



Oasis

A Publication of Tents of Mercy Congregation (Ohalei Rachamim) - Volume 11, Issue 8

Every one of us has a road through life that we must walk. Oftentimes we question why certain things happen on our own particular path, especially if they are difficult. There are events that are not the consequence of our own choosing, things that we face because of wrongdoing in the world. Ultimately, though, we come to realize that it is God who establishes our going and gives us the grace to walk as we ought to walk. He knows the deep hidden reasons why some seem to suffer more than others, but His goal is for our path and the path of Yeshua to intersect as early as possible.

Yarden is one of those individuals whose way has been filled with suffering. She was born in the southern part of Israel to a large "Haredi" family (ultra-religious, Orthodox Jews). She was the first daughter, after two brothers. Yarden was born totally blind. From the age of three she was in a kindergarten for blind children and began to learn Braille. Until she started first grade she did not think of herself as being different. Once she began school, however, she noticed that the other children excluded her from their social activities and she felt rejected.

Haredi Jews live according to a very strict interpretation of Jewish law, which sets them apart from the Jewish community. The neighborhood in which Yarden lived was a mix of religious and secular Jews. Haredi children were not allowed to talk to or have any kind of contact with the nonreligious Jews. Yarden remembers being a little jealous because the secularists had greater freedom. To make matters more complicated, her mother was very critical and never happy with her children. This is a serious thing when you realize that the culture in which they lived demanded that women continue to produce babies whether they liked it or not. As a result Yarden has no memories of happy or fun family times.



Yarden

By Moshe Morrison

Yarden was six years when her oldest brother began to abuse her. This went on for years. When she was about 8 1/2 she tried to tell her mother what was happening, but she told her she was a liar and refused to believe her. Only when she was about 10 did one teacher at school begin to realize that something was wrong. It was almost another 2 years before social services and the police got involved. Yarden's brother was removed from the house and she was sent to a religious boarding school for the blind in Jerusalem. Yarden enjoyed the school but was there less than three years. When she was 14 she came home for a brief vacation and her second brother took up where the first brother left off and impregnated her.

When Yarden returned to school the situation came to light. She was given an abortion and became very depressed. She was sent to a mental hospital and put on medication. After 3 months she was placed in a group home in the north. While there, she attended a special needs school, but she was so medicated and psychologically disturbed that school authorities did not believe she was capable of learning.

Yarden's life took a dramatic turn when a friend who had become a believer invited her to attend a Messianic congregation in Jerusalem. During the service someone began praying out loud. Yarden began to cry and her body shook; suddenly she felt like she had come home to the place she had been looking for all her life. A lady came over and asked how she was doing. They spoke together and prayed and Yarden received Yeshua. She knew something had changed inside and she began speaking to others about Him.

Yarden began attending a Messianic congregation in a nearby town but then moved to a group home in our area. Her congregational

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leader put us in touch with her and we started to take her to services with us on Saturday mornings. One of the girls living in the group home knew of Yarden's faith and contacted an Orthodox organization that actively opposes Yeshua and His followers. They came to the group home, took Yarden away with them for a day and attempted to deprogram her. They verbally abused her and threw away her Braille Hebrew New Testament along with some musical tapes they did not approve of. By the grace of God Yarden choose to resist them and told them to leave her alone.

Not long after this traumatic event Yarden suffered a serious injury. While attempting to exit a train she missed the platform and fell onto the tracks, fracturing a vertebra. To this day she cannot get up from a seated position without help and ascending and descending stairs brings severe pain.

Though Katya and I were faithfully taking Yarden to services, the Holy Spirit began to convict Katya that Yarden needed more from her than transportation. The enemy was clearly seeking to destroy Yarden, but Katya struggled with the personal cost it would take to involve herself in this troubled young woman's life. Yarden had a lot of difficulty relating to people. She was withdrawn and dissociative, yet that was no excuse to hold back. Just as Katya began to follow the Spirit's leading and invest more of herself, Yarden decided to move back to her parents' house. Living in the group home was depressing; Yarden hoped her situation might improve at home.

Unfortunately, the abuse resumed. Yarden's mental state deteriorated and she became suicidal. One day, in the presence of visitors, her mother and a sister got angry with her and physically attacked her. The guests literally took her out of the house and said it wasn't safe for her to be there.



