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“He will gather the outcasts of Yisrael and the dispersed of Yahudah

Mike and Keturah Maurice are aged 58 and live in Newcastle On Tyne North Eastern UK. In June 2004 we moved to the West End of Newcastle into a larger house and began to look after Asylum Seekers who had been removed from state hostels. My grandparents on both sides were refugees from persecution in Lithuania and Poland, those of our people not fleeing persecution from the Russians were entirely wiped out by the Nazis. Since 1991 we have had a great interest in the twelve tribes of Israel of which Judah the present Jewish people to which I belong by birth is only a small part. Our first house guest was a young Blin lady with a very Hebraic name and in the course of her stay with us which was about twelve months we discussed many aspects of Blin culture which we realised had their origins in the Hebrew peoples:

Names

- ❖ Marriage customs.
- ❖ Circumcision
- ❖ Funeral rites.
- ❖ Dietary laws
- ❖ Music and dance.
- ❖ Attitude to elders and parents.
- ❖ Head coverings/Dress code.
- ❖ Sabbaths and Festivals

We developed friendship with the Blin friends of our guest both Christian and Muslim which confirmed our discovery of Hebrew roots. (We have written a few minor booklets on spiritual topics such as: Israel replaced or restored a meeting with the Elohim of Israel, The Lost Highway (dealing with the Messianic theology of the Hebrew peoples) etc etc and also are in a minor way singer songwriters and practice Hebrew circle dancing.) We support Muslim as well as Christian Asylum Seekers in our home and have also built strong links with the Afghan and Kurdish communities.

We have had the opportunity to study Ethiopian/Eritrean culture in general but can find little information about the History and ethnography of the B'lin peoples in English. Unfortunately at present we speak almost no Blin, Tigrinya or Amharic and only a tiny bit of Arabic.

We would like to briefly show what we have found and the sources of these customs in Biblical /Hebraic culture and we have come not to teach but to open talks and learn a lot more.