



**AVIV MINISTRY – for Victims of Addictions and Sexual Abuse**  
**THE NEGEV MINISTRY – Evangelization and Church Planting**

## **MINISTRY UPDATE: NOVEMBER 2021**

*Dear Praying Friends, shalom!*

As we approach the end of the year, we look back and ahead at the same time - **summing up the results of 2021 and planning for 2022** - and we can definitely praise the Lord for a very eventful and fruitful chapter in our ministry's development.

The **ministry in Tel Aviv** continues. Aviv Center's soup kitchen serves to street people about 70 meals per day, and they hear the Gospel and are encouraged to go to rehab.

Our newest project, **Women's Shelter**, has already **been able to help 31 women and children** since it became fully operational in May 2020. We have had Russian immigrants, believers and non-believers, native Israelis, Ethiopians, Russian refugees and even one Israeli Arab lady, R. (with Muslim background), who is living in the Shelter at present and gradually becoming more open to us. She has even started attending the Bible studies we hold in the home. Please pray for her salvation.

Naturally, the amount of work to be done in the Shelter has grown considerably, and it is becoming more and more difficult for our only worker and manager Tatyana to fulfil all her responsibilities that include teaching and counselling each lady, assisting them in various health, legal



and social matters, keeping the Shelter in good order, taking care of the Shelter's supplies, finances, etc. **Please pray for helpers/volunteers to join Tatyana next year!** We praise the Lord for the short-term volunteers He sends us and also for a long-term volunteer from abroad who should be joining us if all goes well, but we do want to be able to hire at least one part time worker to share Tatyana's duties and help us minister to our residents more effectively.

And not just Tatyana needs helpers. I am 62 already and Aviv Ministry has grown so much recently, that I feel **I need to start looking for a fellow-worker too**. It would be great to have an additional person at the head of our organization to help me develop all our projects more effectively, and also one day potentially succeed me as Aviv Ministry director. Please pray that we would find the right helpers for both Tatyana and me and also for provision of finances for their salaries.



Recently we have discovered a **new opportunity for our ministry**. We see that relatives (mostly mothers) of those addicts who still live at home with their families started finding us in some way or another and asking for help. For example, last week I got a call from a drug addict's mother who felt completely lost and devastated, and I had an opportunity to answer her questions and give her some advice. As a result, her anxiety abated and I also learned that she was actually a believer who was not connected to any church, so I got in touch with a local messianic congregation for her. Thus, in order to be able **to reach more families of drug addicts**, we decided **to make a new website page** (separate from our existing ones, which are intended mostly for supporters) with specific information **for locals who we can help**. Even when an addict is still not ready to go to a rehab, we can at least start assisting his family by advice and emotional/spiritual support. Please pray for this new development.

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And finally, we would like to share a small interview with one of our rehabilitants, Andrew\*, to help you get to know the people we minister to better and pray for them.



**1. Tell a little about yourself and how and why you came to us?**

*I came to Israel in the beginning of the 90's from Uzbekistan (in the former Soviet Union). Started working right away, providing for my family. I used to drink alcohol from time to time, but as the years went by this habit turned into addiction. I suffered a lot because of it. I lost my family, my job, my friends, my life... I lost everything, ended up on the streets. This is where I had been before I was taken into the rehab, and I am grateful to be here.*

**2. What does this rehab center mean to you and how does it help you?**

*This place means a lot to me. Now I have a home, I have friends and mentors who help me get out of the pit and start a new life.*

**3. What has changed for you since you came to us?**

*A lot. First of all, I have got the opportunity to start living and thinking soberly. My thoughts and health got better. Alcohol is still a temptation for me, but now I have other values. I have got time to think clearly and soberly about my life. I have also started attending support meetings for alcoholics run by social services. They help people like me too. [When the social worker saw Andrew\*, whom she knew as a hopeless addict from Beersheva streets, she was truly surprised he was still alive...]*

**4. What about your relationship with God?**

*I have believed in God since childhood. Here I find out more about God through reading the Bible, lessons with Willy, Dov's sermons and fellowship with other people in the home.*

**5. What are your plans for the future?**

*I want to find a job, get on my feet in both physical and spiritual sense. I want to work, live, go to church, and do all that without alcohol abuse. I don't need much; I just want to live a normal life and have peace with God.*

Please pray for Andrew\* and all the other rehab's residents.

Thank you for all your care and prayers! Yours in Him, *Dov and Olga Bikas*

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