



Volume 1 Issue 3
October 2014

Rethinking the Wineskin

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Special Points of Interest

- The New Wine is a description of the outpouring of His Spirit and the wineskin is a picture of the structure to contain the New Wine
- The Body of Messiah took a disastrous turn. when it moved from living rooms to buildings

As we enlarge, stretch out, lengthen, and strengthen our vision we will continue to grow into a healthy and vibrant community. Meeting in small groups is a wonderful way to connect our Mishpachah and it is my hope and prayer that everyone in our congregation will make a special effort to be part of one.

For several years I have pondered Yeshua's words in Luke 5:37-38, "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, it will be spilled out and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins" (TLV). In this parable the Lord distinguishes between something essential and primary (New Wine) and something secondary but also necessary (wineskins). The New Wine is a description of the outpouring of His Spirit and the wineskin is a picture of the structure to contain the New Wine - the Body of Messiah. The wineskin is the point of contact between the New Wine of the Spirit and the physical world. The problem with old wineskins is that they have lost their strength and elasticity. Such wineskins cannot withstand the pressure produced by the fermenting gases associated with any new unfermented wine. The question I ask myself over and over again is this: "what kind of wineskin is most compatible with a move of the Holy Spirit?" The danger we often face is that we are people of habit and sometimes more passionate for the old than the new (cf. 5:39). But here lies the issue - an outpouring of the Holy Spirit requires a new way of structuring the wineskin, a new way of living out our new covenant faith in Yeshua, a new way of doing ministry.

Yeshua's purpose in His design for His Body (the wineskin) is

first of all that the assembly of believers experience God in His full nature of transcendence (God most high) and immanence (God most nigh). His second purpose is to use us as instruments to reveal His nature to others. Is our wineskin inflexible and therefore not able to accommodate a move of the Spirit? Or is our wineskin able to expand in step with what the Spirit is doing in our midst? We believe the L'Chaim group ministry is a wineskin that will accommodate a move of the Holy Spirit in our midst, enable us to disciple a harvest of souls and endure hostility directed against the Body of Messiah. The essence of body life (the one another's of Scripture) is worked out in L'Chaim groups.

But around 313 AD the Body of Messiah took a disastrous turn. It moved from living rooms to buildings. That is not to say buildings are unimportant. As a congregation grows in number a large facility is necessary to gather together as His people for worship and instruction. However, as the community of believers moved into buildings, they also stopped meeting in living rooms. As they transitioned into buildings, they went from an active community of believers to became an audience of believers. The move caused the ministry to be shifted from gifted servants of the Lord to trained ministers.

We must reverse this disastrous move and allow

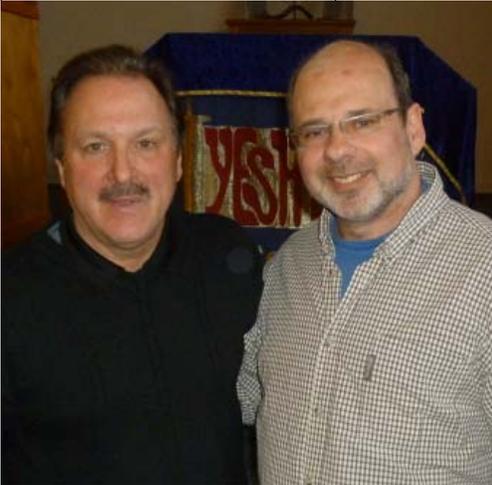
ministry to be put back into the "hands" of all the people of God. Just as every believer has access to the Word of God (thanks to the Reformation), all believers should have opportunity to function in their spiritual gift as ministers of the Lord. Every believer in Yeshua is a priest called out to serve Him in accordance to the gifts He has given (1 Pet 2:9). We believe the priesthood of all believers is best worked out in the context of living rooms - as a small group of believers come together to worship the Lord and to seek ways to obey His Word toward life change. It is in the small group context that the Spirit of the living God can meet one another's need through the ministry of the group. It is in this context where we can focus our prayers on our unsaved friends and be intentional on how we can best minister to them. L'Chaim groups reintroduce that living room movement which was so vital to the growth and maturity of the early body of Messiah.

Will you consider being a part of what Adonai is doing at Beth Shechinah? Will you consider joining a L'Chaim Group so that you too can enjoy the benefits and blessings of community life? It may be one of the best decisions you will ever make.

Joshua Munan
 Assistant Congregational Leader

Strengthening our Stakes

The key to a healthy community is healthy relationships. Our L'Chaim



(Life) Groups are a way to connect with one another in a more personal setting where we can build healthy, supportive and caring relationships. The twofold biblical model for building

community found in the Book of Acts included the early believers gathering together for Shabbat, during God's appointed times, as well as in smaller groups.

