

Two Medical Miracles

AS TOLD BY SHOSHANA SILKES (BROOKLYN, NY)

In the summer of 5769* I was due to give birth to twins. At one of my routine appointments during my seventh month, the doctor discovered that while Baby A was thriving properly, Baby B had inexplicably stopped growing and he was very concerned.

During the next five weeks, as the doctor closely monitored the babies, we were very worried about Baby B and I decided to name her for one of the Lubavitcher Rebbetzins as a *zechus* for her continued growth and health. I was not raised in a Lubavitch family, nor did I attend a Lubavitch school growing up like my husband did, so I started researching and was very inspired by the Rebbe's mother, Rebbetzin Chana. I decided that we would name Baby B Chana.

On Wednesday, 9 Tammuz, our beautiful twin girls were born in a prestigious hospital in Manhattan, but something strange occurred. Although Baby B was very small, she thrived immediately after birth, but her twin sister Baby A started having tremors every 30 seconds on the clock. The medical staff panicked and rushed her off for a CT scan even before they could procure my permission for it. Thankfully the scan did not show any internal bleeding, but all the other tests they did to explain her condition were unsuccessful. All the doctors were at a loss.

We were told that even if the underlying problem would somehow disappear, the shaking would not stop immediately. It would slowly phase out from every 30 seconds to every minute, to two minutes and so on, and that it would take almost a full year to completely stop. Our tremendous joy at the birth of our twins was marred by the terrifying fear we now had for Baby A's health.

Although I knew it was important to name the babies



as soon as possible, I asked my husband not to name them on Thursday morning since I now wanted to switch the names, and give Baby A the name Chana as she was in need of the *zechus* at this point. But I wanted to be sure.

On Friday my husband went to the Ohel to ask the Rebbe for a *bracha* and came to Manhattan to spend Shabbos Yud-Beis Tammuz with me and the twins in the hospital. On Friday night I finally decided to switch the names and my husband went to shul the next morning to give Baby A the name Chana and Baby B the name Yael.

When he came back to the hospital we headed over to the NICU to visit our babies. As we entered, the head nurse approached me and said "We need to talk."

My heart sank. "Is everything OK?" I asked shakily.

She waved me over to her desk where Baby A's bassinet was placed.

"Mrs. Silkes, something very strange occurred. This morning your baby who was having tremors every 30 seconds inexplicably stopped shaking. I have been watching her for a while now and everything is normal!"

"What time did she stop shaking?" I asked.

"Around 10:00 a.m."

My husband and I looked at each other and he nodded in confirmation. 10:00 a.m. was the time he gave Baby A the name Chana for the Rebbe's mother. *Baruch Hashem* Chana has been hearty and healthy ever since and we are so grateful for the Rebbe's *bracha* and the tremendous miracle.

Over the last several years our family has grown close with Rabbi Elie and Bracha Filler, the shluchim in Prescott, AZ. Just before Gimmel Tammuz of 5782^{*}, Rabbi Filler described to my husband how many Jews in his town were being inspired by the new book published by *A Chassidisher Derher* entitled "The Rebbe Will Find A Way," containing many stories of people writing to the Rebbe today and receiving answers. My husband purchased the book and I started reading it.

A neighbor of ours had just given birth to a baby girl. When she was three weeks old, she became very ill and was ultimately hospitalized with meningitis, which is extremely dangerous and fatal in such young babies. On Tuesday, 6 Tammuz, I called our neighbor to check up on them and he told me they needed a real miracle.

Under the influence of the inspiration I had from the stories I was reading, I told him that he should write a letter to the Rebbe at the Ohel and specifically request for a miraculous recovery for his daughter. They are a Litvishe couple and had never heard of the whole concept of writing to the Rebbe at the Ohel and he was uncomfortable about it at first.

"What do you have to lose?" I argued. "I'll show you exactly what to do."

I sent him a link to the website where he could send an email to the Ohel, and guided him in writing his first letter to the Rebbe.

Two weeks later they notified me that an amazing miracle had happened. Their baby started improving and she was just examined by a neurologist who declared he would never believe this baby ever had meningitis. She was sent home from the hospital with a clean bill of health. **①**

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