How can we rectify missing lighting the Shabbos candles?

Dear Rabbi Leser Shlita.

I'm embarrassed to ask but I need your advice. This past erev Shabbos we were traveling and arrived at our lodging before Shkiah (sunset), but with all the pressure of getting ready, my wife was busy with other Shabbos preparations, and by the time she got to the candles, it was already past the Zman and she couldn't light. She was very sad about it, so I told her that meanwhile we can increase our Shalom bayis and Simcha, since that's the whole Inyan of Shabbos candles. But what should we do as a Tikkun for this?

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בעזרת השם יתברך, Friday erev Shabbos kodesh, Parshas Mishpatim, 23 Shevat 5785

Dear ...

Regarding your question about a *tikkun* for what happened - that you were traveling *erev Shabbos* and arrived at your lodging before Shabbos, but with the pressure of organizing everything, Shabbos came in and your wife missed candle lighting, and you're asking "What's the *tikkun* for this?"

The *Shulchan Aruch* brings (Orach Chaim 263:1 in the Rama): If a woman forgets to light once, she should light three candles for the rest of her life (meaning an extra candle beyond what she usually lights). From now on she adds one more candle to her usual number every *erev Shabbos*, as a reminder to always light at the proper time and be careful to honor the Shabbos so she won't forget again. And certainly as a *tikkun* for this, it's worth implementing in your home what Moharosh z"l established in Yavniel - that women light Shabbos candles forty minutes before *shkiah*, like the *minhag* Yerushalayim, and this way they're guaranteed to always light at the right time.

It's also brought from *tzaddikim* that giving *tzedakah* before lighting candles is a *tikkun* for this - meaning to give at least the cost of the Shabbos candles she missed that week. Fortunate is the woman who always puts a few coins in the *tzedakah* box before lighting candles, because tzedakah opens the gates of Heaven (Likutei Moharan Part 2:4), and then the gates are open for accepting *tfilos*. Just now we distributed to all our families in Yavniel *tzedaka*h boxes for "*Ezer Shabbos*", where a woman can drop some coins for tzedakah before lighting candles or any other appropriate time. We set a minimum amount of "ten shekalim" per week, and you should certainly try to get this *tzedaka*h box, as it will surely be a great *tikkun* for this matter.

Wishing you blessing and success and a שבת שלום ומבורך