Beth Shechinah has been experiencing some positive growth as of late. This is a good sign that our community is growing.

We are living in prophetic times and there are many Believers who are being drawn by the Ruach to connect with the Jewish roots of their faith. This is an important part of our Vision to provide a community where Jewish and Gentile Believers can feel keshet (connection).

As our congregation continues to grow it will become more difficult to meet the needs of everyone in Beth Shechinah. That is why we are excited

to be reintroducing L'Chaim groups into our congregation. We are blessed to have Joshua Munan providing leadership in this important ministry. I believe this has been one of the missing elements in our congregation. Home Groups can provide a great place to our nurture our vision, to build relationships, and minister to the needs of one another.

Isaiah 54:2,3 was a scripture the Lord laid on my heart a number of years ago for our Congregation that expresses how our vision is unfolding. In context it is speaking about Israel but as ones who have been grafted in we can certainly see how it applies to us.

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes for you will expand to the right and to the left and your descendants will possess nations and will resettle the desolate cities.."

Isaiah 54:2,3

There are five elements described in this scripture. Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch out the curtains of your dwelling place, lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes and the result is that you will expand to the right and the

left. The one element I want to focus on is strengthen your stakes. I believe that as we continue to enlarge the place of our tent, stretch out our curtains and lengthen our cords we need to ensure that we are strengthening our stakes. I believe L'Chaim groups is how we can most effectively strengthen our stakes. They will help to sustain our growth and ensure people's needs are being met. As we enlarge, stretch out, lengthen, and strengthen our vision we will continue to grow into a healthy and vibrant community. Meeting in small groups is a wonderful way to connect our Mishpachah and it is my hope and prayer that everyone in our congregation will make a special effort to be part of one.

Rabbi Cal Goldberg

The Mission Of L'Chaim Groups at Beth Shechinah

"... to be a small loving community that is growing in Yeshua, growing in true spiritual fellowship, winning others to the Messiah and where new leaders are raised up and sent out to start new groups."

Learning to love Adonai and one another

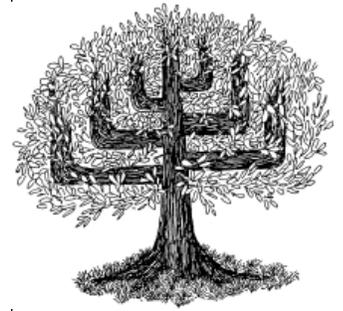
Caring for our neighbour

Honouring Yeshua in our midst

Anticipating growth and multiplication

Instructing in the entire Scriptures

Ministering in the gifts of the Spirit



Wanted! Articles for future issues of L'Cha'im NEWS

If you have something to offer; an idea, a testimony to communicate then L'Cha'im NEWS needs you! I am looking for articles (100 to 200 words) on anything related to life groups. If L'Cha'im Groups have been a blessing to you why not share that blessing with others.

You can get your articles to me by sending them to jkmunan@fastmail.fm

Thank you.

Prayer Corner

PRAY for present L'Cha'im Group leaders and co-leaders and for new LEADERS to step forward!

PRAY FOR OUR FAITH
GOAL:
100 vibrant L'Cha'im Group Communities by 2020



L'Cha'im Groups

Meeting Times and Location

Day	Leader	Time	Address	Phone
Sunday				
	Greg and Tekla	7 PM	64 Saddleback Way NE	403.280.4839
	Louwell and Marilou	7 PM	Calgary SW - Multicultural	403.700.2331
Monday				
	Maria	7 PM	4383 – 90 Glamis Dr SW	403.282.9156
	Wes and Peggy	7 PM	Calgary NW - House to house	403.500.1788
Tuesday				
	Ivan Ivanov	7 PM	90 Auburn Crest Lane SE	403.263.0436
Wednesday				
	Rabbi Cal Goldberg	7 PM	Beth Shechinah	
Friday				
	Peter and Shoshanah	7 PM	Crossfield	403.946.2364
Saturday				
	Louwell and Marilou	7 PM	Calgary SW - House to house	403.700.2331

If you are interested in joining a L'Cha'im Group please feel free to contact any of the group leaders or the Beth Shechinah office 403.256.3478 or contact Joshua Munan at 587.321.0606 or jkmunan@fastmail.fm



Meeting Every Shabbat 10:30 a.m.

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Elders: Greg Thompson, Stan Hilman

Shammashim: Penny Meinzer, Sean Kemp, Wes Aman, Mitch Toderas

Office Administrator: Shoshanah Sommer

Website: www.bethshechinah.com – Calgary's resource for Messianic Jewish information

***We are a Congregation of Messianic Followers of Yeshua,
Loyal to Jewish heritage, true to New Covenant faith!***

