

Stunning RESULTS (see Letters below) compel joining our efforts!

YOU, TOO Can and Should Undertake Mikva Outreach! You might even succeed more than we have!

Dear Rabbi Ravad,

1. "Rabbi Imanuel Ravad consults with us regularly. His writings and book: **To Stand Alone With G-d!** – From Solitary Adam to Each One of Us! Not for Men Only! Also Food Utensils. No Mikva - No Tikva, ו'ן, F i n d O u t Why?!" has original insights that are enlightening even to observant Jews, and are certainly highly recommended for outreach tasks." - Harav Yitzchak Zilberstein, of Ramat Elchanan, Bnei Brak, Israel - One of our generation's rabbinic leadership and Kiruv Advisor, 25 Sivan 5760"

2. In the name of our people we must thank you for the wonderful Mikva promotion that you do with your Mikva-Tikva Outreach Programs. It is my duty to let it be known the great impact you are making in our community during your short stay. I heard two secular Jews discussing the importance of observing Family Purity Laws by their families even though they are not yet observant. They told me: "Seeing your mobile Mikva billboard van ignited their interest. The Mikva education brochure you gave, inspired them to observe the Mitzvah and collect funds to build a Mikva for our community." I am sure it is just one of many stories about your great undertaking. Harav Yehuda Moses, Young Professionals Rabbi. Nessah Synagogue, Beverly Hills, California, 16 Adar 5767.

3. **"To Stand Alone With G-d!** – From Solitary Adam To Me." Not for men only! Also food utensils. Is most interesting and convincing to immerse. However, as a non-observant married woman and mother of 3 children, I wonder why an article like this was not given to us by the rabbinate before our wedding, and why it is not publicized in the media and via direct mail? Hopefully someone will undertake to give it the proper exposure. Dr. Izabel Feder, M.D., 10 Sivan 5766.

4. "Alienated from the Mikva concept, the book you distributed changed my opinion and will affect our teachings in hundreds of schools and change the lives of many thousands of our students. I commend you for distributing it to thousands of educators during the CAJE* 5 convention in San Antonio, Texas, as well as, at CAJE* 6, in Oberlin, Ohio, Aug. '81." - David Levy, Education Director.

*CAJE = Conference for the Advancement of Jewish Education." A few thousand rabbis, principals & schoolteachers, only some of them strictly observant, who are the educators over one million young Jewish students, do convene annually for a week of 500 invigorating lectures and 200 expo booths, during the summer vacation. CAJE conferences rotate yearly in different State Universities.

5. "Mikva is my first Mitzva! A step leading toward total commitment! I was inspired to observe Mikva from the literature received at Mikva=Tikva=Hope booth, at CAJE! Said the novice to Mikva attendant J.B.. Now her entire family is keeping a kosher home." Columbus, OH, 26 Elul 5750.

6. "There was a noticeable increase in Mikva attendance, after distributing to our entire community, your videotape & printed Mikva educational materials." [A jump from 50 to 100% observance]. - Rabbi Yaakov Wasser, Young Israel, E. Brunswick, NJ, 11 Shvat 5757.

7. "One of my teachers, impressed with the quality of Mikva materials received from you at CAJE 26 in Colorado, copied and distributed them, and prepared a program at the orthodox Mikva for our liberal congregation. Many of the attendees were inspired to observe the Mitzva of Mikva. For a number of years I have seen you tirelessly sharing Mikva information with the convention attendees. Your work has not gone unnoticed." - Enid C. Lader, Director Congregational & Family Education, West Temple, Cleveland, OH. 12 Sivan 5764.

8. "Many participants in our Mikva outreach programs start observing Mikva. Your film and educational materials, which we use, take a large part of the credit.. It's message is strong and vibrant." - Rabbi Ze'ev Rothchild, Lakewood, NJ, 5754.

9. "We met at CAJE 4, Aug. '79, 23 years ago. Year after year you returned. You helped an entire generation of Jewish teachers to reach out... You made our people richer and stronger in our resistance to the erosion of our culture. We see your personal thumbprint on our times." - Yitzchak ben Yehoshua, (Jerry) Benjamin, CAJE Past President. 5762.

10. "Please supply us annually with 5000 "Shattering A Myth" postcards, along with your other Mikva publications (that you supply free of charge), for distribution in our seminars." - Yitzchak Avital, Administrator, Arachim, B'nai Brak, Israel, 18 Sivan 5760.

11. "After watching your video, she performed all Mikva Halachic rituals, although she was raised liberal, and he, on a non-observant Kibbutz. Exactly 9 month later, they were blessed with a son, after being barren for many

years, despite medical treatments around the world." - Rabbi Hayim Cassorla, Temple Israel, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 5753.

