



# דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

מוקדש לחיזוק ההתקשרות  
לכ"ק אדמו"ר  
נדפס ע"י  
הרוצה בעילום שמו

## An Immediate Response

AS TOLD BY RABBI YISROEL LIEBERMAN (KOWLOON, HONG KONG)

Our shlichus in Kowloon, Hong Kong began about two and a half years ago, in the middle of 5777\*. The first few months there were particularly difficult for us. We were having ongoing challenges and setbacks, so much so, that at a certain point I began to question whether this was the right shlichus for us. These doubtful thoughts continued for a few weeks.

On Rosh Chodesh Tammuz of that year, I came home after meeting some people at the business show that was going on that day. I was feeling totally distraught, the weight of the challenges we were having was becoming too heavy for me to carry.

As I walked into our Chabad House, I said to my wife, "I think it's time we rethink our moving on shlichus here.

The issues here don't seem to be getting solved, things are just getting more and more tough to keep up with. The way I see it, here we can not continue. Let's close up shop here, and being that there's no shortage of shlichus opportunities, we can find another shlichus somewhere else that won't be so intense."

My wife responded, "We are the Rebbe's shlichim here, you haven't written to the Rebbe properly yet about the issues we are having. Why don't you sit down and write a detailed letter to the Rebbe, describe everything that's going on, and then we'll see how we should continue."

It was about 12:00 p.m. when I sat down to concentrate and write to the Rebbe what was on my mind. I wrote everything about the pressing issues we had, and I



RABBI YOSEF CHITRIK (SECOND FROM LEFT) POSES WITH HIS FELLOW TALMIDIM HASHLUCHIM DURING THEIR SHLICHUS IN AUSTRALIA, 5733\*-5735\*.

concluded my letter with what I had just said to my wife: “Maybe this is all a sign that this isn’t the shlichus that’s meant for us, and we should look for a shlichus that isn’t so ‘aggressive.’ Rebbe, please give me a clear sign.” As soon as I was done writing, I faxed the letter to the Ohel.

A few moments later, at about 12:45, the doorbell rang. I cannot properly describe the shock I felt when I opened the door. Living in Hong Kong, you simply don’t bump into anyone in the street. Everyone is at the business show and only once in a blue moon a tourist shows up and comes in. Yet now, to my great surprise, Rabbi Yosef Chitrik and his wife all the way from Tzfas, Eretz Hakodesh were at my doorstep!

In complete knee-jerk reaction I bursted out, “Rabbi Chitrik, what are you doing here?!” He calmly replied, “Do you have some *lchaim*? We will say *lchaim* together, and I’ll explain you what brings me here.” Right away, I brought out some *mashke* and *farbeisen*, and Rabbi Chitrik began telling me the following story:

“In the year 5733\*, I merited to be one of the *bochurim* who were chosen to be sent on shlichus to Melbourne, Australia. Before we left we were called into *yechidus* in the Rebbe’s room.

“Generally, present at this *yechidus* were the shluchim who had just returned from Australia, and the shluchim who were being sent to Australia, and so it was this time. We were standing in the Rebbe’s room next to the windows, the shluchim who had just returned were standing next to the *sefarim* shelf, and Rabbi Hodakov was standing next to the Rebbe.

“Before the Rebbe began speaking to us, the Rebbe requested from Rabbi Hodakov to call all the shluchim from previous years as well.

“Once they all had entered, the Rebbe began to say the *maamar* אל יפטר אדם מחברו. Upon concluding, the Rebbe said to us, “The *minhag* of the my father-in-law, the [Friediker] Rebbe, when traveling was to visit the *rabbanim*



RABBI YOSEF CHITRIK ON HIS VISIT AT THE CHABAD HOUSE IN KOWLOON, HONG KONG, WITH RABBI YISROEL LIEBERMAN.

of the cities he would stop in,” and instructed us that at our stopover in London we should visit Rabbi Jakobovits and in Eretz Yisroel we should visit Rabbi Zevin.

“Because of this, I made a *hachlata* that whenever I travel somewhere and have a stopover on the way, I would leave the airport and visit a local *rav* or shliach of that city.

“This time, I’m again on my way to Australia just as I was then. Stopping over in Hong Kong, I asked my brother-in-law who often travels to Hong Kong for directions to the Chabad House.”

I asked Rabbi Chitrik, “Why did you come to me instead of Rabbi Avtzon who is actually related to you and much closer to your age?” He replied, “I don’t know, this is the address my brother-in-law gave me, I didn’t know which Chabad House he was sending me to.”

Hearing all this, I immediately understood that here lies the Rebbe’s answer to the letter I had just written. It was a clear sign for me of the Rebbe’s encouragement to continue our shlichus here in Hong Kong.

I got up and brought out the letter I had sent to the Rebbe just about an hour earlier. As I began showing the letter to him, we both became overwhelmed with emotion.

In hindsight, it was just one moment, a very unique moment of my life, when I saw in such a tangible way how the Rebbe is with his shluchim, concerned about our struggles, and was listening to me in my time of doubt, immediately sending his response of encouragement.

Needless to say, my entire view of our situation immediately changed. The Rebbe’s answer uplifted me so high that, all of a sudden, the issues we had been having became so small and irrelevant in comparison to what we had just experienced. **1**

## YOUR STORY

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