

Shalom,

Yeshivat Lev HaTorah has embarked on an exciting new initiative. In January, 2015, we opened our new program entitled **Lev LaChayal (LLC)**.

This program is geared specifically for idealistic young men who have decided to fulfill the mitzvah of defending the Jewish nation and the Land of Israel by serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Through the years, we saw that these “lone soldiers”, highly motivated, often found themselves alone and demoralized and left to figure out the complexities and contradictions of life in the IDF by themselves. **Lev LaChayal aims to spiritually, mentally and physically prepare these young men for the optimal IDF experience, and provides a “home away from home” for them during their years of army service.**

There are **two stages** to the LLC program. **While most of the Lone Soldiers do both parts of the program, many go straight into their army service. In the first stage**, from September until induction into the IDF in March, the LLC participants will essentially be members of the the Lev HaTorah Shana Bet program, including shiurim, tefillot and the tiyulim of the regular Shana Bet program.

But in addition, the LLC participants have the following added components:

- **Rav Benjy Kwalwasser, Executive Director** of the LLC program, models community involvement – before founding Lev HaTorah he built a thriving beit kneset in Beit Shemesh and now spearheads the Chasdei Shiloh tzedaka organization. In addition, Rav Kwalwasser recently published a book: *Or L'Amim, a Light Unto the Nations*, analyzing the Torah's concern for the destiny of both Jews and non-Jews. Rav Kwalwasser connects deeply with his students, inspiring each to actualize his potential in learning and in life.
- **Rav Dudi Winkler, Menahel Ruchani** of the LLC program, a native-born Israeli, served as a Combat Medic in the IDF. He has many years of experience working with the post-high school population, and completed three years of Shlichut as the Rosh Kollel of the Torah M'tzion Kollel in Melbourne, Australia. In addition to personally mentoring each of the Lev LaChayal guys, Rav Dudi gives a daily Hebrew shiur in Machshevet Yisrael, dealing with topics such as Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael.

- **Rav Yehuda Odesser** is also a native-born Israeli who served in the IDF's Tank Corps. He teaches the higher-level Morning Shiur in Hebrew to the more advanced Shana Bet and Lev LaChayal students. In addition to Gemara, Rav Odesser will be teaching Hilchot Tzavah, halachot relating to service in the IDF, in order to better prepare our talmidim for the halachic challenges of army service.
- **Rav Yehoshua Paltiel, NLP Master Practitioner**, helps prepare them mentally and psychologically for the stresses of IDF service and for being a Lone Soldier. Rav Paltiel served in the IDF Tank Corps. In addition, during our chayalim's active service, Rav Paltiel continues to offer support and guidance to augment the psychological counseling and support systems that the IDF already has in place.
- **Certified Ulpan instructors** offer an intensive Ulpan, specializing in conversational Hebrew, with the goal being that each Lev LaChayal participant will show enough proficiency to exempt himself from having to take the IDF's three-month Ulpan.
- **Noam White**, alumnus of Lev HaTorah and a former soldier in the elite Givati infantry unit, where he served as a sniper, is available two nights a week to prepare the guys physically with a rigorous physical fitness training program. In addition, Noam runs a practical seminar in which he teaches the LLC participants how to deal with the rigors of real life in the IDF, based on his own experiences, and enriches the curriculum with guest speakers who share their experiences as commanders and lone soldiers.

Upon their induction into the IDF, the LLC participants embark on the second, post-draft stage of Lev LaChayal.

When these soldiers have a 24 or 48 hour break, they return "home". For many lone soldiers, that means returning to an empty apartment and to an empty refrigerator, in some anonymous big city in Israel. Not so for the Lev LaChayal participants. They return home to Yeshivat Lev HaTorah, to their own apartment located conveniently close to the yeshiva. They immediately merge back into the Lev HaTorah community, and have a place where they can learn and daven and recharge their spiritual batteries. It is also a home where they can be assured that they will be hosted by Rav Dudi, myself, and the yeshiva community families for Shabbat and Yom Tov meals. A real "home away from home". For soldiers enrolled



Building Individuals through a Complete Torah Experience

in the Machal program, this second stage can last between 14–18 months. For others who are doing full army service, this second stage lasts for two to three years.

Your son's enrollment in the LLC program effectively means that he will be taken care of for the duration of his IDF service! The cost of this program is \$10,000 which includes both the pre-draft period in the yeshiva, as well as the post-draft period of active duty in the IDF.

A separate document dealing with tuition will provide these details. We understand the financial commitment that LLC requires and will do our utmost to work with you to create a financial package that works for both of us. If you are interested in more information, please contact Rav Michael Cytrin directly at: ravcytrin@levhatorah.org.

Upon reaching the decision that you are interested in registering your son for the program, please go to our website: www.levlachayal.org and click on Participant Registration. Follow the simple instructions detailed there. Please feel free to contact Rav Dudi Winkler or myself if you have any further questions.

B'vracha,

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