

Ministry update – January 2023

God's Amazing Love and Mercy – Katya's story

A street girl who called herself Katya (which most probably was not her real name) used to come to Aviv Center for many years. She was good looking, but very thin and weak and ate very little. She was quiet and kind, we often saw her feeding the cats on the nearby streets.

We knew she not only abused, but also dealt drugs. She wasn't open to conversations and most of the time she was in a mental fog, so it seemed that no Biblical messages from Aviv Center volunteers were getting through to her.

Then one day she came and went up to the second floor of the Center for a nap (that was several years ago, when we allowed the addicts to sleep there on mattresses). Later, when she went down, she approached Leonid, the leader of the volunteer group of that day, with an unusually clear look in her eyes and said: "Leonid, this is the end of me."

"Why?! What has happened?" asked Leonid.

"I have been robbed in my sleep", she said. "Those drugs costed a huge sum of money. Now I am going to be killed for it. Please help me! Can you take me to your rehab center?"

Leonid called Oleg, the manager of a Christian rehab in Jerusalem, which accepted women.

"Yes, we will take Katya right away!" said Oleg. "We have been praying for her for years! And we are exactly passing through Tel Aviv on our way to Jerusalem."

They came and took Katya to their rehab.

Two weeks later Leonid got a call from Oleg.

"Katya became a believer," he said, "and God has taken her to be with Him in eternity".

It was both sad and touching to hear this news. Our Lord is good and merciful. He knew that Katya's health condition was critical and she had little time left on this earth, so He brought her to Aviv Center and arranged the circumstances in such a way that she would have to go to a rehab center, where she had her last chance to repent and where she passed peacefully to eternity.

What an amazing love our Father in Heaven shows to those who seem to us totally lost and hopeless!

News and prayer requests:

Thank you for your prayers for our **rehab center in Beersheva**! We are grateful to the Lord for the work of our manager Wilhelm, who takes good care of the rehabilitants and maintains a very warm atmosphere in the rehab. In 2022, it accepted 20 newcomers. Five of them stayed and continued their rehab program (which is a good outcome, since according to general statistics, only 1 in 10 addicts who come to a rehab stays in it and continues rehabilitation). Two of these five have finished the program already and now live independently, working, attending the church and visiting the rehab. Three are still in the rehab together with three more rehabilitants who started their program before 2022.

We are also very happy about our progress in the work of the **Women's Shelter** in 2022. We see that our staff is gaining more experience and knowledge, and with their help and by God's grace of course, the ladies we are taking care of are doing better, improving both physically and spiritually. In December **Nina*** left our Shelter and moved to a special rehabilitation facility because of her progressing Multiple Sclerosis. The social services are going to find a hostel for her that would meet her needs. Please keep praying for her. **Maya*** has just left us too – after 5 months in the Shelter. She wants to keep attending the church. Please pray for her too! In our opinion, it has been too early for her to leave, and we have told her that she is always welcome to return and continue the

program. Also pray that the Lord would send us new ladies according to his will, since now we have spare rooms in the Shelter.

Please keep praying for Olga's health condition (there has been no significant improvement this year) and also for me to stay healthy and energetic for all the tasks I need to perform.

Thank you for your prayers and may God keep you and bless you,

Dov and Olga Bikas and Aviv Ministry Team

Phone/WhatsApp:

+972-544-997336

www.avivministry.com

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16).



Bible Study in the Shelter



In Aviv Center



Small sweet Christmas greetings made by the volunteers' children



Rehabilitants and ladies from the Shelter in the church