



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

Sponsored by
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Stamford, CT

Learn Close to Home

AS TOLD BY MENDEL FEDERMAN (S. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS)

We are shluchim in the Virgin Islands and there is no Jewish school for my siblings and me to attend close to home. Fortunately, the Shluchim Online School provides us the opportunity to learn Torah with fellow young shluchim in a virtual classroom.

I was a student at SOS since I was four-years-old. Although the learning was good and I was lucky to be able to socialize with boys my age, over time I found it difficult to concentrate while learning on a computer.

In 5776, as I entered the fourth grade, I asked my parents for the opportunity to attend a standard *cheder*. They decided that if I would learn well for the upcoming weeks I would go to Detroit for two weeks to join the *cheder* there.

I was very excited about this opportunity. I worked hard to earn this treat and right after Chanukah I was on my way to Detroit. Those two weeks were amazing. It was so exciting to learn in a real classroom, to see the teacher in



person and to play with boys my age. I made many new friends and was sorely disappointed when the two weeks were over.

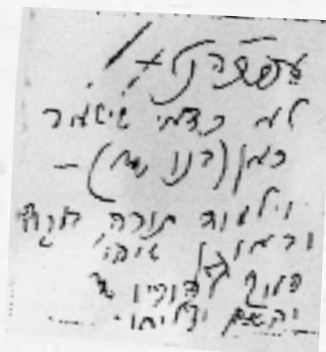
I flew to New York to meet my father, who came from the Virgin Islands to pick me up, and we went to the Ohel before taking the flight back home.

In my *pan* I wrote to the Rebbe how much I enjoyed learning in the *cheder* in Detroit and interacting with friends. I asked the Rebbe for a *brocha* that I should be able to continue learning in Detroit. I did not want to go home and continue learning on the computer because it was so difficult.

Minutes after leaving the Ohel, my father received a WhatsApp message that he shared with me on the way to the airport. It was a *ksav yad kodesh* of the Rebbe which reads as follows:

עפכהג"ל - לא כדאי שישאר
כאן (בנו ש"י) - וילמוד תורה
במקום ובאופן שיהי' סמוך להוריו
ש"י והשם יצליחו.

Based on the above – it is not worthwhile that (his son ש"י) should remain here – [rather] he should learn Torah in a place and in a way that he will be close to his parents ש"י. And Hashem should grant him success.



When my father read this to me I became very excited. “The Rebbe is answering me on the exact issue I wrote about in my *pan*!”

For the next two years I remained in S. Thomas and continued learning on the Online School. Whenever I was frustrated with the situation I remembered the way the Rebbe addressed my concerns and it gave me a lot of strength.

At the beginning of the 5778 school year, I wrote a letter to the Rebbe asking that I have the opportunity to learn once again in a regular *cheder*.

Unfortunately, several hurricanes ravaged the Virgin Islands that month and my family was forced to move to Detroit for many months. As a result I had the good fortune to learn in *cheder* while still being close to my family.

This year is the first year I am learning away from home, as I remain in *cheder* while my family is, *baruch Hashem*, able to move back home. I feel that the Rebbe ensured that I make that transition at the right time. Only now do I feel ready to be away from home long term.

Although I never saw the Rebbe *b'gashmiyus*, I feel the Rebbe's tremendous *brachos* and attention all the time. **1**

YOUR STORY

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