

## **THE “ORDINARY” BLESSING**

No matter how insignificant a person may consider himself to be, the impromptu personal greetings, blessings and brief prayers he says on another person's behalf are never insignificant. In fact, one sage recommends that one seek out the blessing of an ordinary person.

Even prayers and blessings that were not included in the standard prayer requirements [established by] the men of the Great Assembly can be recited by all people since it is possible for prayers and blessings of all people to be accepted, even from those who may feel unworthy.

The power of a blessing resounds especially strongly during transitional times in another's life, when one offers words such as *l'chaim* (to life), *mazal tov*, and the blessing said to mourners or *kesivah vachasimah tovah* (have a good year).

With sincere attention to the words we speak habitually throughout the day, we can turn mere politeness into a continual re-awakening of *Emunah*, reminding ourselves and others in our lives that nothing happens without the One Above directing it to be so. Our small prayers and blessings fill our day with real *tefillah*/prayer and bring an ever-increasing flow of blessings to us.

## **POINTS TO PONDER**

**A person should value and seek out blessings even from those who appear unimportant.**

**Hashem particularly heeds the blessings of the poor.**

**One should “Amen” when he hears another person being blessed, even without the Divine Name.**

**Psalm 24:3 Who may go up to the mountain of *ADONAI*? Who can stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> Those with clean hands and pure hearts, who don't make vanities the purpose of their lives or swear oaths just to deceive. <sup>5</sup> They will receive a blessing from *ADONAI* and justice from God, who saves them. (CJB)**