

FINDING THE *Joy*

TEMMI HADAR



We Are the Technicians!

Today is the 11th of Nissan, and 120 years ago, the Lubavitcher Rebbe was born. And 120 years later, his vision and impact continue to transform world Jewry.

I sit here today in Johannesburg, across the world from my parents in Seattle, who themselves traveled across the U.S. from their parents in New York, all because of the Rebbe's mission to change the world.

Today is a day to reflect on the impact the Rebbe has on me. It is a privilege to be a part of the Rebbe's army of *shluchim* and *shlucho*s, dedicated to spreading the light of Torah and *mitzvos* to Jews around the world.

It's also day two of no electricity the week before Pesach. Living in Joburg for almost 13 years, I am no stranger to power cuts and load shedding. But I have never been out of power for so long.

The Rebbe taught me to learn from everything I see and experience. What to learn from the desperation of no electricity?

My house is dark and cold, laundry is piling up, and fridges and freezers are going warm.

What kind of inspiration can I find as I drive around the neighborhood, hoping to find a City Power truck?

Technicians from the electric company arrive. It will be fixed by 5 p.m., I am told.

Five o'clock comes and goes, but now at least, there is hope.

Someone has arrived to fix it. They haven't fixed it, but they are there.

Now they leave. Just a few more hours, they promise.

At 8:30, they come again. "One and a half more hours," they promise.

It's 9:55 right now. I'm still in the dark. I'm starting to give up. Maybe this is my new life?

We, too, are in the dark. *Galus* is darkness.

We are so accustomed to the lack of light by now that we have become weary and exhausted, and we don't even know how much we are missing.

But the Rebbe envisioned a different world, a world filled with light.

And the Rebbe told us that we don't need to wait for a technician to come and repair the cables.

We ourselves are the technicians we are waiting for!

We have the tools to fix the darkness. To reconnect the cables bringing the light of G-d into the world.

The Rebbe handed each of us the toolbox.

It's full of Torah and *mitzvos*. Of Chassidus and uncompromising love for every Jew. It's a toolbox of growth, of always doing more than yesterday.

The Rebbe told us that we are the ones who can bring Moshiach.

Much as I wait for the electricity to return, the world is waiting for G-d's Presence to return in full, to be revealed.

And so, we wait and we believe.

But more than just awaiting Moshiach, the Rebbe wants us to know that we are not passive bystanders to deal with this darkness.

We are the technicians everyone is waiting for!

Today, let's open our toolboxes gifted to us by the Rebbe, and today, on the Rebbe's birthday, let's make the Rebbe's dream of Moshiach a reality, one act of goodness at a time. ❧



Temmi Hadar, born and raised on shlichus in Seattle, is now living about a million miles away in Johannesburg, South Africa. In "Finding the Joy," she ponders the meaning of life while perpetually sleep-deprived and attempting to juggle the roles of mother, wife, shlucha, teacher, writer, and human being.

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