



Oasis

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From Generation To Generation A Celebration In Praise

By Marty Shoub

From the outset of creation, music has played a central role in worship. The angels sang together when the God of heaven fashioned the earth by the word of His mouth (Job 38:7). David ensured praises were sung continually before God's presence and he organized singers and musicians to worship before the Ark of the testimony, declaring: **"The Lord is good and his mercy endures forever."** (I Ch 16:34)

David appointed three Levites to lead these praises; Eitan, Heman and Asaph. They clanged the cymbals and led the choir; it must have been glorious. Of these three, Asaph was chief. Asaph's skills were passed on to his sons who took up their places under his leadership to conduct praises to the God of Israel. The gifts and callings of this family continued throughout the generations: they led the singing when Solomon dedicated the Temple and at Josiah's revived Passover feast. Both Ezra and Nehemiah record "The singers, Asaph's sons" returning to Jerusalem from exile, one Mattaniah being the worship leader for the post-exilic community.

Tents of Mercy has its own generational heritage of worship leaders. Marc Chopinsky leads our congregational worship and his son Eli, leads our youth/young adults worship. Their styles are quite different but as with Asaph and his sons, the gifts and calling have passed from one generation to the next.

Eli was only ten years old when he made aliyah with his parents Marc and Leah. Eli recalls his dad trying to teach him to play guitar when he was very young but in his words, "it didn't take." Eli just didn't have his father's passion for music and lost interest. But when Eli's buddies were starting up a band he asked his dad to teach him how to play bass. With little musical

training fifteen year old Eli played bass and sang backup vocals on the seminal Messianic youth recording, "Corban Chai."

Now shift back three years: Eli was only twelve years old when he had an experience with God that changed his life. Eli described it this way; "During a meeting with a group from Kansas City I was standing at the back of the sanctuary when I felt the pain and suffering of Yeshua on the cross. I went forward in response to a call and saw a vision. I was in a huge dark room. In the midst of the room a figure sat on a chair, His clothes and face shone as bright as the sun. I wanted to go to Him but there was an invisible wall between us. I called out and the wall collapsed and immediately I felt His overwhelming love surround me."

Despite this profound experience, Eli's walk with God did not



Father and Son, Worship Leaders

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deepen throughout his teenage years and he began to doubt the validity of his faith. "I had a lot of intellectual doubts. I could not reconcile what the Bible said with my rational understanding and I came to a place where I decided I didn't believe it anymore."

Marc remembers well that day in February 2005 when Eli broke the news to his mom. Leah was heartbroken. "What are we going to do now?" she lamented to Marc. Marc replied, "Here is what we are going to do; we are going to pray together every morning until Eli comes back to the Lord." Together they prayed and declared God's promises over Eli.



Eli and Sasha

God was faithful to answer the Chopinskys' prayers. In October, 2006 three things happened that shook Eli up and brought him back to faith. He was seconded from the IDF to the Israeli prison service, he broke up with his long-standing girlfriend and the new young adults group began at Tents of Mercy. Eli's world took a radical shift. Into this mix the young adults leader Dima K. asked Eli if he would lead worship at their meetings. Eli: "Dima didn't know where I was at; I knew it wasn't a good situation but I figured others can enter into worship even if I just play and sing."

The Maker of heaven and earth is known for catching "**the wise in their own craftiness.**" (Job 5:13) and as Eli led the worship, as others entered in to God's presence, God's Spirit came upon Eli. "God spoke to me; I

realized beyond any of my intellectual difficulties that I knew the truth and I surrendered my life back to Him."

With his return to the Lord, Eli's passion for music bloomed. "God brought me back to Himself through music and He gave me this gift for a reason. He filled me with a deep love for music and for worshipping – I realized this is what I want to do with my life."

Eli is not only a burgeoning worship leader, he is a talented and sensitive song writer. Last year two of Eli's songs were selected for the CD, "Praise to our God." This CD was recorded live at Jerusalem's King of King's Pavilion and features new talent from within the Israeli Messianic community. This is not the only recording to showcase Eli's talent. Last February, Eli and good friend Sasha Fishman put out their own CD, "Chesed M'Hashmel" (Electrifying Grace).

The project started three years ago when Eli was leading worship in the youth group and Sasha was the youth leader (... not to be confused with the young adults group – Tents of Mercy has two young people's groups, the youth group is pre-army and the young adults group is army and following).

Sasha is one of those guitar players who always has a guitar strapped over his shoulder so it was a natural fit for him to join the younger players in the youth group worship team. Eli and Sasha hit it off and Eli suggested they work on a project together - Sasha agreed. Neither Eli nor Sasha had much technical experience and Sasha's home studio was not up to capturing their dynamic sound. In short, the project took three years and each song was re-recorded three times! The result was ten original songs, engineered and recorded by Sasha and Eli. The album is aptly named "electrifying" – the target audience is teenagers and young adults and the recording has a definite electric sound. (Bubbies and grandmothers take note: Buy this CD for your grandchildren – not for your ladies fellowship!)

Three years is a long time for any project, especially for a young man working out some of the most important issues of life. Sasha saw Eli go through many changes as they worked in this project together. "Eli is not the same musician he was when we first started the project. He found his voice as a singer and grew as a player; he learned how to compromise and receive constructive feedback.



Marc and Eli leading the congregation together

I think he not only matured as a musician but as a person."

