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ריטשער

Find Another Way to Go Back

Rabbi Pinchas Weberman, president of the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of South Florida, and founder of congregation Ohev Shalom in Miami Beach related this story.

Adapted from his interview on The Living Torah, and our thanks to JEM for sharing it with us.

In 1967, my wife was pregnant and as her due date approached, examinations found that the baby was in breech position.

We traveled from Florida to New York with a car that was to be delivered at our destination; we would figure out how to get back. We had a *yechidus* with the Rebbe, and among other things, we discussed the breech pregnancy.

The Rebbe asked how we were planning to go back. I said, "We will probably fly." The Rebbe said, "Well, there are clouds and winds; you want to fly?" I knew the Rebbe had something in mind here — there are always clouds and winds! The Rebbe said, "Find another way to go back, and take along a Tanya and mezuzos. Wherever you can, leave them over."

So at first, I thought I would rent a car. We went to an Avis rental car center on Union Street, and began looking for a suitable car. We went into the first car, but the door wouldn't close. The next car's lights didn't work. We tried another one, and this time the window wouldn't close. So I said to myself, "We're not supposed to take a car back to Florida." Instead we decided to take a bus.

We took a bus and made two stops: one in Charlotte, North Carolina, where we spent the night in a motel, and — as the Rebbe had instructed — I left the Tanya for the rabbi of Charlotte. The second stop was in Jesup, Georgia, where we again spent the night in a motel.

The phone book of Jesup, Georgia is about an eighth of an inch thick. Keeping in mind the Rebbe's *hora'ah* to leave the *mezuzos* with someone, I looked for a Jewish name and saw "Weinstein." I called, a young man answered, and I said, "I'm a rabbi from Miami, I'm at this motel, I want to speak to you."

He came by. He said, "I don't know why I came — I got an anonymous call and I thought, 'something's funny here; maybe it's a setup?' But I came." So I spoke to him, and I found out that his grandfather was a member of my shul in Miami and his father's brother is a city councilman there as well. So we got along well, I left him *mezuzos*, and I asked him where he goes for the holidays. He said, "I can go either to Savannah, Georgia, or — and he named another city in Georgia." I said, "Go to Savannah — they have an Orthodox shul there." He said he would, and that was the conclusion of our encounter.

Having fulfilled the Rebbe's instructions to leave the Tanya and the *mezuzos* with people along the way, we got back onto the bus for the final leg of the trip to Miami. As the bus sped along the road, my wife felt the baby moving and moving and moving. Once we were back in Miami, my wife went to see the doctor and she was told that the baby had straightened out! The birth was normal.¹ **T**

1. Living Torah Disc 85 Program 338. Available at Chabad.org/1441940.