

Steven D. Reece

From: Peter Berg <pberg@the-temple.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 13:56
To: Steven D. Reece; Dianne Ratowsky
Subject: Re: Introduction

Hi Steven

I am out of town but would love to meet with you about the good work you do.

My assistant, Dianne Ratowsky, will reach out to you to set up a time for us, likely in August.

All my best
Peter

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 26, 2012, at 1:11 PM, "Steven D. Reece" <sdreece@matzevah.org> wrote:

> Dear Rabbi Berg,

>

>

>

> I met this past week with Rabbi Larry Schlesinger of Temple Beth Israel in Macon, GA. I realize that you do not know him but since I live in the Atlanta area, he suggested that I contact you regarding my work.

>

>

>

> I am the founder and president of The Matzevah Foundation (TMF), which is a 501 (C)(3) public charity incorporated in Georgia in late 2010. Our foundation was established by a small group of Baptist Christians who have been working in Poland in a very specific mitzvah since 2004. The mission TMF is to educate the public about the Shoah and to lead Jewish cemetery restoration projects in Poland.

>

>

>

> Our mission grew out of my work with the Baptist Union of Poland in strengthening and establishing Baptist congregations in Poland. I lived and worked in Poland for twelve years and the idea for this type of projects grew out of my understanding of history as well as my desire to "act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly before" my God. Consequently, I established a working relationship with the Jewish community of Warsaw as a means to serve the Jewish community through restoring Jewish cemeteries. Accordingly, I have led roughly ten Jewish cemetery restoration projects in which several hundred Baptist volunteers from the US and Poland participated.

>

>

>

> Over the past eighteen months, I have traveled to Poland three times in order to develop and establish several Jewish cemetery restoration projects. I continue to work cooperatively with the Rabbinical Commission for Matters of Cemeteries in Poland and with Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the Chief Rabbi of Poland. From my association with Rabbi Schudrich and his commission, he directed us to consider working with the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland (FODZ). Last August, we established a partnership with FODZ to restore the Jewish Cemetery in Zambrów, Poland and since that time we have worked to develop the parameters for this project. This Jewish cemetery

restoration project will entail the cleaning of the cemetery and the building of a 515 meter (1,700 foot) wall. It is a three year, quarter of a million dollar project that will begin phase one this summer.

>

>

>

> Also over the past year, I have established a partnership with the Auschwitz Jewish Center, which is affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City to bring volunteers to restore the Jewish cemetery in Oświęcim, Poland beginning in 2013. Oświęcim is the city Nazi Germany called Auschwitz. We will also be working in at least two possibly three other locations in the coming years as our work in Poland flourishes.

>

>

>

> The Matzevah Foundation is reaching out to the Jewish community in hopes of engaging those, who have a heart for dealing with the devastating impact of the Shoah today by speaking to the injustice of the Shoah through an act of true loving kindness. To this end, my purpose for writing you is to introduce the work of our foundation to you and to seek your assistance in interfacing with the Jewish community of Atlanta. I live in the Dunwoody area and would like to meet with Jewish leaders living within the Atlanta metropolitan area and introduce them to our work. I would be pleased to speak with you further about TMF and its mission or any of these projects or others that may emerge in the future.

>

>

>

> If you would consider assisting me, I would greatly appreciate it. I realize that I am unknown to you, but as you can see from the attached letter of recommendation along with the work that I have established, I have developed a great deal of trust and credibility within the Jewish community of Poland and somewhat in the US. I am trying to establish that same level of credibility here in the US as well and engage the Jewish community in this vital mitzvah. The Talmud (Baba Batra 9a) says: "Greater than one, who does a mitzvah, is one who causes others to do a mitzvah." According to Rabbi Shraga Simmons, "If you really want to be effective, wake others up to the problem, and mobilize their efforts." This has become my defining purpose and my leadership task in life.

>

>

>

> I realize that you are a busy man with many concerns and responsibilities. If you are agreeable and you have time, I would be happy to meet with you and discuss our work in person or at the very least by phone. My phone number is 404-663-2383.

>

>

>

> Thank you in advance for any consideration that you might give me in this matter.

>

>

>

> Respectfully,

>

>

>

> Steven

>

> _____

>

> Steven D. Reece

>

> President, The Matzevah Foundation, Inc.

>
> Mailing Address:
>
> 7742 Spalding Drive, No. 480
>
> Norcross, GA 30092-4207
>
> Mobile: 404-663-2383
>
> Email: sdreece@matzevah.org
>
> Web: <http://www.matzevah.org>
>
> Description: Description: Description: Matzevah Signature 5 Small
>
> <<http://www.facebook.com/matzevah>> Description: Description:
> Description: Facebook-Icon 50 pro Small
>
>
>
> <Recommendation Letter from Rabbi Schudrich.pdf> <image001.jpg>
> <image002.png>