

## MINISTRY UPDATE: MAY 2025

### *Dear Friends and Partners, shalom!*

We're thankful for your faithful prayers and support – it means a lot to us as we continue this work together.

In this month's update, you will meet two very different people, **a young woman** and a **10-year-old girl** – one lost and voiceless on the streets of Tel Aviv, the other newly arrived in Israel after escaping war and facing a terrifying diagnosis. Both encountered something unexpected: **hope!**

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### A SILENT CRY AND A GOSPEL PAINTING

During our last visit to Aviv Center, while we were distributing food, as usual, to the addicts and the homeless from the streets of Tel Aviv, a young woman – around 25 years old – came up to the table. She asked for something, but I couldn't understand her. I told her (in Russian),

“We have soup, spaghetti, or I can make you a sandwich with sausage or cheese.”

She said something again, but this time more aggressively. People on the street aren't usually very patient, especially those who live under constant stress. I repeated the options, this time in Hebrew and English. Then I thought – maybe she's just thirsty? I said, “There's water, juice, I can make you tea or coffee.”



She started to raise her voice even more, but I felt it wasn't a threat – it was a cry of deep emotional pain. It was loud, but I sensed she was crying out for help. Finally, she grabbed a napkin from the table and a bowl of soup and walked to the table to eat with the others.

Later, one of the guys told me that she had smoked some kind of drug that damaged her vocal cords. She doesn't realize it and thinks that she's speaking clearly, but everyone is just mocking her.

When I saw that she had calmed down a little, I came over and offered her tea. She mumbled something again, and I understood that she didn't want it. So I told her, “If you want tea, just raise your hand and I'll bring it to you right away.”

Suddenly, she smiled at me and nodded.

She sat at the table for a long time, eating slowly and staring at the wall in front of her. I followed her gaze – and my heart rejoiced. She was sitting right in front of the large painting that tells the Gospel story through its imagery. A believing artist had gifted it to us not long ago.

Please pray for this girl with me. Sadly, she was not able to tell me her name, but the Lord knows it, of course!

*By Sergey, Assistant Director of Aviv Ministry*

## FROM WAR TO A MIRACLE: VALERIA'S JOURNEY HOME



Meet Alexander, Irina, and their daughters Ksenia and Valeria – a beautiful family who returned to their homeland less than a month ago, after a long and challenging journey from Ukraine. Their *aliyah* was far from easy. Alexander, though disabled, is of conscription age, which complicated their departure due to the ongoing war. To help them, our team member Eduard even had to travel to Ukraine, including some dangerous areas. Time was of the essence — not only because of the war, but because young Valeria had just been diagnosed with bone cancer. Doctors even recommending immediate amputation before leaving the country.

But the family chose to wait — to make it to Israel first and pursue a full evaluation here. Irina, Valeria's mother, shared this with us:

*"From our very first phone call with Eduard, we knew: we're going to Ashkelon — to be under his wing! He was so warm and genuine, we felt an instant trust."*

They were welcomed not like strangers, but like family. Housing, paperwork, food, medical help — they received it all.

*"We felt so helpless," Irina said, "with my husband's condition, my daughter's diagnosis, and not knowing the language or system. But the support we received — you'd think it came from the closest family. Not everyone gets that even from relatives!"*

Still, the greatest joy came just recently. Valeria underwent an MRI here in Israel — and the results showed **it's not cancer!** It's a serious bone infection — but treatable. No amputation. No cancer.

We praise God for this miracle and ask you to join us in praying for Valeria's full healing and for this precious family to rebuild their life in Israel — and open their hearts to God's love.

### MORE NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Women's Shelter:** We're still searching for the right staff member — someone compassionate and strong, able to support women who've suffered abuse. No suitable candidates yet. Please pray for the right person to come soon.
- **Humanitarian Aid in Ashkelon:** While we were looking for a proper place for Distribution Center, the municipality has suddenly offered us free use of a part of "Beit Oleh" (a cultural center for immigrants from the former Soviet Union) for food distribution and even small events! We've already started using it and increased our monthly distribution to 100 packages. We thank God for this gift.
- **Arab Rehabilitation Project:** We're choosing between final building options for the Rehab Center. Please pray for unity and clarity in this crucial decision.

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*

For more information and for donations please visit our website:

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