

Dear Friends:

This newsletter is focused on one single issue—a prayer request!

Before getting to that prayer request we need to tell a story that sets the stage for the prayer request—Victor's story. The photo below is Victor and his wife. She has returned to Russia while Victor can focus on his recovery without distraction. Here is his story and then the prayer request.

Shalom dear brothers and sisters.

My name is Victor. I have lived in Israel for more than 11 years. For most of this time I was not happy because of my drug uses.

I started out like many others teenagers my age, in my home city - using grass (marihuana). It seemed to me an innocent thing. After a few years I started using heroin. To get all that I needed I began to steal and rob. This brought sorrow to many people. It did not take long before I was arrested.

These were hard times for me with bad economics and unbelieving parents. After getting out of jail I did a lot of stupid things. Some of them could have cost me my life. My parents did not know what to do with me. Their solution was to send me to Israel, thinking that it would help me somehow make necessary changes in my life. It did not matter. I continued to use drugs and even tried new ones.

It did not take long for me to lose what friends I had. Life became very lonely for me. I was becoming desperate and felt rejected. Anger began to build in me. It was me against the world. I continued to break the law – I needed my drugs. I was arrested again and put in jail – this time in Israel.

From jail, I was sent to a government recovery program. This did not work. All I could think about was getting more drugs. I congratulated myself for getting released and I was back into drugs, this time getting more deeply involved. I lived in a fog and I became homeless—the only thing that mattered was my drugs. I lived in the Tel Aviv area like a ghost—drifting with no purpose. I met a friend from prison. Somehow he was a different person than I had known. He was happy and had a shine about him. He tried to talk with me, but I was not really listening. All I wanted was a break in his story so I could ask him for some money.

He seemed to know what I was looking for, so he asked me a question, “do you like the life you are living?” Then he began to talk to me about how God had changed his life and the freedom he had received. I found myself envying him for the freedom he seemed to have. He asked me if I would like to go to a recovery house – not like the one I had been to before, but a Christian one where they read the Bible and prayed. I heard a voice telling me to “go” and I said “yes” without doubting.

I think you understand what I am talking about when I say I heard a “voice.” I know it was the voice of One who loves me and I praise Him for that. There, I repented and received Christ into my heart. I wish I could say that was the end of the story. After some time I relapsed because I started staying away from the



meetings and not reading the Scriptures. It was not long and I was beginning to lose everything.

But, God had not forsaken me. He led me to Gene and the Ohel Avraham family where I am now living. Praise the Lord, He brought me back. Now I know I can't rely on my own strength, but I have to rely on His.

May you be blessed for caring for people like me.

Victor

Prayer Request:

It is so exciting for us to share the testimonies of the men who come into our men's shelter in Tel Aviv. Because you care, you help make all this possible.

Victor's story points up the need for much prayer. We are not talking about men coming off the street and out of homelessness who struggle with minor issues. Heroin is a devastating drug and recovery is so hard. Not only the strong hold of the drug itself but also the accompanying baggage that develops over time in childhood and the teen years.

Recovery is a process. It takes time and an abundance of God's grace and love. In addition it takes the expertise and training of staff and the support of local believers, all working together to help each person through the ups and down, the failures and the discouragements. And, it takes your financial support.

Your prayers are so vital and your encouragement so important. I have attached a special piece of paper with some lines on it. What I would like you to do is share a short note of encouragement for the men in the men's house. These notes will be shared with all the men. I want them to hear from you and your heart. Return them to me and I will send them on to Gene. **NOTE:** please do not make your note too long as there could be many and they will probably need to be translated for those who do not speak English. Also, please make sure the note is reasonably readable.



P.S. Please help us through these summer months when giving has a tendency to drop off. Unfortunately the need does not stop for the summer. So, those of you who can, you might consider an extra gifts during the next few months. Thank you for all you do to help men like Victor.

Changes coming: In our last newsletter I mentioned my friend Pat, who is learning my position and eventually will step in as director of RESCUE Israel. The Lord has led me to pastor a small congregation and travel is becoming much more difficult. Thus, Pat will assume a greater role in the leadership of RESCUE Israel.

When we started the Olympia Union Gospel Mission in 1995, Pat was the first Chaplin and director of the men's recovery program, He served in this capacity for over 10 years before moving on to another mission in another state. Pat is a board member for RESCUE Israel.

He currently lives in Tulsa. He and his wife will be moving back to Washington so they can be close to their kids. This will put Pat close to me for training and eventually handing the reigns over to him.

NOTE #1: As indicated in the newsletter, we want to give you an opportunity to send a note of encouragement to the men at our men's recovery shelter in Tel Aviv.

For those of you receiving this newsletter via email you can:

1. Fax your note to me and I will get it to Gene in Tel Aviv. Fax #: 360-923-0532
2. Email your encouragement note to me, George, at george@rescueisrael.org and I will forward them on to Gene.

NOTE #2: The summer months see a reduction in income for our work in Israel. Please consider an extra gift to help us out. As you would know, the needs do not decrease in the summer, so your additional help is greatly appreciated.

Send your gift to:

1. By check for those in the U.S.: RESCUE Israel, P.O. Box 564, Olympia, WA 98507-0564
2. By internet: go to our website, www.rescueisrael.org and click on "Donate Now" and follow the prompts for making a donation.

Thank you for your support and encouragement to the men the Lord sends to us.