



דער רבי וועט געפינען אַ וועג...

לזכות
כל נכדינו שיחיו
שיגדלו לתורה לחופה ולמעשים טובים
לנח"ר כ"ק אדמו"ר



נדפס ע"י
הרה"ת ר' יצחק מאיר זוזגוט מרת לאה
שיחיו
שפאלטר

The Perfect Home

AS TOLD BY RABBI YANKY BELL (EL CERRITO, CA)

Two-and-a-half years after we moved on shlichus to El Cerrito, California we *baruch Hashem* outgrew our second home. The *peulos* were blossoming and we were determined to expand our brand new preschool, but with a tiny home with bedrooms right off the living room and a growing family, we began looking for a more suitable home to grow our shlichus.

Our town of 25,000 residents in the San Francisco Bay area has no standard code for home building. The homes are small and every one is built in its own unique way. During the month of Adar 5779 we set out on an intense search for a home that would suit

our needs, but after visiting over 25 houses—over a period of six months—we were drained. Even the one home we initially thought would work, remained out of reach as the owners refused to rent it to us since we planned on running a preschool on the premises. The fact that the local real estate market is very tough, with so few homes on the market and many potential renters and buyers, did not make our search any easier.

Tishrei came and went. On Motzei Simchas Torah my wife and I reflected on the many *peulos* we were forced to have in such cramped quarters and we came to the concrete conclusion that the current format was untenable.



I was scheduled to fly to New York the next evening together with a *mekurav* to bring him to the Ohel for the first time, and we decided that on this trip I would write everything to the Rebbe and ask for a *bracha* that we find the right home so we can move on to the next stage in our shlichus.

We caught the red-eye flight from San Francisco and landed at JFK early in the morning of 25 Tishrei. Arriving at the Ohel we learned Chassidus, davened Shacharis, and I explained to my friend how to write a *pan*. I then sat down to write my own letter to the Rebbe in great detail. I specified every reason why we needed to move and how exhaustive the search had been until now. Aside from the challenge of finding the right space, there was the issue of finding owners that would agree to rent their homes to us even though we had a preschool.

I poured out my heart to the Rebbe in that letter begging for a *bracha* that the right house should come up quickly and that we should manage to either secure the rental or perhaps manage to buy.

Upon leaving the Ohel we caught an Uber to Crown Heights to spend the time until our flight back to California. As soon as we arrived, my wife called me with some exciting news. A house had just come up on Craigslist the night before and she went to see it while I was in the Ohel.

Lo and behold, the home was a dream come true! The ground floor has a large open space for our preschool and *peulos* and the family living space is on

a separate floor with its own entrance, and it even has a large backyard and adequate parking on site. Finding such a property in El Cerrito is absolutely unheard of!

The news was exhilarating but we knew that there was a long road ahead of us. The cost of rent was almost double what we were paying for our current home, but we understood that the increase in the budget was necessary for us to continue our shlichus.

In our past experience with renting homes in the area, it had been easier to be approved as renters when the owners met with us directly, but this home was being managed and rented by realtors which we worried would lessen our chances. However, with the fact that the home came to our attention in a way in which we felt the Rebbe's direct *bracha*, we confidently contacted the realtors with an offer to rent the home.

To our surprise and relief, the realtors, who we discovered were Jewish, guided us through the process and ensured that we were able to sign the lease in a very short time. We would have never managed to do it without them.

On Erev Shabbos 17 Cheshvan 5780 we signed the lease and on 17 Kislev we moved into the new home of Chabad Lubavitch of El Cerrito—a move that has brought much growth and *bracha* to our shlichus. **1**

YOUR STORY

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