

New Updated History of B'nai Avraham Revised 4-20-07

In 1996 B'nai Avraham Messianic Congregation started in the living room of a home in Ottumwa, Iowa. It was called "B'nai Avraham Torah Study". At that time, Rabbi Nydle felt the desire to start an in-depth home Scripture study that would explore and examine the "Jewish Roots" of their faith in Yahshua as the Messiah. The goal of the study was to research and teach the *Brit Chadasha* (Renewed Covenant) from the Hebraic mind-set and culture of the Second Temple Period. They were seeking to understand what the Messiah really meant in the cultural, historical, traditional, and Hebraic context of His teachings. Edward was also seeking to resolve the writings of Rav Shaul [Paul] and the other apostles within the framework of the Torah and teachings of the sages of ancient Yisrael. Deep in his heart he knew Shaul could not be a Jewish Believer in the Messiah and be opposed to the Torah. What started as a home study grew to over 30 people meeting once a month on Erev Shabbat (Friday night). So many people were attending over a couple years that the Torah study outgrew the home that they were meeting in.

The Torah study was an established place for Believers to come into a relaxed atmosphere and sit under teachings of Edward as they learned from the Scriptures together. But after time, YHWH was birthing a fresh vision in Rabbi Ed's heart. The Almighty had other plans for Ed and the small group of seekers. Rav Ed knew that his calling was to establish a local Messianic congregation based upon what they were finding in the Scriptures. He realized the need, and knew it was not achievable as long as he and his family remained in the church system based upon the teachings of the Roman/Protestant system of faith. He and his wife knew they could not serve two Masters. They either had to serve YHWH or serve the other religious system. This created great distress in his mind. He had to come to grips with the difficult decision of leaving what was the familiar and comfortable environment of the church system and experience what father Avraham experienced in crossing over from Babylon to the Promised Land as the first Hebrew. They had to leave their church home whether anyone followed them or no.

In the late summer 1998 Rabbi Moshe J. Koniuchowsky, from Miami Beach, shared with Rabbi Ed the Two-House Truth of Yehudah and Ephraim. This new revelation exploded in Rav Ed's inner man and he knew it was the truth prophesied in Scripture! Rabbi Ed knew he had to share this message of TRUTH with the home Torah study group. He realized that THIS was the key he had been searching for in the past few years that would open up the Scriptures. He understood that Torah was still applicable for all Believers in Moshiah and that they were of the Commonwealth of Yisrael (descendants of the 10 Northern Tribes called Ephraim.). With counsel of Rabbi Koniuchowsky the group joined the M.I.A. (Messianic Israel Alliance). The foundation was now laid for B'nai Avraham Messianic Congregation to be a local Torah observant group in Iowa.

Rabbi Ed and his family left the local church they had attended and labored in faithfully for 8 years in order to assist some good friends pioneer another "church" in the Ottumwa area. He served as the teaching elder in this small congregation. He thought maybe this work was the beginning he was to do to fulfill the call upon his life from YHWH. But, YHWH would reveal more of the plan for Rabbi Nydle and his family.

The dilemma was that he thought he could still MIX truth and error. The quandary was that he was trying to teach the Torah, the Two Houses, and the True Names in a Sunday church. He soon found that the Torah and Two House message was not well received by those he was co-laboring with in this "new" work. Ed and his family knew they had to make a hard choice. YHWH showed him that this was *shatnetz* (unlawful mixture) and teaching the Torah or the Two Houses in a church would never be productive nor bear the proper fruit.

He tried to continue ministering in the church on SUNDAY and hold weekly Erev Sabbath meetings in a room in the same building that was provided free for his small group of eager students. Finally, YHWH revealed to him and his wife, Joan, that the time had come to withdraw and separate themselves completely to YHWH and the Torah by stopping the compromise with the church system and its paganism.

Rabbi Ed and his family made their official EXODUS out of the church in 1999 and formed B'nai Avraham Messianic Congregation. They desired to do more than just study the Torah and "Jewish Roots"; they wanted to apply it to their daily lives. They wanted to experience YHWH's Feasts Days, Shabbat, and the Torah. They knew that their worship, praise, and prayers had to be in the True Names of YHWH and Yahshua. They did all this without knowing if anyone would even want to follow their example and leave the church. They were all alone and did not know what the future held for them.

Fortunately, YHWH spoke to the hearts of several like-minded people who united with them in the vision. The group began meeting in the basement of the local Church of the Brethren, which allowed them to set the lower level up as a synagogue. At first they only met on Erev Shabbat, but later started meeting on Shabbat afternoon.

They continued to meet there until 2006 for the Shabbat, and the Feasts. Then in 2006, they were forced to leave their comfortable basement synagogue and meet in homes once again. Today they meet every other Shabbat for a Midrash on the Torah and a time of fellowship.

Rabbi Ed teaches using only the True Names of YHWH and Yahshua. B'nai Avraham's members are friendly, enthusiastic, and compassionate congregation. On the mid-West plains of Iowa they are trying to pioneer a work for YHWH without compromise. The doors are always open to visitors or a true seeker of TRUTH.

The teachings reach thousands via the Internet and email. They offer weekly audio teaching from the Rav. The message from B'nai Avraham is non-compromising and on the cutting-edge. Many have been challenged to leave the church system and embrace their Hebraic heritage through B'nai Avraham's teachings that proclaim "Transforming Lives by Renewing Minds".

B'nai Avraham is a founding congregation of the Union of Nazarene Yisraelite Congregations headquartered in Ottumwa, Iowa under the leadership of the *Nasi* (president) Rabbi Ed.

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For more information about the UNION of Nazarene Yisraelite Congregations go to www.2house.org