On any given Shabbat, Marc Chopinsky might be leading our congregation, singing one of Eli's songs. A father, leading others to commune with God through the music and words the Holy Spirit, inspired his son to write. There is something so right about this godly heritage passed on from one generation to the next. Our prayer is that our children will exceed us in their gifting and service to our King. ✨

If you would like to purchase a copy of Eli and Sasha's CD, you can order it online.



Go to:

<http://www.fvgifts.com/music.html>

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Our Vision:

Tents of Mercy - to participate in today's historic exodus by assisting Israel's returning exiles.

No spectators in the Kingdom - to be a worshipping, sharing community based in homes, equipping each one for service.

Come back Yeshua - to welcome Yeshua home to Israel, by restoring the Jewish roots of New Covenant faith.

SINGLE MOM'S MINISTRY RETURNS

One section of the sanctuary was partitioned off by bamboo screens. Behind the screens stretched three long tables end to end. The tables were covered with multiple colorful shawls giving a very oriental feel. On the tables many candles were lit and mounted in a wide variety of brass candlesticks. The candle light shining on the brass bases glimmered and reflected back a beautiful and serene glow. At one end of this little private space sat another small table laden with Indian cuisine. Soft music played in the background. Seated at the table were 9 single mothers from Tents of Mercy and a small team of precious ladies who had traveled from San Antonio, Texas to finance and put on this special occasion for our single moms.

One of the most exciting recent activities at Tents of Mercy has been the rejuvenation of the Single Mom's Ministry. When Talia Asher moved to Italy, there was no one else that was willing to take over this very important ministry. So for about a year and a half it languished. Certainly, various projects of assistance were carried out. However, it really couldn't move forward into its highest potential without someone at the helm with a vision and a heart to take it there.

Then, at the end of December 2007, a national ministry to single moms based in Modi'in (near Tel Aviv) decided to bring a series of weekend meetings to the Haifa

area. Tents of Mercy was invited to send some of our single moms to the conference. They also requested that we send one of our leadership women along with them to provide oversight for the group. My wife Katya volunteered to lead and attended the seminars together with 5 single moms from our congregation. However, as valuable as her involvement was, she did not feel as though she had the time needed to devote to this ministry. (Her main focus is the congregational Shabbat school.) We continued praying for someone to be willing to head up the single mom's ministry.

As we began planning for the seminars, one of our mature single moms came to us and shared, with tears in her eyes, that she felt God calling her to this work. This lovely woman, Christy, is very well fitted for the job and in addition speaks Hebrew, Russian and English. We are so thankful for this answer to prayer!

The seminars have been held once a month for the past 4 months. The teaching has been very deep and practical. The curriculum uses the pattern and furniture of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness as a symbolic teaching tool to help the women learn how to connect with the Lord. They are learning how to ask for and receive answers from God to their many problems. In addition, there is teaching on budgeting, how to discipline children and how to receive healing from sexual abuse. Between



The ladies listening to testimonies

By Moshe and
Katya Morrison



Christy and guest speaker Moshe



Christy introducing one of the Texas ladies



Alah, Katya and Natali enjoying the Indian Cuisine

the seminars, they have met once each month as local small groups to go over the homework for the next seminar and to share how the Lord has been working in their lives. Katya said that it has been very encouraging for her to see the women forging closer friendships and making spiritual and emotional progress in their lives.

Just this past month we also had the beautiful dinner for the single moms (described earlier). A group of men and women from a congregation in the San Antonio area came to visit Tents of Mercy specifically to minister to our single moms. They brought us \$500 to buy all the food necessary to make a special dinner for the occasion. We ordered Indian food from a believing couple that came from India many years ago and now have a catering business. One of our young men drove all the way to Tiberius (an hour's drive away from Tents of Mercy) to pick it up. Katya borrowed all the shawls she could find and denuded our home of all our brass-ware to create the lovely environment for the dinner.

Some of the ladies from Texas shared their own personal stories. A couple of them were not only raised in single-parent homes but as adults they have also had to raise their own children as single parents. They encouraged our single moms with testimonies of how faithful God was to them over the years. One of our visitors was a professional singer and gave copies of her CD to all our moms as well as beautifully ministering to us in song during dinner.

Two of the men from the group worked with the kids in the social hall. They had pizza instead of Indian food! One of them, a pastor who was raised by his single dad,

gave his testimony. The children listened intently and afterward each child wrote a thank you note to their mother. Afterward, each child was given a very nice backpack. It was an enjoyable and uplifting evening for everyone.

Christy says that the main goal of this ministry is to help single parents to overcome the difficulties and challenges they face. One project we are currently working on is assisting children in their education process. Children with learning disabilities and special needs should be able to get the help they require. They should not be held back because there is only one breadwinner in the house. We want to see all our children discover their talents and abilities and reach their full potential.

We will continue monthly meetings for all of our single moms, not just the ones

who went to the seminar. There will be teaching, testimonies and time for fellowship and fun.

We are grateful and certainly able to receive donations specifically earmarked for the work with single moms. One older couple from Germany recently sent 500 Euros! As well as donations, we would also welcome groups from out of the country, like the Texas group, to contact us if God puts it on your heart to come and be a blessing to these ladies. We are also compiling a standing list of tasks that could be done for the single moms so that when volunteers come to help, they can assist in this area. ☆

For further information contact Christy at: ohaleioa@netvision.net.il

Blow a shofar in Zion...for the day of the Lord is at hand. Joel 2:1

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