



# Update . . .

May 2007

5767 Iyar



*Lone Soldier Finds His Care Package.*

## **A Mother's Thank-You Note**

I am Avi's mother and I am writing you on his behalf. He is currently in his first three months of training with his new IDF unit. He called me to read me the beautiful letter you and your organization sent him and described the great backpack. On behalf of both Avi and myself your letter and gift are greatly appreciated.

I must warn you Avi is an incredible person and being his mother I tend to be a bit biased. Avi was home in the U.S.A the summer after having completed his first year learning in Mevaseret Zion. Halfway through his first year I received the phone

call I had been anticipating. "Mom, I want to return to Israel next year and join the army." My eyes filled with tears - tears of joy, happiness, pride and fear.

I was so happy for Avi being able to live out his passions and beliefs, proud because he chose to live what he believes and fear because as much as we are proud of our soldiers in America, its very different for the mother of an Israeli soldier. We know every second of every minute of every day what could happen. I knew if not for the grace of G-D, my son could be fighting in Lebanon or worse . . . a captured soldier. Our belief in

G-D becomes stronger as our conversations with HIM become more intense.

Avi began his search for a place in February 2006. I received weekly reports about his various experiences knowing that he had not found his match. Early in April, Avi called and said “Mom I found it”. Avi spent two days in Kiryat Shmona and knew he had found his place. Last summer we sat in front of the TV watching his future home under Ketusha attack on a daily basis.

How do I feel about Avi being a soldier in the IDF? The answer is simple. The first time I saw Avi after his induction he showed me a small picture that he was given by his *mifikid* (officer) to carry with his dog tags. The picture is of a young Jewish boy with a Nazi pointing a gun at his head. Avi explained that the first day at the base his *mifikid* gave all the young soldiers the same picture and said “carry it with you and when you get tired of running, and tired of not sleeping, look at the picture to remind yourself of why you are here.

See, I told you I am biased! Thank you again for recognizing my son.

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

### **Chairman’s Note:**

This summer I will be in the United States to talk about our upcoming projects this Fall.

Our three high priority projects this Fall are:

- Launching Beit Netanel.
- Back to School . . . with Dignity.
- Care Packages for Lone Soldiers.

I will be available from July 9th through September 4th and would love to share with your congregation or group. If you would like to reserve a date, please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements.

**The majority** of funds have come in to successfully launch Beit Netanel this Fall. We still need \$25,000 to cover the rest of the start-up costs.

**Every \$25** we receive sends an impoverished child back to school with dignity. Nothing will warm your heart more than a “*todah*” from the child you helped.

**Every \$100** we receive sponsors a young soldier with no family in Israel. We would like to take sponsors who are in Israel during one of these distributions along as our guest. Words cannot describe the feeling you will have by this experience.

**One behalf** of the Israelis you help - *todah* and Shalom from Jerusalem!

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Send checks to:  
**Love for Israel Relief Fund**  
2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 445  
Washington, DC 20006