

MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FROM MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE

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THOUGHTS *on* CHANUKAH

RABBI MOSHE CHAIM BIRON

On Chanukah we have a lot of doughnuts, get a lot of presents, sing and dance a lot, and hear a lot of answers to the *בית יוסף's* kasha. The *גמרא* in כ"א שבת דף כ"א says that when the *חשמונאים* entered the *בית המקדש*, they found only enough oil to last for one day and a miracle happened and the flames stayed lit for 8 days. Asks the *בית יוסף*, if there was enough oil for day one, then only days two through eight were a *נס*. If the *נס* was only for seven days then why do we celebrate eight days of Chanukah? The Alter of Kelm explains that when we experience a miracle we realize that *ה' is in control*. It opens our eyes to realize that all the "natural" things that we perceive

as nature are really *ה'*; He is always controlling, designing and causing everything to happen. There is a famous story in the *גמרא* in *מסכת תענית* דף כ"ה that Rebbi Chanina Ben Dosa's daughter put vinegar instead of oil in her lamp by mistake and she was distressed. Her father explained to her - "Don't worry, He who said oil should ignite shall say that vinegar should ignite." The *גמרא* relates that the fire burned the entire Shabbos. Like Rebbi Chanina Ben Dosa, we should always view everything taking place around us as *ה'*'s hand and feel *ה'* in every detail of our lives. A Freilichen Chanukah.

SPARKS *of* MUSSAR

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Rav Yitzchok Blazer - "Rejoicing with Bride & Groom"

In the city of Aleksot there was an ignorant young plasterer who decided to leave his trade in order to learn Torah. He sat in the Aleksot synagogue, where righteous women brought his meals, and spent all day learning chumash until he began to understand it a little. After a while he got married in another city, and R' Itzele traveled there for his wedding. When the local rabbi saw the Sage appear at the wedding of this simple boy, he asked R' Itzele why he had come. "This is chesed," R' Itzele answered, "and we cannot imagine the reward for chesed."

When R' Itzele returned home, he found that one of his children had gotten a coin stuck in his throat. The doctors had given up trying to pull the coin out or push it down, when suddenly the child himself swallowed it and emerged from the incident unscathed.

R' Itzele attributed the rescue to the merit of the mitzvah of chesed.

חשמונאים won the war with the help of *ה'*. They could've said, "even though we were few, our battle techniques and guerilla fighting won us this battle!" But no, they recognized that this was a miracle from *ה'*, and that they couldn't have won the battle without His help. We should take some of these lessons from *יוסף's* response to *פרעה* in this week's *פרשה*, and from the *חנוכה* story as well, and realize that our *כוחות* and our weaknesses, failures and success - everything comes from *ה'*.

FEATURED TORAH *Message*

NOAM DALLAL 12TH GRADE

In this week's *פרשה*, *פרשת מקץ*, *פרעה* has his famous dreams about the cows and the wheat stalks. He calls his wise men and magicians but they couldn't give a satisfactory interpretation of the dream. Suddenly, the cupbearer, who was in jail with *יוסף* in last week's *פרשה*, remembers *יוסף* and tells *פרעה* about him. However, the cupbearer describes *יוסף* as a "נער" a young lad, an "עברי" a stranger, and a "עבד" to the head of the executioners." All of these were derogatory titles. Nonetheless, *פרעה* sends for *יוסף* and brings him to the throne room. *פרעה* begins by asking *יוסף*, "so, I hear you interpret dreams." *יוסף's* immediate response is, "that ability is beyond

me, but *ה'* can do it." *יוסף* had just spent the last two years in jail, removed from his high position in *פוטופר*'s house, and had been slandered by the cupbearer. Normally, one would expect *יוסף* to buff himself up saying, "Yes I can interpret dreams! I may have been in jail, but I am still a very valuable subject!" One might expect *יוסף* to take a little credit just to make himself not look so degraded in the eyes of *פרעה*. However, *יוסף* took zero credit for the interpretations that he gave. He said it was all from *ה'*, and that the idea that a human could interpret dreams would simply be impossible without *ה'*. We see a similar concept with the story of *חנוכה*, in that the

RECENT *Happenings* GAVIN KORNBLUM 12TH GRADE

MTI just renewed our accreditation from Cognia. The accreditation team met with various stakeholders on Zoom over the course of their time examining the school. One of the groups of stakeholders they met with were the talmidim of the yeshiva. Four students from each grade were asked to attend this meeting, and I was chosen to be one of the 12th grade representatives.

Before the meeting began, we were a bit on edge about what the interviewers would ask about our yeshiva. At the

beginning of the meeting, we had some technical difficulties, but we handled those with grace and even made a bit of a joke about it. We allowed each other to share cameras and speak through each other's mics. I think the interviewers could tell how close we really are. I think this had a big impact on the way they viewed our school.

We were asked all sorts of questions such as if the teachers are willing to work with us outside of the classroom and what our elective classes are like. The questions were rather straightforward and simple, and we answered as truthfully as possible. After the meeting, we all felt relieved and were hoping we made a good impression. A few days later Rabbi Wachsmann announced that the yeshiva had been approved for reaccreditation and that the interviewers were very impressed with the talmidim. We all felt very proud, and I am especially honored to have been asked to speak about our amazing yeshiva.



ישיבה ומתיבתא ד'מיזורי

-A Freilichen Chanukah-

Upcoming & Ongoing MTI *Community Events*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBOS
5	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 6	7	8	9	4:22PM 10	11
Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 12	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 13	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield 14	7th & 8th grade boys learning & gym program 15	16	4:23PM 17	18
Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 19	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 20	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield 21	22	23	4:27PM 24	25
Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 26	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 27	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield 28	29	30	4:32PM 31	
MEN'S BASKETBALL Mondays 7:30-8:40PM			Orchos Tzaddikim with Mrs. Toby Goldman 8:00 PM Zoom: 525-786-3657			



MAZEL TOV

ALUMNI SIMCHOS

Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Rosenblum (and grandparents - board member Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Roseblum) on the birth of a girl!



5 min
Ahavas Chessed
with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

To receive recordings after each shiur, scan QR code

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JORDAN ROSENBLUM
VICE PRESIDENT
www.stuartsamc.com
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