

worthy
reading

Hakinnor 1, Yerushalayim, Ir HaKodesh

28 MarCheshvan 5767

To the Rabbis and *Talmidim* of *Yeshivas Bircas HaTorah*:

We recently observed the first *yahrzeit* of my father, Moshe Siegel, z"l. Enclosed herewith please find a small token of appreciation for the *chasadim* that you did for him.

When my Daddy came to *Eretz Yisrael*, at the age of 92, we were concerned about how we could maintain his sense of joy, purpose, honor and self-respect. In his old shul, in Brooklyn, he was loved by all the *ba'alei batim*. How would Daddy feel in the Old City of *Yerushalayim*, we wondered? How would an elderly man, who had left his home, his neighborhood, his family and friends, feel? - - alone, out of place, wary of his new surroundings, even a bit sad, we feared.

My sisters and I would, therefore, like to thank all of the wonderful *avreichim* and men who attend *Bircas HaTorah* for all the special care that they gave our Daddy, z"l. Twice daily, we escorted Daddy to *minyán* at your *bais medrash*, because he was unsteady on his legs. As we approached the entrance, a young *Bircas HaTorah* man would run to the door to greet Daddy and to escort him to his seat. Somebody would help Daddy with his *talis* and another would find him a *siddur* and find him the place. They found him a seat up front, so that he could better hear the *ba'al tefilah*. He was always greeted *b'sever panim yafot*. They smiled and warmly attended to his every need. If there was a *simcha*, in the yeshiva community, he would be invited. Such *ahavah* you gave him! What *kedushah* filled your *beis medrash*!

Going home was special. If we were a few minutes late for the pick-up, one of your holy men would insist on escorting Daddy all the way home. I remember one Friday night when Daddy entered our home, with Rav Shalom Gold. Daddy started crying. He explained that in shul, two men were vying for the privilege of escorting him home. "Why do I deserve such *kavod*," he asked, "All I ever did in life was sell pillowcases?" (Daddy had been a salesman in his younger years.)

Daddy was made to feel young and respected. He was made to feel like "one of the guys." The *gabbai* would frequently call our house to notify Daddy about a change in the schedule for *tefillah* or if there was a special event scheduled. Daddy was so happy when he received these calls.

These are just a few examples of the loving assistance given to Daddy during the nine months that we were *zocheh* to have him live with us in *Yerushalayim*. Every time a different, wonderful man from your yeshiva/shul would extend himself in some way for my Daddy. For this, my entire family thanks you. Your conduct represented the true fulfillment of *V'hadarta p'nei zaken*.

Daddy, z"l would be happy to give your yeshiva a gift, so we are doing this *l'ilui nishmato*. We hope this will assist you to continue the Torah learning and the teaching of *mitzvot* and *chesed* in your yeshiva.

Sincerely,

Chana Gross

CHANA GROSS & Family