

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

MINISTRY UPDATE: JANUARY 2025

Dear Friends and Partners, shalom!

As you know, Aviv Ministry combines the preaching of the Gospel with acts of mercy and assistance to those in need in all its projects. Why do we follow this particular path?

For the last 30 years, I have been sharing the Gospel with the Jewish people in Israel, and as you might have already guessed, it's not an easy task. Perhaps the biggest challenge for Israelis who encounter the Gospel is their deep mistrust of anything associated with Christianity. Considering the history between Christians and Jews over the past several centuries, their skepticism is understandable. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of Jews do not understand the difference between nominal Christians and those who are truly born again. To them, all Christians are the same – whether evangelists, Crusaders, or inquisitors...

Therefore, in order to prove to the Jewish people that Jesus is their promised Messiah, actions are necessary. In Christian countries, it may sometimes be enough to simply read a brochure with someone about the Four Spiritual Laws, but in Israel, mere words – no matter how correct they are (and even if backed by quotations from the Old Testament) – won't suffice.

That is why we do what we do. Through acts of mercy, we build trust not only with those in need but also with the people around them – families, acquaintances, social workers. It's through this trust that we can share the love of Christ in a way that resonates deeply, and offer not just temporary relief but eternal hope.

We invite you to continue partnering with us in 2025 so that, by the Lord's grace, we can expand this work together and bring forth good and lasting fruit for His kingdom!



* * *

VALERIY



We took Valeriy off the streets of Tel Aviv into our Rehab Center when his health was already in a dire state. Several years ago, he came to Israel from Ukraine looking for work. After the war began there, he stayed as a refugee, but life in Israel didn't work out, and he eventually became homeless, living on the streets of Tel Aviv for a long time. He has no one in the country – his only daughter remains in Ukraine.

Valeriy was deeply grateful for our help and open to the Good News. He listened intently during Bible lessons and eagerly participated in prayers. But then we noticed

Valeriy wasn't eating much. When we asked him about it, he admitted, "It's hard, even painful, to swallow anything." We immediately took him to the hospital, where, after thorough examinations, the doctors diagnosed him with esophageal cancer. He remained in hospital and started treatment, but there has been no improvement so far and the doctors say that, sadly, Valeriy does not have much time left.

We try to stay close to him during these challenging days, supporting him and bringing everything necessary to improve the quality of his life. What especially touches us is how Valeriy has opened his heart to God. He says that he feels His presence, support, and love like never before. This has become a source of strength and hope for him.

During our last visit in hospital, Valeriy, as always, greeted us with joy. Even in such a difficult state, he radiates an extraordinary warmth. We prayed together, and the atmosphere was filled with the Lord's blessing. Valeriy also told us he longs to attend a church service again. We hope to be able to bring him to our next Shabbat service, so he can enjoy the worship and have fellowship with other believers.

We ask everyone who reads this story to pray for Valeriy. May God continue to strengthen him, filling him with peace and love, even during this difficult time!

* * *

MIRA* AND LANA*

The past month and a half at our Women's Shelter unfolded rapidly and revolved around two of our residents, Lana* and Mira*, who had been living with us for about six months by that time. Both had endured domestic violence at the hands of their husbands and sought refuge and restoration in our Shelter.

The decision to take them in wasn't easy. Both women struggled with alcohol addiction, and one even admitted to a tendency for binge drinking. Normally, we avoid accepting women with such challenges, but in this case, we made an exception because both were in critical situations.

Mira* and Lana* spent with us several good and productive months. However, sadly, both experienced relapses and managed to bring in and consume alcohol within the Shelter. It became clear that they needed to be transferred to a Christian program specializing in helping women with these types of addictions. We prayed and sought the best place for them, and, praise the Lord, both Mira* and Lana* were accepted into an excellent rehabilitation center for women in central Israel.



At the same time, we asked ourselves some difficult questions: Should we have refrained from admitting Mira* and Lana* in the first place, knowing they didn't exactly fit our profile? Did our efforts bear any fruit? What was in their hearts as they left our home? How could we help them better understand that transferring them to a rehab center was for their own good, especially since alcohol had been a major obstacle to their progress?

You may wonder when peace returned to our hearts. It came only when both women joyfully shared that they had settled into their new home and were continuing their recovery! Both expressed deep gratitude for the help they had received. Lana*, who opened her heart to God during her time at the Shelter, included these touching words in her message:



"You gave me an excellent start. On the foundation you have built, I will construct the walls of my new life, brick by brick. I believe the Lord will restore me both physically and spiritually. I pray that He protects all of you!"

Praise the Lord and thank you for your prayers!

Please feel free to share your prayers requests with us too anytime!



Aviv Ministry

dovbikas@gmail.com

Dov & Olga Bikas and Aviv Ministry Team

P.O.Box 1181 • Arad 8911002 • Israel • Tel/WhatsApp: +972-544-997336 • For more information and for donations please visit our website: www.avivministry.com