Playing a game with a blindfolded friend



Sharing a Shabbat dinner with the Morrisons

Yarden returned to the north for a women's conference hosted by Tents of Mercy. Katya saw that she was in deep emotional despair and had not had anything to eat or drink for three days. On top of all her other problems, due to the latest trauma she had experienced, she was also suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Katya knew she had to do something, Yarden could not go back to face further violence and abuse. She told Yarden, "I won't let you go back there. You will come live with us." This was a challenging experience for our whole family. Yarden was severely emotionally damaged, had no social skills and very little basic knowledge (Yarden

did not even know the world was round). We (and especially Katya) had to patiently and persistently teach her the most perfunctory tasks. It was more like looking after a small child than a twenty three year old woman. However, we all recognized that Yarden needed a place to live and that for her sake we needed to open our home.

Today Yarden is a different person. Together, Katya and Yarden gradually cut back on the prescription drugs she had been taking for years. After a number of months she was totally drug free and her mind was much clearer. Turns out, she is extremely intelligent and is quite capable of learning. She also began to lose weight. When she moved in with us, though only 5'3" tall, she weighed 222 lbs. Today she is 120 lbs.!

Yarden now has her own computer with a special program that reads out loud to her what is written on the screen. She also has a device on her computer that reproduces the words on the screen in raised Braille letters. Because she did not receive a standard education, she has been taking classes at a local adult learning center for the past year and a half. She recently received a diploma certifying that she has completed 12 years of schooling (similar to a G.E.D.). Her goal is to attend university and ultimately find work where she can be a help to others.

About three months ago Yarden rented her own apartment. She loves having friends over for Bible studies and playing cards. She is looking forward to learning how to cook for herself. Katya still meets together with her each week to help her with life skills. Though Yarden no longer lives with us, she is still very much a part of our family. Yarden said that if the Lord had not opened our hearts to open our home, she would not be alive today. ✨

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Our Vision:

Tents of Mercy - to participate in today's historic exodus by assisting Israel's returning exiles.

No spectators in the Kingdom - to be a worshiping, sharing community based in homes, equipping each one for service.

Come back Yeshua - to welcome Yeshua home to Israel, by restoring the Jewish roots of New Covenant faith.

His Mercy Endures Forever

By Eitan Shishkoff with Avi Tekle

On Sunday, June 19, Artur Rachamimov came within a fraction of an inch of being crushed to death. Double-checking the clearance between a truck and the warehouse wall, his head was caught when the truck driver failed to heed Artur's signal. The 32 year old father of two was rushed to the hospital unconscious and bleeding profusely.

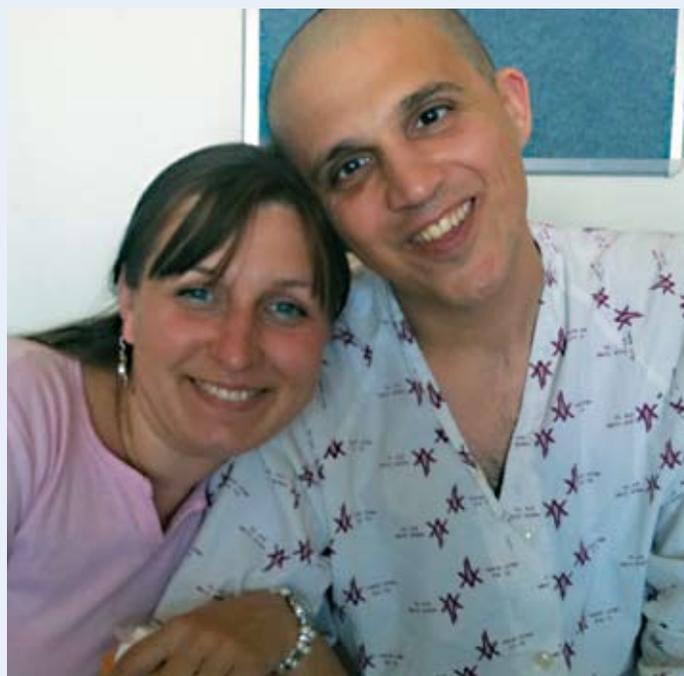
At Tents of Mercy we were notified during a staff meeting and went to prayer. Later that day, updated from the hospital that the situation was still critical and that Artur was in surgery, we prayed again. The burden for God to shower mercy on our brother was accentuated, knowing that his wife and small children would be left without his joyful strength if he was lost.

