

בס"ד

Shalom,

Yeshivat Lev HaTorah has embarked on an exciting new initiative. In January 2015, we opened a 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.

**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.

**Second Stage:** Upon their induction into the IDF, the LLC participants embark on the 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 staff members and Yeshiva community families for Shabbat and Yom Tov meals. A real "home away from home".

For soldiers enrolled 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.

The following proves a brief introduction to some of the key LLC staff members:

**Rav Benjy Kwalwasser**, Executive Director, is known as a master educator and a person who is always encouraging of each individual. In 2014, Rav Kwalwasser envisioned the Lev LaChayal program, as a natural expansion of Yeshivat Lev HaTorah values. Since its inception in 2015, Rav Kwalwasser has overseen the continued growth and impact of the program.

**Rav Dudi Winkler**, Menahel Ruchani, a native-born Israeli who served as a combat medic in the IDF, is the contact person for any of your questions regarding the program. In addition to personally mentoring each of the Lev LaChayal participants, Rav Dudi gives a daily shiur in Machshevet Yisrael, in Hebrew. Most

importantly, Rav Dudi is an invaluable resource for the group, helping them navigate through the IDF bureaucracy and keeping in daily contact with our soldiers currently serving in the IDF.

A special welcome to **Mordy and Tzippy Rapp**, who are the new Av and Em Bayit. Their home is always open to all of the LLC guys to come and schmooze at all hours. They host one of the Shabbat meals each week at their home and make sure that the guys are set up for the other Shabbat meals. They also make sure that each LLC apartment is both clean, as well as stocked with food on a weekly basis.

**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.

Your son's enrollment in the LLC program effectively means that he will be taken care of for the duration of his IDF service!

A separate document dealing with tuition will provide details regarding the cost of the program. 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](mailto: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](http://www.levlachayal.org) and click on Participant Registration. Follow the simple instructions detailed there.** Please feel free to contact Rav Dudi Winkler if you have any further questions.

B'vracha,

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