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

MINISTRY UPDATE: JULY-AUGUST 2024

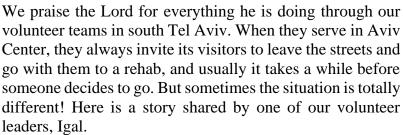
Dear Friends and Partners, shalom!

We thank God for each of you and for your support, thanks to which we can keep operating and developing our ministry projects!

Please pray that we find a suitable **house to rent for the rehabilitation center for Israeli Arabs**. It turned out to be a complicated task, since the house needs to have a good location (not too close to other private homes, not in certain parts of Ramleh, etc.).

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Today, right after I had arrived for my shift in Aviv Center and hadn't even brought all the groceries inside, a guy approached me and asked:

"When will the food be ready?"

"Now we will start preparing the food and in two hours we will open the place. You are ______

welcome to come and eat. What is your name? Have you been living on the street for a long time?"

"Dima*, for three years. I divorced my wife because of the drugs and couldn't find a job. That is why I am here..."

I shared with him my testimony of a former drug addict, and told him how I sought God and wanted to change my life, and how Yeshua (Jesus) found me.

Frankly speaking, I didn't expect Dima*'s reaction:

"Yes, I heard many stories from people whom Yeshua helped!

Even those who returned to the street and to drugs, still told me that the time in the Messianic rehab center was a blessing for them."



Then Dima asked me:

"Can Yeshua help me too? After all, I'm Jewish and I'm not supposed to believe in Him..."

I laughed a little and said:

"Yeshua was also Jewish, his first disciples were Jewish, the first church was in Jerusalem and everyone there was Jewish. And you know what?"

"What?"

"I am also Jewish and believe in Yeshua!"



Dima* laughed and said he was willing to try to change his life with Yeshua. I invited him to help me prepare food at Aviv Center and after we had finished the shift, that same day, Dima* went with me to a rehab center!

Let's pray for him - that he will seek and find his Savior, Yeshua!

* * *

Humanitarian Aid for the Needy and Supporting New Immigrants in Ashkelon.

Our project leader Eduard reports:

Over the past couple of months, the number of new immigrants from Ukraine has increased, and we are getting in touch with many new people who arrive in our city, Ashkelon. Most of them are pensioners or younger mothers with children, since the fathers are not allowed to leave Ukraine because of the war. That is why we try not only to support these families with food and clothes, but also help them find new hope and peace.



As a rule, new immigrants get in touch with us after receiving our number from the families we have already helped. But sometimes the Lord makes divine appointments for us. For example, recently I went to see an elderly disabled person I have known for some time already. I took him to the hospital and back, brought him food and an audio Bible. When I left his apartment, I met a woman in the elevator who was on her way to take out the trash.

"Are you, by any chance, a new immigrant?" - I asked carefully.

She was surprised by this question, but after my explanation she was ready to talk. I offered her a food package (I always have a couple of spare packages in the car just in case). She was happy and told me that she and her husband were pensioners, new in the country, had no relatives and didn't really know where to turn for help. I left my contact information and told her to call with any questions.

On another occasion, my wife and I went to a café, and a young Russian-speaking waitress, Veronica, approached us, I asked her:

"You are new here, right? How long have you been living in Israel?"

She replied that she had immigrated from Ukraine. Her father had died, and when it became dangerous to stay in their city, she and her mother left it. The mother went to Poland (she is not Jewish and cannot make aliya), and Veronica arrived in Israel alone. We left her our contact information, and after some time she did call, saying that she had quit her job and was having a hard time. We invited her to come and get a food package, as well as chose some second-hand clothes.



Please pray for Veronica and all our other contacts!

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

Dov & Olga Bikas and Aviv Ministry Team

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