After emergency surgery, Artur was kept in an induced coma to allow for the trauma to subside. Others via the global intercessory network joined us in concerted prayer. Then God answered. Within a few days he emerged from danger and began to communicate with his family, who had already speculated about where he should be buried! It has been amazing to see such dramatic progress in Artur's medical condition. His head injury has caused no major permanent damage - internal or external! He is talking, walking and hearing perfectly. In his condition, all these signs point to a successful recovery. His memory is undamaged and his beloved wife and their two children have been strong and resilient throughout this journey. Please continue to pray with us for a full healing of Artur's eyesight and for his life to be a testimony to the non-believers around him

Just four weeks after this near fatal accident, Artur was back attending our services at Tents of Mercy. While the whole congregation rose up from their seats in a spontaneous ovation of praise, Artur walked unassisted to the bema and gave testimony to the wonder of God's grace and healing power. We are praising our Messiah and Healer for such a welcome and remarkable gift. It is worth noting that Artur's family name: Rachamimov means "Of God's Mercy." It is actually the Hebrew name of our entire ministry: Ohalei Rachamim... Tents of Mercy. God poured out His mercy upon Artur, Ilana, their children and our entire congregation when He saved this man from death or permanent disability. Halleluiah! It gives us **great** joy to share this miracle with you and to encourage you to "call on the Lord who is worthy to be praised." (2Samuel 22:4) ✨



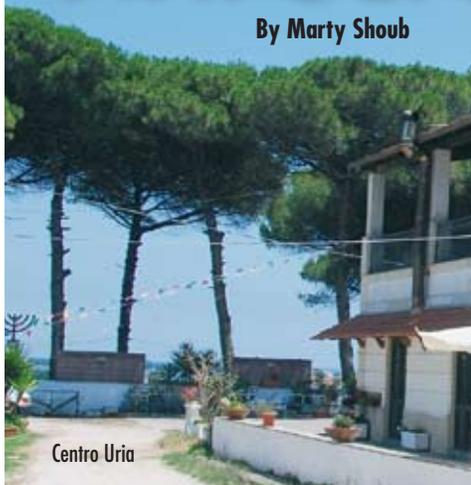
Artur and Elana



Artur recovering by the grace of God

WELCOMED AGAIN TO NAPOLI BAY

By Marty Shoub



Centro Uria

When Paul first landed in Italy at Puteoli (modern day Pozzuoli) he was welcomed by believers there (Acts 28:13,14). Not far from this same spot, believers are still welcoming Messianic Jews to Italy. This July I had the privilege of representing Tents of Mercy in the Naples area (Pozzuoli is less than 10 miles from Naples). Pastor Bruno Ciccarelli of Centro Uria was my host. As I took my first perusal of the Centro Uria grounds I was struck by the large wooden menorah erected at the head of the driveway. Adjacent to the menorah, an Israeli flag flew over the center's sports field. It was especially poignant to see these symbols of solidarity with Israel, here in the one country more than any other whose history is so wrapped up in symbolically and literally replacing Israel and the Jewish people.

"Uria" is Italian for Uriah, the Hittite soldier in David's army. I asked Pastor Bruno why, of all the characters in the Bible, he chose to name the center after this tragic figure. Bruno's answer gives us a glimpse into his character: "Uriah lost everything for the king, his wife, his honor, his life. He served the king with absolute faithfulness, regardless of whether he was recognized or appreciated. This is the model of service we want to promote - everything for the king, no matter the cost."

Pastor Bruno described Centro Uria as "a non-religious place where people can come and learn about Jesus." Aside from the guest house



Author sharing a joke with Pastor Bruno

and large meeting hall, the grounds include a football pitch and pine groves. The center is used by different churches in the area for conferences, family picnics and youth camps. The ambience promotes an awareness of the Italian believers' status as Gentile branches grafted into the Jewish olive tree. Pastor Bruno explained, "We are trying to sensitize people to Israel's place in God's plan. If you are not interested in Israel, you cannot have a proper perspective on the scriptures - you are not interested in the future. The gospel started in Israel and it is returning



there - as the nations who received the gospel from Israel, we should support Israel and the Jewish people returning to their land."

Over twenty years ago Pastor Bruno came to this realization simply by reading his Bible. "No one in Italy had this understanding. People would criticize me, 'Why are you speaking about Israel?'" Today there is a much greater awareness of Israel among Italy's Evangelical community. Pastor Bruno credits the well known Messianic leader, Michael Brown, for helping to bring clarity and correction regarding Israel's role in God's purposes. Pastor Bruno observed that there is still a lot of work required to sensitize the church in Italy to Israel. He told me, "I believe there will be a great move of God in Israel, but at the same time there will be great difficulties. The Israeli people will need true friends who will stand with them - not just tourists to visit, but believers who are willing to face the same dangers as the Israeli believers in order to bring comfort and encouragement to them."

I was only in the Naples area for one week, but in that short time I had the opportunity to speak in a number of churches and even more importantly, to meet many precious believers. Judging from the welcome and response that I received there, I believe God is fashioning this relationship of friendship between Italy and Israel as a counter to the record of wrongs from our painful history together. ✨