



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

לזכות
הרה"ת ר' גד דוד ומרת שירה

וילדיהם
נתנאל חיים, נחמה אסתר, חוה מזל,
מנחם מענדל, נעמי חנה,
משה אליהו שיחיו
סבג

Landing in our Makom Hashlichus

AS TOLD BY RABBI YITZCHOK SCHMUKLER (CLEAR LAKE AREA, TX)

In the summer of 5763 my wife and I started serving as shlichim in Houston, Texas working in an established *mosad*. Eight years later we were offered the opportunity to open a new Chabad House in Clear Lake Area, an area southeast of Houston. It was a big decision for us. We would be starting from scratch and we had many questions.

Gimmel Tammuz that year was on Tuesday and before traveling to New York my wife and I decided that at the Ohel I would ask the Rebbe for clear guidance whether we

should move forward to this new place, starting a new page in our shlichus.

In my letter I specifically asked the Rebbe that we merit to be shown in a clear way what the proper path forward was for us.

On Wednesday, 4 Tammuz, I was on a Continental Airlines flight to Houston deep in conversation with a fellow passenger and suddenly I heard an announcement from the pilot over the intercom.



“Ladies and Gentlemen, I’m sure you’ve noticed that we have been in a holding pattern for a while. Due to a rainstorm, the Bush International Airport is closed to incoming flights and we tried to wait it out in the air. We are low on fuel so I will land the plane in the nearest airport in order to refuel and hopefully when the weather clears up we will fly over to Bush Airport. We are now heading to Ellington Airfield in Clear Lake.”

I couldn’t believe my ears. We were landing in Clear Lake!

In order to appreciate the uniqueness of landing the plane in Ellington Field you must realize that Clear Lake is a suburban area where the NASA Mission Control is located and the airfield is used for special NASA projects, military flights and some private civilian planes. Commercial airliners never land there, especially not large jets. Besides, there is another airport in the Houston area called Hobby Airport which is actually very close to Ellington Field. Nevertheless, our pilot decided to specifically land in Ellington Field.

As we were banking to land, I excitedly peered towards the window and asked the passenger in the window seat to allow me a better view of the neighborhood I was considering moving to very soon.

After we landed my wife called me.

“Hi Yitzchok. You landed? How was your flight?”

“My flight was wonderful, *baruch Hashem*, but I didn’t land in Houston.”

“You didn’t land in Houston?! So where are you?”

“I’m in Clear Lake.” I told her briefly what happened and hung up the phone.

Thirty seconds later she called me back.

“Yitzchok, are you thinking what I’m thinking?”

“Absolutely!”

We had our clear answer from the Rebbe.

What makes this episode so extraordinary is the fact that that year there was a record breaking drought in Texas. There was hardly any rain that year and the rain storm and high winds on Wednesday, 4 Tammuz 5771 swept through the Houston area from 3:15 p.m. through 4:11 p.m. closing the airport for just that hour. My flight was scheduled to land at 4:06...

Confident with the Rebbe’s clear direction and *brachos*, we notified the head shliach that we were ready to establish Chabad in Clear Lake Area. After a year of preparations and *peulos* we moved to Clear Lake Area and have merited to see wonderful *hatzlacha* ever since.

Although my story seems unique I know that this emphasizes that wherever shlichim are today they were sent there directly by the Rebbe. **T**

YOUR STORY

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