



Igal Vender's Newsletter July 2018

Dear praying family and friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers and support of my mission work among Jewish people in Israel. Since my last letter I have continued to see God at work and it is a privilege to share more stories of transformed Jewish lives with you for your encouragement and prayers.

Kyle's in the Kingdom

In January I was on my way home to have an evening meal with my wife. I had barely started the journey when a young man called Kyle approached me asking for money for food.

Instead I offered to buy him a meal. His clothes told me he was homeless and I could smell alcohol on his breath. Kyle didn't want my help so I asked if I could tell him something. He agreed and I said I would share it with him over some food.

Kyle wanted to know why I would help a homeless man like him. I explained that it was because of the One who lives in me and who transformed my own life – Jesus! I shared my testimony before we opened the Scriptures and ate together. Kyle listened carefully to what I was saying before I prayed for him and we went our separate ways.

When I got home, my wife Milana and I committed to praying regularly for Kyle, not knowing if I would ever see him again. Two weeks later however, as I was walking down the street, a man approached me and asked how I was – it was Kyle!

This time round Kyle opened up about his own life. He told me he was a 41 year-old Russian Jewish divorcee who emigrated to Israel 15 years ago. In Russia he had a responsible job as a chief engineer but when he arrived in Israel the only job he could get as a non-Hebrew speaking immigrant was sweeping the streets. His



Praying with Kyle at the rehab earlier this year

inability to find a good job caused depression and he turned to drink. When his wife divorced him eight years ago, he began living on the streets. At this point in his life he stopped drinking but turned to hard drugs and spent three years in prison. Kyle opened his heart to me, weeping as he recounted his life story. I gave him a big hug, told him that God cares for him and how Jesus could change his life.

Kyle told me that he didn't trust people but when we first met he could sense there was something different about me. He also said that when I prayed for him he was overwhelmed by a sense of peace – something he had not felt for a long time! I offered him a place at the rehab centre where I volunteer and he gratefully accepted the invitation.

A month later we were studying the book of Ephesians at the rehab. When we finished, Kyle approached me, declared that he believed Jesus had died for his sins and told me he wanted to repent and ask Jesus to be Lord of his life! Here was the answer to months of prayer right before my eyes. **Please pray for me as I disciple him and that the Lord will continue to guide Kyle's steps and establish him in his new faith.**

Georgian Greg meets the Messiah

I met Greg, a 28 year-old Georgian-born Israeli Jewish man, on the streets of Tel Aviv. After his national service he and some friends started a successful online business. That all changed when one of his friends bought some drugs for 'a bit of fun'. This quickly became a weekly and then a daily habit for Greg. The business eventually failed and Greg found himself on the streets. After a period of homelessness, during which he stole to pay for his addiction, he ended up in prison for a year.

When we first met, I shared the gospel with him. He didn't really understand what I was talking about but said he sensed my love for others. After that he disappeared and I didn't see him for a long time. Then, out of the blue, Greg called me. I hadn't given him my phone number but life was getting so bad that he asked everyone he knew for my details until he finally got hold of my number.

He told me that he needed to change his life and wanted to experience the love and peace he had felt when I told him about Jesus. He agreed to enter into rehab and there the Lord began to work in his life. Miraculously, Greg lost the desire to smoke and to do drugs. The Lord was answering our prayers and changing him.

A month after he entered rehab, we were studying the Scriptures. Afterwards, Greg told me he wanted to follow Jesus as his Messiah and Lord. So we prayed together for Greg to start his new life in Jesus. **Please pray for him!**

Boxed in by God

A few months ago I met Cyril on the streets of Tel Aviv. He had arrived at the 'pop-up coffee shop' for the homeless where I volunteer. Cyril had emigrated to Israel two years before with his wife and young daughter. In Russia he had been a respected boxing trainer and the Russian lightweight boxing champion twice. However, in Israel he was not able to make it as a boxer or find work as a coach.

Cyril struggled to find work and began drinking heavily. Things seriously deteriorated in his life and two months later he was living on the streets where he stayed for the next year and a half.

Life on the streets caused him to be withdrawn and he isolated himself from human contact as much as possible. He found it difficult to trust me enough to open up properly. I managed to share the gospel with him but Cyril abruptly got up and walked off!



Greg, now free from drug addiction, finally turned to Jesus

The next time I saw Cyril he warmed to me. He said he believed in God but couldn't believe that he had a Son. I told him that this was a good reason to meet again to see what the Bible says. Cyril agreed and I started meeting with him once a week to read the Scriptures together.

I also told him about the rehab centre where I volunteer, hoping he would go and sort out his addiction and learn more about Jesus. At first he wasn't interested but a month later, after much prayer, Cyril started to open up.

Around Easter time I travelled to the UK to speak at churches to help raise my missionary support. The day before I left, Cyril agreed to enter rehab so we travelled together to the rehab house in Netanya and I flew to Manchester the next day. A month later he had been freed from alcoholism and smoking.

After a group Bible study, Cyril approached me and told me that he believed deep in his heart that Jesus had died for his sins and that, for the first time in his life, he had a real sense of peace. We prayed together right then as Cyril repented and asked Jesus to be Lord of his life. **Praise God! Please pray that Cyril will grow in grace as I disciple him and that God will help him repair the broken relationship with his wife.**

Personal Prayers

Thank you for those of you who prayed for my mother. She went to be with Jesus in June so please pray for my family as we mourn her passing. **Please continue to pray for my father-in-law who is still very sick with lung cancer.**

With love in Messiah,

Igal & Milana Vender



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