



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

לזכות החייל בצבאות ה'
מנחם מענדל שיחי'
לרגל יום הולדתו ז' ניסן

נדפס ע"י הוריו
הרה"ת ר' חיים אפרים וזוגתו מרת ח'
מושקא ומשפחתם שיחי'
גאלדשטיין

I Never Felt So Small

AS TOLD BY RABBI SHMULI NACHLAS (TORONTO, ON)

For over 20 years my wife and I have been privileged to be on shlichus in Toronto, serving Jewish youth in various capacities. In 5768* we established the Jewish Youth Network (JYN) as an independent *mosad* dedicated exclusively to *peulos* with Jewish high school students in Ontario. We rented a storefront for office space and a lounge to host classes, events and other programs for high school teenagers.

Since our shlichus is defined by a particular demographic - the youth, and not a specific neighborhood, fundraising proved to be a very big challenge for us. For the first four years, a generous benefactor provided funding for our rent, which was tremendously helpful, but when that phased out we found ourselves in a vicious cycle of debt just to keep the *mosad* afloat. We mortgaged our home and maxed out our credit cards. By the summer of 5774 we had no money in the bank and no lines of credit to pull from. Purchasing groceries for Shabbos was becoming impossible - all while the *peulos* continued unabated.

Every year, I am *makpid* to come to the Rebbe at the Ohel before Rosh Hashanah or during Aseres Yemei Teshuva. As Rosh Hashanah 5775 drew near, I was simply unable to put another \$300-\$400 on the credit card, but I knew I must come to the Ohel. The situation of our shlichus was untenable and we needed the Rebbe's guidance and *bracha*.

One day in Tishrei, I spoke with my friend Rabbi Yisroel Wilhelm, shliach in Boulder, Colorado and described to him how desperate our situation really was. He shared with me that he was in a similar situation earlier that year. He also shared that years back, working as a *bochur* in a shliach's day camp, he noted that the shlucha was very concerned about the extremely low camp registration so she wrote a letter to the Rebbe plainly describing how bad things were and simply asked for help. Everything turned around very quickly after that.

Recalling that incident, Yisroel followed the same protocol during his own crisis: he went to the Ohel,

September 30, 2014

Jewish Youth Network,
8700 Bathurst Street,
Unit 5,
Thornhill, ON L4J 9J8

Donald Carr, O.C.
Direct Line 416 298 8000
E-mail: dcar@mltbs.com
File: 13245-0002

Dear Sirs:

Re: Estate of f _____

On behalf of the Estate Trustees of the above Estate, _____ and me, I wish to advise you that it is making a _____ donation to you and I am delighted to enclose its cheque in the amount of \$50,000.

We are sure that these monies will be put to good use and we wish you every success in your endeavours.

I would greatly appreciate receiving a formal receipt at your earliest convenience, as we have to have the accounts of the Estate approved by the Ontario Court of Justice.

Shana Tova.

Yours very truly,



Donald Carr
OCJe
Enc.
132450002



described the dire situation in detail, begged the Rebbe for help and things miraculously started working out.

This was exactly what I needed to hear. I promptly called a friend of mine who was a travel agent to find me a flight to New York with mileage points for that night, to return early the next morning. He booked the ticket and by that afternoon I was at the Ohel. This was Tuesday, Vov Tishrei.

Usually I write to the Rebbe in Yiddish, but for the purpose of clarity and to properly express myself, this time I chose to write my letter in English. I wrote everything, exactly as it was. I concluded that I was ready to work hard, but I needed to have some breathing room financially for the shlichus to work out.

As scheduled, I returned home the next morning, on Wednesday, Zayin Tishrei and quickly threw myself into Yom Kippur preparations. I remember davening that Yom Kippur, wondering what was in store for our shlichus in the coming year.

On Monday, I went to the JYN office and as I opened the mail I noticed an envelope from an address I did not recognize. Inside, there was a letter from an unfamiliar law office notifying me that JYN was the beneficiary of an estate of someone whom I had never heard of before.

Enclosed was a check for \$50,000 and the letter was dated September 30, 2014 - the very same day I was at the Ohel! The envelope was postmarked Wednesday, October 1, the day I left the Ohel to return back home.

My hands started shaking as I held the check from the mysterious donor. I was in complete shock and awe that such a miracle could happen to me! I never felt so small in my life.

Although it sounds like a large sum, and perhaps

to some it is a small sum, this miracle money was just enough to serve as the cushion we needed. It allowed us to pay off some debt and to take a deep breath and move forward with a sense of calm and reassurance.

From that day forward, everything changed. Looking back, that bracha was a turning point in our shlichus. Our shlichus started growing by leaps and bounds and today we have multiple locations, a kosher food truck and most recently, new shulchim who have joined our shlichus. We are currently well underway in constructing a multi-million dollar building to serve as a Youth Center.

On Purim 5775* we had a farbrengen in our home and I shared the story with family, friends and alumni that were there. I was reminded of the Rebbe's *sicha* from Yud Shvat 5714* where the Rebbe explains that the Rebbeim chose to remain outside of Eretz Yisroel after their *histalkus* because the knowledge that one can come to the Rebbe at any time is, in and of itself, extremely helpful in *avodas Hashem* and *milchemes hayetzer*.

I resolved to come to the Ohel at least once every three months. *Baruch Hashem*, I have been able to keep this *hachlata* and clearly see that being connected and having open lines of communication with the Rebbe allows for overflowing *brachos* to penetrate every detail of life. **T**

YOUR STORY

Share your story with A Chassidisher Derher by emailing stories@derher.org.