

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

MINISTRY UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Friends and Partners, shalom!

In this newsletter, you will read about three women with different life stories that our ministry workers and volunteers met under different circumstances, and – thanks to the Lord's provision and your support – could help in some way or another. Please continue standing with us in prayer and partnership, we truly appreciate your care and compassionate hearts!

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Only several weeks ago, **a new resident joined our Women's Shelter**—a 35-year-old **Lana***. From the introductive phone conversations, it was clear that we needed to take her in immediately. She had been through a lot, including domestic violence, and had been living on the street.

When Lana* arrived and approached our Shelter, she suddenly exclaimed joyfully, "Hello, my home!" It was as if she had found a place of safety and belonging. Now, she's settling in, getting to know the staff and the other women.



When she joined us for a Bible study for the first time, we focused on the parable of the Good Samaritan. We read it together, reflecting on how it applied to our own lives, re-examining our actions, and learning from Christ's example. At the end, as always, we invited anyone who wished to share their thoughts.

Suddenly, Lana* eagerly spoke up.

"I remembered," she said, "how my grandmother used to tell me this parable when I was a child. She loved me so much..."

Then Lana* continued, "And the same thing happened to me! On the street, complete strangers came up, gave me water to drink, and the phone number to contact you! Just like in the parable... I'm getting chills just telling you about it now!"

We thank the Lord for bringing Lana* to our Shelter and ask you to pray for her salvation and healing.

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One day, while Igal was serving at **Aviv Center in Tel Aviv**, a middle-aged woman walked in. Igal could tell right away that she was feeling down. He offered her some food, but at first, she refused, saying, "There are people who need it more than me." Having been assured there was enough food for everyone, the new visitor, who introduced herself as **Orly***, finally agreed to take a plate.

While she was eating, Igal and a lady from his volunteer team had a chance to talk to her and tell her about Yeshua (Jesus).

"Yeah, I've heard of Him," Orly* responded, "He was a good man."

"Oh, he was so much more than just a good man! He died for us, he took our sins and bore the punishment we deserved. And God raised Him from the dead to make us righteous before Him."

Then Igal asked her, "How long have you been using?"

At that moment, Orly* started crying. After she calmed down a bit, she shared her story with us. Orly* is a lawyer by profession. She was married and had three children. For many years, she only used cocaine occasionally, maybe once a month at a party. Things seemed manageable until eight months ago, when she and her husband divorced. After that, her drug use escalated to daily consumption. Little by little, she lost everything—her savings, her job at the law firm—and two months ago, she found herself living on the streets, selling her body just to afford her next fix.

It's truly heartbreaking to hear stories like this. Indeed, everyone living on the streets has a story that can break your heart. The sister sitting beside her gave Orly* a hug, and she started crying again. Igal told her he had also been addicted to drugs for many years.

"I wasn't a lawyer, but I sure needed one when I had my run-ins with the law. If I hadn't found my way to a rehab center and encountered Yeshua, I'd probably still be an addict, in prison, or even dead. Do you believe in God?"

"Yes, I do."

"Well, only God can help you and restore your life. Come to a rehab center and get to know God and His Son, Yeshua!"



Orly* said she needed to think about it. After talking for an hour and a half, she said she had to go. Before she left, Igal asked if he could pray for her, and she agreed. So, they all prayed together.

Please keep Orly* in your prayers—that she would continue to visit Aviv Center, hear the living Word of God, go to a rehab and, most importantly, open her heart to the Lord Yeshua!

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One day in Ashkelon, when Eduard was driving to a supermarket to pick up his wife, he noticed a family on the sidewalk – a mother with two children - and suddenly felt a strong urge in my heart: "Stop, go talk to them." Naturally, **Tatyana and her daughters** were surprised, but they were open to a conversation. It turned out **they had just arrived from Ukraine**. Sadly, Tatyana's husband was not allowed to make *Aliyah* with them because of the military situation there. Tatyana and her daughters were staying with her sister and were still struggling with settling into their new life.



Eduard offered to help them with food and clothing. They gratefully accepted and went with Eduard to pick out some groceries and shoes from his small storeroom. Afterward, he drove them to Tatyana's sister's place, who was just as surprised as they were.

Tatyana's sister, like her, is not a believer. Yet, as they spoke together, she said something significant to Tatyana: "You are in the Holy Land now, and here God listens closely to your heart. It's amazing—sometimes we just think about something, and it quickly starts to come to pass."

Please pray for Tatyana's family to get to know God personally!

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

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