



# דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

נדפס ע"י ולזכות  
משפחת קאטלער  
יוסטאן, טעקסאס  
להצלחה רבה ומופלגה  
בגשמיות וברוחניות

## Jewish Grandchildren

AS TOLD BY MR. MARK RICE (WILMETTE, IL)

My family and I have the pleasure of being part of the Chabad Wilmette community under the leadership of the Rebbe's shlichim, Rabbi and Mrs. Dovid Flinkenstein and Rabbi and Mrs. Moshe Teldon. During the month of Elul 5777 I had the opportunity to participate in a group trip to New York City for a day, to visit the Ohel, 770 and Crown Heights, as a preparation for Rosh Hashanah.

Rabbi Teldon, myself and three fellow community members caught an early morning flight to LaGuardia Airport and we hired an Uber to drive us to the Ohel, our first destination for the day.

During the trip, Rabbi Teldon shared with us interesting stories, anecdotes and lessons to prepare us for our visit to the Ohel, and he described the protocol of how one is to daven at such a holy place.

As we prepared to write our petitions, Rabbi Tuvia Teldon (Rabbi Moshe's father) joined us in the Welcome Center at the Ohel and shared with us some words of inspiration.

Personally, I was not raised Orthodox and was never tuned-in to such a spiritual reality. Although I was then on a continuous journey of strengthening my observance



of *mitzvos* and my Torah learning, I was skeptical as to the relevance this visit would have to me in a real way.

However, when Rabbi Tuvia Teldon said we should think long term and not hesitate to ask for big blessings, it got me thinking.

My wife and I are blessed with three sons and a daughter and despite our lack of full observance, our Jewish identity and sense of belonging is very important to us and central in our lives. My second son was dating a non-Jewish girl for seven years and I clearly sensed that this was having a negative effect on his Jewishness.

They were a perfect couple and the chances of them marrying seemed inevitable. The relationship had been going on for so long that she was practically a part of our family. My son was well aware of the fact that any potential children from such a marriage would not be Jewish and he was going through much inner turmoil about this.

I myself was torn about this. I wanted him to be happy, but on the other hand, his Jewishness was hanging in the balance and I felt he was drifting away.

Writing my note at the Ohel I asked for one thing: My son should have Jewish children.

We all entered the Ohel and said our prayers at our own pace. After reciting several chapters of Tehillim I placed my note at the Ohel and walked out.

Ten minutes later, as I was leaving the main entrance of the Welcome Center, I received a call from my wife. When I answered, I was shocked to hear her sobbing hysterically as if a terrible tragedy had occurred. I couldn't imagine what might have happened to warrant such an emotional outburst.

When she finally managed to say a few words, I felt a chill through my body.

Ten minutes earlier, the girlfriend had showed up at my son's front door and said, "It's over. We can't date any longer. I can't explain it and it is not one specific thing, but we cannot go ahead with this."

Out of the blue.

They had never fought during the previous seven years and the breakup came to him as a complete shock.

Obviously my son was crushed and as a result my whole family was distraught. As I stood just outside the Ohel hearing this unexpected turn of events, the flood of emotions I felt was overwhelming.

Understandably, I felt terrible for my son for having to undergo such a crushing emotional experience. But on the other hand, I was elated, relieved and truly thankful that my prayers had been answered instantaneously. The timing was surreal. My request was fulfilled at the very moment that I had placed my note at the Ohel.

It took some time for me and my family to properly digest what had occurred and my son needed several months to recuperate from the whole debacle. By now he is dating a Jewish girl and we all feel fortunate to have merited such a clear and open miracle from the Rebbe to ensure the Jewish continuity of our entire family.

I've heard many fascinating miracle stories about the Rebbe but always felt these were things that happened to others. I thank Hashem that I merited to experience such clear Divine intervention through my visit to the Ohel. **T**

## YOUR STORY

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