

# Hammering home a point through brilliant oratory

**DIANE WOLFSON  
PRETORIA**

INTERNATIONALLY renowned lecturer and educator, Rabbi Shalom Hammer, had his Pretoria Hebrew Congregation audience spellbound with his oratory recently, where he spent a Shabbat in Pretoria, giving no less than five inspirational and motivational talks.

Brought out specially by the PHC from Israel on this whirlwind tour, he started his South African visit with the sermon during the Friday night service. Rabbi Hammer was accompanied by his wife Gabi.

Rabbi Hammer's presentations helped place Jewish identity and Eretz Yisrael into proper perspective, with deep insight and meaning, with his unique brand of

humour thrown in.

Shabbat morning, Rabbi Hammer again spoke both in shul and after the brocha which followed, before speaking to all the youth and young adults at a special luncheon held at the home of PHC's Rabbi Gidon and Rebbetzen Aviva Fox.

After the seudat and havdalah, many congregants gathered to buy Rabbi Hammer's two books, the *Family Parsha Book* and *The Rav Yonasan Eybeshitz Hagaddah* and CDs of his lectures, which he auto-graphed.

Rabbi Hammer has had the unique experience of having served as a rabbi in the United States, and educator in Israeli institutions and as a chaplain for the Israeli Defence Forces, giving him a distinct insight on pertinent issues confronting the Jewish world, both in Israel and the



**Gabi and her husband, Rabbi Shalom Hammer, auto-graphing his book for Rabbi Gidon and Aviva Fox of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation.**

Diaspora.

He and his wife made aliyah in 1990, where he served in Tzahal under the Israeli rabbinic branch of the IDF. He has taught in some of the finest institutions in Israel, including Netiv Meir Jerusalem and Machon Gold College for Women.

Rabbi Hammer headed an adult education programme, Netanya, and was the rav of the newly arrived 11th and 12th grade learners from the former Soviet Union, in

Hadera.

He currently teaches in a Mechina pre-army yeshiva programme in Kiryat Gat for post high school Israeli students. The Mechina is affiliated with the Yeshivat Hesder in Sderot where he spends much of his time.

Rabbi Hammer's "Sleepless Sermon" appears weekly on OU Radio ([www.ou.org](http://www.ou.org)) or e-mail [rabbihammer@rabbihammer.org](mailto:rabbihammer@rabbihammer.org) to be placed on his mailing list.