



«For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost» (Luke 19:10)

MINISTRY UPDATE: MAY 2024

Dear Ministry Partners, shalom!

*Our ministry in **Aviv Center** continues. We praise the Lord for all our volunteer teams! They are a true for the Center's visitors. Here is another story from one of our volunteer team leaders, Igal.*

Last month I met a lady named **Naomi*** on the street while we were distributing food. I had seen her a few times but had never got a chance to talk to her. This time she came up to me and asked: "I often see you talk to the people who live on the street, you listen to them, hug them and sometimes pray. Why do you do all that?" This gave me an opportunity to share about my faith in Jesus with Naomi* and tell her how many years ago He delivered me from the life of crime and drugs.



*Illustration photo: a street girl
in front of Aviv Center*

"And now," I said, "just as Jesus helped me, I come here two or three times a week to tell you that your life can be changed with His help. Whatever you have gone through, Jesus knows all your pain and wants to help you."

Naomi* told me she was divorced with 4 children. She is 42 years old. Her husband was very violent towards her, and she suffered so much that one day she ran away from home. "He treats the children fine," she said. After the divorce she met a guy who was addicted to drugs, so she tried them too. At first, everything was fine, and Naomi* didn't even think she was addicted, because she continued to work as a cashier at the supermarket. Until one day her boyfriend got arrested and went to prison. That was when Naomi* realized she had a serious problem with drugs, but it was already too late. Soon she found herself on the street, engaged in prostitution to earn money for her next fix.

I told her that we had a rehabilitation center she could come to, take time off from street life and drugs, get to know God and make better decisions about her future. God can help her only if she wants to invite Him into her life.

At the end of our conversation, I asked if I could pray for her and she agreed. So I quoted John 3:16 and explained that God loved her very much and wanted to help her. I asked if she believed in God. Naomi* said, "Yes, after all, I am Jewish." I told her, "I'm Jewish too, but the difference between us is that I have a personal relationship with God, and you too can build that relationship with Him." We prayed together and she said "Amen." Let's keep her in prayer together – that God would show her the way to freedom!

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Our **Rehab Center in Beersheva** is presently taking care of 8 rehabilitants. Recently two rehabilitants have finished the program and went to live independently and 2 more are planning to do the same soon. We are happy about their progress. Our doors are always open to newcomers, and last month we accepted a new rehabilitant who suffered from both alcohol and drug addiction, but sadly, he left after 2 days, unable to cope with the withdrawals.



*Shabbat
Church service*

In addition, we regularly welcome up to **8 visitors from the outside** – addicts from Beersheva who still have not decided to start rehabilitation. They come to our rehab to eat and rest, and join our Bible studies and activities. They also come to the Shabbat services of our congregation, and our members welcome them warmly and share a meal with them after the service. We see that this attitude touches their hearts and encourages them to make steps towards freedom from the addiction.

We have known some of them for quite a while already. **Yuval***, for example, has been an addict for many years, served time in prison, and met us for the first time several years ago when we shared the Gospel in a Beersheva park. He is in his late forties, his health condition is very complicated, and he has recently lost his father (who was a drug addict too) with whom he had very close

relationship. Now he feels lost and lonely and does not know how to live on. Another visitor, **Remi***, has been suffering from heavy drug addiction for a long time and spent 12 years in prison. He lives in abandoned buildings, has got terrible festering wounds on his legs, and tries to hold a simple job. He comes to our rehab and church regularly and asks to pray for him. Please pray for Yuval*, Remi* and the other visitors!

In the **Women's Shelter**, we have just accepted a new young lady, **Yasmin***. She lived in the north of Israel, in a rented apartment with a friend, but when the war with Hamas began and Hizballah started attacking Israel from the north, she left the apartment and stayed with different friends and acquaintances until she ended up sleeping on the beach in Eilat. When her friend Betty*, who lives in our Shelter, heard about that, she told her about us and Yasmin* asked for our help. She has been living in our Shelter for several weeks already. Please pray for her and for us to be able to take good care of her! She is a victim of abuse and suffers from post-trauma. She is from a religious family and was taught to think about God in terms of endless rules and taboos, but now she is open to talk about faith and the Gospel with Betty* and Tatyana.



Birthday Celebration in the Shelter

Thank you for your prayers and feel free to share your prayers requests too anytime!

Dov & Olga Bikas and Aviv Ministry Team

For more information about our ministry and for donations
please visit our website: www.avivministry.com



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