

kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 09 May 2011 07:34

I'm very tired right now. It's worth saying anyway (why wait!?). I have BH years of sobriety, happy marriage and kids, normal daily struggles etc.. I find that we see CLEARLY on these blogs that being 'religious' doesn't 'save' anyone. I've learned to see ALL yidden completely equal. I'm 'religious' (Shomer Shabbos, beard, tefilin etc), but once a week, I DAVKA, go visit a secular jew on my lunch break. He doesn't care about my lusts at all! He thinks it's just normal life... BECAUSE IT IS! He appreciates that I'm honest with him and that I hold myself to a 'higher standard' by staying committed to my wife BH. Our entire relationship started when I asked if he's jewish. He said 'yes' (he really is) and I've been seeing him 1/2 hour a week over a year so far. We talk about jusaism, he plans to come for Shabbos. I walk in to his office and dance and sing some chassidik melodies. He dances with me. The 'highlight' of his week is when I come' he tells me. I got him matza for pesach. I mention this because instead of just thinking how 'bad' we are here (which is TOALLY A LIE) we can actually do THE BEST 12TH STEP IN THE WORLD by (gently and patiently)sharing our glorious heritage with our brothers who (for so many, many reasons; the war etc..)'just don't know' the greatness of yiddishkeit. And if YOU don't know the greatness of yiddishkeit, well,.. Try it! Watching another yid get inspired to Hashem has GREATLY helped my OWN sobriety and judaism together these past few years. Even on my 'tired/down/confused days, I visit him. He shouldn't miss out, just 'cause I'm 'out of it'.. I think one of the reasons we suffer with this here on GYE is because it teaches us that "yes! All yidden are equal". By us connecting here, and with yidden everywhere, gives Hashem the greatest nachas as a father who sees the children who have what to offer, helping their siblings who 'don't know their way around'. I have a handful of connections like this, and BH we seen our 7 and 8 year old children teaching brochas to 'grown adults'. I share my human desires and passions with these 'fry' jews (but really, with a yetzer hara like mine, exactly who is the 'fry' one here???), and we all learn to grow, each on his own level, closer to Hashem.. So there! That's 3:30 in the AM for you. And BH I plan to be up @ 6 for a shiur and another blessed day of sobriety, family, work, Torah, Tefila, responsibility, and most importantly: phone calls and friends!

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 20 Jun 2011 01:46

BH, the kids, me and 2 other men went out: simply seeking jewish souls today.

We went to a very 'modern' 'yuppie/hippe/artsy' place.

One of us set up a table with Shabbos candles and 1 of my sons (7 yrs old) stayed with him.
(He had a GREAT! Time)

We all had tefilin and brochures for the local shul's friday night meal, which brings quite a crown of young vibrant jewish faces.

This town happens to be mamosh right outside a very frun community and unfortunately/fortunately (whichever way you see it), a good handful of the men who put on tefilin with us today, actually had kippas on already. (Much discordancy in every kehila kedosha these days :- ().

That notwithstanding, the experience is extremely inspirational. Especially for the kids as they see that "the Hashem which they learn who runs the world, actually DOES run the world" as the 'outside world' is inspired to slowly, slowly come into the warmth of our majestic heritage and even more; that we are not afraid and "lachmeynu haym".

(For anyone who even begins to doubt the virtue of tefilin, or any 'one mitzva' for that matter; I personally wore tefilin every day for almost a year with ZERO kosher, ZERO Shabbos, ZERO Yom Tov, ZERO minyan.. Etc... And today all of those things are BH my entire existence.)

For sure there was a time when, with all my past behavior and memories, I could NOT go face the 'midbar ha'amim' safely... BH today that is not at all the case... Not at all... Yogayti oo'matza'see.. Ta'amin! I have ZERO doubt that these efforts to inspire yidden to Hashem (besides the Goyim who are SO very impressed to see yidden who really believe in such emes in a crazy world) has helped every aspect of my own life and family, in all things, these past few years... Now it's time for ma'ariv...

(For anyone who's sure that the fry yidden [which I was] are shekutzim,.. What can I say ...

"Not bad for a shegetz huh??")

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 21 Jun 2011 02:17

I heard this from 2 prominent Rabbis in my community..

"Rabbi, Rabbi!" The man shouts.. "My son is going crazy!!"..

