



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

MINISTRY UPDATE: JANUARY - MARCH 2018

Dear Praying Friends,

Please keep praying for **Olga**. She has been suffering from severe back aches for a year and 4 months already. She goes through checkups and various kinds of treatment, but without substantial changes for the better. She is still home bound (we can already go for short walks near our home, but for no longer than 15-20 minutes) and needs constant assistance, so I keep performing all domestic and ministry tasks and can leave home only for short periods of time. (Thankfully it has got no negative influence on the ministry and it keeps growing.) On the other hand, praise God, *emotionally and spiritually* Olga is doing really well and says she feels closer to God than ever before!

Tel Aviv Outreach

Aviv Center is operated by more than 50 volunteers from different messianic congregations and rehabs. The center has become a place where every believer can follow the steps of Jesus who came to “seek and save the lost”. The following testimony was written by **one of our volunteers, Viktoria** from Ashkelon:

“I have been going to Aviv Center for about a year. During this time I met many drug addicts and prostitutes. I see that they are ordinary people, broken by parents or life circumstances, unable to rise and keen to prove something to someone by their wrong ways, to get at least some pleasure from drugs and women. In Aviv Center they receive food, some medical aid and clothes. They can rest, read or take Christian literature, testimonies of former drug addicts, can see photos of those who have already completed rehabilitation programs, can listen to Christian songs and see that there are other types of people and a different way of life.



In Aviv Center

I remember the day when one woman addict came and asked to give her some takeaway food. I gathered a meal for her, warmed it up in a box and put it into a beautiful bag. She looked at it, then looked at me and said that even her mother had never packed anything for her so nicely. Then another woman came with wounds on her legs, and while one sister, Dina, was washing her feet, she was sitting and crying because nobody had ever

treated her so kindly before. This seems like no big deal, but for the addicts it is very important. Because of this, they open up and we can tell them that there is a Living God who changes lives for the better and gives real peace to the soul. Some drug addicts approach us and sincerely say that they respect us for what we do, and that means they can see the love of God through people. I am sure that the ministry in Aviv Center is important for the salvation of human souls, and I thank God for this work and for all the people who take part in it”.

And here is another story – about **Rosa, our volunteer from Beersheva**. Rosa used to come to Aviv Center regularly to serve and dress wounds (she is a doctor), but then stopped coming for different reasons. Some time after that, when she was at the market place in Beersheva, she felt her purse was being stolen from her pocket. She quickly turned around and saw that the robber was one of the addicts she used to meet in Aviv Center! The addict recognized her too, but did not run away. Instead he apologized and returned the purse! After that Rose understood that God was calling her to resume her ministry in Tel Aviv.



First medical aid in Aviv Center

Beersheva rehab center and more prayer requests

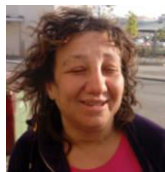


Rehabilitants and Bible teachers at a meal

We are grateful to the Lord for **two more men who have completed our rehabilitation program** and have started living independently. It means that recently the total of five rehabilitans have become our “graduates”. We continue to keep in touch with them. Please pray for them too.

Please pray for **young Roman** – an addict who has already been in and out of our rehab up to ten times. Last time he left he stole 1000 shekels from one of the volunteers in the rehab. After that I met Roman in Tel Aviv and, to my surprise, he admitted he stole the money, said he was sorry and wanted to resume the rehab program and return what was stolen. I was very happy to hear that! Please pray that this time Roman would be able to finish the program and find true freedom in Christ.

I also wanted to tell you about another addict, **Igor**, whom I have known for about 12 years already. He has always been unresponsive and difficult to approach. Several days ago, however, he came to me and said he started reading the Bible and wanted to repent. Please pray for him. We notice that sometimes addicts attend Aviv Center for years before such moments of “enlightenment” happen that may finally lead to their repentance and salvation.



This is **Irena** we used to write about some time ago. Sadly, she is still on the streets. Please keep interceding for her before the Lord.

**Thank you for your prayers, care and support!
May God bless you all,**

Yours in Him, Dou and Olga Bikas

