

Tiferes Bnei Torah: A Place Where Young Working People “Belong”



“Where do I fit?”

The question reverberates throughout our overflowing yeshivos, shuls, and batei medrashim. Torah learning is flourishing, yet for many young working men, the question hangs in the air.

“Where do I fit? I left Yeshiva years ago. I can’t call it home anymore. I can’t find a shul where I feel a sense of connection. I’ve lost touch with my Rebbeim, don’t have a Rov. Where do I belong?”

For too long, the answer has been nowhere.

Hundreds of serious young men in their twenties and thirties simply have not found “their place.” After years in yeshiva, they join the work force, but lack a spiritual home, a place where they feel comfortable learning and davening. Because of this, their Yiddishkeit becomes rote at best and neglected at worst.

Distressed by the situation, Hagaon Harav Hensch Leibowitz, shlita, venerated Rosh Yeshiva of Chofetz Chaim, called on his talmid Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier to create an organization that would fill the void.

Rabbi Shafier, a high school teacher, saw the need from his own former talmidim. “How is learning going?” he asked one newly-married young man.

The troubling reply? “It isn’t!”

“Rebbi, why don’t you start something for the guys?” the young man

continued. “I know I’m not the only one who feels this way.”

Thus, Tiferes Bnei Torah was born. Four years ago, it began with 12 people. Today, its branches in Brooklyn, Queens, and Monsey are spiritual home to hundreds of young working men. Through TBT’s shiurim and social programs, these young men are actively deepening their connection to Yiddishkeit and Torah. Such growth and popularity in just four years is nothing short of miraculous.

“It’s a great way to meet like-minded people – professionals who are interested in growing in Torah and middos,” says Dr. Richie G., a regular at the Queens branch of TBT.

The crowning centerpiece of Tiferes Bnei Torah is the weekly “Shmuz” that Rabbi Shafier delivers in each of the three locations. Engaging and down-to-earth, the Shmuz addresses the real issues these young men face on a daily basis. The tremendous turnout in each location attests to the fact that the Shmuz strikes a chord in the hearts of many.

“I listen to the Shmuz almost all the time in my car and it has a tremendous impact on myself and my family,” says Barry S. of Passaic, NJ.

In addition to the Shmuz, TBT runs many other interactive shiurim throughout the week, each attracting a significant number.

Heshy N. attends the daily Gemara lyun shiur at the Kollel Boker in the Queens TBT. “Most working guys learn Daf Yomi, which is very cursory. The chance to go in depth into the Gemara, to learn it inside as it is supposed to be learned, doesn’t happen that often, so it’s special.”

Indeed, Tiferes Bnei Torah is not just an organization, a shiur, or series of shiurim. It is a vital movement where young people feel that they belong. Because it is the women who often motivate their husbands to keep learning, Tiferes Bnei Torah has now begun special shiurim and social programming just for TBT wives. Topics include shalom bayis, parenting, Pre-Pesach Halachos, and a Taharas Mishpacha Refresher Course.

“The men were getting lots of chizuk in learning and had a social forum,” says Liba N., a leader in the N’shei. “We wanted women to have the same thing. It mixes learning with socializing, so you have fun while getting a good hashkafa.”

Yet despite Tiferes Bnei Torah’s great success, Rabbi Shafier says there is still so much to do. While there are hundreds of young men benefiting from Tiferes Bnei Torah’s branches in Brooklyn, Queens and Monsey, thousands of other young working men, both bachurim and newlyweds, are long for an environment that will make them feel they belong in the world of Torah.

For more information about Tiferes Bnei Torah please call 1-866-613-Torah or visit them on line at www.TheShmuz.com. All Shmuzin are posted on the website, and can be downloaded free of charge.