"Why" asks the Rabbi "what's wrong??"..

"He wants to eat chazer and dance with shiktzas!!" Says the father..

"Well" says the Rabbi..

"If he wanted to eat the shiktzas and dance with the chazer I'd say he's crazy... But BH he sounds like a normal boy to me."

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 21 Jun 2011 15:45

Rambam hichos gezela v'aveda perek 14.. Regarding honesty..

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Well I guess there's much to say about this..

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 23 Jun 2011 10:48

(Not sure if the loshen kodesh showed on last post. 'Smart phones' aren't always so 'smart' :-)
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"One who trusts in Hashem has... Patient endurance in times of trial and tribulation...." And
..."Patient submission to His will"..and should be "really trying to be in a state of gratitude for the
constant goodness coming to him from Hashem"

Sha'ar Ha'bitachon

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 23 Jun 2011 13:44

I'd venture to say that anyone who hasn't gone through (preferably w/a chavrusa, and the
sensitivity of recovery) the 2nd part of Tanya, Sha'ar Ha'Yichud V'Ha'emuna, is missing a big
battery pack of inspiration and motivation as a yid in this world..

"All there is is Hashem above any moment in time and any location"..

"Everything is in total unity with Hashem".. Etc..

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 26 Jun 2011 03:01

see Baba Metziah 85a - one who teaches the son of an am haarretz torah - Hashem erases decrees for him...

What is anyone waiting for???

1000's of yidden are thirsting for the waters of Torah and Hashem

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 26 Jun 2011 03:07

G-d is good and there's only one of Him-and therefore all that happens must be essentially good. Our faith that this is so allows it to be visibly so.

A metaphor that might help:

Optimism just lets the movie play clearly, in hi-res. Think of a video streamed through narrow bandwidth, full of ugly artifacts and audio distortion. Similarly, evil and negative events are distortions of life-giving energy from above. Optimism loosens the constrictions, widens the bandwidth and allows the video to flow through in high resolution with minimal compression and zero information loss. The movie was a good movie all along-but now it looks good as well.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 27 Jun 2011 15:23

This morning my wife asked me to do something which was in my mind 'ridiculous and a stupid waste of time'..

So therefore I did it right away b'simcha

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 28 Jun 2011 02:08

R. Issac Homiler (enormous talmid chacham/chasid) stopped seeing the buchurim to give them advice. Soon they all went to R. Dov Ber of Lubavitch (son of Ba'al Ha'Tanya) 2nd Rebbe in Chabad. "He won't help us in avoda anymore!" they cried.

The Rebbe called R. Issac in to speak with him.

"What happened?" Asked the Rebbe.

"I have so many of my OWN shortcomings", responded R.Issac, "how could I POSSIBLY help others???"

"Do what I do" said the Rebbe.

"When I see that nothing is happening within ME, I'm stuck with no growth, it's just 'not going anywhere', and my soul just 'won't budge',..

Then DAVKA is when it's time to help another"

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 30 Jun 2011 03:06

My kids don't need a smart father, they need a happy father. I'm grateful to have lost a desire to 'figure things out'.. It all starts with an approach of sobriety of heart and mind, but after that, the Simple faith in all of us, with happiness in Hashem, proves itself day after day :-)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 30 Jun 2011 16:40

B'tachon and simcha in Hashem are everything

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 30 Jun 2011 21:32

"As good as the mind is at finding solutions and answers,

it is even better at finding questions and doubts."..

Only when we Lay all wisdom on a firm foundation of happy faith will we see all the miracles Hashem sends us all the time.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 03 Jul 2011 23:59

Hey guys... If u see a family w/happy kids these days.. Please have great rachmonus on the parents.. They went insane to assure the kids a haapy life.

"Smile as often as possible with your children, stay loyal and honest with your spouse, and for cryin' out loud already, just please use your pecker as a yid should, in a 'kosher' way..

Any time one of us screws up, we're all screwed..

We are all, entirelyly connected.."

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 04 Jul 2011 10:37

Divorce, pornography, adultery, a nervous father with secrets etc..

I grew up w/all these things at home.

And we had no yiddishkeit whatsoever.

Either I was 'frum' or all u guys are fry.

Either way, those who have been teaching that "all yidden are equal and need each other" are %100 right.

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