



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

MINISTRY UPDATE: MAY 2022

“Eduard, it looks like God has sent you to us! We were given your number, but lost it after we had moved out of the hotel, and we were worried we would not be able to find you. Isn't it a miracle that now you approach us here, on the beach, out of the blue, and offer your help?” – this is what Eduard heard from one of the immigrant families he met while walking along Ashkelon beach promenade. Since Eduard was on his way back from a Shabbat service in his congregation and had several children's Bibles with him, he offered them to the families and they gladly took them.

Eduard's work with the new immigrants continues to gather pace: he and his helpers assist the newcomers in their different needs and close relationships are being formed as a result. Eduard would bring one family to a clinic in the morning, then another family to a government office in the afternoon, and then help a third family move their belongings to their new home in the evening. The immigrants are very grateful and impressed by this sacrificial work! Eduard shares with them about the Lord, and they become interested, ask for a Bible and some even come to his congregation's meetings on Shabbat or to the Bible studies in the Ashkelon rehab center which is under Eduard's management.

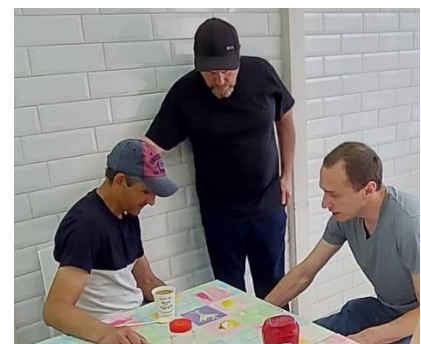


Immigrants at a Bible study in the rehab



Please pray for all the families Eduard is in touch with. Many have been traumatized by the war, left their loved ones behind, lost so much... Please pray especially **for Larisa's family** who immigrated to Israel with her husband, two daughters and two grandchildren just several weeks ago. Tragically, only a couple of days after their arrival, Larisa's husband went to swim in the sea and drowned (the Mediterranean can be very dangerous for those who are not familiar with it).

The outreach in Tel Aviv continues actively inside Aviv Center. Several days ago, four young men came for the first time who looked very self-confident and even cocky. They declined the invitation to go to a rehab center, but one of our volunteers, Leonid, still gave them his telephone number and urged them: “If one day you grow tired of this life and want to change it, please call us. The Lord will not leave you.” In response, one of the guys said before leaving: “I think this day will come pretty soon...” “When I heard that, - says Leonid, - I understood that behind this pride and cockiness their souls are actually crying for help. May the Lord keep them and help them turn to Himself and receive salvation!”



Prayer for an addict in Aviv Center

Also every Sunday **Tatyana, our Women's Shelter's manager, keeps going regularly to Tel Aviv brothels**, now together with our long-term volunteer Miriam*, to reach out to the ladies there. Some are reluctant to let them in, but others are very positive and open. Please keep praying for these ladies, as well as for all the street addicts who come to Aviv Center.

The ladies in our **Women's Shelter** are making progress. In February we accepted a **new resident, Nina***, a young woman, not a believer. She is a victim of sexual, emotional and physical abuse and is very traumatized. She also has Multiple Sclerosis. She is still not stable emotionally, but is very open to Tatyana and Miriam* and eagerly participates in the Bible Studies and all the activities of the Shelter. She believes that God exists and tries to pray, but she does not know Him personally yet as her Lord and Savior. Please pray for Nina*'s salvation, as well as for her health and for emotional stability.



We also ask you to pray for Tatyana and Miriam*. They are very attentive to each lady and care for them deeply, and sometimes it becomes emotionally difficult, especially when there are setbacks, or one of the ladies has a bad day, etc. Please pray for emotional and spiritual strength for Tatyana and Miriam*, as well as for God's wisdom in caring for each lady the best way.



The work of our **rehab center in Beersheva** continues. **At present we have got 9 rehabilitants.** Please pray for them! Interestingly, some of Beersheva addicts who left the rehab prematurely and returned to abusing drugs, have recently started coming to the Shabbat services of our church, Desert Flowers. The congregation greets them warmly and invites to participate in the general meal after the service. Please pray for them to return to rehabilitation and find true peace and freedom in the Lord!

And finally, about a month ago we launched the **new Russian website pages, which are intended for local addicts** who still live at home and not on the streets and for their family members who are seeking advice and support. As a result, we started getting calls, and could already send several addicts to our rehab in Beersheva and to other centers. Here is the address of the homepage, if you would like to take a look: <https://avivministry.com/ru/>

Thank you for all your care and prayers!

Yours in Him,

Dou and Olga Bikas

