



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

MINISTRY UPDATE – AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2016

Dear Praying Friends,

Praise the Lord— our rehabilitation center in Beersheva is full! Five new street addicts have joined us recently, so these days we are taking care of a total of 10 rehabilitants. Understandably, there is certain tension between the “new” and the “old” residents. Please pray that everyone would get along well with each other and that the new rehabilitants would find God's freedom from addiction and sin. Pray also for the possibility to reopen, God willing, a *second stage* rehab, so that we can separate the two groups and also be able to take in more new people.

Please keep praying for the work of our day outreach center in Tel Aviv. We have started opening it two nights a week. Now street people can come to us during the night to drink hot tea, eat, dress their wounds, or simply take a nap on soft mattresses. Many people come, so we want to keep these “night shifts” a part of our regular schedule.

We also visit nearby brothels and talk to the girls, inviting them to Aviv Center and giving them Christian literature. One day Eduard, the manager of Aviv Center, was passing near a brothel when he was suddenly invited to come and pray for one girl who felt very ill (her condition was critical) because of alcohol abuse. Eduard went in and prayed for the girl, and when he met her again in two months, she was feeling well. She said she was grateful for the prayers and also that she had stopped drinking completely. Sadly, however, she has not left her occupation yet. Please pray for her.



In Aviv Center

Sometimes we develop relationships with nearby secular businesses. For example, there is a carpentry shop near Aviv Center, owned by a guy named Amos. Amos did not like us, cursed us, and one day even called the police saying we had organized a “crack house.” However, we prayed for him and started cleaning not only our area, but his as well. Praise God – one day Amos came to us and asked if he could help us in any way! Today we are friends. He will join us for a snack and likes to hear that he bears the name of one of the biblical prophets. Please pray for Amos.



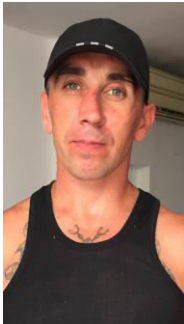
Praying with street people



Street addicts



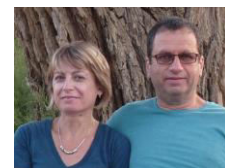
Valerij's testimony: *"My name is Valerij. I was born in Ukraine to a normal family. When I was 12 years old, I began smoking marijuana, hashish, and started spending all day in the street. At the age of 15 I moved with my family to Israel. My parents thought that this move would change my harmful lifestyle, but unfortunately the situation only got worse. Here in Israel I saw such freedom in getting and using drugs that I abused them even more, starting with ecstasy, which influenced my mind in a very negative way. I then switched to heroin, which I used for 15 years. I spent 12 and a half years in jail. When I became homeless, I started coming to Aviv Center for meals and to dress my wounds. There I met my old friend Ilyiah, who once was in prison with me. I had not recognized him until he showed me his old photos, where he looked just like I remembered him— a walking dead man. He began telling me about Christ – that only He can change our lives. After visiting Aviv*



Center for about a year and a half, I went to rehab where I stayed for two weeks and then left, thinking that this life was not for me. Soon I found myself in prison again and went through heavy withdrawals there. During this time I remembered the words I heard in rehab and cried out to God from the bottom of my heart. Eight months later, when I had been set free from prison, I made a firm decision to change my life. I went to Aviv Center and asked the volunteers to take me back into rehab. I have been in the rehab "Back to Life" (Ashkelon) for four months already and do not even think about leaving it. I help in the rehab as much as I can and sometimes go to volunteer at the Aviv Center."

We would also like to tell about a man named Sergey. He has been visiting Aviv Center almost since it was opened and was very uncooperative for quite a while, even to the point we considered forbidding him to come anymore. Sergey likes to read a lot, and for a long time was trying to prove the origin of the world from a "scientific" point of view. He always argued, trying to persuade others to stop listening to us. We prayed a lot for him and God started His work in Sergey's heart. In the past six months Sergey has changed dramatically! He is not ready to go to a rehab yet, but he is regularly bringing other street people to Aviv Center, saying these good deeds will help him know God better. Please pray for Sergey's salvation.

Thank you for your prayers and support. May God bless you!
Yours in Him,
Dou and Olga Bikas



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