Training a New Generation of Leading Torah Scholars

ERETZ HEMDAH

Founder and president, Rabbi Shaul Israeli z’tl

Training a new generation of leading Torah scholars imbued with loyalty to their people and their land. Producing leaders with broad horizons who will work on uniting the nation through active rapprochement.

Curriculum

An intensive and comprehensive seven-year curriculum covering the following topics:

- The Talmudic orders Nashim and Nezikin.
- The Even Ha-Ezer and Hoshen Mishpat sections of the Tur and Shulchan Aruch.
- Extensive in-depth and comprehensive studies in Tanach.
- Jewish Philosophy.
- Enrichment courses and symposia on general topics, such as: psychology, sociology, public speaking, Jewish law and medicine, Shabbat and technology, Israeli and International law.

The curriculum prepares students for certification as dayanim (Rabbinic judges) and rabbis of cities, and to serve as Ramim (lecturers) and deans on college level and graduate level yeshivot. Certification as a dayan is officially recognized as a Ph.D. equivalent.

Areas of Activity

Bet Midrash

Within our bet midrash, nearly 40 Torah scholars are studying for Yadin Yadin certification, while concurrently serving the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora through the activities listed below. At all times, stress is placed on the unifying and “pleasant” ways of the Torah.

Educational Programs

- Over 150 men, women and teenagers from Jerusalem and the vicinity, attend weekly classes, including retirees and people who do not consider themselves observant.
- Rabbis from the Diaspora, especially members of the Rabbinical Council of America, come for personalized short-term and long-term periods of enrichment learning in the bet midrash.
- Every week, nearly 20 young men from the United States visit the bet midrash to study with the young rabbis from Eretz Hemdah. These students return to American universities with a greater knowledge of Torah and a deeper feeling of Zionism.

Mishpat VeHalachah BeYisrael: Rabbinical Court for Monetary Matters

- The court serves the general public, adjudicating a wide range of matters, from small claims to issues of modern commercial life.
- Advice is also available on drawing up contracts in accordance with halachah at betdin@eretzhemdah.org.

The Responsa Project: B’mareh Habazak

- Halachic responsa are sent in response to queries from community rabbis and rabbinical courts throughout the Jewish world. The responsa deal with all four sections of the Shulchan Aruch and call upon the “fifth section” (the wisdom and sensitivity to properly apply the law), as well. So far the B’mareh Habazak responsa project includes more than a 1,000 responsa.
- Until now, six volumes of the responsa have been published.

Ask the Rabbi

- Answers are provided via internet to questioners around the world on topics across the full spectrum of Jewish thought and practice. The questions reflect the range of topics of concern to eves in the Diaspora, including those who have no connection with rabbis or Jewish communities.
- To date, more than 10,000 replies have been sent out.

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Batei Midrash in the Diaspora
◊ Batei Midrash for rabbis in Paris, Rome and Johannesburg receive support in curriculum development. Classes are also taught by visiting rabbis from Eretz Hemdah and through video conferencing.

Hemdat Yamim: A Weekly Leaflet of Divrei Torah
◊ Hemdat Yamim is distributed weekly in Hebrew and English to tens of thousands of subscribers and visitors to Eretz Hemdah’s website. It contains sections on the weekly Torah portion, Jewish law, responsa, the teachings of Rabbi Shaul Israeli zt’l, Talmudic Agadot and more.

Terms of Admission
Eretz Hemdah accepts top graduates of heder yeshivas and their ordination programs, who have completed their military service and continue to serve in the reserves.
◊ These young rabbis must be willing:
◊ To dedicate themselves fully to a seven-year program designed to prepare them to meet the multitude of challenges which will face them in their future rabbinic roles.
◊ To commit to spending 4-5 hours a week on community work (on a volunteer basis).
◊ To serve the Jewish people as Dayanim, rabbis and/or educators upon graduating Eretz Hemdah.

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For donation in Canada,
Please Make out a check to the order of:
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