



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

MINISTRY UPDATE – MAY / JUNE 2017

“My name is Igor K. I immigrated to Israel 22 years ago from Russia. I have been abusing drugs for 18 years. Many times I wanted to quit, but it did not work. I was once married and I have a son whom I had not seen for about seven years. I lived on the streets for five years and used to come to Aviv Center often. I had been to different rehab centers, but had not been able to stay there long. One day I went to Aviv Center to eat and spoke to the volunteers there. They persuaded me to go with them to their rehab in Ashkelon.

I have lived at this rehab for almost five months already. During this time I have reconsidered a lot in my life. I got help with restoring my documents and also with medical care. God started working in my life, and I began to learn how to trust Him. All this time I did not give



Igor K. before and after



up hope to find my son and prayed about it. The Lord revealed Himself in a wonderful way, albeit through sad events. The director of our rehab received a call from a young man who asked to start a rehabilitation program. It turned out this man was my son! My joy had no limits, because it turned out that he also had a wife and a son, whom I had never even heard of. I had an opportunity to tell my son about Christ and deliverance from addiction. I do not know what will happen tomorrow, but I'm sure of one thing: while I'm with God, I'll be alright. Once again I want to thank the

leaders of Aviv Center, for allowing Aviv Center to be a place in which I could go to rehab and get to know Christ.”



We want to share with you joyful news about **Valerij**. We wrote about Valerij last year. He is a man who – not very long ago – was dying on the streets of Tel Aviv and then came to Aviv Center (perhaps just for the food). There he heard the Word that changed His life and successfully completed his rehabilitation program! Moreover, this person who was at some point abandoned by everyone – even his parents – has now been baptized and made a covenant with the Lord, pledging to serve Him with clear conscience!

News and prayer requests

Tel Aviv. Our outreach center in Tel Aviv keeps busy by welcoming and feeding street people, many of whom have lost all hope and meaning in life. In front of the center, for a long time there had been an area where many homeless, drug addicts, alcoholics, prostitutes, and drug dealers used to gather. They built tents there and lived in them, isolated from the rest of society. On the one hand, it was convenient for us, as we did not have to go far to invite them to Aviv Center. And yet it was a terrible place; each time you entered it, you would immediately find yourself in a completely different world in which terror, darkness, and death reigned (many times we witnessed bodies being packed in black bags and taken to morgue). Every time we went there, we prayed the Lord would clean this area. Many other believers prayed the same. And today we see God's response to these prayers! The city authorities removed the tents of the drug addicts and built an elementary school instead, with playgrounds on which children's laughter is now heard! The Lord turned darkness into light! It is interesting that at the same time the attendance of Aviv Center did not decrease, although the addicts scattered throughout Tel Aviv. We also keep walking the streets trying to feed and share the Gospel with those addicts who do not come to Aviv Center themselves.

Beersheva. We keep working on our rehab in Beersheva. Generally, we have 8-10 people living in the rehab center. Sometimes the number of rehabilitants is higher, and in these cases we allow people to sleep in the living room. For this purpose we have two sofas. However, additional beds do not solve sanitary issues, since there is only one toilet in the house.

Recently, three new people came to our rehab center. Sadly, one left in the middle of his rehab program. Also, one of the older rehabilitants, Dmitrij, successfully completed the program, found a job, and left to live independently. We blessed him and prayed for him to continue to walk with the Lord. So, with those two gone, today we have eight tenants in rehab. Two are first-stage rehabilitants and six are in the second-stage.



Alexei with the rehabilitants at a Bible study

The rehabilitants attend Shabbat meetings at the church and regular Bible studies at the rehab center. On Tuesdays they go to Aviv Center in Tel Aviv to feed the homeless and street addicts and share the Gospel with them.

These days we are discussing with our landlord the option of renting an additional apartment in the adjacent building for the purpose of expanding our ministry (opening a Halfway House for mature rehabilitants). We will also need more volunteers, of course, and are actively searching for candidates. Please keep praying for God's guidance and blessing!

Please keep praying for Olga's health. She still has acute backaches. She is getting medication and physiotherapeutic treatments that will hopefully improve her condition.

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

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