



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

MINISTRY UPDATE: APRIL - JUNE 2019

Dear Praying Friends, shalom!

Today we want to tell you about the new project that we are planning to launch in the near future in Beersheva – a **Shelter for Women and Children in Crisis** like domestic violence, prostitution, human trafficking and extreme financial difficulties (because of husband in prison, lack of rights and/or citizenship, health issues, etc.). This idea has been on our hearts for quite some time already, but these days we feel that God is moving things forward very fast, putting all the pieces of the “puzzle” together.

First of all, we have been contacted by different people who were looking for a women’s shelter and who told us that in Israel there are **very few shelters for women** run by believers. (The government support in these situations is limited as well and accommodations are provided only in the most severe cases.)



In order to launch a project like this, of course, we need **partners, staff and resources**. And God has started sending us partners and helpers: two Israeli Christian/Messianic organizations that are already helping women in some way or another offered us their assistance, experience and even a possibility to raise funds for the new shelter. And one lady from our church (wife of Alexei, the director of our rehab center) who is a social worker and has got experience in this area agreed to work in the future shelter. In addition, we see that God keeps sending us people who become interested in the idea of the Shelter and express their willingness to help in the project.

The Shelter will provide these women and their children with spiritual, psychological and legal support to overcome the crisis and find the way out of it into a healthy and independent life. Needless to say that like all our projects this one is going to be **Christ centered** and will not just pursue humanitarian goals. Only the Lord Jesus can truly heal and restore these women and their families. We also believe that this ministry can be a great **evangelistic tool** to show God’s love and care not only to those we will be helping but also to many people around them – relatives, social workers, judges, etc. We also hope that eventually these women and children will join our local churches and will become a testimony and a blessing for them and for our society in general.

Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom to put the pieces of this “puzzle” together properly, as well as enough energy and resources to move forward! God willing, we are hoping to open the Shelter in the beginning of January 2020. **If you are interested to know more about the project, you can read the full description attached to this letter.**

And if God puts it on your heart to become our financial partner in this project (or if you know of some individual/organization that may be interested to do so) please get in touch with us.



Thank you for all your prayers and support!

Yours in Him, Dou and Olga Bikas

Post address (office): P.O.Box 1181 • Arad 8911002 • Israel • tel.: 972-8-933-02-18, 972-544-997336 • e-mail: dovbikas@gmail.com, website:

www.avivministry.com

Aviv Ministry
in partnership with
Machase Association and Holy Land Ministries

Project Proposal

Shelter for Women and Children in Crisis

Beer-Sheva, Israel
June 2019

Contact information of Aviv Ministry:

Dov Bikas (director), tel: +972-544997336

Email: dovbikas@gmail.com

www.avivministry.com

THE NEED AND THE VISION

Our vision is to open a **shelter for women and their children in crisis** like domestic violence, prostitution, human trafficking and extreme financial difficulties (because of husband in prison, lack of rights and/or citizenship, health issues, etc.). We hear quite often heartbreaking stories of single mothers (with no family or friends' support) who end up on the streets for various reasons, their kids being taken away by the social services... It also happens a lot that women from abroad whom the locals marry and then divorce, face the same danger of losing their kids - and being deported from Israel.

WHY THIS SHELTER?

Government shelters for women and children do exist in Israel, but their help is limited and, of course, they do not provide spiritual help which, as we are convinced, is the most important element of assistance these women need. Only the Lord Jesus can truly heal and restore them and their families. Besides, government women shelters are intended only for victims of domestic violence who need to hide from their husbands. For women who find themselves in any other type of crisis mentioned above there is no real help. The social services, again, will just take the children, leaving the mother to sink or swim.

At present, except for a small apartment for abused women in Jerusalem and a couple of rehab centers for women who are drug addicts, as far as we know, there are no Christian shelters for women and children in crisis in Israel. At the same time, we are convinced that this ministry is a great evangelistic tool that can show God's love and care not only to women who are in need of help but also to many people around them – relatives, social workers, judges, etc. We often see how the attitude of Israelis to our faith becomes so much more positive when they hear about the efforts of Christians/Messianic Jews in the humanitarian sphere.

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

THE POTENTIAL OF THE PROJECT: WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH ITS IMPLEMENTATION?

The Shelter will help the women and their children to find temporary shelter and provision for their basic needs, as well as spiritual, psychological and legal support to overcome the crisis and find the way out of it into a healthy and independent social and spiritual life and safe and stable situation for them and their children.

We also hope that eventually these women and children will join our local churches and will become a testimony and a blessing for them and for our society in general.

HOW WILL THE SHELTER BE OPERATED?

The Shelter will be operated Aviv Ministry in cooperation with two other Israeli Christian/Messianic organizations: “Machaseh Association” and “Holy Land

Ministries”. Both organizations have vast experience in working with women in crisis and their children and operating shelters. A representative of “Machaseh” is going to visit the Shelter every week to provide assistance and counsel.

The tenants of the Shelter will be attending Bible studies and any other activities included in the program, as well as getting any social, legal, medical, etc. help they or their children will need. They will also be invited to attend Shabbat services of our local Messianic congregation.

What kind of help will the tenants be getting?

Spiritual:

- 1) Bible studies and lessons
- 2) Spiritual counseling

Physical/residential:

- 1) Accommodations
- 2) Provision of food and help to meet other immediate physical needs

Social

- 1) Assistance in the social, legal, medical, etc. matters (consultations, support)
- 2) Assistance with childcare

Our Shelter will also be able to provide confidential counseling for women in crisis who are not in need of a shelter yet, but still need social, spiritual or legal advice.

THE STAFF OF THE SHELTER:

1. The shelter’s director and supervisor (also a professional social worker).
2. Visiting church elders and leaders.
3. Visiting counselors from partnering Israeli organizations.
3. Volunteers – local and from abroad.

THE BUDGET NEEDED FOR ONE YEAR:

Startup costs (renovations, furniture and equipment): 25,000 NIS

Rent: 84,000 NIS or \$23,500

Municipal tax, water, electricity, gas: 36,000 NIS or \$10,080

Food: 48,000 NIS or \$13,440

Salaries: 108,000 NIS or \$30,230

Volunteers: 36,000 NIS or \$10,080

Transportation, maintenance, misc.: 18,000 NIS or \$5,040

Total yearly budget (without startup costs): 330,000 NIS or \$92,370

SOURCES OF INCOME:

Since the shelter is going to have an openly Christian orientation we will not be able to receive any financial support from the government or the municipality. Therefore our only source of income is going to be donations from Christian organizations and individuals (mostly from abroad).