

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

MINISTRY UPDATE: JULY - AUGUST 2026

Dear Praying Friends and Partners, shalom!

We are grateful to share with you what the Lord has been doing in the lives of the people connected with the projects of Aviv Ministry in recent months.

WHEN A GOOD FOUNDATION IS STILL THE WRONG ONE

Gena, a professional violinist, was born in the Soviet Union. He made *aliyah* to Israel in his early twenties, began working in an orchestra, got married, and had a son.

For many years, Gena's life seemed stable from the outside. But beneath the surface, things were not going well. His family relationships were strained, he often struggled with loneliness, and alcohol became his way of escaping.

What began as occasional drinking gradually turned into a serious dependence. Gena lost his position in the orchestra and began working at an electronics factory. For years, he managed to maintain what appeared to be a normal life. He worked, fulfilled his responsibilities, and tried to keep his addiction hidden. But the amount he drank gradually increased until his life began to fall apart, and he lost his job and his family.

It was during that period that he met a believer who turned out to be the pastor of a local Christian/Messianic congregation. Like many other people from the Soviet Union, Gena had grown up as an atheist, but from his very first visit to the congregation, faith deeply interested him.

“Even though I was drunk when attending the services, God started working in my heart. After several months, I entered a Christian rehab center in Haifa, where I repented and became a believer.”

Gena experienced a remarkable change. The desire for alcohol disappeared, and soon he became actively involved in the life of the center. At one point, he was even appointed to lead a new rehabilitation home in another city. For the next several years, the rehab ministry became his whole world. He was sober, serving God, helping others, and living in a Christian community.

But there was a weakness in the very foundation of his recovery that he did not recognize at the time.

“My foundation was the rehab center, not God,” Gena realizes now.

When the center eventually closed during the pandemic, he suddenly found himself without the structure that had supported his life. He did not know what to do next and eventually fell back into drinking.

He went to another Christian rehabilitation home, and once again, God helped him recover. But after he left the rehab, the addiction returned.

Today, **Gena is at our rehabilitation center in Beersheba**, and this time, he sees his journey differently. He understands that simply being in a rehab center cannot be the foundation of his life. Neither can ministry, work, other believers, or even his own determination. All these things can help, but the foundation must be Christ Himself.

Gena has resumed playing the violin and hopes one day to join our congregation's worship team.



Gena practicing the violin at our congregation

“I want to live a full life again and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ!” he says.

Gena’s story is a reminder that *even good things can become a substitute for the true foundation*. A ministry, a Christian community, a strong leader, a familiar structure – all of them can one day change or disappear. But **“no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ”** (1 Cor. 3:11).

🙏 Please pray for Gena as he continues his restoration – that this time he would learn to stand firmly and faithfully on the only Foundation that cannot be shaken. 🙏

LIGHT THAT SHINES IN DARKNESS

One day in July, a social worker contacted us and asked if we could take in a young woman who was seven months pregnant. Because of difficult circumstances, she had nowhere to live and ended up on the street. Social services had tried to help, but they could not find a suitable place for her.

When we went to pick her up, **Susan*** was sitting alone on a bench near a gas station. Seven months pregnant, with nowhere to go.

Where was the baby’s father? Her parents? Her relatives and friends? How could a woman in her condition be left completely alone?

This is what darkness looks like – when a person is surrounded by an entire world, yet no one comes to help when she needs it most.

We brought her to our Shelter, and now she has a room, a bed, food, and people who care about her.

Please pray for Susan to find the true Light that drives out all darkness! 🙏



At the Shelter

NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- We are delighted to share some wonderful news! Recently, as baptisms took place in several Israeli congregations, we realized that **10 of those who were baptized are former drug addicts** who, over the past year and a half, came to the **Aviv Center soup kitchen** from the streets and were later referred to different Messianic rehabilitation centers. It was a great encouragement to see this long-term fruit of the ministry and to witness how God has been transforming lives and drawing people to Himself!



Preparing food for distribution

- Our **ministry to new immigrants and the needy in Ashkelon** continues through practical help and food packages. More and more newcomers are hearing about the ministry through people we have already helped. Recently, a newly arrived family of four was referred to us. The father, **Nicolai**, is seriously ill with cancer. Please pray for them.

We are also encouraged to see that some of the people we are helping are becoming interested in faith and in the Scriptures. Several have begun **attending a local Messianic congregation**. May the Lord continue to reveal His love and truth to them!

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
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