



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR

Program Director, OU Israel Center

This coming *Motzei Shabbat*, we *Ashkenazim* begin to recite *Selichot* in preparation for *Rosh HaShana* and the *Aseret Yemei Teshuva* (our *Sefardic* brethren have been reciting *Selichot* throughout this entire month of *Elul*). Traditionally this period of *Selichot* is filled with a real sense of community, of belonging to something bigger than ourselves, as we gather together to recite *Selichot* as a *tzibur*. Unfortunately, it seems that aspect of the *Selichot* experience will be absent this year. I'd like to focus on one short passage that we will recite many times during this period as part of the daily *Selichot*.

V'Zacharti et Briti Yaakov, V'Af et Briti Yitzchak, V'Af et Briti Avraham Ezkor, V'Haaretz Ezkor - And I will remember my covenant with Yaakov, and also my covenant with Yitzchak, and also my covenant with Avraham, I will remember, and the Land I shall remember...

There are numerous questions to be asked about this verse. Why are the *Avot* listed in reverse chronology? What does it mean that Hashem will remember the covenant with each of the *Avot*? What does it mean that Hashem will remember the Land of Israel?

Rav Yaakov Moshe Charlap, zt'l, one of the *talmidei muvhakim* of **Rav Kook zt'l**, offers a beautiful explanation of our verse (*Sefer Mei Marom-chelek Nimukei Hamikraot*), both its reverse chronology,

and the reference to Hashem remembering the Land.

If Am Yisrael merits to personify the values of Yaakov Avinu, who represents the coming together of the legacies of all three generations of our illustrious Avot and Imahot, then they certainly will be deserving of redemption....

Even if we don't fully live up to this level represented by Yaakov Avinu, but simply exhibit the character trait of mesirut nefesh-personified by Yitzchak Avinu, the willingness to risk everything to sanctify Hashem, and for the sake of Am Yisrael, we will also be recalled and deserving of redemption.

And if this character trait is not found among us, but we still personify the values of kindness and compassion for our fellow human beings, emulating the ways of Avraham Avinu, then this too will be recalled, and we will be worthy of redemption.

And even if, chas v'shalom, none of these important character traits are present, and the only merit that we possess is that we have returned to live in the Land, and revive the ruins and build once again on our illustrious history, even if that is seemingly the only merit we possess, for this reason alone Hashem will bestow upon us His compassion and allow us to return to Him, and His Torah HaKedosha - V'Haaretz Ezkor.

As we prepare to recite these words each day throughout the *Selichot* period,

may we be reminded of the many merits we each possess, the many fine character traits we have learned from the illustrious generations who came before us, and gain strength in reflecting on the past century of incredible growth and transformation for *Am Yisrael, here in Eretz Yisrael - V'Haaretz Ezkor*. May we indeed merit through each of these treasured legacies to continue to receive Hashem's unending compassion, and may we merit to finally experience the *Geula Shleima*, we have been waiting for, for far too long....*Ketiva V'Chatima Tova*. ■

Gemach for Chatan and Kalla:

Meals for wedding and Sheva Brachot at cost

Eida Hachareidis Hechsher

Tel:052-633-1744

gadgadood@gmail.com



BAKA - stunning 3 story house on a quiet & pastoral cul-de-sac, very high end designed, swimming-pool, large wrap around garden, parking

MENDEL 052-8980111

BAKA / MEKOR CHAIM - 4 rooms, 90m, 2nd floor + elevator, renovated by architect, fireplace, a/c, very central, close to all amenities

3050000 NIS - MENDEL 052-8980111

ADAM ST. - close to Arnona Hatzeira - in a step building, very spacious 5 rooms + terrace, 40m, open view, renovated, private entrance, quiet, potential of adding extra unit

3290000 NIS - MICHAEL 052-3202488

In a small & pastoral street in the heart of BAKA - Penthouse/Duplex 5 rooms, terraces, 15m + balcony, 6m, 2nd & 3rd floor + elevator, 3 orientations, parking

MICHAEL 052-3202488

איחוד הצלה
UNITED HATZALAH
1221



Real Life Rescues

First Responders Reunite With Boy They Saved During A House Fire

Three weeks ago, a 6-year-old boy was seriously injured in a residential fire at his home in Petah Tikva. An intensive care team from United Hatzalah, led by volunteer physician Dr. Dvir Bar On, responded to the emergency.

Upon arrival at the scene of the fire, medical and rescue teams were informed that a young child was trapped inside the burning apartment. After the boy was extricated from the building in serious condition by firefighters, the intensive care crew provided life-saving treatment, before transferring the child to the hospital.

Last week, the doctor and EMTs involved in his rescue met with the child, who has since fully recovered and returned home. The boy's parents told them: "Your presence was a manifestation of Divine Providence... Thank you for saving our son's life."

Volunteer physician Dr. Bar On and EMTs Shlomo Koritz, Elhanan Witztum, Yehudit Naizov, and Yonatan Cohen, told the boy: "We performed life-saving treatments on you, and we are so glad to see you back in your house alive and well."

The family gave the EMTs a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their dedication and efforts.

