

Ministry Update from Dov – April 2012

Contributed by Admin
Tuesday, 17 April 2012

The work in Aviv Center continues. The owner of the building, however, has raised the rent (almost doubled it) and now we don't know what to do – remain in the building or move to another place. Please pray for God's wisdom for us and the Philippine Church elders.

We keep thinking about developing our ministry even further, for we still see its great potential. Our new idea is planting new churches – or strengthening the existing ones – by opening new local rehab centers. In Russia and the Ukraine, this method has proved to be successful for many years already. We have heard about a Russian church that grew from 17 to 150 attendees in 10 years after a rehab center opened close by. Today all the key leaders in this church are former addicts and many church members are their relatives and friends who found Jesus, having seen the miraculous transformation in the lives of the addicted.

At first sight, the connection between church planting and work with drug addicts may seem strange, but this is only the first impression. Experience shows that young people from rehabs who find the Lord and get free from their addictions become a beautiful tool in God's hands to start new congregations or strengthen the existing ones. In Haifa, for example, many young people from Maxim's center have joined the local congregation (three of them have already got married and started new families), and I want to see the same inflow of young people in our Negev congregation in Beer Sheva, where today most of the church members are more than 50 years old.

Thank you for your prayers for Rivka. She underwent a very long and difficult operation, but is recovering beautifully. When I talked to her husband, Eli, he said, "I have to admit, your prayers have helped!" Please keep praying for Rivka and her family.

Almost a year ago we wrote about Anton and Sofia. We have known them for a long time. Anton is a believer and a former addict, and his wife is very open to the Gospel. Anton is still weak spiritually and needs help and guidance. Recently, to my deep regret, he admitted that instead of drugs he has become addicted to alcohol. Please support Anton (and Sofia) in your prayers.

Two years ago we wrote to you about a young woman from the human trafficking victims shelter who was attending our Bible studies. She is an orphan and was only 15 years old when she was brought to Israel as a sex slave. She is not a believer yet. Recently she gave birth to a baby, Nathanael, who has a difficult genetic disorder. The father does not want to recognize the baby. We have been to the hospital and prayed for the baby and the mother. Please pray with us.

Thank you very much for prayers and support!
Happy Holidays to you and your families!
Yours in the Lord,
Dov and Olga