



Update . . .

May 2010

5770 Iyar/Sivan



Lone Soldiers Receive Care Packages.

A Mother's Thank-You Note

I am Josh'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 with the great love package. On behalf of both Josh and myself your letter and gift are greatly appreciated.

I must warn you Josh is an incredible person and being his mother I tend to be a bit biased. I will never forget the day I received the phone call I had been anticipating. "Mom, I want to go 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 Josh 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 to be 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 Gaza or worse . . . a captured soldier. Our

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

How do I feel about Josh being a soldier in the IDF? The answer is simple. The first time I saw Josh 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. Josh 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.

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.



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