



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

MINISTRY UPDATE – FEBRUARY / MARCH 2016

Dear Praying Friends,

Our work in Tel Aviv goes on. The average attendance of “Aviv Center” is about 25 people per day. Recently we have had a meeting of all our team leaders – representatives of 6 rehabilitation centers who partner with us. All these centers work together, united by the same burden and goal: saving people who live and perish both physically and spiritually on Tel Aviv streets. Almost all these leaders are former addicts themselves, and they have got much zeal and motivation to keep reaching to those who need help. Please keep praying



Addicts on Tel Aviv street



In Aviv Center

for the street people, for our team and for the development of the ministry.

We also ask you to keep praying for Irena. The battle for her life has lasted for more than a year already and at times we thought we had witnessed complete victory, but, sadly, setbacks were there to discourage us... It has been the sixth time already that Irena returned to Tel Aviv. We tried to do everything possible to help her. The last two withdrawals she spent in our home, Olga by her side day and night, but when Irena felt better she still left. We see she has got deep emotional problems as a result of her traumatic past and lifestyle. Several days ago we took Irena back from Tel Aviv again, and for the first time she agreed to undergo serious treatment suggested to her by social services. We hope this partnership between us and the social services will do good to Irena and will also become another opportunity for us to witness about the Lord to non-believers.

Please pray also for Lena who has been staying in the women’s home in Haifa for almost four months already. We think she has made a good start with the Lord and she says she's thankful to be in the rehab. She has got her little boy with her. Lena is a musical person and plays the guitar for the prayer, worship and study times in the center.



Lena and Svetlana with Lena’s son on her lap.

Since March our rehab center for men in Beer-Sheva has got a new director (Igor finished his partnership with us and moved to another ministry field). His name is Alexei. He is a mature believer with experience in rehabilitation work. He is an enthusiastic servant and possesses good leadership skills. Please pray for him and for 5 rehabilitants who currently live in the center. All are stable, praise God.



Thank you very much for your prayers and may God bless you!

Yours in Him,

Dou and Olga Bikas

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P.S. Here is an excerpt from the testimony of Evgenij, a rehabilitant from Ashkelon, - about his experience in "Aviv Center":

...My whole family suffered... I tried to switch from methadone to another drug, but nothing changed. Then I cried to the Lord. Tears ran down my cheeks. After that I went with a friend to Tel Aviv to buy pills, and he told me: "Let's go to the Christians in "Aviv Center" and drink some tea." We went, and at the entrance of "Aviv Center" I saw Ilya – a guy who was with me on the methadone program. I asked him: "How did you recover so well?" I saw joy and light in his eyes. He told me how the Lord delivered him when he was already dying, and I remembered how a few days earlier I cried to the Lord. I



understood that God was answering me already! This thought made my flesh crawl. Ilya offered to pray for me. I agreed and entered "Aviv Center". He and someone else prayed for me and my friend, and from that day on I would visit the center regularly. I understand now that these people constantly prayed for me. I felt that! ... I began to understand what harm and pain I had caused my relatives – something I had never realized before, being too cold.

I cried to the Lord again, went to "Aviv Center" and asked to be taken into the rehab in Ashkelon. The Lord granted me freedom. I had almost no withdrawal pains, and there was not a single day that I could not sleep... Two months later with the brethren I started going back to Tel Aviv streets where I was taken from. There we feed people, dress their wounds and tell them how we were set free and that there is another life.

(You can read the full testimony of Evgenij on our website.)