



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

## **MINISTRY UPDATE – MARCH / APRIL 2017**

*Dear Praying Friends,*

In this newsletter, we would like to tell you about two new rehabilitants of Beersheva rehab – Kyrill and Dennis (not the same “Dennis” we wrote about last time, of course). Please pray for them. They started our rehab program about a month ago. Below are their stories.

**Kyrill** is 29 years old. When he was 12 he immigrated to Israel with his family from Russia. He finished school successfully and then went to the army. Kyrill served in the combat forces, where he befriended other soldiers and together they started drinking alcohol regularly. “Drinking became part of my normal lifestyle,” tells Kyrill. “I did not notice how it developed into a heavy addiction. Thankfully I had believing friends who suggested to me I go to the rehab in Beersheva. Thanks to this rehab and all who pray for me, I have no desire to drink or smoke anymore. I am grateful to Jesus that He accepts us as we are.”



**Dennis** is 35 years old. “I was born in Latvia, into a normal two-parent family,” Dennis says. “From the age of six, I started learning kickboxing. I was doing well in school and led a happy life until I started participating in criminal activities (gangs love to recruit sportsmen).” At the age of 21, Dennis came to Israel and began living on a *kibbutz* with other young immigrants. He continues: “In the beginning everything went quite well, but after three months I left the kibbutz and went to a big city to live and work on my own. Soon I met and befriended guys who belonged to a local criminal gang. Luckily, at that time the rest of my family (my mother and sister, along with her family) had immigrated to Israel and I left everything and joined them on another *kibbutz*. I was so happy to live with my mother and help her. This was the reason for my existence. We lived in a nice home and my sister’s family lived nearby.

“Everything was great until the dreadful day my mother was rushed to the hospital and we were told she had terminal cancer. We tried to help her as much as we could. I visited her every day at the hospital after work. One day I came and she said, ‘Hug me, son.’ These were her last words. At that moment, my life became pointless. I started drinking and abusing drugs. I returned to my old friends and criminal activity. I was taking heavy drugs for seven years and overdosed a couple of times.

“Then one day in Tel Aviv I met people who asked me, ‘Do you want to be born again?’ I did not understand their question, so they explained to me that if I believed in Jesus I could start a new life. I decided I wanted to have faith and to live – and as a result went to the rehab of ‘Aviv Ministry’ in Beersheva. Here I am feeling better, especially when my new friends pray for me. I am grateful to pastor Rudi, to the rehab’s director Alexei and his wife, and of course to our Heavenly Father who helps us along our difficult path.”

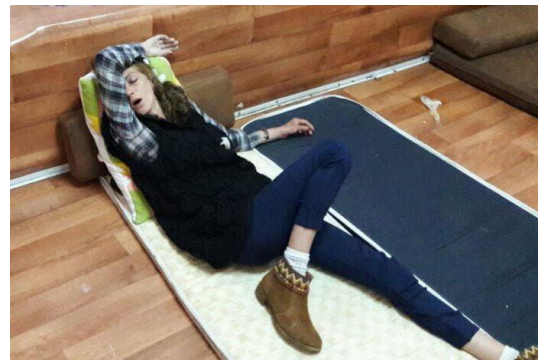


This is Sergey – one to whom we have ministered in south Tel Aviv. His parents divorced when he was a young boy and this tragedy made a very negative impact on his life. He started drinking alcohol as a teenager and became heavily addicted to it. At the age of 18, he immigrated to Israel and started living on a *kibbutz*, but soon was driven out because of frequent breach of discipline. Eventually Sergey ended up on the streets of Tel Aviv, addicted both to alcohol and drugs. By the age of 29 he had undergone complete degradation as a person. At some point, however, he started visiting Aviv Center and met believers from some of the other Christian rehab facilities. Today he is in rehab in Ashkelon and is doing much better. He is reading the Bible and prays, and gladly attends church meetings. Please pray for him.

### News and prayer requests

We keep ministering to drug addicts, the homeless, and prostitutes in south Tel Aviv. Recently the police closed the central gathering location of the addicts which resulted in them scattering around the city. Nevertheless, the attendance of our center did not drop, and many addicts keep coming – even from afar – especially at night. (Recently we bought more mattresses and the addicts can sleep on the second floor of the center).

At present, each month the soup kitchen of Aviv Center serves about 1,000 meals and six to eight street people decide to start a rehab program at one of Israeli Christian rehabilitation centers.



*In Aviv Center, during night shifts*



*A Passover Seder at our Beersheva rehab. The closest person on the left is Dennis, who we wrote about in our previous update. He is doing well – praise God.*

Our rehab in Beersheva is currently taking care of ten rehabilitants. Please keep praying for the possibility to open a second stage rehab center! We recently celebrated a Passover Seder with them along with some people from our congregation.

Please pray for the outreach of Aviv Center, for the rehabilitants in our Beersheva rehab, and for the addicts who stayed in rehab for some time, but eventually returned to their old ways of life.

Please keep praying for Irena, the woman we wrote about many times in our letters last year. In the past few months she has tried to start a rehab program three times in different Christian centers, but sadly returned to the streets.

Please continue to pray for Olga’s health. The improvements are very small and slow. The condition of her back still does not let her stand or sit for more than ten minutes.

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

Yours in Him, *Dou and Olga Bikas*

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