

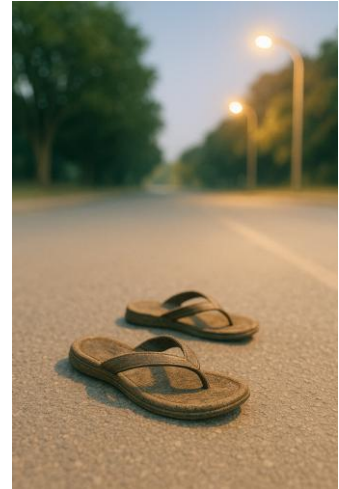
«For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost» (Luke 19:10)

MINISTRY UPDATE: JANUARY 2026

LOST SLIPPERS AND THE GOOD SAMARITAN

One evening, when I was showing Tel Aviv streets to a friend from Germany, we suddenly heard a terrible cry on the other side of the road. We turned and saw several young men pushing another person toward the traffic. One of them had lifted a large metal fan from the nearby dumpster and smashed it against the victim with full force. The fan shattered into pieces, and the man staggered, fell toward the curb, and remained sitting there, overwhelmed by pain.

The attackers ran away. The man remained under the dim streetlight, barely moving. And in that moment, the story of **the Good Samaritan** came to my mind. Many people were walking along the street. They had seen everything. They heard the cry, saw the fight, saw the man lying by the road. But no one stopped. I watched their faces: some looked frightened, some whispered to each other, some laughed nervously...



But everyone passed by. Just like in the parable.

We reached the man. I stopped the cars and knelt beside him. He looked about forty, wearing dirty clothes, like someone who had lived on the street for a long time – possibly under the influence of drugs.

“Don’t worry,” I told him. “We’re here. We will help you.”

He looked calmly at me and said:

“I lost my slippers.”

I realized they must have been thrown off during the attack. I searched: found one quickly and the other much later. When I brought them, he said:

“No, you don’t understand. Put my slippers on my feet.”

His tone was almost commanding. But I thought: the Good Samaritan also did the practical things that needed to be done. So, I put the slippers on him.

Then he said:

“There’s a bag by my feet. Take it.”

It was an old, dirty bag. I took it. We helped him cross the road to a safe place.

“Give me my bag,” he said, and I handed it to him.

I was already preparing to tell him about God’s love, to say something encouraging – but suddenly he put his hand on my shoulder and said:

“Listen... give me some money.”

He said it boldly, almost rudely.

“I don’t have any,” I replied (that was true, I didn’t have cash).

“Alright,” he said and walked away humming a tune.

We stood there watching him disappear into the night, and I thought: “Maybe the Good Samaritan also had difficult moments...”

Helping people is not always easy. Everyone has their own expectations, their own idea of what help should look like.

And then I realized something deeper.

We often come to God exactly the same way – with very specific requests, with our own understanding of what we need right now. **We focus on our “lost slippers,”** on what seems most urgent to us.

But the Lord sees differently.

He knows what truly endangers our soul.

He saves us from things we don't even notice.

He helps us not the way we imagine – but the way we truly need.

And thank God for that!

(By Sergey, Assistant Director of Aviv Ministry).

NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- We are thankful to share that our **Beersheva Rehabilitation Center** has recently welcomed a new resident, **Oren***. He immigrated to Israel more than 25 years ago with his wife and son. Over time, his family fell apart, and as a result he became addicted to alcohol. Although he maintained steady employment and made many attempts to stop drinking, each effort ended in relapse. Realizing that he could not win this battle on his own, Oren, following the advice of friends, came to Aviv Center and asked for help. There he was connected with our team and has now entered the rehabilitation program in Beersheva. Oren shares that he deeply desires change and longs to come to know the Lord personally. Please keep him in your prayers.
- The ministry among **the new immigrants and the needy in Ashkelon** continues to develop well. People are grateful not only for practical help and food packages, but also for the



the opportunity to gather together in fellowship. Last month we held a very blessed Christmas and New Year celebration, which opened wonderful opportunities to share the Gospel in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Please pray with us as we seek God's guidance to further develop this ministry – through regular activities, social

gatherings, and outreach events – so that more people may experience both care and the message of hope in Christ.

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



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