



BAT KOL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES,
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KI MI TZION TETZEH TORAH UD'VAR ADONAI MI YERUSHALAIM

PARIS CELEBRATION FOR BRO PIERRE LENHARDT'S 90TH BIRTHDAY:



Dear Bat Kol Alums and Friends,

You recently saw a video ([Click here](#) to view) of interviews that took place in Paris on a day of study to honor the 90th birthday of Pierre Lenhardt. The lectures are soon to appear in book form. Here I want to recall some of Pierre's words (translated from the French) that appear in the video. They stress the importance of Jewish Studies for Christians and reflect the mission of Bat Kol:

-My fundamental experience is to have felt that God spoke to me directly through a rabbinic text (which inspired him to immerse himself in rabbinic texts).

-I felt that Jewish studies was the way I had to live my religious life...to be nourished with the Word of God in contact with the tradition of Israel.

-We are grafted into the election of the Jewish people as the people of God.

-The land of Israel is actually a sacrament...that reveals a spiritual reality.

-the Hebrew language is a very important vehicle today...

-I cannot imagine doing anything else but be in contact with the tradition of Israel...to teach it and live it...I cannot think of another orientation or profession that I would prefer to follow.

Those are just a few words of Pierre. His lecture will appear in the book to be published.

During this Christmas season we do readings from the Gospel according to Luke. They are readings that emphasize Jesus' Jewishness. Only in Luke are we told that the infant Jesus was circumcised (2.21) and brought to Jerusalem for the redemption of the first-born ceremony to do "what was customary under the law" (2.22,27). The whole scene in the Temple is the scene of a Jewish family fulfilling the Law.

May we all rejoice in the blessings of this season.

Maureena

THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS – THE BASIS FOR HOLINESS

04-25 JULY 2018

Already plans are in hand and applications are being received. Full information is on our website www.batkol.info. [Click here](#) for a link to the appropriate page.

SPECIAL OFFER! AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER A SPECIAL DISCOUNT OF 10% IF THE PROGRAM FEE IS PAID BEFORE 30TH APRIL. THIS WILL REDUCE THE COST FROM 3,950 USD TO 3,555 USD!

This is a great way to follow Bro Pierre's calling to Jewish studies. If you are studying for a degree, it may be possible for you to take the program for academic credit. If you are unable to attend personally, could you encourage and mentor a student or colleague whose life could be changed by the experience of attending a Bat Kol program. Maybe you could offer a full or part scholarship for a student who would otherwise be unable to attend. Please contact Gill gill@batkol.info if you would like help with this.

THE BOOK OF EXODUS: MOSES, PROPHET AND SERVANT:

The 2017 July program could hardly have been better! Enthusiastic and committed participants converged on St Charles Hospice, Jerusalem, at the beginning of July, travelling from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Israel, Philippines, Spain, South Africa. On offer from Bat Kol was a carefully balanced menu from which they enjoyed a feast of teaching from Rabbis and Jewish Professors, a rich program of field trips, synagogue worship, erev Shabbat suppers, and so much more. It's probably best to let the photos and the evaluations speak for themselves.

These are the some of the thoughts of the participants:

'One of its kind. Made in heaven. Truly authentic. A jewel in the field of faith formation.'

'I am leaving the program a different person than when I arrived. I think this speaks of the transformational nature of Bat Kol. I will encourage others to attend in the future!'

'This program just surpassed my expectations.'

'Superb. Where else could you get this number and caliber in easy range and willing to work hard. Congratulations!'

'I am lost for words! This has been a really meaningful, worthwhile, enjoyable experience.'

'Each experience of Shabbat was unique and prayerful.'

'An enriching and profoundly transformative experience'

'What a way to earn credit towards an academic degree!'

'Bat Kol is a return to one's roots in the faith.'

'Mind blowing, enlightening, it was a blast!'

GRADUATION CEREMONY



HOLD THE DATE!
LEVITICUS 04 – 25 JULY 2018
THE BASIS FOR HOLINESS
www.batkol.info. Click here

BAT KOL INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM CONFERENCE (BKILT):

The 2017 Conference was held in Jerusalem from 11-17 October with leaders from six countries attending. A great start to the first evening was to go to Kol HaNeshema for Simchat Torah where we shared with the congregation the joyful singing and dancing of this festival.

The Conference program was varied with each delegate reporting on what they had accomplished for Bat Kol during the year. Each one was also asked to prepare and present a teaching session on a problematic text. Plans and commitments were made to promote Bat Kol in the coming year in order to encourage and mentor potential participants in the 2018 July program.

The highlight of the Conference was three lectures to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Seelisberg. Bat Kol is very grateful to Dr Norman Tobias who travelled from Toronto especially to speak on the life of Jules Isaac, the subject of Dr Tobias' recently published book "Jewish Conscience of the Church, Jules Isaac and the Second Vatican Council". For more information on this excellent book please go to this link <http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319469249>

The first lecture, at the Christian Center of Jewish Studies, Ratisbonne, was public and attended by a large number, and our thanks go to the Brothers of the Religious of Sion for the venue. The following day, Dr Tobias delighted the Conference delegates with two more lectures, a wonderful gift to us all.

