

DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



RABBI AVI BERMAN
Executive Director, OU Israel



We believe in the power of *tefillah*. The time we take each day to *daven* not only provides us with a set time for connecting to the *Borei*

Olam and self reflection, but it also helps us do our part as members of *Klal Yisrael*, providing us with the opportunity to *daven* for the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Between the first and second *Beit HaMikdash*, the *Anshe Knesset HaGedolah*, a body of 120 of the greatest *Torah* scholars, formalized the texts of *tefillot* and *brachot*. A careful review of these *tefillot* which we still say today gives us a clear understanding of the values we must live by. Among them, *kibbutz galuyot* has remained an essential part of our *tefillot* for over 2,000 years.

Three times a day we say the *bracha* of *kibbutz galuyot* (ingathering of the exiles) in the *amidah*:

תקע בשופר גדול לחרותנו ושא נס לקבץ גליותינו וקבצנו יחד מארבע כנפות הארץ. ברוך אתה ה', מקבץ נדחי עמו ישראל

Sound the shofar for our freedom, raise a banner to gather our exiles, and gather us

together from the four corners of the earth. Blessed are You HaShem, Who gathers in the dispersed of His people Israel.

Three times a day when reciting *Modim d'Rabanan* we say:

מודים אנחנו לך... ותאסוף גליותינו לחצרות קדשך לשמור חקיך ולעשות רצונך ולעבדך בלבב שלם על שפאנחנו מודים לך.

We thank You... and gather our exiles to the Courtyards of Your Sanctuary, to observe Your decrees, to do Your will, and to serve You wholeheartedly. [We thank You] for [inspiring] us to thank You.

Every *Shabbat* before *Rosh Chodesh* we say:

מי שעשה נסים לאבותינו ונאל אותם מעבדות לחרות הוא יגאל אותנו בקרוב ויבצע בנחיתו מארבע כנפות הארץ. חברים כל ישראל ונאמר אמן:

He who wrought miracles for our fathers, and redeemed them from slavery unto freedom, may He speedily redeem us, and gather our exiles from the four corners of the earth, all Israel united in fellowship; and let us say, Amen.

In *shuls* around the world today, communities gather together on *Shabbat* and say:

אם יהיה נדחך בקצה השמים משם יקבצך ה' אלקיך ומשם יקחך. והביאך ה' אלקיך אל הארץ אשר ירשו אבותיך וירשתה והיטבך והרבך מאבותיך:

Even if your outcasts are at the ends of the world, from there your God HaShem will gather you, from there [God] will fetch you. And your God HaShem will bring you to the land that your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and [God] will make you

Dr. Moshe Gottlieb z"l
YARTZEIT
will be held at the kever
on Har Menuhot, Har Tamir on
Thursday, July 7th, at 9:30 am
A Minyan is needed.
The Gottlieb Family

more prosperous and more numerous than your ancestors.

Many of these *tefillot* were written right after the destruction of the *Beit HaMikdash*, when hope of return to *Eretz Yisrael* was slim. Today, *Eretz Yisrael* is home to more than 7,000,000 Jews. A miracle which can be taken for granted all too easily.

This past week my wife and I had the tremendous *zechus* of marrying off our second son Shlomo to his wife Tamar.

As the father of the groom you can imagine that my feet barely touched the ground. Now you might say that when I tell you that the *chuppah* was special that every father of the groom says that. But the truth is that in the days since the wedding, guests continued to talk about how unique the *chuppah* was. While they mentioned some elements that stood out to them - a *chuppah* led by Rav Shmuel Eliyahu, the presence of notable *rabbanim*, I found something else to be truly remarkable.

As I stood under the *chuppah* and looked around me, I saw four sets of grandparents: one family emigrated to Israel from France, another from the United States, another from Yemen and another has a long history of Yerushalmi roots. On top of that, the *misader kiddushin*, Rav Shmuel Eliyahu, originates from Iraq! For over 2,000 years we have beseeched *HaShem* to bring us home and there I stood under a *chuppah* on a rooftop in Yerushalayim beside hundreds of my brothers and sisters who found

their way home. Before my own eyes I saw the power of *tefillah*.

The lighting of the *menorah* on *Chanukka* teaches us the concept of *pirsumei nisa*, publicizing a miracle that *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* performed. I too feel that the miracle



I witnessed this past Tuesday night must be shared. In 5782 *Am Yisrael* lives in a time where the prophecies of our *nevi'im* are coming to fruition and the *tefillot* of our ancestors are enabling

our future. May we recognize the miracles around us, see the fulfillment of our *tefillot* and welcome more of our brethren home as we merit the final *geulah*.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,

Handwritten signature of Rabbi Avi Berman.

Rabbi Avi Berman
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Mazal Tov to
Meir & Rachel Leah Berman
on the birth of a son

To the grandparents:
Rabbi Avi & Pnina Berman

To the grandmother:
Rabbanit Sara Eisner

and to the great-grandparents:
Fyvie & Rachel Leah Berman
and Alex & Daniella Kuflik
and to the entire family