12. "My mother, (liberal), never practiced Mikva. Nevertheless, she asked me to observe since my father was a Shabbat observer. At times I did go, and at times I avoided it... I dreamed about Mikva and Teshuva (repentance) and the very next day, you knocked on our door and dropped off Mikva education materials... Praying for a second chance, I bumped into you again. You were the messenger, doing G-d's work... in a way even I can perceive... Today I promote Mikva, with your educational materials!" - C.W. Husband attorney, learns Daf Yomi, Ave. of the Stars, Hollywood, CA, 5755.

13. "Thank you for your revealing & inspiring Mikva education outreach materials, 4000 of each type, that you graciously supplied us gratis. We have immediately distributed them to every family in our city. Although Ohr Akiva has 2 new modern Mikvas, nevertheless, only about 10% of our young families observe the Mitzva. We realize that an inspiring Mikva Outreach campaign must be a focal point of Mikva services in any community that is not yet blessed with 100% Mikva observance. We pray & hope that other cities will follow our lead." - Eliyahu Ankonina, Chairman, City Religious Council, Ohr-Akiva, Israel, 20 Sivan 5764.

14. "The two Mikva promotion clocks you provided me. One I gave to a young lady who was moved by it to observe Mikva. The other I gave to a female cantor who is using it to teach Mikva to her students." - Baruch Orman, secretary, AJOP 15th, Baltimore, MD. - 21 Shvat 5763.

15. "From 30 books you distributed, 5 families observe Mikva. Please convince the Kibbutz to allow us to build a Mikva!" - Haim ben Yosef, Kibbutz Kinneret, at the Yarden river's mouth, Israel, 5745. With the permission of Harav Moshe Stern, from Debretzin, ZT"L, I offered to build physical fitness facilities in exchange for their permission to build a Mikva. Only the young members agreed and asked for a tennis court, but unfortunately it did not materialize.

16. "Many new revealing & inspiring aspects about Mikva immersion were acquired from your Mikva educational materials even by avid Mikva observers. Your mere presence in our community with your Mikva Billboard van, gave a strong reminder to those who observe Mikva along with those who do not yet observe." - Yonatan Kowal, Boca Raton, FL, 14 Adar 1, 5760.

17. "Please provide us, gratis, 30,000 of your Mikva educational materials: books, videos, postcards and posters for distribution to the young families of our city." - Ze'ev Ya'acov, Dept. of Culture and Education, city of Petach Tikva, Israel, 26 Sivan 5760.

18. "Finally the right thing was done. Hopefully other schools will emulate you!" Exclaimed and jumped for joy in my office one parent, after your video and other excellent Mikva educational materials, were sent with the students to every family in our school. Instead of the expected complaints from non-observant parents, we got compliments. Your inspiring, discreet Mikva presentation touched the lives of our students in a meaningful way." - Rabbi Tzvi Kilstein, Headmaster, Hillel Day School, Boca Raton, FL, 24 Adar 1, 5760.

19. "Your video and other Mikva educational materials are full of new insights. Please send enough for distribution (gratis) to all our members." - Rabbi Aaron Laine, C. Beth El, Panama City. 29 Adar 1 5760.

20. "Your Mikva Promotion Clocks are powerful educational instruments. I have placed them in my office and in every classroom of my school." It conveys a powerful Mikva message at all times, to all people, beyond what we can achieve personally. Placed at the right spot, at eye level, the movement of the second hand calls attention and quietly, but surely, the message on the clock penetrates the heart and mind. It also encourages us to spread its message. - Rabbi Dov Kentof, Educational Director, the J.C. School, Jacksonville, FL, 1 Adar 1, 5760.

21. The famous Mikva slogans were recited to me during a chance airport encounter! I asked: "As a young non-observant Jewish actor where did you learn these jingles?" He answered: "From the Mikva promotion clock, which is posted on the cash register at the Jewish food store in Atlanta Georgia. And he explained: I never encountered a clock with such an inspiring and uplifting message. Therefore, while waiting for my sandwich to be prepared, I memorized the messages on the clock. Please mail me 20 of them, at full price, to present my friends and the Jewish organizations of my community, besides my donation for your holy activities."

22. "Your film and lecture inspired them to observe Mikva. Even those who observed before said: "Now we will observe with greater zeal." - Rachel Mish'an, Mexico City, 5755.

23. **"Your mobile "Mikva=Tikva" billboard van is very impressive! I recognize the word "Tikva" as the national hymn of the State of Israel, but please tell me, what is Mikva? A word I never heard or encountered in the 27 years of my life,** although my family and I were born and raised Jewish. We belong to a Temple, where I was Bar-Mitzvahed, and live in a city that boasts synagogues and yeshivas." - D.H., Midwest Jewish institution manager, CAJE 29 Expo, Hempstead, NY, 30 Av 5764.

