

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

SUCCOT

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Lessons from Uganda



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I recently had the life-changing experience of serving as the Rabbi on Tribe's Uganda Social Responsibility Summer Experience. What does social responsibility in Uganda have to do with Tribe? I want to share three answers. Firstly, "Through you", God said to Abraham, "all the families on earth will be blessed". In the words of Rabbi Sacks zt"l, "To be a Jew is to be a blessing to others." To be a Jew is to work to make the world a more Godly place, filled with more

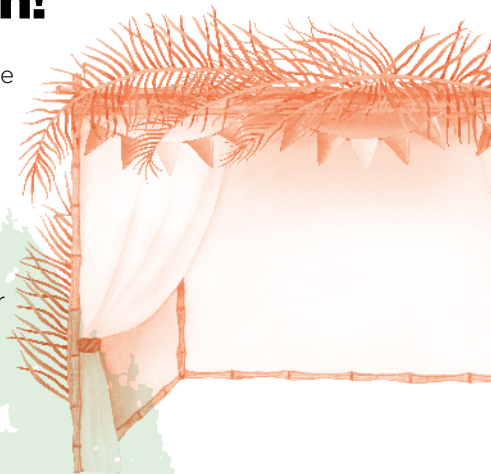
extraordinary acts of loving kindness between humanity, spreading blessings for the good of others. Secondly, to be a Jew is to make the name of God beloved to the whole of humanity. The Shema commands us to love God. How can one love God? The Talmud (Yoma 86a) teaches us we love God by making God's name beloved in the world. To be a Jew is to act with pleasantness and honesty with all. In that way, we create the opportunity for people to look at Jews and see the glorification and sanctification of God's name. Thirdly, to be a Jew is to never say no to taking responsibility for the world.

As we anticipate restarting the Torah, we will soon re-hear

God putting Adam in the Garden of Eden "to work it and guard it". To be a Jew is to say yes to being active in our communities, societies and the world to make it a better place. Of course, you don't need to fly to Uganda to do this! There are so many ways to make a *Kiddush Hashem* and glorify God's name closer to home. How about volunteering for a local Jewish charity? Mentoring or befriending someone struggling at school? Coming to synagogue on Succot, eating in the succah, and shaking the Four Species (see Dayan Zobin's article for guidance or speak to your rabbi) generate immense spiritual blessings for the Jewish people and the world. Chag Sameach!

Succot Number Crunch!

- 1 Succot is the ___th day of the ___ month of the Hebrew calendar, Tishrei.
- 2 On Succot, there is a mitzvah to shake the ___ species.
- 3 In Israel, Succot lasts for ___ days.
- 4 On Succot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah we say full *Hallel* every day. There are ___ other days in the Jewish calendar when we say full *Hallel* outside of Israel.
- 5 Succot is one of ___ festivals which involved a visit to Jerusalem.



1 15th, 7th, 2 4 3 7 4 14 (First 2 days of Pesach, 2 days of Shavuot, 8 days of Chanukah, Yom HaAtzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim) 5 3

Answers: