



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

NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2021

1. Beersheva rehab center

Dear Praying Friends,

Some of you have already heard our sad news that Oleg, our rehab center's manager, returned to drugs and left our ministry. It is very painful for all of us, as we loved and trusted him and we saw real, beautiful changes in him when he became a believer. Now he seems totally lost again, maybe even in a worse state than before. Please pray for him. It was a shock for our rehabilitants too, since Oleg was their example and leader. We do not know exactly what triggered his backsliding. He went through several difficult situations and at first we thought that he was simply suffering from exhaustion and stress, but in the end we discovered that he had returned to heavy drugs.

Our work, however, did not hinge just on one man, so the rehab program continues. We have just taken another person to be the manager of the rehab, who is a mature believer and a former addict who has been clean for 10 years already. He is a member of our congregation "Desert Flowers". He is a serious and dedicated follower of Christ, and also studied in Israel College of the Bible. His name is Wilhelm. Please pray for him.

Pray also for our rehabilitants. As a result of Oleg's backsliding half of them left (mostly those who weren't strong yet), so out of 13 only 7 remained. All of them are already on advanced stages of their rehabilitation. When Oleg confessed his drug abuse and left the rehab completely, two of our most mature rehabilitants accepted responsibility over the house and the rest of the group, and indeed the rehab remained clean and tidy, and its inhabitants continued with the usual routine. They even tried to stick to regular Bible studies on their own in those days when nobody could visit and teach them, and that was especially encouraging.



Bible study in the rehab led by a guest speaker.

Tel Aviv Outreach

Our outreach in Tel Aviv continues. Pray that we would finally be able to move our activities indoors for better conversations and fellowship with the street addicts. These days we see that more people are asking to be taken to rehabs, and this is very encouraging!



This month Aviv Center's manager, Eduard, got sick with Corona, as well as several volunteers, but all recovered, praise the Lord, and feel ok now.

Women's Shelter

Please keep praying for the Women's Shelter, for the women and children in it and for the team of its workers and volunteers. At present we have got 4 ladies and three children living in the Shelter (two ladies who had lived with us for about half a year moved on to pursue other goals). All of them came to us in poor condition as a result of post trauma, but now we see smiles and hear laughter, they are getting along with each



The Shelter's ladies and volunteers on a field trip.

other much better, and the kitchen gets filled with the nicest smells you can imagine! They still have a long way to go till full recovery, but the rehabilitation program is slowly showing its positive effects in their lives. They are also very open to the Gospel message. Please pray for them.

And finally, please keep praying for Olga. The recovery process is slow, but, praise the Lord, she is getting better and stronger, can already walk for 20 minutes and do some physical exercises.

Thank you all very much for your prayers and support!
Yours in Him, Dou and Olga Bikas

