

Dear Friends:

As we see this year, 2012, come to a close, we are reminded again of the faithfulness of Almighty God who guides and directs in our lives and who blesses and provides in the accomplishment of His work in this world.

We are grateful to the Lord for your faithfulness in support of RESCUE Israel and the work He has given us to do among the homeless and addicted in Israel.

We want to close this year out with the testimony of Konstantin. He has been in our program for over 12 months.

Because you cared enough provide the financial support needed, you have made it possible for him to find help and hope.

Here is his testimony:



I am a former professional soldier, serving in the IDF for more than 12 years. Ten of those years were in the hottest spots of our country and maybe on the earth. It was not an easy time.

More often than not there was no opportunity to sleep or be at home. Also, there were times when I had to shoot and kill. Our lives were at risk every day. I would think how lucky I was when I was able to return home. This happened on many occasions. During this time I never thought about building a family.

During a time of rest in conflicts I met my future wife and it was not long before we were married. We were very happy. It was not long and we found out my wife was pregnant. In the fifth month of pregnancy our baby died. She got pregnant before we were married, and I believed the baby died because of our sin.

The doctors prohibited my wife from becoming pregnant again for two years but, after a year, we had a healthy baby boy. He looks just like me. I know now that God gifted us because we did the right thing. At the time I just thought we were lucky.

Our happiness was not long lived. Because of my service in the IDF, I had become angry. During sleep I would often have terrible nightmares. I would lock myself up. Rather than turning to God, I would drink alcohol, lots of it and often.

It was not long until our family broke apart. While still in the army, I started visiting a psychologist and received the diagnosis of PTSD. I was released from the army, but continued to drink. I found I could not stop drinking and, quite frankly, I did not want to stop so I was intoxicated daily.

In 2008 my wife and I divorced.

My mother convinced me to join a state recovery program. I was there for eight months and figured now I had left everything behind me and I would be able to go on from there. Even my relationship with my wife had been restored.

This did not last long before I started drinking again. This destroyed my relationship with my wife and I became homeless. Between 2008 and 2011 I participated in eight recovery programs but nothing would help me. Again and again I would come back to my savior, "the bottle, my biggest enemy.

In November, 2011, I was on the street on a Saturday where nobody walks, especially on Shabbat. A man approached me and spoke to me in very poor Hebrew and he gave me some food. I said thanks, but he said don't thank me, thank God.

This man invited me to come to his home for a shower and something more to eat and to worship God. I started attending his congregation with David Ortiz. The folks there received me. He invited me to give my heart to the Lord. He also introduced me to Gene, the director of the recovery house.

Now, I have been in the recovery program for better than a year with God and my brother students.

The Lord has released me from alcohol, smoking and bad language.

At the beginning of 2011 I broke my leg. The doctors said it was a miracle my leg could be saved. The doctors told me I would have to walk with a cane the rest of my life.

At the beginning of my recovery process with Gene, before I would go to bed I would ask God, "If you love me and if it be your will, please heal me." One morning I woke up to go to the bathroom and all of a sudden realized I was not using my cane.

God has healed me and I no longer need my cane. Everything else in my life is being straightened out, too. The process continues and I praise God.

Last month I was baptized and every day the Lord gives me support and strength.

I give Him praise and want His Name to be glorified.

I don't know of a better way to end the year 2012 than with a testimony such as this.

Further, I don't know of a better way to move into the year 2013 than with the knowledge that the dollars you give will be used by the Lord to provide: (1) a facility where the men can get off the street; (2) a caring staff; and (3) the education and training of that staff, who demonstrate His love in practical ways with compassionate hearts.

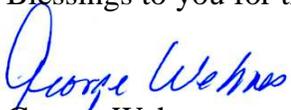
In January 2013 we will move into a new facility with the capacity to work with more men and with Dmitri, our new men's shelter director, who completed his training in the U.S. in December 2012. We will introduce Dmitri to you in our January newsletter.

I had the privilege of meeting Konstantin in May, 2012. I took this picture of him as he help put together of food packages for the needy.

I was impressed with his command presence and his leadership. So much so that I asked Gene about it later and he told me some of his story and his leadership positions.

As I observed him, he never gave an indication of any need of assistance in his walking. We rejoice in the Lord with him.

Blessings to you for the year 2013.


George Wehnes

Executive Director

RESCUE Israel



Prayer Requests: Continue to remember Gene and his family as Gene faces treatment for an illness he has contracted. He begins his treatments December 21, 2012. Our prayer is for his complete healing.

Also continue to remember the men in our program that they will be healed of their addictions.