



A Yemin Orde Simcha



Simmy, Elazar and Izabella, coordinator of the Brazilian children's program

The daily stress of work and responsibilities is often overwhelming at the Village; whether caring for our immigrant children, helping our counseling staff understand the intricacies of their work, or coordinating services and programs both within the Village and in the community, the work is always abundant and never complete. This is why, when the opportunity arises to stop for a few moments to celebrate a simcha at the Village, we are always particularly pleased to do so.

This week, Simmy and Yisrael, two graduates of Yemin Orde, celebrated their newborn son's bris at the Village and it was truly a special event for staff and children. The bris was a celebration, indeed, but in order to truly understand its significance, it is important to get to know the proud parents.

Yisrael came to the Yemin Orde Youth Village from Brazil to take study with other youth from his country in Israel. With limited understanding of the significance of the State of Israel and a vague acquaintance with Judaism, our children obtain general knowledge about the Jewish faith and the opportunity to bond with Israel through the Village's comprehensive programs. Yisrael enjoyed his first year at the Village so much, that he decided to remain at the Village and after three years, he received a high school diploma from the Village high school where he studied with immigrants from all over the world. Following graduation, Israel served in a special five year program in the IDF which combines combat service with study in a Yeshiva.

Once Yisrael completed his studies at the Village and joined the Army, he would often return to the Village for weekends and holidays. As his only home in Israel, Yisrael felt a special bond with the staff and other Brazilian children at Yemin Orde. It was during these visits that he met Simmy, a young girl from Brazil who was living at the Village. Simmy completed the program and went on to complete her high school studies at the Village, following which she moved to Jerusalem to study to become a medical secretary. During these years following their graduation, Yisrael and Simmy returned frequently to the Village to be among their mentors and their friends. During their visits to the Village, even today, they meet with the children and serve as role models for them, helping the children make plans and decisions and answering questions about life as a young adult in Israel.

Yisrael and Simmy were married a few years ago, at the Village, in a warm and loving ceremony among their friends. Today, they live with their toddler and newborn baby at the Neveh Amiel Youth Village, one of Yemin Orde Initiative's partner villages and Yisrael is a much loved counselor and mentor for youth at risk at that Village. They spend their free weekends at Yemin Orde, their true home in Israel, and they now join a unique "club" along with over a dozen other couples, in which both husband and wife are graduates of Yemin Orde.



Shmiel, coordinator of the Brazil Program, holds the baby as Dr. Chaim Peri recites the blessings.

The bris was a true simcha. With some 100 children and graduates in attendance, in addition to Yemin Orde staff and friends, the atmosphere was joyous as Simmy and Yisrael carefully carried their newborn, Elazar (translation, "G-d helped"), to the Bimah for the ceremony. Following the ceremony, a few tables were ceremoniously set at the Village dining room for a festive lunch. Here, Yisrael spoke of his hopes for his baby's future in Israel and he thanked his Yemin Orde family for their support.