

Uplifting Melava Malka in Kerestir



A group of over 40 members of Beis Hamedrash Nishmas Yisroel in Hendon enjoyed a brief but unique trip to Hungary this past Motzoei Shabbos for a Melave Malka at Reb Shayale of Kerestir.

Departing quickly after Shabbos, the group, led by their dynamic Rov Rabbi Dovid Tugendhaft, arrived in Bodrogkeresztúr at close to 4am local time. Despite the lateness of the hour, a beautiful seudah awaited them arranged by the hachnosas orchim at 'Reb Shayale's Guest House.'

During the Melave Malka, the visitors were regaled with stories about Reb Shayale and with Divrei Torah from Rabbi Tugendhaft and Rabbi Shloime Yitzchok Bixenspanner, Rov of Hendon Adath who also joined the trip. There were moments of lively dancing as well as contrasting periods of kumzits-style singing with the lights dimmed and

candles flickering creating a warm and uplifting atmosphere - not too dissimilar to the unique Shalosh Seudos held each week at Nishmas Yisroel.

Immediately after the Melave Malka, the group made the short journey to the tziyun of Reb Yeshaya whose legacy as a "people's Rebbe" who resolved unsolvable problems, healed the incurably ill, and warmed souls numb with cold continues to draw Yieden from around the globe nearly 100 years since his holy soul left this world.

As dawn approached, the group davened Shacharis at Reb Shayale's house which has been restored to its former pre-war glory, offering all manner of visitors a constant flow of hot meals and minyonim, as well as a mikva and a warm place to stay for those seeking a *yeshua* or simply an injection of classical chassidish *ruchniyus* and *varemkeit*.

After breakfast and on the way back to the airport, a stop was made to daven at the kever of the Yismach

Moshe in Ujhel (Sátoraljaújhely) as well as at the old Beis Hachayim in Ujhel, to afford Mr Hershy Stimler the opportunity to say Kaddish at the grave of his grandfather who lived in Ujhel before the war.

The group greatly benefited from the presence of Rabbi Nosson Maimon of Breslov Yerusholayim who joined the trip having been in London for a lecture tour. Rabbi Maimon's warm and engaging manner and inspiring Divrei Torah on the various coach journeys added an additional dimension to the trip as he spoke of the importance of pushing one's self and leaving one's 'comfort-zone' in order to achieve spiritual advancement.

Those fortunate enough to have taken part in this exhausting yet memorable Melave Malka certainly left their own 'comfort zones' but will have no regrets as the unique aura of Reb Shayale continues to radiate in their hearts and minds.



L-R; Rabbi Bixenspanner, Rabbi Tugendhaft and Rabbi Maimon outside Reb Shayale's house in Kerestir



Rabbi Tugendhaft during the Melave Malka



Rabbi Bixenspanner addressing the Melave Malka



Mr Hershi Stimler at the Kever of his grandfather in Ujhel