



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

MINISTRY UPDATE – APRIL / MAY 2016

Dear Praying Friends,

This time we would like to share several stories with you as illustrations of our work – and of course as prayer requests.

Here is a short story of one drug addict, Alexander. We have known him for about 10 years already. He was one of the most difficult people that we tried to help to. It was almost impossible to talk to him. However, a month ago – praise God! – he decided to go to our partners' rehab in Askelon. His story reminds me of my own life: I too came to Israel as a child and grew up on the streets, since my parents had to work long hours. In the age of 15 I started toying with drugs... If God had not saved me when I was 26, I too would have surely become a homeless addict one day. That is why today I do not judge the addicts we work with, but have compassion for them and want to help them.

Before...



**After 1 month
in the rehab**



“My name is Alexander. In the age of 14 I moved with my family to Israel. I did not succeed in high school because of my poor knowledge of Hebrew, so I began to spend much time on the streets. My parents worked a lot, so they did not have enough time for me. When I was 15 I tried “ecstasy” and used this drug for two years, but then I got interested in sports and left “ecstasy.” When I lived independently already and worked, I met a guy who lived on the street and used heroin. I began to buy and use heroin occasionally myself, not believing at first that it was harmful and that I was becoming a drug addict. I worked and

lived in Petah Tikva and traveled to Tel Aviv and Lod for the drug. This went on for 15 years. One day a friend suggested that we visit “Aviv Center” in Tel Aviv, where Christians fed street people and dressed their wounds. I had festering wounds (because of drug abuse), so I went there. In “Aviv Center” I saw Elijah, a good friend of mine. I thought he was long dead. He told me what happened to him and that now he was a believer. I decided I wanted this life too and asked him to take me to a Christian rehab. I have been living in the rehab “Hazara-le Chaim” for one month already, and during this time great changes have happened. I want to stay in the rehab and become a believer. I'm afraid to fail, but I hope that God will help me. I ask everyone who will be reading my testimony to pray for me that God would give me strength. Thank you.”

We also ask you to pray for our Beer-Sheva rehabilitants.

One of them, Igor, is 50 year old. He was a drug addict for 25 years, and even was imprisoned several times. He has been in our rehab for about 2 years already. He is stable and serious, has always behaved very well, never causing any problems, but still considers himself a non-believer. Recently, however, I entered his room and noticed a Bible on his bed-side table! Please pray for his spiritual journey.

Michael, 36 years old, immigrated to Israel from Russia in the age of 23. He came to Israel alone and was doing well at first, working, earning good wages, dating a girlfriend. But than his girlfriend drowned, and because of this tragedy Michael sunk into depression, lost all meaning in life, started drinking alcohol, got into debts. At some point he even was imprisoned. He lost everything, including himself... He has been in our rehab for 1.5 years already, became a believer, stays away from drugs, goes to work outside the rehab and regularly volunteers in Aviv Center.

Moshe is 61 years old. He is a professional musician and worked in theatres and bars for many years. Because of the atmosphere of the bars he gradually became an alcoholic. He immigrated to Israel 15 years ago, but the change of country did not help him. In 2006 he went to a Christian rehabilitation center (in Yaffo) for the first time. He became a believer, but when he left the rehab and tried to live alone, he returned to alcohol. He has been living in our rehab for 2 years already. He keeps away from alcohol and takes great care of the whole rehab as a good housekeeper. He wants to serve God with his musical talents. He also regularly goes to Tel Aviv to serve in Aviv Center.



*Irena in our home after
returning from Tel Aviv*

Please keep praying for Irena. She spent a whole month away from drugs and prostitution, but then, sadly, she had a slip and returned to Tel Aviv. Several days after that she begged to take her back and we agreed, but we also stiffened the conditions to see if she was serious enough. As a result, she left again for Tel Aviv the next day. The situation looks almost hopeless, and we started to think that all the time and energy we have spent trying to help her during this year and a half were in vain. But then we recalled a verse from the Gospel of Matthew (25:40): “Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me”. Indeed, everything we did was done for Jesus, and only He knows what is still about to happen in Irena’s life. Please keep her in your prayers.

Thank you all for your prayers and support and may God bless you!

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