



the Shepherd's Light

NEWSLETTER

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



January, 2026

"JOINED AND KNIT TOGETHER"

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."

- Psalm 127:1

As this new year begins, Israel is emerging from one of the longest conflicts in its modern history. After more than two years of war across Gaza and six additional fronts. As the fighting comes to an end, we are grateful that all of the living hostages have returned home. At the same time, the cost has been immense. One hundred fifty one soldiers lost their lives in the past year alone, and the long term mental and emotional impact remains significant.

For us at the Shepherd's Light, we are aware that recovery will take time. Rebuilding is not only a matter of infrastructure or policy, but of hearts, minds, and spiritual foundations. This is where gospel centered ministry remains essential.



Pastor John teaching at Calvary Chapel Tel Aviv

By God's grace, discipleship and teaching continue faithfully in Haifa, Nahariyah and Tel Aviv.

In Tel Aviv, nine individuals completed the Foundations course of the Navigators discipleship program, and a new group has begun the 2:7 discipleship series, moving believers toward deeper spiritual maturity. Ongoing discipleship continues both in person and online, and several new believers were baptized last year, evidence of lives being transformed by the Lord.

Pastoral unity has also been strengthened through regular gatherings of Calvary Chapel affiliated pastors. These meetings rotate between Haifa, the Golan Heights, and Nahariya. These times of fellowship and encouragement are vital for leaders serving in high pressure environments.

“So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”

- Ephesians 2:19

Our Ministries



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A major milestone has been reached at Calvary Chapel Tel Aviv with the completion of renovations on the former sandwich shop next door to the church. This space has been transformed into a full time soup kitchen and ministry center, designed to serve Tel Aviv's homeless population throughout the week.

While the renovation is complete, the ministry is currently navigating bureaucratic challenges related to permits and municipal fees. Local attorneys are engaged, and progress continues. We are confident that the Lord will open doors in His timing.

The long term vision for this center includes a weekly soup kitchen, clothing drives, medical clinics, and ongoing relational outreach. This space represents a strategic investment in mercy ministry and gospel presence in the heart of the city.



Discovery Bible Study training seminar in Haifa

The Hebrew translated Navigators discipleship course is now being used at Bethesda, a Messianic congregation. This introduces a structured discipleship pathway that can be replicated in other congregations throughout Israel.

In addition, our pastors and leaders from Haifa and Nahariya recently completed Discovery Bible Study training, equipping them to reach seekers who are curious about Scripture but hesitant to attend a church. This approach opens new doors for relational evangelism.

With travel resuming, Pastor Yossi is also preparing to lead church tour groups through Israel once again, teaching Scripture on site and strengthening believers' understanding of God's Word in context.

The Shepherd's Light media ministry continues to grow across [Church Online](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#). We're thankful for the fruit the Lord has already produced and look ahead with expectancy as more people are reached and strengthened in their faith through His Word each week.



Pastor Dmitry's Home Fellowship in Nahariya

As we continue to steward the work the Lord has entrusted to us, we are grateful for your faithful partnership. In the coming weeks, we will be adding SubSplash as an additional giving option alongside our current methods. This transition is intended to simplify giving while ensuring that as much of each gift as possible goes directly toward ministry. For a season, both options will be available to allow for a smooth and thoughtful transition. We appreciate your patience and prayer as we take this step, and we remain committed to transparency, stewardship, and advancing the gospel together.

Thank you for standing with the Church in Israel as we continue building what the Lord has entrusted to us.

“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

-Ephesians 4:16



Praise & Prayer

Praise

The conclusion of the war and the return of all living hostages.

Continued fruit in discipleship, baptisms, and spiritual growth in Haifa and Tel Aviv and Nahariyah.

The completion of the Tel Aviv soup kitchen and ministry center renovation.

Growing unity and encouragement among Calvary Chapel pastors across Israel.

Prayer

For healing, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually for soldiers, families, and communities affected by the war.

For favor and resolution with the Tel Aviv municipality regarding permits and fees for the soup kitchen.

For the continued expansion of discipleship through the Navigators courses and Discovery Bible Studies.

For wisdom and open doors as we seek to minister to IDF soldiers returning home.

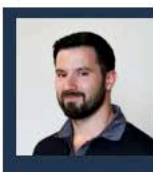
For protection, strength, and renewed vision as we step into this new year of ministry together.

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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.

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In His unfailing care,

Brose Bates

...and the Shepherd's Light team

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