

## SBH Language Pledge

The SBH program is designed to maximize Hebrew learning for understanding and translating the Hebrew Bible. Nine months is a short time for learning a language, but it is achievable in learner-friendly environments. God has uniquely created humankind to be language acquirers, as the Targum to Genesis 2.7 says "He breathed into his face the breath of life and it became in Adam a speaking spirit." The most effective and rapid way into any language is to use it exclusively for communication, to learn a language in that language. Our program, both classroom and living environment, is intentionally designed for the Hebrew language to be understood and spoken from the beginning. Therefore, students must pledge to use Hebrew only throughout the program, except for language-free zones as designated by the faculty. (For example, language free zones may include emergencies, email with friends, special lectures, research papers, special family situations, visiting guests, and specified breaks.) Otherwise, students are expected to use only Hebrew in communication with each other and with staff, neighbors, and teachers. While this makes the the first couple of months a steep learning curve, the rewards and achievements are exceptional and worth the investment for the many lives that will be impacted by God's Word. The staff will make every effort to help and to make this transition as smooth as possible.

The language of the prophets awaits you!

### A pledge to be signed by all students:

*"I understand that this is a full immersion program, that requires ongoing commitment to Hebrew language use, both in and out of the classroom. I will commit to speaking Hebrew and to abide by all the immersion practices as required by the faculty. I understand that this is for the sake of both my progress and other students' progress. I understand that failure to comply may result in a reduction of grade, withdrawal of funding, or even removal from the program at the sole discretion of the faculty and Academic Council."*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As a reminder, as a pre-condition to final acceptance, all prospective students must complete *Living Biblical Hebrew, Part One*, no later than three months before coming to Israel. This course is done online and is unique in laying a foundation for internalization and "thinking in a language." This is crucial for your success in the program.

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