



## Yeshiva University / *Office of the Chancellor*

Tammuz 14, 5763  
July 14, 2003

Dear Friends:

I have known Rabbi David Stavsky almost from the very beginning of his rabbinate in Columbus, Ohio. Although I probably met him casually in his student days at Yeshiva University, it was only shortly after the beginning of his stewardship of Beth Jacob Congregation that I got to take the measure of the man and learned to admire him both as a human being and as a rabbi.

The occasion was his founding of a very special program during the Ten Days of Penitence -- a novel idea that demonstrated his creativity, his ability to broach a great Jewish concept (in this case, *teshuvah* or repentance) in a manner that is acceptable and attractive to the contemporary Jew, and his talent for converting an abstract plan into effective reality. I was, I believe, the first or second guest speaker at these annual events, and I knew then that this rabbi would have a long and distinguished career in a very important Jewish community.

During his 46 years as your spiritual leader, he has proved that a rabbi can remain firm in his commitments to Torah and to Orthodoxy without alienating the less learned and the less observant. His fundamental human qualities, his personal warmth, his transparent love of his fellow Jews and fellow humans, his charm and his wisdom have endeared him not only to the members of his congregation, but to the entire community. And during all this time -- without detracting from any of his manifold responsibilities to congregation, community, and Israel -- he has managed to raise a very special and loving family together with his beloved and talented wife Ruth. Their extraordinary children, children-in-law, and grandchildren are eloquent testimony to their success as parents and grandparents. I am proud to call him a dear, precious, and distinguished friend.

Rabbi Stavsky is a source of genuine pride to his teachers and to the schools which fashioned him-- Yeshiva University and its affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. On behalf of his alma maters, I congratulate him and his wife on this historic occasion in the life of the congregation. Having their names associated with the sanctuary of the synagogue bespeaks the respect and love of Beth Jacob for them.

Along with all of you, Mrs. Lamm and all of Yeshiva join me and his host of admirers in wishing the rabbi and his wife a long, happy and -- above all else -- healthy retirement.

Cordially yours,

*Norman Lamm / HT*

NORMAN LAMM  
Chancellor