24. **"My husband and I, are very impressed with your mobile Mikva-Tikva billboard van... hence, at home, we often say to each other: 'Mikva-Tikva! – No Mikva, No Tikva!'"** Discreetly added: "consequently, we are pretty close to observe the Mitzva!" - Spontaneous exclamation by a young principal at a crowded breakfast table, CAJE 29, Hempstead, NY, 1 Elul 5764.

25. **"Your video changed my life!"** - Dr. R.G., M.D. Today strictly observant, and participant of "Daf Yomi". Miami Beach, FL, 7 Adar I 5760.

26. **"Your video and educational material had a great impact. Many of our members for the first time think seriously about Mikva. It has made a great difference in our lives."** - Rabbi Simeon Kolko, Liberal Cong. Eitz Chaim, Monroe, NY, 21 Kislev 5760.

27. **"My Family is liberal... nevertheless, I do like to observe Mikva also for my baby's sake."** - R. L.K. St. Louis, Missouri, 5755.

28. **"Until you came and convinced us to add a Mikva, it was not included in the \$20 million complex of an orthodox synagogue and a JCC that we built in a new developing area that did not boast a Mikva. Consequently, today a significant percentage of our community observes the Mitzva."** - W.F. Education chair, Mexico, 5762.

29. **"Your book convinced my husband to allow us to observe Mikva."** - B.R. Petach Tikva, Israel, 5746.

30. **"You convinced me to change my name legally, from Steven to Shlomo!"** - Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Efrat, Israel, 5740.

Mikva=Tikva educational materials led to immersion in a cold & dangerous river, established an Orthodox congregation and built a Mikva!

31. **Abner J. Mikva** from Chicago, IL, the sole Jew worldwide **carving the name Mikva**, Personal counsel to the President of the United States, Supreme Court Judge, Senator and president of liberal Jews. - During a 3 hour visit to his US Supreme Court chambers in Washington, DC, on 2 Sivan 5751, with Rabbi Simcha Green, of Santa Barbara, California, **soliciting support for the promotion of Mikva:** "As a Judge, I abstain from public life, but please approach my daughter, that lately **turned away** and started to **observe the Shabbat and eat only Kosher**, she will be able to help. Please meet her at the liberal rabbis convention, 12 Tamuz 5751, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. **Judge Mikva had only one personal question** that I was able to explain; "Why, whenever I am introduced in public, the gentiles give me the due respect, while many Jews smile behind my back?" (See #34 in main). At the convention his daughter, a Rabbi in a large Chicago Temple: "Pardon my **trying to evade you**, since I cannot help! My father does not know that I, too, observe Mikva, but **in my community I hesitate to bring up, in public, the sensitive topic of Mikva.**"

Our convincing display, and abundant inspiring educational materials bore fruit. The following is **one of the results known to me:** A few months later, I received a letter from Mr. Avraham Sand, of Eugene OR. An isolated Jewish community in Northwestern U.S., 150 miles from a Mikva or the Pacific Ocean, at the time it required **10 hours for driving, immersing and returning.** In the 300 Jewish families city, only one Temple with Myron Kinberg as their liberal rabbi, 15 years in service. His wife brought to the community the Mikva educational materials that I distributed, and it moved them to observe Mikva. A few families had difficulty **investing a day of traveling** to a Mikva, and **preferred to immerse in the Willamette river** that crosses the city. Mr. Sand begged me: **"Because of you, our wives are risking their lives in a cold, dangerous rapid river,** where, this week alone, 2 university students drowned. Therefore, it is your **moral obligation to help us build** a Mikva, and immediately!"

I publicized the story in few Jewish newspapers. Discussing the issue with **Sheriff Daniel Goldstein, of the Chasidic city of New Square, NY, bore fruit.** The community Dayan, Harav Hatzadik Moshe Neischloss, who during his 35 years in the community never asked for anything, asked to support the building of this Mikva.

To prove that men also have the courage and are ready for mikva immersion, even in a cold and dangerous river, the welcoming of my arrival, at my request, was held at the cold and stormy river bank, where all the men present immersed in the river in honor of the Shabbat. The inspiration of those men immersing in the river, the Shabbat prayers and lectures, helped create the Orthodox congregation. Some of its members moved later to Seattle, WA, to afford their children Jewish education in a Torah community. Some of them even participate in a Daf Yomi study group. The

food and a warm "Kiddush" for the first Halachic Minyan service in the city, I brought with me by plane, from the East Coast, Friday afternoon, 24 Adar I 5752.

