

MINISTRY UPDATE: FEBRURY 2025

Dear Friends and Partners, shalom!

Today we would like to share with you the story of Artyom*, one of Aviv Center's visitors, told by a volunteer team leader, Igal.

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“I CAN GIVE YOU SOMETHING NO MONEY CAN BUY”

I first met **Artyom*** several months ago, near the supermarket where I buy supplies for Aviv Center soup kitchen. Artyom* sat outside the supermarket, asking passersby for money. The first time I approached him, he looked at me hopefully, expecting me to give him cash.

“I don’t give out money,” I told him, “But if you’re hungry, I’m happy to buy you anything you’d like, or you can come to Aviv Center this evening. There will be a hot meal, cold drinks, and even some sweets.”



Artyom* sighed. “I need money,” he said firmly.

I looked him in the eyes and replied, “I was addicted to drugs for many years, so I know exactly where that money will go. That’s why I won’t give you cash – but I’ll gladly buy you food.”

He didn’t seem happy with my response. “I don’t need food,” he muttered.

A week later, I saw him again. He recognized me immediately, and I repeated what I had told him before: “I can buy you food, but I won’t give you money.”

“Why not?” Artyom* asked, frustration in his voice.

I explained again. “Because I know where the money will go. But I can give you something much more valuable – something that no amount of money can buy.”

He looked at me with curiosity. “What is that?”

“If you turn to the Lord Jesus, He can set you free from your addiction. More than that, He can give you a new life.”

Artyom hesitated. “I’m from Armenia,” he said. “There are a lot of Christians there. But I’m Jewish – I can only turn to God, not to Jesus.”



I smiled and said, “Jesus was Jewish too. His first disciples were Jewish. And I am Jewish as well. But the truth is, Jesus doesn’t care about your background – He wants to help anyone who is willing to turn to Him.”

Artyom thought for a moment, then nodded. “Now I understand why you won’t give me money,” he said. “Can you buy me something to eat?”

From that day on, every time I went shopping or saw Artyom at Aviv Center, we would talk – about God, sin, redemption, and Jesus. Each time, I invited him to come to a rehab center and start a new life with Christ.

Artyom shared his story with me. He was a widower: after losing his wife, he became addicted to alcohol. He was 61 years old, and because of his lifestyle, his children had cut off contact with him. It was heartbreaking, but sadly, almost everyone living on the streets has a tragic story of how they ended up there.

Then, three weeks ago, Artyom looked at me and said, “It’s too cold to live on the streets. I really want to go to your rehab center and receive what you have.”

I was overjoyed. “What I have comes from Jesus,” I told him, “And if you turn to Him, you will receive it too.”

Artyom smiled. “Every time we talk, I feel a warmth in my body. I don’t want our conversations to end.”

That night, after our service at Aviv Center, we drove together to our rehab center in Netanya.



Artyom in the rehab center

Praise the Lord for working in Artyom’s heart! Let’s pray for him together.

More News and Prayer Requests:

- **Tatyana, our Women’s Shelter manager**, due to personal circumstances, will be transitioning to a part-time role with us. We are now looking for a new full-time staff member. **Please pray that the Lord will guide us in this search and bring the right person to our team.**
- **Valeriy (our rehab resident battling cancer)** is feeling slightly better and receiving good care at the hospital. Sadly, his doctors still believe that recovery is unlikely at this stage. **Wilhelm continues to visit and support Valeriy regularly.**
- **Please keep praying for our team**—that the Lord would strengthen our health, help us serve effectively in His field, and continue to grow our projects.

Thank you for supporting our ministry and please feel free to share your prayers requests with us too anytime!

Yours in His Service,

Dov and Olga Bikas and Aviv Ministry Team

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