

Noam's speech at the BFL graduation, May 2008

Noam M. is a paratrooper who participate at the Building leadership seminar as part of Parallel Lives.

“I was asked to say a few words on behalf of the soldiers. When I just heard I got in the program I was very happy, anything that will give me break from the army is great, like a breath of fresh air, but I was not expecting this. I was not expecting you guys. The past few months have turn out to be way too meaningful and interesting then a nice break from the army. I don't think I would have agreed to come if I knew I'd have to do so much thinking and processing...



When I look at the people here I see myself. It's funny because usually we are used to thinking that we are very different, that lives almost have no places where they touch, were they connect, so much so that even our program is called “parallel Lives”- lives never meant to meet....but I don't feel

this. When I look at you guys I see hopes, wishes, dreams, good will and it remind me of myself a few years ago when I had to make a choice that led me to the place I am today- the army.

A few years ago when I made my choice I had dreams and wishes and hopes. Dreams of better place to live in, a more human place, more peaceful and quite place, clean environment , fresh air, strong and healthy community. Nice people, nice friends, everybody getting along. A love I can feel and be connected with. A place worth dying for but no needing to. These dreams and wishes are what I see in you and in the projects you are developing, and they are my dreams too. I just forget them totally. It's hard to explain but there is something about the army (or maybe in life in general) that wearies you down. The training and operational routine make us forget, it dulls our senses and make us numb, completely numb. I want to say that in the last few months I remembered, and it is thanks to you. Even if I will forget again in a few months, which will probably happen, this has been very meaningful to me, more than a breath of fresh air. Thank you.

We are all warriors, fighters. Everybody is fighters of life and the way I see it we are not parallel at all. We all came from the same place. We all have the same hopes and dreams; we are all fighting for the same thing, just on different fronts. I am proud of my rote on my front -and you should be proud of yours.



I want to wish us all that we will forget our dreams and then remember them again, and that when life and reality come crushing down on us, we won't give up on our hopes and passions and stay true to our "projects", whatever they will be.

Last thing I just want to say is that you are all really great people and everyone I spoke to was really interesting and cool and deep and I am sorry we really didn't have enough time to connect on deeper level with everyone. If anyone here make Aliya or stays in Israel more time, or just come to visit - be in touch. We, the soldiers, will be very happy to see you, spend time together, invite you for Sabbath or whatever. Like I said our lives are not parallel, and hopefully they will cross again.

A special thanks to the staff and to Shir specific (the best group leader) for enabling all this to happen, and to Maya, if it weren't her we wouldn't be here.

Thank you all for being my breath of fresh air and more, and good luck with the projects. "