Kaliver Rebbe Spends Shabbos in Bensalem, Pennsylvania

The Kaliver Rebbe of Williamsburg spent Shabbos Parshas Pinchas in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, with a group of 10 chassidim. It was an extremely uplifting Shabbos for everyone involved, many of whom had never experienced a chassidishe Shabbos before or enjoyed close contact with a Rebbe.

The Rebbe is known for traveling to various communities to be mehazeke Yidden, but this is the first time he has spent Shabbos in Bensalem. The visit was arranged by Rabbi Yoel Goldman, a member of the Bensalem Community Kollel, which is under the leadership of Rabbi Moshe Travisky.

The Rebbe davened at the Bensalem Outreach Center, led a community lunch on Shabbos morning, joined the kehillah for seudah shlishis, and received people on Motzoei Shabbos. Many petitioners were urged to take on specific mitzvos, and some experienced almost immediate yeshuos after their kabbalos.

One of the highlights of the Shabbos was the tremendous achdus among the participants, who came from various backgrounds and were at all levels of observance, and who sang, listened to divrei Torah and enjoyed each other’s company.

Community member Mr. Neil Gross commented on the beauty of the Shabbos. “It was a very spiritual weekend. The Rebbe is quite a powerful individual, and the Shabbos with the chassidim was very different from what we are used to. We received brachos on Motzoei Shabbos, and I was amazed by the Rebbe’s powerful handshake. When he spoke, I got the feeling that he was speaking directly to me.”

Mr. Steve Kane, another community member who hosted the Rebbe, was also very inspired by the Rebbe’s visit. “The Rebbe has been in Bensalem before for a brief visit, but having him here for a whole Shabbos was a very different experience. Not so many have the opportunity to go to Williamsburg for Shabbos and sit at a Rebbe’s tisch... He completely shared himself. One could tell that he is on an extraordinary level of kedushah, that he is totally dedicated to Hakadosh Baruch Hu...”

“On Motzoei Shabbos he received people for brachos, and no matter what language was spoken, no matter what the person was like, the Rebbe greeted him warmly and gave him brachos and advice.”

Throughout Shabbos, the Rebbe offered divrei Torah to strengthen and guide the community. On Friday night after Kabbalas Shabbos, the Rebbe spoke about the mesirus nefesh of Pinchas, who acted for the sake of Hashem’s honor even though others were against him. The Rebbe mentioned four others in the Torah who were moser nefesh for Hashem despite opposition: Avraham, Yosef, Yisro, and Pinchas, all of whom had a letter added to their name, and the four letters together comprise the Shem Hashem.

During the daytime seudah, the Rebbe encouraged listeners to take responsibility for their actions and not give excuses or blame others. For example, if one wants to wear a yarmulke or keep Shabbos, he should not blame others if it is difficult to do so. Each individual has the power to do what is right.

During seudah shlishis, the Rebbe emphasized that one must remain in an environment that is conducive to avodas Hashem, but at the same time he must realize that he is required to be an aved Hashem no matter where he is.

Throughout Shabbos, the Rebbe conveyed the message that Hakadosh Baruch Hu is our Father and that all of our behavior must be Ysheh Shamayim. Just like a father must sometimes give a medication or punishment that is unpleasant but helps his son in the long run, so too Hakadosh Baruch Hu must sometimes punish his children for their wrongdoings.

The community has already seen the impact of the visit. Several people decided to keep Shabbos on the Rebbe’s urging, and two people asked for tzitzis. Plans are already being discussed to bring the Rebbe back for an even longer visit so that a greater number of people can benefit from his influence.