



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

## **MINISTRY UPDATE: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019**

*Dear Praying Friends, shalom!*

This time we would like to share with you the testimony of Oleg, who came to our rehab in the beginning of this year.

### ***The Lord succeeded to accomplish what nobody could***

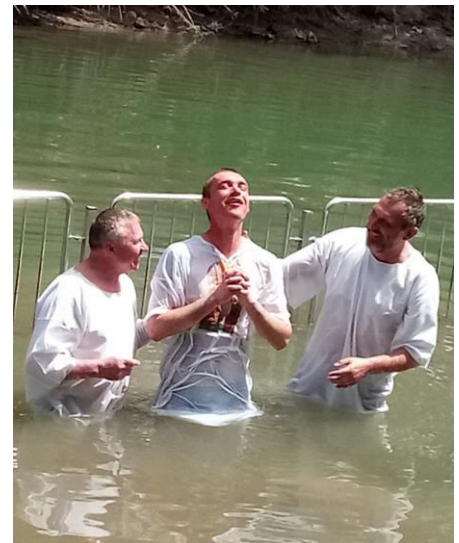
*My name is Oleg. I am 42 years old, I was born in Russia, in the city of Birobidzhan [in Russia's "Jewish Autonomous region"]. There were six people in our family: father, mother, three sons and one daughter. My family was trouble-free, but we were not believers. The relations between parents and children were good, the atmosphere at our home was always warm and cozy. Since childhood, I played sports and studied music, but my behavior was always bad, and I also did not study very well, but not too bad either; I graduated from ten classes and a technical school.*

*When I was 15-16 years old, the street had a very big impact on me. Already at this age I was engaged in criminal activity and I fought a lot on the streets. Then my first arrests followed and my first court hearings... At 20, I immigrated to Israel. I began to abuse drugs as soon as I had arrived... A year later I got my first Israeli criminal record. I tried many times to leave crime and drugs, but nothing worked. Twelve years in jail "taught" me a lot...*

*I abused drugs for twenty years, and no one could help me, not even my family members. Relationship with them always remained good, but I never told them much or asked for anything. During one of my jail times, my father and my sister died. Probably, it was then that I started thinking about God, because I could not pay them my last respects. My addiction and crimes were depriving me of everything, and I realized that, but could not do anything. Neither the tears of my relatives, nor the state rehab center could help me.*

*A year and a half ago, I was released from jail once again. I had no illusions that I would not return there eventually. One day, when I was sitting and smoking drugs [in Beersheva park], a friend of mine came up to me and gave me the number of a rehab center. I called them and came on the same day. Two months later I repented, and four months later I was baptized. The Lord succeeded to accomplish what nobody could. Today I am grateful to the Lord Jesus that I have something that*

*without Him I would never have found. I serve in the Church and in the rehab center, I have got a fiancée, but most importantly – I got to know the Lord and fell in love with Him!*



## Tel Aviv

We praise God that two new volunteer groups – from “Jews for Jesus” and from another Russian speaking Beersheva congregation – have joined our ministry in Aviv Center! Now 10 teams from different Israeli ministries and congregations operate the Center every week and it is open for longer hours: we have got 12 shifts every week – one shift on Friday and one on Saturday, and two daily shifts during the rest of the week. It is especially touching that even though Aviv Center volunteer



teams are from different Israeli congregations and denominations, they all work together as one heart – in harmony, united by the common goal. Please pray that more people would respond to the Good News that is proclaimed in Aviv Center daily.



## Beersheva

The director of our rehabilitation center, Alexei, has decided to move on to other occupations and will finish working with us in the end of October. So we – instead of looking for a new employee we do not know personally – decided to try and hire Oleg, our strongest and most responsible rehabilitant, whose testimony you have just read, to perform some of Alexei’s duties (our church elders and I are going to do the rest). Oleg is growing very fast spiritually, he is talented and humble, and the rehabilitants respect and listen to him. He also wants to study in Israel Bible College in the near future. Please pray for him and for the rest of our rehabilitants.

We keep raising funds for our new project – the Shelter for women and children in crisis. Soon we will already start looking for an appropriate home to rent. Meanwhile we meet with our Israeli partners regularly to develop the strategy, plans and goals for the shelter in as much detail as possible.

The park in Beersheva where we had been doing our outreach to the local addicts ceased to be their meeting place. Two gangs of dealers quarrelled over the dominance in this location, and one of them arrived with guns one day and forbid the addicts to come to the place. Now we are looking for their new meeting location but have not found it yet. Please pray.

Also please keep praying for Olga. Sadly, she is not getting better (recently she has even felt worse for a period of time).

Thank you and every blessing,

*Thank you for all your prayers and support!*

*Yours in Him, Dou and Olga Bikas*

