



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

MINISTRY UPDATE: APRIL - MAY 2023

Mike's story

Mike, one of our relatively new rehabilitants, does not look like a typical drug addict or alcoholic at all. He was born and raised in a very good family, both of his parents were doctors in the former USSR. Also, despite the fact that he started smoking marijuana regularly at the age of 14, and then abused alcohol and drugs, and then alcohol again for as long as 45 years, he still graduated from school with honours, became a doctor, started a family, worked for several years as a leading emergency physician in a paediatric ICU, and then, when the Soviet Union began to collapse and the doctors stopped receiving fair salaries, he created a successful business of sale and purchase. And, of course, the very fact that he lived to be 60 years old and was able to maintain his health and a sober mind is also very unusual for such an alcoholic and drug addict.



How did he do it? Firstly, Mike has a very high intellect and a strong will. Secondly, his knowledge of medicine helped him a lot, so he always understood exactly what and how much substance he needed and how it would affect his body. That is, on the one hand, he consumed very large doses of drugs and alcohol, and on the other hand, he did it competently, as a doctor, and this helped him maintain his health and keep working. Of course, everything that he created in his life eventually collapsed, but imagine what this person could have achieved if he had not been addicted to alcohol and drugs!

Here, of course, the question arises: "If Mike is so gifted and so smart, why did he become an addict and ended up in our rehabilitation center in Beersheva?" Unfortunately, even very strong, talented and successful people are not immune to mistakes, addictions and cunning traps of the enemy. In his youth, Mike sought new thrills in drugs. During the period of medical practice he relieved stress with the help of alcohol. When later he became a businessman and his business generated good income, alcohol was an integral part of the celebration of his success. When he eventually went bankrupt, Mike tried to escape from reality with the help of large doses of heavy drugs...

When he moved to Israel with his wife and three children in 1995 to start a new life, the addiction, sadly, immigrated with him. Already here, his marriage fell apart, and Mike completely lost control of his life. Then one day his ex-wife, a believer, brought him to our rehab center in Beersheva.



Mike's rehabilitation is going very well, praise God! He has even started working recently. For a person who had been drinking one liter of vodka every day for the past 20 years, this is a real miracle. Today Mike uses all his intellect to find God, constantly reads the Bible, studies a lot of spiritual literature and does not stop repeating that he feels he is on the right track!

Please pray for his salvation and full deliverance from addictions.

Other news and prayer requests



Tel Aviv and Ashkelon

Please keep praying for **Alexander**, the new immigrant and addict we wrote about in our February update. His rehabilitation was successful, and after some time he decided that he was strong enough to leave the rehab and visit his wife and three young children. Regretfully, Alexander failed this test and returned to his addiction. He was too ashamed to go back to the rehab, and ended up on Tel Aviv streets again, where one day he went to Aviv Center to eat and where the team from his rehab met him and persuaded him to return and continue the program (in Ashkelon). Please keep praying for him and his family.

Also, last month Eduard got a call from the workers of the Ministry of Interior in Ben-Gurion airport who told him that a handicapped person had just arrived and there was no one to meet and take care of him, because his relatives refused to show up. Eduard came and took the new immigrant to Ashkelon, provided him with a temporary place to live and started helping him getting settled in Israel. The immigrant was very cautious with Eduard at first because he was also in touch with ultra-orthodox Jews who demanded that he should cut any connection with “dangerous” Messianic believers, but he still chose to stay with Eduard seeing his sincerity and care. He even started attending Bible studies and went with Eduard to a Shabbat service in his congregation. Please pray for him (the immigrant’s name is **Eduard** too! :)



Beersheva

In our Beersheva Rehab Center, we have got two new rehabilitants: a thirty-year-old **Mark** and **Andrew**, who is in his fifties. Both are addicted to alcohol. For Mark it is his first rehabilitation experience, and Andrey has already tried to complete a rehab program in the past, but failed. Please pray for them. Both are not believers.



Tatyana with the Shelter ladies

Last month we have also accepted a new young lady into our Women's Shelter, **Tami***, a victim of violence and sexual abuse, who as a result became addicted to alcohol. She is very traumatized. Her family banished her from home and she found herself on the street. This is when one believer, an old family friend, contacted us and asked us to help her. We see that since she moved to the Shelter her condition has been improving, she has become calmer and more hopeful. She is not a believer, but is very open to the Gospel. Please pray for her recovery and for wisdom for us to be able to help her the best way.

Thank you for all your care and prayers!

Yours in Him, Dou and Olga Bikas

