since 2005

AVIV MINISTRY

For victims of addictions and abuse

«For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost» (Luke 19:10)

MINISTRY UPDATE: OCTOBER 2026

Dear Praying Friends and Partners, shalom!

A former soldier traumatized by the war with Hamas, a man who found himself on a park bench in Beersheva with nowhere to spend the night – this month, we would like to share with you the stories of Adam* and Sergey, along with encouraging news about the first resident of our new Arab Rehabilitation Center in Ramla.

"I Want to Make Peace with God"

About two years ago, while I [our volunteer Igal] was serving at Aviv Center in Tel Aviv, a young man walked in and asked for something to eat. While he was eating, we started talking. I shared my testimony with him, and he told me his story too.



Adam* was in his early thirties. His occasional drinking and drug use began after his compulsory military service in a combat unit, but it became much worse after nearly a year of reserve duty in Gaza following the Hamas attack on October 7.

"I saw very difficult things there," he told me. "I lost several friends. The drugs help me escape from reality."

I told him, "I can only imagine how much pain you are carrying. But there is Someone who understands you better than I ever could – God."

"I believe there is a God," Adam replied, "but I think He has forgotten us."

We talked a little longer, and then Adam left. But he kept coming to Aviv Center. Whenever I saw him, I encouraged him to enter rehabilitation and open his heart to what God could do in his life, but he was not ready to go. Finally, about two months ago, my phone rang at around 3:00 AM. It was Adam.

"Can you take me to the rehabilitation home?"

"Of course!" I told him. I made myself a large cup of coffee and drove to pick him up.

The beginning was very difficult for Adam. The withdrawal symptoms were severe, and several times he wanted to give up. But we encouraged him to stay, and again and again Adam would say,

"I don't want to go back to the streets!"

So he stayed, and slowly we began to see a change. Recently, after a Bible study, he came up to me and said, *"I want to make peace with God."*

Those words moved me deeply. We knelt down together, and Adam prayed, asking Jesus to forgive him and become Lord of his life.

🙏**Please keep Adam in your prayers** – that the Lord will strengthen him day by day as he continues his journey of recovery and faith.

"God Did Not Leave Me Alone"

When **Sergey**, 45, was lying on a park bench in Beersheva on the eve of Yom Kippur, he had no idea where he would sleep that night – or what would happen next.

Sergey had come to Israel from Moldova to work at a Dead Sea hotel, where he also lived. On one of his days off, he went to the beach, had a few drinks, and suddenly started feeling very unwell. He was taken to a hospital in Beersheva.

The next day, just before Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement, when almost everything in Israel shuts down and even traffic comes to a halt), he was discharged – still weak and far from recovered. After the incident, the hotel would not take him back, which meant he had also lost the place where he had been living.



"I didn't know where to go or what to do," Sergey remembers. "I walked from the hospital until I reached a park. I hardly had any strength left, so I lay down on a bench and fell asleep."

That was where an elderly woman named Frida, a believer in Yeshua (Jesus) found him. She could have just walked by, but she stopped, brought Sergey water, listened to his story, and when she realized he had nowhere to go, she did something even more unexpected – invited this complete stranger into her home.

Sergey stayed at Frida's house with her family for a day and a night. Then, after Yom Kippur ended, she called her son-in-law – who turned out to be none other than Wilhelm, the director of our Beersheva Rehabilitation Center 😊 – and asked whether Sergey could stay there temporarily.

So, Sergey came to us and stayed for ten days. He did not have an addiction issue and was not entering a rehabilitation program. He simply needed a safe place to recover and time to figure out what to do next.

Physically, he quickly began to regain his strength. But something else was happening as well:

"Every day we talked, read the Scripture and prayed," recalls Sergey, "*I began to learn about God – Someone I had hardly thought about before. I had time to stop and think about my life – about my decisions, the way I had lived, and where I was going.*"

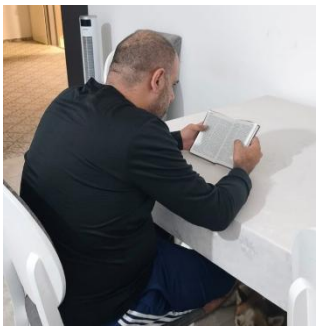
During his short stay, Sergey also found a new job in Jerusalem that included accommodation. Once he had recovered, he was able to leave the rehab center and go there.

But he left not only with a new job, but also with a touching realization:

"**Sometimes a person thinks he is completely on his own, but God can be near even when we do not yet know how to see Him**. And I am grateful for the people He sent to me at the time of need. He did not leave me alone."

🙏**Please pray for Sergey** as he begins this new chapter - that the questions awakened in his heart during those ten days will continue to draw him closer to the Lord.

NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS:



We are excited to share that our new *Arab Rehabilitation Center* in Ramla has already welcomed its first resident! **Omar*** has been through rehabilitation before, but this time, he says, things feel different: he senses God's presence and help and is experiencing fewer withdrawal symptoms than in the past. He and Bishara, the center's leader, are developing a warm, brotherly relationship.

🙏**Praise the Lord for this encouraging beginning!** Please pray for Omar's recovery and lasting freedom in the Lord!

Thank you for supporting our ministry and please feel free to share your prayer requests with us too anytime!

Aviv Ministry
Aviv Ministry
avivministry

Yours in His Service,
Dov and Olga Bikas and Aviv Ministry Team



For more information and for donations please visit our website: **www.avivministry.com**

dovbikas@gmail.com

**Names changed for privacy*

P.O.Box 1181 • Arad 8911002 • Israel • Tel/WhatsApp.: **+972-544-997336**