

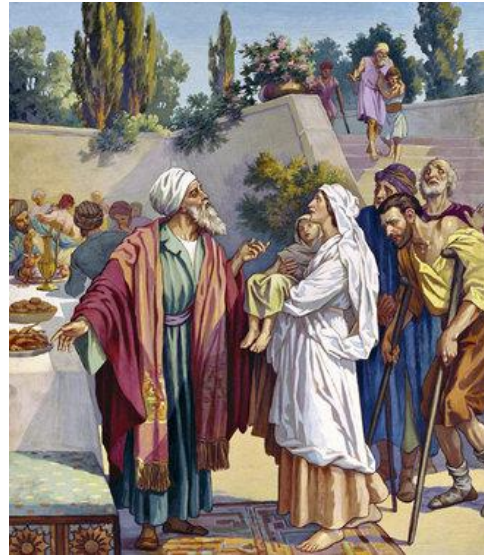


**AVIV MINISTRY – for Victims of Addictions and Sexual Abuse  
THE NEGEV MINISTRY – Evangelization and Church Planting**

## **MINISTRY UPDATE – JUNE / JULY 2016**

*Dear Praying Friends,*

As the time goes by, I become more and more convinced that ministry to the poor, homeless and addicted is one of the biblical methods of evangelism. For example, in Luke 14 we read the parable of the master who made a feast and invited many guests. However, these guests did not come because they were busy with their chores and needed neither fellowship, nor food. The master then sent his servants to bring in people from the streets – the outcasts of the society: the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind. He invited these outcasts first and foremost, because these people had nothing (neither fields, nor oxen, nor wives) and secondly because he knew they would gladly accept good food and fellowship.



From my experience of sharing the Good News in Israel, I have come to the conclusion that in this country it is very difficult to invite unbelievers that are absolute strangers to church or evangelistic activities. There have been times when we've organized various meetings, concerts, film screenings, and actively handed out invitations, yet only a few people responded. Like the parable, those who were called to "the feast" did not want to come. By contrast, since the day we opened our outreach center in Tel Aviv for drug addicts and the homeless, it has never remained empty. Today about 30 unbelievers attend Aviv Center every day. Our volunteers welcome them with sincere care and love, serve them delicious homemade food, and fellowship with them by sharing the Good News of God's love and salvation. For the "street people" who are lonely and hungry, this is a real feast! Then some of them even go to rehabilitation centers to start a new life.

This is just one method of evangelism, of course, but it is very effective and it can be used – I am sure – in a big city anywhere.

*“The poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind” are welcomed to “the feast”*



### **“Desert Flowers” Congregation**

At least three years have passed since I first spoke with a young Russian-speaking pastor, a son of our dear friends. We spoke about him coming to Israel with his wife and kids for long-term ministry – to serve as a leader/pastor in our congregation “Desert Flowers.” The whole process was not an easy one or a fast one, but the young pastor did receive permission to come and was able to move with his family to Israel last summer. He has stayed in Jerusalem for one year learning Hebrew and getting used to life in Israel. Finally, this September he is moving to Beersheva to start his ministry in “Desert Flowers!” We are very excited! Please pray that he will gain the people’s trust, love, and respect quickly.

We also wanted to let you know that because of certain disagreements with our co-workers in the women’s rehab center in Haifa we prayerfully decided to end our partnership with them in June. The center will continue working, but will no longer be a project of Aviv Ministry. We pray the work there will continue to grow and bring much fruit to the Lord.

Thank you, all, for your prayers and support. May God bless you!

*Yours in Him,*

*Dou and Olga Bikas*



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