



## Ohra v'Rachamim LIGHT & MERCY

March 2008

Israel is a land of contradictions. Living in a small town in the hills of Benjamin, this past Shabbat was extra-ordinary. It was one of those times filled with G-d's blessings, when the sun was warm with spring, the air was filled with the stillness of Shabbat, the Jewish and Bedouin villages seen from my backyard seemed like a picture painted of perfect peace. I walked quietly and contentedly though Shabbat, until after the prayers for Shabbat's departure. I turned on my computer and read with sadness the day's events.



Palestinian terrorists from Gaza launched over 50 rockets and mortars on S'derot, Ashkelon and the kibbutzim in the Negev. There were dozens of people treated for injuries and shock, two of them children treated for light to moderate injuries



St-Sgt. Doron Asulin, 20, of Beersheba, and St.-Sgt. Eran-Gur, 20, of Jerusalem were killed early Saturday as their Givati Brigade units were operating against terrorists in the northern Gaza Strip. Eight other soldiers were injured in the incident.



All this comes at a time when Israel is still praying for the recovery of two S'derot children from life threatening injuries they sustained from missiles. One is 9 year old Osher Twito whose leg had to be amputated from shrapnel wounds from a Kassam rocket. The other is 10



year old Yossi Chaimuiv who is recovering from surgery that was able to save his arm from being lost when he was wounded by a Kassam rocket that fell near his S'derot home. As well, Israel is still mourning the death of a 49 year old father of four, Roni Yechiah, killed Tuesday by a rocket while attending school in S'derot.



As soon as Shabbat ended, a military liaison contacted Miki and asked if there was any way *Light and Mercy* could travel to the Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva, where the injured were taken. Miki and Shiran immediately left to offer what help they could. There they visited with six of the injured soldiers, two others were undergoing surgery. These brave young men truly had their spirits lifted by the visit. Miki was able to note all the individual needs that had to be met, and they gave each soldier food, t-shirts, underwear, toothbrushes, slippers and other items that would help to make their hospitalization more comfortable for them.

These brave young men moved the hearts of Miki and Shiran, but what touched them the most, was the way the soldiers who could leave their beds, flocked around the bed of their wounded commander, genuinely concerned for his well being. The other was the motivation and desire of each of the soldiers to return to their units to continue to fight for Israel and save their country.



We at *Light and Mercy* have a special place in our hearts for the young men and women in the Israel Defense Force. Not only are they courageous and strong, they are filled with a fierce love for the Land of Israel and a willingness to do whatever it takes to keep this Land our own. That is why we are working so hard to raise the money to show those brave soldiers who came back from Lebanon maimed for life that we, the people of Israel and the G-d fearing community throughout the world, respect and honor them for the sacrifices they made. Please help us send them to a holiday weekend in Eilat. They will know it is a way of acknowledging their sacrifice and that they are worthy of honor. We have had to postpone this event from this month until next July or August because of lack of funds. We are earnestly asking you to help us raise the money needed. On the surface it may appear as a light thing, but it will go straight to the heart of these permanently crippled young people. Please see our website for further details.

Miki Solomon, the founder of *Light and Mercy*, will be in the United States from March 20 through April 3. For the first week he will be in the VA/DC/PA areas, and following that will conclude his visit in the Minneapolis, MN area. If you live in any of those areas and would like to have him speak to your congregation or fellowship, please contact us by email or telephone.

We are asking you to help us to continue on with this work. The situation seems quite dire in Israel now, and it is possible that *Light and Mercy* will be called on to help in an ever increasing way. We can do nothing without your support. Please join us in our effort to comfort and aid those who need us.

Shalom u'vracha (peace and blessings). G-d bless you.

*The Staff of Light and Mercy*

P.S. We would like to share with you our gratefulness to G-d, as he protected Shiran this morning when she went to Ashkelon, heard the "Tzeva Adom" (color red) incoming missile warning, and saw the rocket explode into an apartment building near her.

***Light and Mercy***

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