

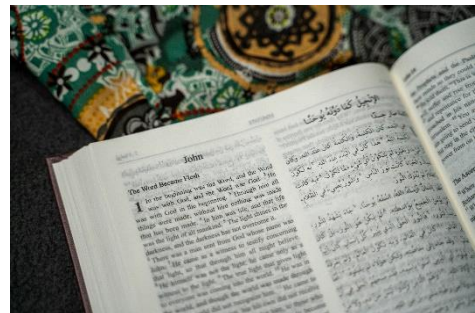
«For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost» (Luke 19:10)

MINISTRY UPDATE: JUNE 2024

Dear Partners, shalom!

Thank you for supporting Aviv Ministry! By God's grace, our work keeps growing and developing, and today we would like to share a new vision with you: **a new project the Lord has been leading us to these days.**

In the recent times I have been thinking about the large number of addicts among Israeli Arabs and the fact that there are no Christian rehab centers for them in Israel – I mean centers *specifically* for Arabs, with their food, with Bible studies in Arabic, and with ministers who speak the language, understand Arab culture and therefore are able to work with these addicts more effectively.



At some point I called a friend, Jamil, who is an Arab pastor from Ramleh (a city with a mixed population of Jews and Arabs) and shared my thoughts with him. Jamil got very excited and confirmed that the need was great and that he was ready to actively participate in this project: to look for a good minister who would manage the rehab, to find a suitable facility for rent, and to visit the future rehab regularly to supervise its work and provide any assistance. Rehabilitants from this rehab will be able to attend Jamil's church and eventually find their place in the Arab speaking community of Ramleh.

Both Jamil and I have agreed that this project has got a very good potential, as it can establish connections with many Arab families and become a powerful testimony to them. It can also be a good example of practical cooperation between Jews and Arabs.

Please pray for us as we continue working on the implementation of this idea. We want to follow God's lead and need His wisdom at every step!

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We praise the Lord for the **new long-term volunteer, Laura**, who has arrived this month to our **Women's Shelter**. She is a true answer to our (and your!) prayers. She is a great help to Tatyana and has already established a good connection with our relatively new resident **Yasmin***, who was difficult to approach before. This month we have also accepted another new lady, **Mira***. She heard about our Shelter from one of our former residents and got in touch with us. She is a victim of domestic abuse (from her ex-husband) and has a problem with alcohol. She gladly participates in the Shelter's activities and Shabbat services of our



congregation. She has never read the Bible before, but is very open to learning about God. Please pray for her, Yasmin*, and the rest of the Shelter's residents.

Tatyana, Laura and Inna* (the lady who has been living in our Shelter for about 5 months already) also go every week to **Aviv Center** to minister to the addicts and the homeless in south Tel Aviv.

*"Today, one lady I have not seen before, **Lillya***, came to Aviv Center," tells Tatyana. "After she ate, I approached her and we talked for a while. I told her about Jesus and she listened very carefully. Then she remembered that her grandmother was a believer and as a child she sometimes prayed with her. Laura and I prayed together for Lillya*, and she said she wanted to go to rehabilitation. I advised her to contact a social worker and a Christian rehab center for women. While we were talking, another woman came to eat. She was barefoot and asked if we had any shoes. Hearing this, Lillya* immediately opened her bag, pulled out a pair of shoes that were just the right size and gave it to this woman. It was a very touching moment. I saw that Lillya* had a truly kind heart despite all the hardships of street life."*



On another occasion, Tatyana had an opportunity to talk to **Victor***. He is in his fifties, originally from Ukraine, and had been a heroin addict for about 20 years. He lives on the street and his health condition is terrible. Tatyana and **Victor*** talked for about an hour about God and it turned out he knew many things from the Bible. He said he wanted to quit abusing drugs, but is afraid of the withdrawal pains. Tatyana prayed for him and encouraged him to go to a rehab.

Please pray for **Lillya***, **Victor*** and the rest of Aviv Center visitors who need the Lord and His true freedom so much!

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Our **Food Distribution project** in Ashkelon continues. One of the single mothers that received help through our worker Eduard has written the following words:



"I immigrated to Israel about a year and a half ago. I came alone, being pregnant. Today I am a single mom, and this is perhaps the most difficult period of my life.

What a joy it was to accidentally meet and subsequently become friends with Eduard! I believe that God sends us the right people during our challenging times.

Therefore, dear supporters! My heartfelt gratitude to you for your selfless participation in providing this humanitarian assistance. Your generous donations of food and other necessary items become a source of hope and support for those who find themselves in difficult situations!

Your good deeds bring light to the lives of many people, lift their spirits and help them overcome these difficulties! Your compassion and care make our world a better place!

We are deeply grateful and hope your kindness will be rewarded many times over.

*With sincere respect,
Elizabeth"*

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We would also like to share with you that "Stichting Aviv" (our fundraising organization in Holland) decided to publish a small book about our life and ministry, and it is now available both in a physical and digital version (see in the attachment). If you would like a physical book, please send us your address and we will be happy to send it to you as a gift!

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