

Dear Praying Friends,

Today we would like to share the story of Alexander, whom the Lord led to meet our leader Eduard **twice**: first as a **new immigrant** in Ashkelon and then as a **homeless addict** in Tel Aviv. Today Alexander is going through a rehab program. Please pray for him!

Alexander's story

I was born in Ukraine, in a normal family. I attended school and played sports. But when I was 14, I tried drugs for the first time, and by the age of 17 I had already become heavily addicted to them. By the age of 20 I had already been married with two kids, and my wife was pregnant with the third. I tried quitting drugs many times, went through various treatments, but without success.

When I was 22 my legs gave out. I was bedbound for a year, but my wife was taking good care of me (she did not leave me) and I slowly started walking again. Now I understand that it was God's grace. I was my wife's fourth child... I was clean for one year, but when I became mobile again, I started thinking about drugs and soon returned to heavy abuse.

In 2021 my wife and I decided to move to Israel, since I was Jewish. We thought I would be able to get rid of my addiction there, but when we had arrived, I understood that I would perish here even sooner, since drugs were so easy to get anywhere. My drug abuse continued for a year, and eventually I ended up on the streets, since my wife could no longer bear this situation.

One day I asked my wife to let me see the kids, and we decided to meet in Ashkelon (where we lived), near the beach. While we were there, a person approached us and asked: "Are you new immigrants? Do you need anything?" His name was Eduard, and the same evening he brought a food basket to our home in Ashkelon.

Some time passed, and I went to Tel Aviv, for I was told that it was easier to get drugs there. When I had arrived, I understood that I had gotten into a horrible morass, from which I would never escape. I used to sleep on a bench, steal, I did not get shaved or cut my hair...

One day my street fellows suggested that we go to a Christian soup kitchen nearby. I did not exactly understand what it was, but I went, because I was hungry. I was brought into a place where several people were distributing meals. One guy was playing a guitar, others were talking with the visitors with care and warmth. I was surprised when one guy approached me right away and offered me clean clothes and treatment for the festering wound on my arm.

Then another guy came to me and offered a cup of hot tea, and suddenly I recognized him – it was Eduard from Ashkelon! He did not recognize me, but I reminded him of our meeting and he was very happy to see me. He told me about his life and by the time he invited me to go to his rehab center, I had been 100% sure I wanted to go!

I have been in rehab for a month and a half already, and I have got a serious intention to dedicate my life to God. My wife is happy, she attends the church with me and gives thanks to God. When I look back at everything that has happened to me recently, I see the need for Aviv Center: in the middle of this deep and dusky swamp of south Tel Aviv there is a small island of God's love, where exhausted and troubled people can come and find peace. I am

very grateful to all those who serve there and do not forsake us, those who are dying on the streets without hope...

More prayer requests

Please keep praying for the rehabilitants in our men's rehab, and especially for **Alexei**, who was doing well on the program last year, was very open to the Gospel, but left prematurely, thinking he was strong enough and ready to live independently. He managed to stay clean for about two months, but then he returned to alcohol, lost his job and realized he needed to go back to the rehab and continue the program. Please pray for his salvation and full restoration.

Pray also for **Maya***, who, like Alexei, decided she was ready to live independently, left our Women's Shelter prematurely and sadly returned to alcohol after several weeks. She is now back in the Shelter and has resumed her fight against the addiction.

Thank you for your care and prayers!
May God bless you all,
Dov and Olga and Aviv Ministry team



In Aviv Center



A group of Aviv Center volunteers is getting the tables ready for their shift in the soup kitchen



A birthday celebration in the Rehab



Geben für einen Suchtkranken auf einer Straße in Tel Aviv