Sunday, after my lecture to the entire community, and a few study lessons, there was the **founding meeting of the Mikva.** Due to the intermarriage and false conversions epidemic, I stipulated, the building of the Mikva, with a **prohibition of its use for any conversions.** Two men ignited a storm. "It is unconceivable that our beloved Rabbi will be the only one who is not permitted to use this Mikva, for the purpose of his conversions!" I called the Rabbi outside for a private conversation and said to him: **"During your 15 years as the rabbi of the community, you neither built nor even planned a Mikva,** neither for Family Purity nor for conversion. The contributors of this Mikva oppose its use for conversions! In the storm that erupted, if you will not renounce publicly "your right" to use the Mikva for conversions, the Mikva will not be built, and, because of you, members of your congregation will be forced to continue risking their lives in the river. **Is this fair?"** and I continued: "During your lifetime, you certainly have performed many good deeds, and your portion in the World-to-Come is guaranteed! But for me, it's possible that the building of this Mikva, is my one **chance in a lifetime** to merit a place in the World-to-Come. That's why its building is so important to me! I offer you **partnership in my portion in the World-to-Come, in merit of building this Mikva!** If you are interested in the partnership you know what you must declare!" He said: "You are right! I wish to be a partner and gain merit in the World-to-Come!" We returned to the meeting and he declared: "I am certain that the building of this Mikva will establish an Orthodox community and I will be fired, but, **"if that G-d's will, let it be so!"** I will not use this Mikva for conversions! In times of need, I will return to the places I used before. I ask you to give a hand to the building of this Mikva!" And so, it came to be! May his soul rest in peace!

32. **"You inspired observance of Taharat Hamishpachah, even when it meant immersing in the river in the cold of winter. Your financial and educational contribution helped establish our orthodox community and build our Mikva."** Effects five years later:- Rabbi E. Davidson, Halachic Minyan, Eugene, OR, 24 -Av 5757

33. **"Your material inspired them to build a Mikva in their own community."** - Libby Bottero, Eugene, OR, 5755.

34. **"About the near drowning** heard Rabbi Imanuel Ravad, the director of Mikva-Tikva Global Programs. He promised to visit Eugene and help raise the funds to build a mikva. In the fall of 1992, 24 Adar I 5752, Rabbi Ravad led a *Shabbaton* in Eugene to promote mikva awareness and held the first Orthodox minyan in Eugene. **Rabbi Ravad's spirited celebration of Shabbat was "infectious;" interest in having traditional Shabbat services grew.** In 1995, with the help of Rabbi Ravad and others, we built a mikva in the backyard of a community member." Excerpt from: "The Making of an Orthodox Community," by Shalom Katz, Jewish Action, Summer 5765, p. 28.

35. **"I'm thankful that you were here and that I stopped by! I like your display! It inspired me to observe Mikva."** - Vivian X., Jewish Education Director, CAJE 28, San Antonio, TX, 28 Av 5762.

36. **"Although non-observant, I will live according to the book. Thank you for convincing me."** - Ya'acov Stein, an Israeli in Brooklyn, New York, 5745.

37. **"Your book made me interested in Mikva and I observe it strictly. It impacted our lives and our children!"** - Fr. S. Seattle Washington, 5745.

38. **"We distributed the books you gave us, free of charge, to women who never used a Mikva, now many of them are using our Mikva,** even from distant areas." - Mikva Attendant, Seattle, WA 5745.

39. **"I will observe Mikva! Thank you for inspiring me."** - Dr. N.S. Jewish Education Director, CAJE 24, Columbus, OH, 30 Av 5759.

© Imanuel Ravad – עמנואל ראביד 4 Iyar 5767,

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Stunning RESULTS demand, joining the effort and/or your meaningful support!

Sample of letters. Due to sensitivity, it is only the "tip of the iceberg" of impact on the community. [5765]

**YOU TOO !! Can and Should Undertake Mikva Outreach!
You might even succeed better than us.**

3. You inspired observance of Taharat Hamishpachah, even when it meant immersing in the river in the cold of winter. Your financial and educational contribution helped building our Mikva, which will cost under \$10,000. Its plans might serve other small communities. Rabbi E. Davidson, Halachic Minyan, Eugene, Oregon. 24 -Av 5757

"I Stopped at the "Mikva=Tikva" booth during the UJC yearly General Assembly, found the materials very interesting and took enough to distribute to my Rabbinic colleagues." Rabbi R. Reins, Temple David, Pittsburgh, PA, 4 Tevet 5765.

31. "From 30 books you distributed, 5 families observe Mikva. Please convince the Kibbutz to allow us build a Mikva!" - Haim ben Yosef, Kibbutz Kinneret, at the Yarden river's mouth, Israel, 5745. With the permission of Harav Moshe Stern, from Debretzin, ZT"L, I offered to build physical fitness facilities in exchange for their permission to build a Mikva. The young members agreed and asked for a tennis court, some others refused, claiming: Mikva in a Kibutz is a contradiction and an insult to their way of life, and unfortunately it did not materialize.