

DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



RABBI AVI BERMAN

Executive Director, OU Israel



As we enter the 3 Weeks, the Bein HaMetzarim, we try to get into the proper mentality of mourning for the loss of the Beit HaMikdash, increasing our Ahavat Chinam, and working on improving ourselves. We pray that this Tisha B'Av be the first to be celebrated with the coming of Mashich. After the loss and challenges of the pandemic, Meron, the Karliner-Stolin Chassidim in my own community, and most recently the tragedy in Miami, we need Hashem's intervention and Geulah.

During this period we focus on improving ourselves both on the individual and the communal levels. Yet, I am reminded of how many blessings we have. We truly are in the period of redemption. Sefer HaNevuah (the Book of Nevuah which the OU helped publish in Hebrew and we are working on publishing in English) features 250 pages of examples indicating that the prophecies regarding the end of days are coming to fruition in modern day Israel.

OU Israel extends its heartfelt condolences to our dear friends

Mr. Hillel Brachfeld
and the entire Brachfeld Family
upon the passing of

Mrs. Charlotte Brachfeld a'h

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

One of the most obvious examples is Jewish people returning to Israel from all corners of the world. As an American Oleh, I appreciate that there are cities and communities which are primarily Anglo. There are benefits to a “soft landing” when making the big decision to move halfway around the world. Anglo communities have their unique culture and needs. At the same time, I find it absolutely beautiful that even when I travel to more “Israeli” communities, English-speaking Olim are making their mark and having an impact.

This is perhaps most evident when it comes to Torah Tidbits distribution. Walking into the basement of the OU Israel Center on Wednesdays is a testament to Anglo Olim living all over the country. You see bags and boxes packed with the names of cities throughout Israel, - North, Center, and South. Thank you to Toni Chernofsky and Arlene Saslow for overseeing this operation week after week, and thank you to their tremendous team of volunteer packers and distributors. The stories of how packages of Torah Tidbits reach their final destinations are mind boggling and attest to the dedication of so many volunteers, and all of us who enjoy Torah Tidbits appreciate your efforts.

I felt the impact of English-speaking Olim on a recent visit to Tel Aviv as well. Jonathan Shulman (Director of OU-JLIC in

Israel) and I met with Jay Shultz, Yehuda Goldberg, and Chaim Farkas who took us around Tel Aviv and showed us the vibrant English-speaking, young professionals community there. I was amazed to see the growing community of Anglos who came to Israel full of passion, values, and a drive to succeed both professionally and personally that are living in Tel Aviv and striving for more opportunities for spiritual growth. We are trying to see how the OU can be of assistance in helping provide opportunities for spiritual growth.

On a personal note, last week marked 36 years since my parents gave my siblings and I the greatest bracha of bringing our family on Aliyah. There are not enough words in the world to adequately thank my parents for bringing me to Israel. I was

9 years old with 3 younger siblings when I came home from school one day, and my parents informed me that we were making Aliyah. As a 9 year old it seemed like a cool adventure. I'd never been on a plane before. Little did I know that, that decision would be the biggest gift my parents could have given my siblings and me. Ema and Abba, considering I know you are religious readers of this Torah Tidbits column, I am going to take advantage of this platform to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love you both to no end and hope to continue giving you Yiddishe Nachat Ad Meah V'esrim Shana. Thank you very much.



Avi,

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