



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

## **MINISTRY UPDATE – OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2016**

*Dear Praying Friends,*

In our May ministry update, you read the testimony of Alexander, an addict who came to Aviv Center and was directed to a Christian rehab “Hazara Le-Chaim.” He was doing really well, when suddenly he was sentenced to time in jail for his past misdeeds. We were saddened by this development and surprised. Usually judges are considerate to addicts who are undergoing a rehabilitation program and do not sentence them to actual jail time. However, we soon discovered this was God’s amazing plan of grace. First off, Alexander remained faithful to God and our volunteers visited him regularly in jail. And secondly, Alexander shared his testimony with another prisoner and told him about God’s love and deliverance. Here is the story of this person, who is now a rehabilitant in the same center where Alexander became a believer.



*“My name is Ilarion. I was born in 1986 in Russia. My mother died when I was 1½ years old. My father was an alcoholic and often beat me. He eventually remarried, but the marriage was unsuccessful and after a few years, a difficult divorce happened and involved violence and division of property. I started taking drugs and drinking alcohol at a very young age. As far back as I can remember, I have used addictive substances: starting with cigarettes, vodka and marijuana, and continuing with heroin, cocaine, LSD, MDMA, methadone, ‘Hagigot,’ Clonex, Valium, Xanax, Nocturno, Elatrol, Phenergan and so on. By the time I was thirty years*

*old, I had already been abusing drugs for 18 years and had been smoking cigarettes for 20 years.*

*Yet today I can testify that God has delivered me from all addictions, even from smoking. This happened a few months ago, when I was once again arrested and sent to Tel Aviv city jail. There I met a guy whom I had known previously as a notorious drug addict and criminal. I noticed he had changed a lot...and for the better! He did not use foul language, did not smoke, and behaved very strangely. I did not know then that this was a believer’s behavior. He told me about the rehabilitation center ‘Hazara Le-Chayim,’ but at first I did not take his words seriously. Then he called this rehab center and asked them to help me. That was not an easy thing to do, as someone had to bail me out of jail and also become my warrantor for a considerable sum of money. At that time I also had nowhere to live, was a drug addict, and infected with HIV and hepatitis C. It was a great risk for the rehab center, because there was the possibility that I would just run away the next day, which would leave the rehab center in serious financial trouble. Yet by faith, they still decided to help me graciously – only in the name of God. They took me to their rehab, and to all my ‘thank you’s’ they only replied, ‘Thank God.’*

*Then I repented, and my life changed. I am grateful God has delivered me from my addiction to drugs, cigarettes, and alcohol. I'm grateful that He brought me into 'Hazara Le-Chayim,' and gave me brothers in faith who live according to the commandments of our God and Lord. Today, as I am writing this testimony, it is hard to believe that only six months ago I was shooting heroin, lived on the streets of Tel Aviv, was hungry, had no opportunity to take a shower, and always feared a sudden arrest or even worse. Today I am happy that God has forgiven me all my sins. I live in the rehab center. I pray, read the Bible, work, and ask God to continue to restore my life. And it all began with the testimony of a cellmate who told me about a God who loved me...*

*Know that God loves you, and if He has saved a guy like me, He will definitely help you out if you call upon Him!"*

## **Saying goodbye to 2016 and welcoming 2017**

The New Year holidays are almost here, so we are looking back at 2016 and thinking about the future. We see that every day about 25 homeless and addicted people come to our outreach center in Tel Aviv, get immediate help (food, clothes, medical aid), and hear the Good News. Moreover, from January through October, sixty-seven addicts decided to go with either us or our partners to Christian rehab centers. Some left, of course, but others did stay and began a rehab program! And praise God – according to our statistics, about 70% of those who finish our rehab programs become sincere Christians!



rescue more people from physical and spiritual destruction. Please pray that the Lord would guide us and provide the resources necessary for this project.

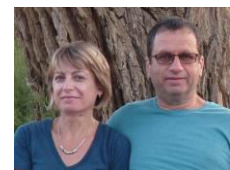
That is why in 2017 we want to continue working and see our ministry grow. Recently we have strongly felt the Lord leading us to open a second stage rehab center for men: a **Halfway House**. Our rehab in Beersheva is full, so we currently cannot take new people from the streets. If we open a Halfway House, we will be able to move our recovering addicts there and start accepting new rehabilitants at the rehab center. This way we can double our "bed space" and

***Thank you very much for your prayers and support!***

***It is an honor to partner with you!***

***MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH A MERRY CHRISTMAS***

***AND A HAPPY NEW 2017 YEAR!***



*Yours in Him,*

*Dou and Olga Bikas*

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