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{Translator’s Note: At the conclusion of the *farbrengen* that followed the morning service, the Rebbe *Shlita* stated: “The concept of congregating together for Torah study is applicable on every *Shabbos* throughout the year. The unique nature of *Shabbos Bereishis* must be distinguished by a special act. Therefore, another *Farbrengen* will be held towards the evening which will be followed by *Maariv*, *Havdalah*, and the distribution of *Kos shel Berachah*.” The text that follows is a digest of the *sichos* of both these *farbrengens*.

1. The unique nature of *Shabbos Bereishis*; The designation of the Torah and the Jews people as “firsts,” G-d’s essential choice of the Jews and the manner in which that choice is reflected within the limits of worldly existence.

- Resolutions for our behavior in the coming year, the need to elevate, but not to break the material aspects of our existence.

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- The connection between *parshas Noach* (peaceful gathering in the ark) and *Lech Lecha* (individual service). Why the prayer for rain begins on the seventh of MarCheshvan.
- Practical instructions: to publicize the call to gather groups on every *Shabbos*. To gather as many groups as possible, and to use these gatherings to make resolutions which will be instituted throughout the week.

29) Shabbos Lech Lecha, 13th Day of MarCheshvan..... 114

- The spiritual service implicit in G-d's command to Avraham: "Go out from your land, from your birthplace, and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you;" self-transcendence and the unification of one's individual will with that of G-d.
- The effect of the above journey on one's surrounding environment, elevating and refining one's associates and portion in the world.
- The connection between Avraham's journey and the *mitzvah* of circumcision, the connection between the three *parshiyos*, *Noach*, *Lech Lecha* and *Vayeira*.
- Practical directives: Gathering together on *Shabbos* to study Torah. The distribution of money to be given to *tzedakah*.

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- The reflection of *mesirus nefesh* in the totality of one's service and in one's portion of the world at large.
- The 20th of Cheshvan, the birthday of the Rebbe Rashab, how as a child, the Rebbe Rashab desired that G-d reveal Himself to him as He revealed Himself to Avraham.

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- A Torah perspective on the recent political developments throughout the world.

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3. The sixth of Adar, the *yahrzeit* of Rav Shemaryahu Gourarie, the Previous Rebbe's son-in-law and the director of *Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim*.

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2. A discussion of the conclusion of *Hilchos Kilayim* and the beginning of *Hilchos Matanos Aniyim*.
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