

MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FROM MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA

RABBI SHMUEL WASSER

The תורה, at the beginning of our פרשה אבינו, details 'ה's command to אברהם אבינו that he leave "his land, his birthplace, and the house of his father." רש"י is troubled by the lengthy description offered regarding the place that he is leaving. He comments that 'ה, by specifying these different aspects in His instruction, was making it that much more difficult for אברהם to fulfill this מצוה. This extra difficulty would lead to an increase in the reward that אברהם would receive when he indeed listened to 'ה and left. Upon further examination, this simple explanation of רש"י contains within it a powerful lesson that we can use to help inspire ourselves at times of challenge and difficulty.

Let us imagine the setting - אברהם אבינו had recently spent the past years of his life dedicated to 'ה above all else. He had separated himself successfully from the environment and culture that surrounded him to the point that he was willing to sacrifice his life by being thrown into a fiery furnace for his beliefs - and he emerged unscathed. One would imagine that hearing this command of 'ה to leave this society behind and embark on this journey, even though it meant leaving his family and birthplace, would not

create too much of a challenge. Additionally, the factors that 'ה enumerated were well known to אברהם. A person does not need to be told where his birthplace and "home" country are. How much of a difference could spelling them out make?

It seems from here that when הקב"ה looks at our actions, He sees every aspect of what we do and recognizes every challenge and effort that is involved. Each small degree of effort is significant to 'ה and He uses that to increase the reward for everything that we do.

Let us keep this in mind as we work on our own service of 'ה. Many times, we find the demands of the תורה - whether למקום or בין אדם לבין אדם - challenging. We often face difficult decisions and we must expend great effort to "stay the course" to do what 'ה asks of us. We must realize that those efforts and challenges are significant to 'ה and that every ounce of effort is recognized and rewarded. Once we focus on this, we can אי"ה happily face these situations knowing that we are only elevating ourselves to places that, without these extra efforts, would be impossible to reach!

SPARKS of MUSSAR

Reprinted with permission from "Sparks of Mussar" by Rabbi Chaim Ephraim Zaitchik, Feldheim Publishers

Rav Yitzchok Blazer - "Family and Friends"

Late in life, Rav Yitzchok Blazer (R' Itzele) married a young widow with four children of her own, and she subsequently bore him children.

R' Itzele made every effort to please her. At night when the baby cried, he would not allow her to get out of bed. Despite his age, he himself rose to take care of the baby. On erev Shabbos he would help her prepare for Shabbos, and he considered that a big mitzvah.

In Jerusalem, where the residents drew their water from a cistern near the house, a neighbor once spotted R' Itzele drawing the water himself to spare his wife the trouble. The neighbor hurried to help.

"What made you come to help me?" asked R' Itzele.

"I want to do a mitzvah," replied the neighbor.

R' Itzele responded, "I, too, want to do a mitzvah."

FEATURED TORAH *Message*

YITZCHAK ZEHNWIRTH 11TH GRADE

In this week's פרשה אבינו, אברהם אבינו has his name changed by 'ה from אברם to אברהם. רש"י on פסוק explains that the name אברם is a combination of the words "אב" and "ארם", which means "Father of ארם", his native country.

The name 'ה gave him, אברהם, is a contraction of the words "אב" and "המון" which means "father of a multitude (of nations)."

In משנה פרק א, משנה ד, מסכת בכורים discusses a convert bringing בכורים. The משנה rules on פירוש המשניות in רמב"ם

that not only does he bring בכורים, but he also recites the פסוקים that are declared by one who brings בכורים. He asks, how could a convert recite the פסוקים, which include mention of 'ה giving the land sworn to our forefathers? The convert's forefathers were not

promised this land.

His answer is apparent from this פסוק. As the "אב המון," אברהם is considered to be the forebearer of all of the nations, so the convert truly is considered a descendant of אברהם. The explanation for this is that

since אברהם took it upon himself to teach the world about the existence of 'ה, the spiritual mission of the entire humankind was transferred from אדם to אברהם. That is the meaning of his new name, אברהם - father of a multitude of nations.

RECENT *Happenings* YEHUDA COHEN 9TH GRADE

This year of MTI started with a bang! On most Sunday afternoons, after yeshiva classes end, we go on different trips, including bowling, mini-golf, and rollerblading at a roller rink. First we went bowling, and it was very fun and competitive. The next trip was rollerblading, with games like limbo and four corners - all on rollerblades. Next we went to GolfPlex which included mini-golf and a driving range. We got off the bus and split into different groups - some went to the driving range, and some went to the mini-golf. It was very fun, and on the way back, we stopped off at Mobil, for drinks sponsored by yeshiva.

On Thursday afternoon, we were scheduled to go on our annual achdus trip to Castlewood State Park. We had to reschedule it because of the weather but we're looking forward to the hikes, games, BBQ, and lots of achdus a different week.

So far, all of the trips have been amazing - special thanks to the yeshiva for making all of these trips possible.

Upcoming & Ongoing MTI *Community Events*

- Mrs. Debbie Graff & Family on the birth of a granddaughter!
- Mrs. Ditzza Friedman & Family on the bar mitzvah of their son Yosef Elisha!
- Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel Wasser on the engagement of their daughter Ruchama!
- Rabbi & Mrs. Efraim Fromowitz on the birth of a girl!

ALUMNI SIMCHOS

- Mr. & Mrs. Alex Lyss on the birth of a boy!
- Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Yasinev on their marriage!
- Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Manne on the birth of a boy!
- Mr. & Mrs. Menashe Brown on the birth of a boy!

MAZEL TOV

Chesterfield Kollel & STL Kollel joined together with MTI rebbeim & bochorim for divrei chizzuk starting the new zman.



CONDOLENCES

- Mrs. Debbie Graff on the loss of her mother, Mrs. Marsha Berk.
- Dr. Michael Treisman, MTI Board member, on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Greta Treisman.



Rabbi Pinchas Green, Mashgiach in Yeshivas Kamenetz in Eretz Yisroel, speaks at MTI



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBOS
Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 17	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 18	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield 19	20	21	22 5:54PM	23
Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 24	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 25	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield 26	27	28	29 5:46PM	30
Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 31	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 1	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield 2	3	4	5 5:38PM	COMMUNITY MELAVA MALKA

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Mondays 7:30-8:40PM

Orchos Tzaddikim
with Mrs. Toby Goldman
8:00 PM
Zoom: 525-786-3657

SAVE THE DATE!

AN EVENING OF INSPIRATION WITH

Rabbi Avrohom Stulberger

MOTZEI SHABBOS, NOVEMBER 6TH



5 min
Ahavas Chessed
with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

To receive recordings after each shiur, scan QR code

AMC AMERICAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION
JORDAN ROSENBLUM
VICE PRESIDENT
314.423.0351
www.stuartsamc.com
jordan@amcmort.com

To advertise your business in a future edition of Mesivta's Message contact
rabbibregman@missouritorah.org