



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

MINISTRY UPDATE – JULY / AUGUST 2017

Tel Aviv Outreach

The ministry at our outreach center in Tel Aviv goes well, praise God! We are happy to see new volunteers joining our teams and coming even for late night shifts, despite the fact that many of them have regular jobs. One of our volunteer teams started visiting a municipal night shelter situated several miles away from Aviv Center to meet more homeless people, to have fellowship with them, and invite them to Aviv Center. One day on the way back the volunteers met an addict in a wheelchair dressed in a hospital patient gown. They brought him to Aviv Center, fed him, and found out he fled from a nearby hospital to buy drugs. They suggested bringing him back and he agreed. They prayed for him before



leaving the hospital and he promised not to go looking for drugs again. When the volunteers visited him once more in a couple of days he was very happy to see them and said he decided to go to a Christian rehab center after leaving the hospital. Please pray for him. His name is **Sasha**.



Pray also for our volunteer **Tatiana**. She has cancer, yet nevertheless continues to volunteer in Aviv Center regularly. Pray also for her daughter **Shirel**, who was in a traffic accident about a year ago and since then she remains in a very poor physical condition.

Beersheva rehab center

At the rehab center – as always – people come and go, and some remain to seek God. At this point there are nine rehabilitants in rehab. Most of them already go to work and are preparing for independent life. Recently we were able to renovate the rehab house and add another toilet, which improved the sanitary and hygienic living conditions in the center. We also bought double-bunk beds to be able to host more rehabilitants in the center – especially in view of the upcoming winter. We still need to separate the residents at least into two levels for a more effective rehab process (and to be able to accept more addicts from the streets), but still cannot open a Halfway House for mature rehabilitants because of lack of funds. Please keep praying!

Recently a representative of a small union of churches in Russia visited us and offered very important help. The union is willing to start sending ministers who would come for a period of one month at a time to live in our rehab center and help us care for and disciple our rehabilitants. We are very happy for this partnership and are praying for its successful implementation.

We praise God that one of our mature rehabilitants, R., has decided to start studying at Israel College of Bible. He became a believer many years ago at another rehab, but then became disappointed in the believers around him. He left the church, returning to his addiction. Now we are happy to see his progress and spiritual growth. Please pray for him. (The director of our rehab, Alexei, is going to start studying at Israel College of Bible as well.)



Our Beersheva rehabilitants are currently taking part in a **new humanitarian project** we have started in the city. In Israel, poor people do not have cars and have no choice but to buy food in expensive shops close to their homes. The large, and often much cheaper supermarkets, are situated in remote places in the city and even outside of it. It is very difficult to get there without a car. So we came up with an idea to start bringing people to these remote supermarkets regularly

in our van in order to help them reduce their food expenses. Our rehabilitants also assist these needy by carrying the bags to their apartments. Our main purpose, of course, besides the humanitarian one, is sharing the Gospel and building new relationships. We began implementing this project last month and assisted the residents of a home for elderly people we had gotten in touch with through a member of our church. Please pray for this new ministry.



We praise God for **Evgenij** - a former addict we wrote about in our ministry update a year-and-a-half ago. He finished his rehabilitation, became a serious believer and then fell in love with a girl who came from Russia to volunteer at his rehab. After some time he proposed to her and this month they were married! Praise the Lord for His miracles!



Please keep praying for **Irena** – a prostitute and addict whom we took care of for about a year in 2015-2016. She returned to the streets and recently has been to three different Christian rehabs, but could stay in none of them. She is on the streets of Tel Aviv again in miserable condition, but thankfully she attends our outreach center there regularly.

Please keep praying for **Olga's health**. There has been no substantial improvement with her back pain yet. The doctors have sent her for additional checkups (MRI) and started talking about an operation ...

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

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