



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

MINISTRY UPDATE – JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Praying Friends,

We want to take some time to tell you about Dennis, a young man we took in from the streets of Tel Aviv several months ago. Here is his testimony:

“My name is Dennis and I am 23. My family and I immigrated into Israel from Russia when I was two years old. We were quite poor. Only my father worked and my mother stayed at home to take care of the kids and also had various problems. That is why at a very young age I started looking for after school jobs or even used to skip school altogether to earn money and buy things my parents could not afford to buy for me. This was what eventually led me to drugs and other problems. My family’s poverty and feelings of not being understood pushed me to spend more time on the streets than at home.



When I was 15 I started attending a Messianic congregation with my family in the north of Israel. It was a very good congregation. I attended it for two years. God touched my heart during that time and changed me, but then I backslid and left the faith. It was then that my degradation began, which led to the most serious problems in my life. Today I know what a frightful step it was to walk away from God and thank Him that now I am with Him again and that my life is changed. I finished school and went into the army as a non-believer. Even before the army I already smoked cigarettes and abused drugs and alcohol. It was my “freedom” and my “escape” from my parents and my life. I did not want to listen to anyone. I spent three years in the army, was demobilized, and then my situation got worse. I hit a very hard rock bottom and am not even comfortable going into more detail. I will just say I still have bad memories of that period and even nightmares that keep haunting me. I desperately needed God and His help; I could not go on living like that anymore...

To make the long story short, I went to Aviv Center in Tel Aviv and asked the volunteers who served there to take me to a Christian rehabilitation center. That same day I was taken to the rehab in Beersheva. The most important thing is that today I am with God and believe in Him wholeheartedly. He has shown me where I will end up without Him. I thought I was so clever and knew everything, but God opened my eyes to see who I was really without Him. I am grateful He gave me a chance to change my life and start over – and most importantly, with Him. I am glad I am still young and have time to grow spiritually.

I also want to thank everyone who is helping me: you are part of God’s plan in my life. I thank God and you that through you I have established my life in the Lord. I am grateful that through Aviv Ministry I was able to know my Heavenly Father better and deeper. I have gotten out of darkness and sin and now enjoy blessings in my new life.

I am writing to anyone who supports this rehab center to thank them for their prayers. By God’s grace, they are saving people in distress and leading them to the way of life in Jesus Christ. I hope I will be able to meet them someday and thank them personally and not only in writing!”

Aviv Center – late evening/night ministry



Not too long ago we added “night shifts” to our schedule at Aviv Center because the rainy season had begun in Israel and the people who live on the streets remain without shelter during cold nights. At first, we opened up once a week, then twice, and now we have night shifts four to five times a week. This became possible because new volunteers from Messianic congregations have joined us, all united by the same goal – to help needy people. We are happy Aviv Center is a place where Israeli believers can actively share their faith and serve the needy in many practical ways. At present nine volunteer teams work together in Aviv Center. This is about 45 people from different Israeli congregations and rehab centers. Please keep praying for this ministry.

In addition to working with street people, we also get calls from relatives (parents, wives, sisters) of drug addicts. They ask for advice, prayers, and sometimes want to help in some way. Sometimes we also receive visitors from the neighboring businesses (there is a bakery, a carpentry shop, a reception center of recyclable materials) who come to Aviv Center for a snack and coffee/tea. We are happy that they too have a chance to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Interestingly enough, recently several secular university students have started showing up at Aviv Center, as well as walking around the area as they gather material for their research in psychology. They have been touched by everything they’ve seen and have asked for permission to come and help us!

Prayer Requests

Recently the police conducted a raid in the area and arrested several drug dealers who were selling a very heavy synthetic drug. As a result – thankfully – this drug has disappeared from the streets. These days, however, another drug, which is even more destructive, is being sold. Recently, during a very short period of time, many people have died because of it. These events have motivated us to become even more active by reaching out to as many addicts as possible, looking for new locations in the area where they may gather, and taking them to rehabilitations centers even if they are already full. Please pray for this situation.



We also ask you to keep praying for the new project we want to launch this year – a second-stage rehab. Our first-stage rehab center in Beersheva is full and the need to make more bed space for newcomers is very urgent.

Personal Requests

These last few months have been quite difficult for our family. In November Olga started suffering from severe backaches. There were days when she could hardly move. Now her condition is improving, but very slowly. I am now having backaches too, though not as severe. Then on the 1st of February, Olga’s mother Lydia went to be with the Lord. She and Olga were very close. Please pray for our family.

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

Yours in Him, *Dou and Olga Bikas*

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