



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

## **MINISTRY UPDATE: END OF 2019 – BEGINNING OF 2020**

### **Beersheva**

*Dear Praying Friends, shalom!*

We praise the Lord for the current situation in our rehab center in Beersheva. Perhaps, since the day it was opened in 2013, it has not been that productive. All the rooms are full: we've got 12 rehabilitants, and more want to come, but we are no longer able to accept new people. Oleg is doing a great job as the rehab's leader and manager; he takes good care of the rehabilitants and they respect and love him. We have got both drug and alcohol addicts, and also one young man, A. (29 years old, a son of a lady from our congregation), who is suffering from a serious depression. He was a believer in the past and then left the Lord and sunk into depression, but now we see he wants to return to God.



*Bible study in the rehab*

Please pray for all our rehabilitants, and especially for three of them who have repented recently! One of them, K., had been trying to get rid of his addiction for two and a half years and had left and returned to the rehab several times. Last time he left he was attacked on the street and stabbed in the chest, but, praise the Lord, he recovered and returned to our rehab, where he finally gave his life to Jesus two weeks ago!

The other rehabilitant, M., came to Israel as a refugee from Ukrainian war-zones, and even though he had Russian orthodox background, he did not follow the Lord, and became a criminal and an addict. Now, having decided to follow the Savior, he is amazed at the changes that started happening to him.

The third rehabilitant, S., had a nervous breakdown many years ago and started drinking heavily. Because of the addiction he had to leave his family. He lived on the streets, where he heard about Aviv Center. For three weeks he would visit the soup kitchen of the center every day, and then decided to go to our rehab. *"In the past I used to solve all my problems through alcohol."* says S. *"I had been drinking for a long time, but then I saw that my life went by meaningless, that I hit the bottom and had no way out. I did not really believe in God and did not understand believers and their values. Now I am beginning to realize how terribly mistaken I was. Gradually the Word of God starts revealing itself to me. Now I am trying to make up for the lost time. I want to be cleansed of my sins, return to normal life with the Lord and return to my family".*

Praise the Lord!

## Tel Aviv



Aviv Center keeps working, and its attendance is growing. Volunteer teams from six rehabs and four congregations participate in this outreach. They keep operating the food kitchen and distributing second hand clothes, and some of them also provide first medical aid. Our main purpose, however, remains the same: to share the Gospel with every person and encourage them to leave the streets and start rehabilitation.

I am very proud of our volunteers, who are so full of enthusiasm and compassion. They come from different parts of Israel, sometimes quite from afar, taking a day off from work, to care for the lost and bring God's love to them.

In 2020 we want to keep working and developing our ministry even further. The field is huge and the need is urgent. The life of drug addicts and the homeless is totally unpredictable and each day may become their last chance to hear and receive the Good News of salvation and deliverance.



## Women's Shelter

I am happy to share with you that we have finally found a nice home that we can rent for the Women's Shelter! When I was preparing to launch this project, I thought that the main difficulty would be to raise sufficient funding and find a suitable worker, but I did not think it would take us so much time to find a home we would be able to rent. Each time it seemed we had found the right place and we were ready to sign the contract, something would go wrong: as a rule, when the owners heard that the place would be used as a women's shelter by a non-profit organization, they either refused (fearing "problematic" tenants) – or raised the rent considerably. Only recently we have finally been able to find a home which is big enough, far enough from other buildings, in a pretty good condition and with a nice, sympathetic owner!

The house is still occupied, and we can start renting it only in May, but we opened the Shelter in January anyway as was planned: during the first four months we will be able to accept our tenants in a three bedroom apartment that belongs to our partner organization, Holy Land Ministries, and then we will move the Shelter to the rented house.

In January the new Shelter already helped its first family: a mother with 4 young children. She stayed in it waiting for her court hearing. At the hearing the judge made a decision which should improve her situation, so she decided to leave the Shelter and return to her town. She was very grateful for our support.

Please keep this new project in your prayers.

*Thank you for all your prayers and support!*

*Yours in Him, Dou and Olga Bikas*

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