

LUBAVITCH OF N. C.

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Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

The Best Years

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

During the coming weeks, we read in the Torah the story of our father Jacob and his sons and how they eventually descended to Egypt to avoid the drought.

Commentators on the Torah state that Yakov lived the seventeen best years of his life in Egypt. Chassidism explains that it was Yakov's devotion to Torah which enabled him to be so close to G-dliness and oblivious to his spiritually painful surroundings.

There are several Chassidic tales which illustrate the point quite clearly; Rabbi Dov Ber, the Maggid (preacher) of Mezritch once sent a disciple to the famous Rabbi Zusia of Anipoli to learn how to accept suffering joyously. Rabbi Zusia lived in abject poverty and had undergone great suffering. The disciple was shocked by what he saw when he arrived at Reb Zusia's home. When the pupil told Rabbi Zusia the purpose of his visit, the saintly man expressed surprise; what insights could he, Reb Zusia, offer on the subject of suffering? He had never suffered; he had always "had it good" and was missing nothing! The rabbi was telling the truth. He was so intensely involved in the study of Torah and similar pursuits that he truthfully lacked

nothing.

A similar story is told about Rabbi Dov Ber himself. A visitor to the Rabbi's home once remarked on the squalor of furniture — the Rabbi and his family used tree stumps and planks as bed, table and chairs. To this the Rabbi replied "At home is different. If there is no table at home, it is indeed most uncomfortable; but when one is merely passing through a temporary, transitory residence it is not so bad."

Is it possible for an ordinary person, who is no saint, to emulate our forefather Yakov, or Rabbi Dov Ber of Mezritch, or Rabbi Zusia? Can one forget external discomforts through Torah study and Mitzvah observance?

Yes, it is possible; for such phenomena take place not only in religious involvement but also in other non-spiritual kinds of intense preoccupation. It could be through music or art, even on the battlefield. Many soldiers have related that at the height of battle they were unaware of receiving a bullet wound. They continued to run, to fire, to fight, etc. and only afterwards, when the battlefield excitement had subsided, did they discover that they were wounded! This can certainly be experienced in spiritual matters as well.

Lubavitch Reaches Out To Communities in Carolinas

Lubavitch of North Carolina has been reaching out to Jewish communities throughout the Carolinas in a way like never before. This comes as a direct result of hiring a new rabbi to direct the statewide programs.

In addition to expanded activities, Lubavitch plans to open several branch offices in South Carolina, namely: Columbia and Myrtle Beach. Both of the communities have been recipients of many Lubavitch programs in the past. The branch offices will be responsible for their respective

regions with supplying Jewish educational needs to the communities. Lubavitch-trained rabbis will settle in these communities and direct the Chabad branches.

The inspiration has come from the Lubavitcher Rebbe Shlita, Leader of the world wide Lubavitch movement, who has encouraged the opening of new Chabad Houses and Lubavitch centers throughout the world. The openings in South Carolina have been welcomed by the local communities with great enthusiasm.

Pre-schoolers Learn About Chanukah And Instructed On Child Safety

Lubavitch pre-school children were busy preparing for the Chanukah holiday with many projects. First the children learned about the history of Chanukah. With the use of modern audio-visual equipment they were able to visualize the story with its many heroes. The children also designed their own menorahs out of clay for the Chanukah holiday. They also learned many Chanukah songs with their new teacher Chanie Weiss.



Listening to Officer Stitt of Charlotte Police Dept.

During the past month the children learned about child safety. They were treated to a special visit from officer W.R. Stitt of the Charlotte police department. The officer taught the children all about safety and how to deal with strangers. He also allowed them to view his patrol car with the blue lights glaring and the siren blasting. The children were most fascinated with the police radio, especially when it could be used as a loudspeaker. Each child received a special coloring book which gives them many safety tips on how to better protect themselves.



Officer Stitt shows the children the squad car.

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