



the Shepherd's Light

NEWSLETTER

Sharing God's love. Caring for Israel's poor



May, 2026

"The Light Shines"

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

- Psalms 27:1

As we move into May, Israel finds itself in a brief and uncertain pause in the midst of ongoing conflict. A temporary ceasefire with Iran has allowed for a measure of normalcy. Public gatherings have resumed, and even the beaches have reopened. Yet, as of this writing, there is still a real possibility that hostilities may resume.

This moment highlights the ongoing tension that defines life in Israel. Even in times of quiet, there is an awareness that circumstances can shift quickly. Over the past weeks, the nation entered into one of its most solemn observances, Yom HaZikaron, where the country remembers fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism.

Sirens sound nationwide, and life comes to a complete standstill as people reflect on the cost that has been paid.



Pastor Yossi teaching at Calvary Chapel Tel Aviv

This year, that weight is especially heavy. In addition to long-standing loss, the events surrounding October 7th and the ongoing war have deepened the grief across the nation. Many who have served have returned carrying significant emotional and psychological burdens. While terminology often falls short, the reality is clear. There is deep suffering, and there is a continued need for prayer, care, and gospel-centered presence.

Immediately following that day of mourning, the nation transitioned into Yom Ha'atzmaut, a sharp and emotional shift from grief to gratitude. It is a reminder of both the cost and the blessing of national restoration. Celebrations are typically marked by gatherings and public rejoicing, though this year remains uncertain depending on the security situation.

We ask you to be in prayer for Israel during this ceasefire, particularly for protection, stability, and for the Lord's peace to reach those who are hurting.

In the midst of these circumstances, the Lord continues to sustain and advance the work.

Our Ministries



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"And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

- John 1:5

In Tel Aviv, Calvary Chapel has officially begun a soft opening of the new soup kitchen and ministry center, a long-awaited milestone that we are truly grateful to see become reality. After much prayer and preparation, this space is already beginning to serve those in need, even in its early stages. It is exciting to watch the Lord start to use this ministry as a place of both practical care and ongoing, gospel-centered outreach in the heart of the city. We are especially thankful for your prayers, which have been a vital part of bringing this project to this point.



New Soup Kitchen ministry's soft opening

In Nahariyah, Pastor Dmitry has also recently relocated his family and ministry into a new apartment. The home fellowship continues to grow steadily, providing a consistent place of teaching, encouragement, and community. At the same time, he is exploring new opportunities to support IDF soldiers, an area where practical care and spiritual encouragement remain critically needed.

Pastor Yossi has also begun a new round of discipleship classes at Calvary Chapel Tel Aviv. Using the Navigator's 2:7 series, he is equipping believers to grow in their understanding of Scripture and walk more intentionally in their faith. These classes are not only strengthening those already in the fellowship, but also creating a clear pathway for newer believers to be grounded, disciplined, and integrated into the life of the church.

Across Haifa, Nahariyah, and Tel Aviv the work remains steady and intentional, focused on strengthening believers and equipping leaders who can continue the work in their local contexts.



Out front of the new Soup Kitchen ministry

The Shepherd's Light media ministry continues to expand its reach through [Church Online Platform](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#). These platforms are allowing consistent teaching and encouragement to reach beyond physical gatherings, meeting people where they are and providing ongoing access to the Word of God.

We continue to see the value of this digital presence, not as a replacement for the local church, but as an extension that strengthens, equips, and connects people to biblical teaching throughout the week.

As part of our ongoing effort to steward resources well and simplify the giving process, we have added [Subsplash](#) as a giving option.

For a season, both [PayPal](#) and [Subsplash](#) will be available. This allows for a smooth transition while giving everyone time to adjust. Our goal in this change is straightforward: to make giving more accessible while ensuring that as much of each gift as possible goes directly toward ministry.

We remain committed to transparency, careful stewardship, and faithfully advancing the work the Lord has entrusted to us.



Ministry Team at Calvary Chapel Tel Aviv

Thank you for continuing to stand with us in prayer and support. The work here is ongoing, and the need for the gospel remains clear. We are grateful for your partnership as we press forward together.

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

-John 8:12



Praise & Prayer

Praise

The soft opening of the Tel Aviv soup kitchen marks a major step forward, creating new opportunities to serve the homeless and share the gospel in a consistent, tangible way.

Dmitry's transition into a new apartment has strengthened both his family stability and the ongoing growth of the home fellowship.

The media ministry continues to expand its reach through Church Online, YouTube, and Instagram, allowing biblical teaching to impact people beyond physical gatherings.

Prayer

Pray for protection and stability as the ceasefire situation remains uncertain and the potential for renewed conflict looms.

Please also pray for the Lord's favor with the municipality in negotiating a better tax rate for the new soup kitchen facility.

Ask the Lord to comfort those grieving and to bring peace to soldiers and civilians carrying deep emotional burdens.

Pray for continued favor and provision as the Tel Aviv soup kitchen moves from soft opening into full operation.

Lift up ongoing ministry efforts, asking God to strengthen discipleship, open doors for outreach, and guide new opportunities to serve IDF soldiers.

[*Click to learn more*](#)

God has called us to share His love with the people of Israel. We offer the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all we serve.

SUBSPLASH

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In His unfailing care,

Brose Bates

...and the Shepherd's Light team

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