



## **"A Time To Look Forward "**

**December 2023**

As this goes to print, we join our brothers and sisters of the Chicago Fire Department mourning the loss of FF Drew Price who lost his life in the line of duty. A true gentleman and friend, loved by all who knew him. "Gone But Never Forgotten". Please keep FF Drew Price and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

As the year comes to a close, we take a moment to reflect. There have been good times and laughter, hard times, challenges, and tears. But here we are, thank G-d we made it. We enjoyed G-d's blessings and at times we were shown more than we can understand. So let us take a moment to reflect, ponder and meditate....."A Time To Look Forward"...

A time comes in our lives when we finally get it... When in the midst of all our fears and insanity we stop dead in our tracks and somewhere the voice inside our head cries out - ENOUGH! Enough fighting and crying or struggling to hold on.

Like a child quieting down after a blind tantrum, our sobs begin to subside, we shudder once or twice, we blink back our tears and through a mantle of wet lashes we begin to look at the world through new eyes. This is our awakening. We realize that it's time to stop hoping and waiting for something to change or for happiness to just happen, safety, and security to come galloping over the next horizon. We come to terms with the fact that "he is not Prince Charming and you are not Cinderella" or vice versa. That in the real world there aren't always fairytale endings (or beginnings for that matter) and that any guarantee of " living happily ever after" must begin within us, and in the process a sense of serenity is born of acceptance.

We awaken to the fact that we are not perfect and that not everyone will always love, appreciate or approve of who we are or what we are... and that's OK. (They are entitled to their own views and opinions.) We learn the importance of loving and championing ourselves and in the process a sense of newfound confidence is born, a sense of self-approval. We stop complaining and blaming other people for the things they did to us (or didn't do for us) and we learn that the only thing we can really count on is the unexpected. We learn that people don't always say what they mean or mean what they say. That not everyone will always be there for us, and that life is not always about 'me'. So, we learn to stand on our own and to take care of ourselves and in the process a sense of safety & security is born of self-reliance.

We stop judging and pointing fingers and we begin to accept people as they are, and we begin to accept ourselves as we are. To overlook their shortcomings and human frailties and in the process a sense of peace & contentment is born of forgiveness. We begin to sift through all that we have been fed, about how we should behave, how we should look, and how much we should weigh. What we should wear and, how and where we should live and what we should do for a living. Whom we should marry and what we should expect of a marriage, and the importance of having and raising children.

We learn to open up to new worlds and different points of view. We learn the difference between wanting and needing, and that it is truly in giving that we receive.

We learn that we don't know everything, and not everything can we understand or do we have to understand. It's not our job to save the world, just to give the world our best. We learn to distinguish between guilt and responsibility, and in life it is okay if you have to say "No".

We look in the mirror and come to terms with the fact that we may never be a size 5 or a perfect 10 or as in my case, it is okay not to have a full head of hair, (or in plain English - bald).

We come to the realization that we deserve to be treated with love, kindness, sensitivity and respect and we don't have to settle for less, and that's okay. We learn, that for the most part, in life you get what you believe you deserve... and that much of life truly is a self-fulfilling prophecy. We learn that anything worth achieving is worth working for and that wishing for something to happen is different from working toward making it happen. You also learn that no one can do it all alone and that it's OK to reach out and asking for help.

We learn that the only thing you must truly fear is the great robber baron of all time... FEAR itself. Remember also, that life isn't always fair, we don't always get what we think we deserve and that sometimes bad things happen to unsuspecting, good people. We learn that G-d is NOT punishing us or failing to answer our prayers. It's just in life things happen that we just don't understand.

Slowly, we begin to take responsibility for ourselves by ourselves, and we make ourselves a promise, to never betray ourselves. And we make it a point to keep smiling, to keep trusting, and to stay open to every wonderful possibility.

Finally, with courage in our hearts and with G-d by our side and with prayer, we take a stand, we take a deep breath, and we begin to live today, the first day of the rest of our lives, to its fullest.

Remember, the famous quote, "We can't turn the clock back to make a new beginning, but we can start today to make a new ending".

And before we close a little humor from the "Moshe Files", to finish your year with a smile. "The Dr. and the Mechanic"

A motor mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a BMW M3 when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his shop. The cardiologist was there waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his car, when the mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?"

The cardiologist, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working on the BMW. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I opened its heart, took the valves out, repaired or replaced anything damaged, and then put everything back in, and when I finished, it worked just like new.

So how is that I make \$40,000 a year and you make \$1.7M when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The cardiologist paused, leaned over and whispered to the mechanic, "Try doing it with the engine running"...lol.

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, best wishes and best of blessings to you and your loved ones in this Holiday Season. Please remember to take a moment and look around at your peers, should there be someone that is alone or lonely during this Holiday Season reach out to them and have them join your family for the holiday festivities, you will both walk away enriched!

Best wishes to you and your loved ones, for Seasons Greetings, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a very blessed Happy New Year. May 2024 be one of your best ones yet.

Should you need a shoulder to lean on, or an ear to listen or perhaps have some good humor to share, don't hesitate to give us a call.

May G-d keep you safe, today and always. Amen

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

Rabbi Moshe Wolf

773-463-4780, please leave a message 24/7 or e-mail: [moshewolf@hotmail.com](mailto:moshewolf@hotmail.com)