Dr Norman Tobias with the BKILT



Erev Shabbat Blessings



MORE ACTIVITIES FROM BAT KOL, JERUSALEM TEAM:

During September Maureena delivered workshops at Ammerdown in the UK and to Sisters of Sion and Associates at Chepstow Villas, London. These were followed by visits to Bat Kol Alums and colleges in Toronto and other locations in Canada.

The Ammerdown Participants in the Tikun Olam program



Supper in the garden at St Charles



Please support the BKILT with your prayers as they continue with their task of spreading the Bat Kol message around the world.

The 2018 Conference is scheduled to take place from 05-10 November.

EASTERN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY PROGRAM:

Bat Kol was asked to provide a program for twenty undergraduates and their leaders from the Summer Peacebuilding Institute of the Eastern Mennonite University, USA. Maureena and other Professors lectured on the theme which was anti-semitism and the history of Church in that context. The students were in Israel for three months and had travelled widely including an interesting stay at Keturah Kibbutz in the desert near Eilat.



NEWS FROM BAT KOL WORLDWIDE

USA

Marjan Seanen, BKILT, sends news of a new Bat Kol cell:

Summer in Michigan is a very special time. The day light hours are long, crops are growing extremely fast, school is out, but the hint of autumn comes quickly. For our book/study club, which never meets in summer, to meet bi-weekly with a changed focus to study Torah, is truly amazing! When Mary Ann Payne shared her Hebrew word of the week “OHR” with our team, I shared it with my study club. The result was a renewed desire for an enriched understanding of the Word of God. My invitation to form a Torah study group was accepted. Maureena helped me find the beautiful name “Ohr-i-Yah”, “Yah is my Light”. Bat Kol has already been a familiar name, but to associate ourselves with Bat Kol definitely is a new step. We started with “B’Reishit”, with the intent of using our group’s questions and insights as the basis for the commentary on B’Reishit” that I have been asked to write next month. Our group has seven members who have all known one another for a long time, either as personal friends or members of our church community. Bonding with a new focus, using “Etz Hayim” as our Torah and Commentary, is having a wonderful effect. The thrill of new understanding, the coming alive of familiar words, the joy of Torah is alive and well in our small rural community in Caro, Michigan.



Please join the Bat Kol team in sending a very warm welcome to all the members of Ohr-i-Yah the newest Bat Kol cell and blessings as they go forward together.

SOUTH AFRICA

Sr Marie André Mitchell, BKILT, was successful in having her article on the 70th anniversary of the Seelisberg Conference published in the national Catholic Newspaper, the Southern Cross. Congratulations, Marie André!

Marie André also writes: Recently I attended the Johannesburg Metropolitan Joint Witness meeting i.e the meeting of all the Major Superiors in the four dioceses with their Bishops. We were asked to introduce ourselves and I took the opportunity to promote Bat Kol. I had taken some of the publicity flyers with me. The Marist Brother Provincial asked me for one and the others disappeared so I am praying that they fell on good soil. The Sister of Mercy Provincial Sr Cathy approached me and asked me if I knew Sr Helena

O'Donoghue.. Helena must have mentioned Bat Kol to her as she recognized the name. I continue to think of our BKILT time together in Jerusalem with great joy. The two Bat Kol groups I facilitate (the weekly Thursday and monthly seminar) were so pleased to see me back.

CANADA

Emily Van Berkum, BKILT, writes from Toronto:

Chalam last assembled in late September for an impromptu gathering with Maureena! We shared pizza, wine, and fruitful conversation about the future of Bat Kol in the newly renovated hall of St. Basil's Parish. After some brainstorming, Chalam members were eager to help promote Bat Kol at an information session to be hosted at the University of St. Michael's College Faculty of Theology. The information night- to take place in January 2018- will feature Toronto area alums of Bat Kol who will share their experiences of the program, explore how it enriched their theological studies, and discuss possible methods of funding for interested participants. Offers for basic, introductory Hebrew tutoring will also be provided.

Chalam is eager to reunite, catch up, and share a meal together as we enjoy the many blessings of the Sabbath. Our next Shabbat dinner and Table Talk will take place on Friday, December 15, 2017. Location and time TBA. Please contact Emily if you are interested in attending (emily.vanberkum@mail.utoronto.ca).

All are most welcome!



MORE FROM THE JERUSALEM OFFICE:

i24 News Holy Land Uncovered



i24 News broadcasts from Tel Aviv and besides providing World and Middle Eastern current news also had a wide variety of 'magazine' type programs. [Click here](#) view the Yom Kippur edition of Holy Land Uncovered which included an interview with Professor Dan Bahat. (around 14 minutes into the program). Prof. Bahat has authored many books and papers on the archeology of the Holy Land and is known to Bat Kol alums for his teaching on our programs.



DON'T FORGET! THIS IS YOUR NEWS BULLETIN – Please send Gill news about your Bat Kol activities, book/articles published, special events in your personal life, etc.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.
ALSO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO SIGN UP TO OUR
MAILING LIST BY CONTACTING gill@batkol.info**



*Wishing each one of you a joyful and holy Christmas Season
and happiness and peace for 2018.*

**BAT KOL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES, JERUSALEM
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