



## To Save a Jewish Life

THIS STORY WAS RELATED BY  
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I met my husband while we were both studying at Case Western University in Ohio and we were married in 1968. We lived in the community of Cleveland Heights. At that time, there wasn't really a *baal teshuvah* movement in our area. In fact, my husband Dr. Henry Romberg was the only *baal teshuvah* there; he was the movement.

But pretty soon, he acclimated into the community, and became the recording secretary of Telz Yeshiva Association. All Jewish organizations in the area wanted my husband to be on their board.

When I was growing up, my father's mantra was always: "If we ever move anywhere we're moving to Eretz Yisroel." I grew up on that. So, when we got married we really wanted to move to Eretz Yisroel.

There was a little shul down the street of the apartment building we were living in at the time that was run by Rabbi Zalman and Shula Kazen. Their son-in-law, Rabbi Leibel Alevsky, would sometimes be in shul when my husband was there for davening.

One time he saw my husband there, and convinced him that were we to consider moving to Eretz Yisroel, we should really ask the Rebbe what he thinks about the idea.

Now, we weren't Lubavitch. We had already decided that we were going. I was buying new clothes, we were packing boxes, we already had an integration center we were going to and a course that we were signed up to participate in. My husband even had a job waiting for him there.

But anyway, we did it. We met the Rebbe.

The Rebbe told us that someone who has influence in America should not leave the community. A general does not leave the army in a battle.

My husband said, "It's a mitzvah to move to Eretz Yisroel!"

The Rebbe replied, "The mitzvah of *pikuach nefesh* is greater than almost every other mitzvah."

He continued to tell us how America has kids who really, really need help. He asked my husband if there were any *frum* professors or *frum* influence on campus, and he told my husband that he should have a presence on campus with the Jewish students. He added that these students weren't so interested in material wealth, but interested in spiritual wealth. They need to know that they are Jewish, and they need to know what Yiddishkeit is about, and to have the basics. Soon, with Hashem's help, they will be getting married and will be leading Jewish families and they will need strength in Yiddishkeit. We don't have the right, even, to move to Eretz Yisroel while these kids need help.

As we left the *yechidus*, I asked my husband if we were going to do this. He said, "We can always not listen. Why don't we listen first, try it, and if it doesn't work we'll move to Eretz Yisroel."

We went back to Cleveland and did this, and my husband became very, very involved with the Lubavitch community. We had a house full of people. We had a lot of influence on a lot of people, hopefully positively, for many years to come. **1**