



January 4, 2012

כ"ב טבת תשע"ב

פרשת שמות

Candle Lighting 5:25PM

Rabbi Binyomin Luban

Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman

Rabbi Mordechai Palgon

ראשי הישיבה

Dvar Torah - The Power of Words by Rabbi Yehoshua Schloss

Issue 8

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The Torah describes the tremendous מסירות of נפש and יוכבד and מרים, who defied the decree of פרעה to kill all the babies

born, putting their lives in danger in order to save Jewish lives. The תורה then tells us, "וייטב ה' למילדת וירב" Hashem did good to the midwives, and the Jewish people increased and became very strong."

Bothered by how the Jewish people multiplying is considered a reward for יוכבד and מרים, the הזקוני explains as follows: יוכבד and מרים had a two-fold problem. First, their lives were on the line because they had defied the decree of פרעה, their only excuse being that the Jewish women are not typical and give birth before they get there. Second, some individuals were חושד that they had followed the decree of פרעה and killed Jewish children. The fact that כלל ישראל multiplied and increased at such a rapid rate addressed both issues clearly. It proved to פרעה that the Jewish women were not typical, and

proved to the Jews that מרים and יוכבד were trying their hardest to watch over all the children in their care.

This הזקוני gives us a tremendous insight into how important what others say and think about us truly is. He equates what would seem to be two incomparable benefits. On one hand, מרים and יוכבד feared for their very lives. If not for this נס, it is very likely that פרעה would have caught on and had them killed for ignoring his edict. On the other hand, there were some cynics who made false accusations and judged מרים and יוכבד against halachah, not bothering to verify the truth of how they saved the Jewish babies' lives with tremendous care and dedication. מרים and יוכבד and all those who knew them or came under their care knew that the accusations were completely false. Even so, the הזקוני feels that the pain they felt due to this slander was in some way comparable to the fear of losing their lives.

If we take this lesson to heart, realizing how much pain we can cause by not being sensitive to the feelings of others, it will hopefully motivate us to be more careful about what we think and say, and to be more sympathetic and understanding of those around us who have been misjudged or spoken about badly.

Dvar Halacha - אתה חוננתו, by Eli Sugerman, 10th Grade

In מוצאי שבת on מעריב אתה מוצאי שבת during אתה חוננתו in the ברכה of חונן in order to permit מלאכה. If one forgot to say it in its proper place, he doesn't have to add it into his שמונה עשרה if he remembers in the middle. This is because he can rely on הבדלה.

However, since it is אסור to do מלאכה before saying אתה חוננתו, one should be sure not to

do any מלאכה until after hearing הבדלה. Alternatively, saying "ברוך המבדיל בין קודש ל"חול" also works as a way of allowing one to do מלאכה because it also announces the conclusion of שבת and the start of the week.

Save the Date

28th Annual
Dinner and Journal
Campaign

January 15th

Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000

The Weekly Quiz

Q: In which paragraph of the weekday Shemoneh Esrei is a grandfather and grandson mentioned but no father and son mentioned?

Answers or ideas for future questions may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to Quiz@ytcteam.org

The first correct answer submitted will be announced in the next Spotlight. You need not be a student to participate. *Hatzlochah!*

Answer to last week's question:

Q: When does one say a Borei Nefoshos after eating bread?

A: When one eats bread filled with fruit i.e. apple cake, but there is not enough bread i.e. a כזית to make a birchas hamazon.

Yasher Koach to Meir Wasserman of the 9th grade for submitting the correct answer.

Interview With Dr. Brown by Uri Goldberg, 11th Grade & Yitzchak Elefant, 10th Grade Page 2

Dr. Allan Brown is renowned throughout YTC on account of



many things, including his amusing jokes, superb

basketball ability, and sophisticated vocabulary. He is not only fun to be around outside of the classroom, but also widely respected for his incredible proficiency inside the classroom. He has great experience in Language Arts and writing of all kind, and knows the ins and outs of a well-run class. That, along with his ability to get students interested in learning with his creative and educational exercises, is what makes Dr. Brown such an amazing addition to the Toras Chaim faculty this year. The YTC Spotlight had the privilege of interviewing him about himself and his take on the school.

SPOTLIGHT: How many years have you been teaching?

DR. BROWN: I've been teaching off and on since 2006.

SPOTLIGHT: What is the most important thing you teach your students?

DR. BROWN: To learn how to do things that they may not like to do

and learn the importance of them.

SPOTLIGHT: How do you perceive the kids in this school?

DR. BROWN: The students here are extraordinary, academically gifted, and have tremendous energy. With my job, I try to channel that energy into learning more and gaining more in the classroom.

Mr. Schwartz appears on the scene of the interview and asks Dr. Brown if there is a more sophisticated word for "channel". Dr. Brown responds with a serious face that he only uses a more sophisticated word for "channel" on Fridays.

SPOTLIGHT: Where are you originally from?

DR. BROWN: A planet called Ukspar (...?)

I presume he refers to an inside joke. Dr. Brown notices a dubious look on my face and attempts to convince me of his factuality. When he sees that I can't be swayed, he proceeds to inform me that he grew up in (Planet) Kendall, Florida, and was raised in the Temple Beth Am community.

Later in life, he moved to North

Carolina, where he was a proud bookstore owner. He then went to Scotland, where he lived for nine years. Dr. Brown made note of the fact that he was the best basketball player in all of Scotland, being that he was the only basketball player in all of Scotland. He has made his way back to Miami, where he currently teaches at Yeshiva Toras Chaim.

Dr. Brown is known throughout the school for his well-timed, humor-filled and perfectly executed jokes. When I asked him where he gets all of his comical lines, he told me that they come from joke books that he ordered on Amazon.

SPOTLIGHT: What is your favorite part of teaching in YTC?
DR. BROWN: When I am able to beat the students in one-on-one basketball, which doesn't happen as frequently as I wish.

I had to finish off the interview with a question that had been intriguing more than one student in the Yeshiva. "What's your favorite word?" I asked him. After a fleeting moment of consideration, he told me that his favorite word is "Asseveration", which he defined as "a statement or declaration". *Dictionary.com* seems to differ though, as according to them, the definition of "Asseveration" is "the act of asseverating" or "an emphatic assertion".

After Hours in YTC by Yehuda Mittel, 10th Grade

"Mom? Hi, I'm not going to be home until 9:00 PM... I'll be in Yeshiva...NO! Not detention!" It seems like the Bais Medrash and twelfth grade are not the only ones staying after hours in the Bais Medrash, shteiging away on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and



Thursdays. Part of the schedule of the dormitory students is a Monday night and Wednesday night mandatory night Seder from 7:30 PM-8:30 PM. You might think, "Oh my gosh! That's ridiculous!" You might think, "Who would ever want that?!" But apparently, that is not the case. It's amazing and even inspirational to see how dorm students arrive on time to Night

Seder and how some even leave quite a while after it's over, learning with enjoyment and determination with their Bais Medrash Chavrusas. But it seems as if the dormers are not the only masmidim in YTC. Every Monday and Wednesday night, Rabbi Medresh gives an optional night Seder on the fourth Perek in Kidushin. Completely lishma, the one-hour learning with the amazing Rabbi Medresh is quite "Rockin'!" Each night Seder is ended off with amazing Publix sodas, Mike & Ike's, chips and salsa. I, having the intense privilege to shteig with Mordechai Anton every Night Seder, greatly look forward to these nights, spent during the after-hours in YTC.

