



IEI 201925

“Asking for a Friend”

*How the Rebbe Saved
a Child from Abortion*

Summer, 5750*.

A message was left on the voicemail of Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim in Kfar Chabad; a name: Sarah, and a phone number.

Rabbi Tuvia Bolton, one of the heads of Ohr Tmimim, an arm of Tomchei Temimim, called the number the woman had left, believing she had called by mistake. But she had the right number. “My name is Sarah and I’m calling for my friend Zahava, the mother of several children, who is pregnant now,” the woman replied. “But she has financial difficulties and familial pressure, and she wants to have an abortion. The only way she will be convinced out of it is if the Rebbe personally speaks to her over the phone and tells her that everything will be ok.”

“Would I perhaps be able to speak to Zahava; perhaps calm her down?” Rabbi Bolton inquired. “That’s not possible,” Sarah replied. “We’ve tried everything and she insists that the only way she’s willing to keep the baby is if the Rebbe personally speaks to her.”

Left with no choice, Rabbi Bolton sent a fax to the Rebbe, describing the situation, and adding that they had attempted to find someone else who’d be able to influence Zahava out of having an abortion, but she demanded that the Rebbe speak to her.

In a matter of mere hours, Rabbi Bolton received a response faxed from the Rebbe:

האומנם חיפשו ולא מצאו מי שישפיע עלי'
אזכיר עה"צ

“Did they indeed search and not find someone who could influence her[?] I will mention it at the Ohel.”

An additional response the Rebbe sent read,
הפלה ר"ל ה"ז הריגה ר"ל דהעובר
אזכיר עה"צ.

“Abortion, G-d forbid, is murder, G-d forbid, of the unborn child.

I will mention it at the Ohel.”¹

Rabbi Bolton quickly contacted the woman who had called, and told her what the Rebbe had responded. From the other end of the line, sobs burst forth.

“There is no Sarah; Zahava is really me,” she said. “And now that I see the Rebbe’s *ruach hakodesh*, I will do what the Rebbe wants. But I’m asking for a *bracha* for the child.”

Rabbi Bolton sent another fax to the Rebbe, saying that Zahava would not have an abortion, and that she wants a *bracha* for *parnassa*.

Again, he received a reply from the Rebbe:
ואמחז"ל המקיים נפש אחת מישראל כאילו קיים עולם מלא.
אזכיר עה"צ שקיימה כנ"ל עולם מלא. ותבש"ט.

“Chazal² tell us that one who saves a life is considered to have saved an entire world.

I will mention her at the Ohel that she has saved an entire world. May she share good news.”³ ①

1. From *Teshuvos Umaanos of Fax-A-Sicha* vol. 3.
2. Sanhedrin 4, 5.
3. Printed in part in *Beis Chayeinu*, end of Tammuz 5750. Additional details were provided to *Derher* by Rabbi Tuvia Bolton.