



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

לזכות
הרה"ת הרה"ח ר' דוד הלוי שיחי'
ויסמן
לרגל יום הולדתו כ"ה אדר
שיתברך בשנת הצלחה וברכה
בגו"ר בכל אשר יפנה
ולזכות זוגתו מרת ליפשא מלכה
ובניהם ובנותיהם שמואל הלוי,
לוי הלוי, הינדא מאטל, יוסף הלוי,
מנחם מענדל הלוי שיחיו

Whatever it Costs

AS TOLD BY RABBI MENDY GREENBERG (WASSILA, AK)

The *peulos* of Rosh Hashanah 5779* were very successful, Baruch Hashem, with a large crowd participating in all the *tefillos* and a record number of Yidden heard *tekios* in the Mat-Su Valley region. As I started preparing for Yom Kippur I had an urge to ensure that we have a *minyana* for the *tefillos*. I felt the need to bring *bochurim* so that our chances of having a *minyana* for all the *tefillos* would be greater, and in general their help would help create a smooth and enjoyable davening experience for everyone.

A cursory online search revealed that flights from New York to Alaska on such short notice were close to \$800 and I basically gave up on the idea.

Thursday evening, 4 Tishrei, I wrote a letter to the Rebbe describing the great *hatzlacha* we experienced over Yom Tov and reporting on our preparations for Yom Kippur. I also mentioned my wish to bring *bochurim* or even one *bochur* from New York to help out with the *minyanim* and *tefillos*, but concluded that the price was close to \$800 and requested a *bracha* that I make the appropriate decision according to the Rebbe's wishes.

Even as I sent my letter to the Ohel, I did not think it was realistic for my *bochurim* wish to work out.

On Friday, a Yid from Anchorage who was in the Air Force invited me to participate in his retirement



ceremony at the local Army Base. After the ceremony, I was approached by Mr. Terry Gorelik. Terry used to live in Anchorage for many years and participated in many of the *peulos* and *minyanim* at the Beis Chabad, but had recently moved closer to my area.



Terry mentioned to me that he wished to join us for Yom Kippur and inquired if we would have *minyanim* for the *tefillos*.

“Honestly, it’s hard to know,” I responded.

Undeterred, Terry offered to reach out to some Israelis working at the malls in Anchorage and to set them up in a mobile home near my home so they could help with the *minyan*. I felt this was not appropriate and explained that I did not move out on *shlichus* to Wasilla to *shlep* Yidden away from Anchorage. If they were ready to go to *shul* on Yom Kippur they should certainly join the Beis Chabad in Anchorage.

“However, I was actually thinking of bringing in traveling rabbis from New York to help with the *minyanim* and to lead the services,” I said. “But flights are very expensive, so I’m not sure what to do.”

“Well, a mobile home would be much cheaper you know,” said Terry.

I agreed, but the conversation ended there.

Shabbos afternoon, Vov Tishrei, Terry Gorelik knocks on my door unexpectedly.

“Rabbi, I thought about it the whole night and I feel that it is very important that we have a *minyan* in Wasilla for Yom Kippur. I am ready to pay whatever the price is to bring as many rabbis as we need to make this happen. One

thousand dollars, two thousand dollars, three thousand dollars, five thousand dollars—whatever it costs, I will pay!”

As he said these words I felt a shudder in my body. This was clearly a direct *bracha* and response from the Rebbe to my letter from Thursday night.

Right after Shabbos I scrambled to find two *bochurim*, booked tickets immediately and Monday evening, Leil Erev Yom Kippur, they landed in Anchorage. For the first time in history we had *minyanim* for Yom Kippur *tefillos* in Wasilla, Alaska.

“It was a truly amazing experience,” says Terry. “I was so proud to see my son Jacob holding the *sefer Torah* for the *Kol Nidrei* service. That was certainly a highlight of my Yom Kippur. Later, on Yom Kippur morning, our *minyan* was completed with a 99 year old fellow who was able to participate in proper Yom Kippur services due to our efforts. I’m so grateful we were able to help him do this *mitzvah* here in Wasilla, Alaska.”

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YOUR STORY

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