



# Update . . .

February 2009

5769 Shvat



*Zuri Puts a Wedding Band on His Bride's Finger.*

## The Happiest Day of My Life

*by Zuri*

It was a Chanukah dream seeing my bride walk down the aisle. I could never imagine I would marry the most beautiful woman in the world. Who was I to deserve such a lovely bride?

As a small child, I never really knew what would become of me. I hardly ever asked "trivial" questions like, "what do I want to be when I grow up?" Instead of playing with friends - happy and without a care in the world; I had to deal with much more difficult issues.

At a very young age the welfare department decided it was no longer safe for me to live with my parents. They removed me from my home - from everything I knew, from all the familiar

faces of my friends and family. They told me I was going to a children's home.

More than anything, I was scared. I didn't know anyone and the surroundings were all new to me. I remember the calm, reassuring smile of Yehuda, the director of the children's home. He told me that this would be my home from now on, and that everyone here would take good care of me. As I grew up, I met wonderful people of good will, who cared about me even when they hardly knew me. I received emotional therapy for a number of years; to help me cope with the traumas I experienced as a young child and to develop coping skills as I moved on towards a healthier future.

Getting engaged and transitioning to manhood was a little scary for me. While many of my friends had parents to help them prepare for their new married lives, I wasn't sure who would help me. I turned to Yehuda for advise.

Little did I realize I had such a big family all over the world! I am still amazed that people like you, who never met me, cared so much that you helped pay for my wedding and even helped me start a new life with the most beautiful woman in the world!

You helped make my wedding the happiest day of my life. We danced and sang all night! I don't even know how to begin thanking you for making such a beautiful wedding possible from halfway around the world!

And now, here I am - educated, working for a living, newly-married to the love of my life and about to begin a new, healthy family of our own. To stand at the alter and see all the people who have made my dream a reality – warmed my heart more than words could ever say. It was at that moment that I knew I had to sit and write this letter to all the wonderful people who have made a difference in my life. As my wife and I embark on a new journey, I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart, for believing in us. I promise to make you proud!

**Zuri** grew up in Bet Elazraki Children's Home with his four siblings. Most recently, he has been part of an elite army unit that combines military service with religious studies. Now that he is married, he works with at-risk children while his bride finishes her college degree. After her graduation, they will counsel at-risk kids together full-time.

**Special events**, like weddings and bar mitzvahs, happen year round for hundreds of at-risk kids and needy young adults in Israel. Donations designated "special events" will be set aside for such use.

**Support Our Soldiers** is our project providing food for lone soldiers during the upcoming Passover season. Our first priority is to help nearly 140 orphans serving in the IDF and also approximately 6,000 lone new immigrants in the IDF. Every \$100 sponsors a lone soldier during the Passover season. The number of lone soldiers we help depends upon the amount of designated funds we receive.

**Lone Soldiers** video is available online at: <http://videos.love4israel.org/videlarge.php?sel=23>

**You can** donate online at: <http://love4israel.org/donate.html>

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