

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



## MINISTRY UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 2025

***Dear Friends and Partners, shalom and Happy Holidays!***

As we celebrate the Biblical Autumn Feasts – times of renewal, forgiveness, and joy, – we are reminded through stories like this one that...

### **GOD DOESN'T JUST RESCUE – HE RESTORES!**

It was a very hot day, and many young men and women came into Aviv Center. Right away they asked for food – some wanted soup, others preferred sandwiches or pasta. And then, suddenly, I noticed a woman walking into the center.

She was older, dressed neatly and beautifully, with her hair carefully styled. There was calmness in her eyes, smile on her face, and her movements were graceful and composed. It was clear she didn't belong to this place or to the streets.

As she came closer, still smiling, I thought to myself, "Thank God! Maybe another volunteer has come to help us today."

But as she approached, I looked more carefully at her face – and suddenly realized I knew her!

About a year ago, she left her old life on the streets and everything that came with it. Now, she attends one of the churches in Tel Aviv and also comes to Aviv center on Sundays: to join a weekly Bible study that one of our lady volunteers started several months ago on the second floor of Aviv Center – meetings specifically for women who were once involved in prostitution.



I thought to myself, **"How incredible is the mercy and power of the Lord – how He can transform people both on the inside and outwardly!"**

She was simply unrecognizable.

She came up to me, smiled, and said:

"Hi. I'm going upstairs to the class now. I really love your pasta with meat. If there's any left later, would you mind saving me a small portion? I'd love to have some after the lesson."

Then she added, "But if there's none left, that's okay. Just give it to someone who needs it more."

And I stood there for a moment, deeply moved. A year ago, she had come in for food and nothing more – broken, tired, and trapped. And now, she walks in with dignity, peace, and purpose.

The same person, yet completely renewed.

**God doesn't just rescue people – He restores them. He gives them a new identity, a new heart, and even a new face to the world.**

Praise the Lord for His precious and amazing miracles!

*(By Sergey, Assistant Director of Aviv Ministry)*

\* \* \*



### JUST FOR ONE NIGHT

One day, our men's rehab center received an unexpected call from a group of social workers.

"Can you help us just for one night?" they asked.

A man battling alcoholism had to be urgently transferred from a state-run shelter after a conflict, but the new shelter in Beersheva could only receive him the next day. Of course, we agreed, and that's how **Dan\*** arrived at our door. We welcomed him with a meal, a bed, and a quiet night of peace.

The next morning, he came to me with an

unexpected request.

"Can I stay? Not just another night – I want to live here. This place is different. The way the men treat each other, the atmosphere – it makes me feel like a different person."

I was deeply moved. "We'd love to have you," I said, "but we made an agreement with the social workers, and I can't break it." I gave him my number and invited him to visit our Bible lessons and church services.

We said goodbye as friends. But I keep thinking of his words: "*It's different here.*"

Please pray for Dan\* – that he continues to seek that "something different" we know is truly *Someone!*

*(By Wilhelm, Manager of Men's Rehab Center)*

### MORE NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Men's Rehabilitation Center**

Recently we have seen that, though many rehabilitants manage to successfully complete their program in the center, for some, the step directly into independent life is too big. We are prayerfully considering a "**second stage**" option, such as a halfway house or hostel, to support our graduates in their transition. Pray for wisdom as we explore this idea.

- **Women's Shelter**

At the very end of last month, we welcomed another new resident into our Women's Shelter, **Avigail\***, after her abusive husband forced her out of the house. She is adjusting well, showing initiative, diligence, and a willingness to contribute to the life of the home. Please pray for Avigail's continued strength, wisdom, and healing, and also for **Alona\***, whom we wrote about previously, that both women may find peace, restoration, and hope in the Lord.

- **Ashkelon Outreach**

Food package distribution in Ashkelon is going well. However, we also want to begin organizing **more events and holding regular Bible lessons** for those who are interested. We have just found a suitable place to rent for these gatherings, and we ask you to pray that the Lord will bless and guide us in this initiative according to His will and purpose.

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:

[www.avivministry.com](http://www.avivministry.com)



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avivministry

[dovbikas@gmail.com](mailto:dovbikas@gmail.com)