measure, and not everyone can or should try to fit every role in the body, including the Elder position.

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I hope and pray that through the Eldership endeavor, the saints will utilize the gifts that Yah wants them to, and we can come together as a more unified, better-functioning body.



Something no one thought was possible happened at the last Qahal meeting. To find out more, check out page 2.

Monthly Qahal Meeting

Local fellowships met together for the monthly Qahal meeting and Hanukkah at Hearts Cry Hebraic Fellowship in Bean Station on December 9th. Seeing such a full house of believers gathering together to worship, study, fellowship, and have fun was beautiful. There were games for the older children and some crafts for the younger ones.



Photos!

Photos by Taiza Grijalva and Grace Sanchez.

All photos, including photo booth photos, can be found at <https://theqahal.org/photos/>

A remarkable feat happened on December 9th. In a battle of the steadfast, the game of Giant Jenga was BEAT! The game was officially beat, mastered, and completed, with no more possible moves. Hurrah!

Hebrew Word of the Month

Faith: emunah



Adapted from <https://firmisrael.org/learn/meaning-of-amen-and-hebrew-word-faith/>

The Hebrew word Emunah may not sound familiar to you initially, but how about the word AMEN? And do you know what Amen means? You may wonder how these two Hebrew words are connected...

Emunah is the Hebrew word for faith, and Amen derives from it! Let's define "faith."

The Hebrew word emunah is understood in English to mean "faith" or "belief." But it is often also translated as "faithfulness." And yet, it describes much more than believing a statement about God. It reveals a life of complete reliance upon Him. Let's find out about the meaning of Amen.

What does Amen mean? Emunah is faith that results in faithfulness, implying action. It shouldn't be surprising that the word amen shares the root with Emunah. Amen means "so be it" or "may it be so," and shares the root also with eman, meaning "to confirm." Add to that haameen, which means "to trust" or "confide in." What does Amen mean at the end of a prayer? Consider all their meanings together, and you'll realize something very profound. When we say "amen" at the end of a prayer, it is not just a closing statement or ritual word. It is an agreement to act upon what we have prayed! Think about that momentarily and allow the awareness of "amen" to be a reminder each time you pray. It's easy to ask something of God in prayer. But as His children, we are invited into a partnership with Him. Faith doesn't just happen in your head but in your entire body. Throughout the Bible, the idea of faith is like a staircase. You may intellectually know that the stairs go up to the next level. But until you climb the stairs, you won't actually experience that next level.

Faith is what Martin Luther King Jr. meant when he said: "Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase." You can't just believe in the stairs and settle for knowing the stairs are there. You have to climb the stairs! James 2:17...faith without works is dead. Emunah is not faith alone, it is faith completed by works. According to the biblical definition of faith, what you do is more important than what you know.

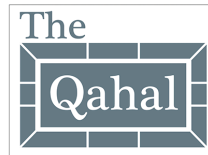


Obedient Heart Fellowship

Eric and Holly Schaefer went to Marion, NC, to visit Obedient Heart Fellowship. Pictured above are some of the folks they visited with. Jim Huskins (second from top left) writes a monthly Torah article for the Blue Ridge Christian News. (<https://blueridgechristiannews.com/?s=jim+huskins>). Holly and Eric Schaefer plan to visit again at the end of January.



One of the youngest helping get the word out about the website. If she didn't give you a card last month, here is what you missed:



Please visit the skills & business directory: theqahal.org

If you have a skill or business and would like to know how to be added, please contact Moises Grijalva at: contact@theqahal.org

To view & download photos from today, visit: qahal.org/photos



If your child would like their work featured in next month's newsletter be sure to send it to Tracy Grijalva by 01.26.24! (tracy.m.grijalva@gmail.com)

Next Month's Word:
Salvation (Yeshua)

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

Local Fellowships

Are you interested in hosting Shabbats at your house, starting a fellowship, and need help? If you would like your fellowship to be part of the Qahal, please contact Moises @ (423) 300-2089.

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
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
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/>

January Qahal Meeting

January 13th, 2pm at Hearts Cry Hebraic Fellowship
 112 Adriel Drive, Bean Station, TN

Once a month, the smaller fellowships meet together as a larger group. Meeting together is a way to bring open communication to the community, to assemble together, and eventually have leaders and Elders discuss essential matters. We can then get to know one another, know each other's gifts, and find out how to help each other's needs.

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 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

Shabbat House

The Shabbat House in Sneedville had a king-size bed donated, so now guests can comfortably sleep upstairs! Thank you! We are still looking for a pull-out couch for downstairs so a larger family can sleep more comfortably.

We are incredibly grateful for the Shabbat House as it has allowed a few folks to spend the night so that we could have some great fellowship. The downstairs area has been utilized during Shabbats for the children, and they have been enjoying their own Bible lessons, crafts, and games. Thank you to all who have helped make the Shabbat House a reality, and we look forward to hosting even more people.

Camp Mashiach

The Gregorian calendar has flipped over to 2024, which means - Camp Mashiach registration is now open! Each year, the camp has a theme. This year, it is NOT ASHAMED. Quite a bit of time and energy went into developing the logo for camp this year. The creative and artistic skills of Aaron and Charity Jackson from Yah's Messianic Fellowship came up with the initial ideas for the logo. Moises and I (Tracy) from Berean Echad added some of their graphic design elements, and what you see below is the end product. I was genuinely impressed by Charity, who worked on the final parts of the design. I had a vision in mind for the camper, and she was able to sketch something that I felt had the perfect camp feel.

Check out the short promo video I made that shows this logo with a bit of motion: <https://youtu.be/6wuQR3XF12A>

