

Dear Ministry Partner:

**What is on the Lord's heart?** I think we could come up with many answers to this question, such as: for redemption, for joy, for good life, for blessings to name just a few.

One thing we know is, the Lord's heart is for the broken, discouraged and captives of sin. One of the beautiful opportunities we have is to see Him fulfill Isaiah 61:1. Isaiah wrote, *"The Spirit of the Lord God is on Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to the prisoners."*

You and I get to participate in the work of this verse in seeing lives changed when we share the love of Christ through RESCUE Israel/Ohel Avraham.

The story that follows is one you are acquainted with, in part from our November 2010 newsletter. Now, *"The Rest of the Story."*

**What do you do when life comes crashing down on you because of the choices you have made?**

Many questions were facing Sasha directly. He was being forced to make decisions regarding his family, his alcohol and his years spent in prison.

On the street and homeless, one of those decisions loomed large—"where do I turn for help"?



Sasha had heard about our recovery program and here he turned for help. He became one of the first men to enter the program in January 2010.

In our program, his life is transformed by the power of Almighty God. He learns to live life without his alcohol and to see life through God's plan from the Scriptures.

In October 2010 he comes to Gene and lets him know that his wife Anna has served him papers—divorce papers.

They had been married for 15 years but had only lived together as a family for 4 years. The other years had been spent in prison or living on the street because of his addiction.

Two boys had been born into their family. Now they are about to enter their teen years, and they are in the custody of the state of Israel because of Sasha's life.

Again, Sasha finds himself faced with a critical life decision—moving on and letting Anna

have the divorce she has requested or...

Gene's advice to Sasha: "Let's spend time in prayer and see what the Lord can do." To this, Sasha agreed. Later, Gene asked him to call his wife and attempt to build some bridges to reconciliation.

Sasha called Anna but she wanted nothing to do with him. However, he does ask if he could call her again (you see God is not done, praise His name.) When he asked, she said yes!



This led to their reconciliation and upon Sasha's graduation from the recovery program they moved back in together as a couple in December 2010.

Because Israeli social services had seen such good progress with Sasha, he and Anna were now able to begin having visitation with their boys. One of the problems they were now facing, the boys were becoming more and more difficult to handle in their foster care.

Over these intervening months, March 2011 to March 2012, I would ask Gene how Sasha was doing. He would report he is doing well and is connected with a local church group of believers. He was working in a good job and he was building good relations with his wife and boys.

**Fast forward to May 31, 2012. Gene received a phone call from Sasha.**

Sasha reported that Anna had given her heart to the Lord along with their two boys. As a family they were now involved in their church. Sasha helps with setting up the worship team equipment, the two boys are involved in learning music with the worship team and Anna is enjoying her new life in Christ and her new family. In addition, Sasha is now leading a home Bible study group.

I was with Gene on May 31. There was only one word I could understand as Gene talked with Sasha in Russian—it was the word "WOW?! Can you think of a better story of God's grace and mercy in the life of a family and in that story **the Lord has allowed you and I to participate in it's development.**

On behalf of Sasha and Anna and their boys, and all we serve in Israel, thank you for your partnership with us.

George Wehnes  
Executive Director  
RESCUE Israel