

WRITTEN BY: RABBI LEVI GREENBERG

Parnasah—in the Wife's Merit



AS TOLD BY **RABBI MENDY GREENBERG** (Twinsburg, OH)

Before Chof Beis Shevat 5783, I was in a bit of a financial crunch; there was a considerable deficit in our budget, and I did not know how I would manage to pay it off. So, when my wife traveled to New York for the Kinus Hashluchos, I suggested she ask the Rebbe for a bracha regarding our financial situation.

On Motzei Shabbos, I noticed a voicemail on my phone from an unknown number, but being busy with my children, it slipped my mind and I never got around to listening to it. After driving my children to school on Monday, I received a call from the same unfamiliar number. The person on the other end introduced herself as Elizabeth, the sister-in-law of Lenny, who is a close friend in our community. Elizabeth lives in a different state and we had never met, but she was calling because her brother-in-law was about to celebrate a milestone birthday, and—knowing how much he liked us—she wished to make a donation to our Chabad house in his honor.

Elizabeth inquired about the various dedication options



in our Shul and, after a short conversation, she offered a donation that happened to be the exact amount of our deficit, without me even requesting it.

I was amazed at the *hashgacha pratis* and realized that my wife, away at the Kinus, had probably written to the Rebbe about our situation just a few short days earlier.

I called her immediately and asked if she had mentioned our financial situation in her *tzetel*. Of course she had. She then shared with me what had happened when she was at the Ohel.

Her *tzetel* asked for three specific *brachos*: A resolution to our deficit, more young families coming to Shul on Shabbos, and a bracha for the father of a local woman named Erica who was scheduled to undergo major heart surgery.

When she entered the welcome center after leaving the Ohel, the video of the Rebbe caught her eye. Passing the Rebbe for dollars, a man requested a bracha for livelihood. The Rebbe answered: "*The gemara says livelihood comes in the merit of one's wife... Give this to charity for your wife.*"¹

She continued watching. In the next video, a couple thanked the Rebbe for his *bracha* several weeks earlier, before the wife's surgery, and informed the Rebbe that a second operation was scheduled for that week. The Rebbe handed the woman a second dollar, instructing her to take a pushka to the hospital, give the dollar to tzedaka there, and encourage the other Jews in the hospital to give tzedaka as well. *"This will give your hospital stay a purpose."*

My wife contacted Erica and encouraged her to bring a pushka to the hospital when her father underwent surgery; Baruch Hashem, he had a successful recovery. That same day, Elizabeth overnighted a check to us, resolving our immediate financial challenges. Additionally, that week, several young families reached out to us saying that they were interested in attending services. This was the first time those families had taken the initiative without us reaching out to them.

Needless to say, feeling the Rebbe's direct involvement in our shlichus was incredibly uplifting; the *brachos* from that visit to the Ohel were the beginning of wonderful relationships in our community, and we continue to enjoy the fruits of those *brachos* today.

YOUR STORY

Share your story with A Chassidisher Derher by emailing stories@derher.org.

^{1.} JEM Living Torah #701 (00:44)

^{2.} JEM Living Torah #701 (1:00)