



A Medical Milestone and a Shared Vision

Last week, Rabbi Yitzchak Ginsburg and Dr. Abed Halaila held a joint press conference that was unexpected and very moving.

A year ago, Rabbi Ginsburg, who is closely associated with Chabad and with many of the “hilltop” communities, underwent a kidney transplant at Hadassah Ein Kerem hospital. Other medical centers had declined to operate on him due to his advanced age, but Dr. Halaila, head of Hadassah Ein Kerem’s transplant unit, reviewed the file of the 80-year-old rabbi and agreed.

“Age is only a number,” he explained this week. “A kidney transplant can be beneficial even at an older age, enabling the patient to continue giving.”

The donor was there through the Matnat Chaim organization. Senior Hadassah leadership attended as well, headed by Prof. Yoram Weiss. With everyone present, the rabbi delivered a brief teaching on the meaning of kidneys in Jewish thought. Dr. Halaila sat beside him, and when the rabbi called him a “righteous gentile,” he patted his hand. Dr. Halaila smiled and then shared what had impressed him most.

“I asked to check what the rabbi has done since the transplant,” he said. “Well, every Shabbat, a booklet of his is published in Hebrew — 13,000 copies, as well as an English edition read by thousands here in Israel and around the world. It’s simply

incredible. This year he published eleven books of Torah scholarship and three children’s books, and he’s planning another six in the coming year.” He added: “The rabbi has a book about the ‘Fourth Revolution.’ I urge you to study this topic. It’s very important, and I personally believe in it.”

“The Fourth Revolution” is a concept Rabbi Ginsburg has



been advancing in recent years: expanding Torah and Jewish learning to non-Jews as well. In his view, Judaism is meant to illuminate the world, and the time has come for that message to break outward. Only when the Jewish people inspire respect, he argues, can genuine peace take root.

At the gathering marking one year since the successful transplant, it felt as though one could already see the first shoots of that idea beginning to emerge. ■

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