

## A Home with a Vision

By: Yosef Vogel

The sound of the word "home" evokes within us many strong feelings. It's a place where as children we felt loved and protected. It's a place where we were accepted at all times for who we were and no matter how we behaved we could always come back to that special place called home.

At the beginning of our story as a people we were instructed by G-d to build for Him a home in which he could dwell amongst us. At the closing of the narrative in which the Torah illustrates in great detail how the Jewish people enthusiastically embraced this task to its most minute detail, the verse concludes with what seems to be a most insightful comment about the purpose of this endeavour.

The sanctuary in the desert as well as our synagogues today are a place where every Jew irrespective of their background or performance can connect with G-d or with any other Jew. However, in order to give context and purpose to this experience we are told that notwithstanding its tranquil nature we are instructed not to stay in one place but to continue our journey of life; one step closer to the Promised Land. For the only way to ensure a healthy and secure spiritual experience, is to constantly strive and move beyond our comfort zone.

Our own homes are no different. On the one hand we spend so much time and effort in order to create an environment where our children can be loved and protected from foreign or hostile elements. We want our homes to be a place where we can provide our children at all times with space zone which will shield them from the stresses and pressures brought on to them by our modern society.

However we must never forget that golden rule which permeates our Jewish teachings and runs as a central thread throughout our history. That ultimately, in order to create a healthy and secure environment for our children - in addition to the protection we provide for them, creating a comfort zone where they feel content – it is paramount that we must also instil in them a vision and a sense of purpose that challenges them.

This then is the ultimate challenge of creating a Jewish home in which our children will be both nurtured and loved for who they are, as well as given a cause which will challenge and focus their ambition in a constructive way which is beneficial to others and to the world at large.

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16 March

***Veyekhel-Pekudei & Poroh (Mevorachim Hachodesh)***

Shabbat Begins: 5:52 pm

Shabbat Ends: 6:55 pm