



Newsletter

January 2007

Thanks to each of you who have stood by this ministry from its very beginning and for those of you who joined us along the way. Your support is allowing something new to take place in God's land – Israel.

Before I go further, let me emphasize something some of you have heard before: This is a team ministry. It takes each of us doing our part: those who pray, volunteers, donors, staff, board – all working together. Take any person out of the team and the ministry is diminished. The contribution you make is essential. **Thank you for being part of this team.**

Our first phase: establish the first work of Rescue* in Israel. This process brought many believers together in unity. People in Israel have indicated this was an answer to prayer. One lady and her husband have prayed for this day for 20 years. They had come to the point of wondering if it would every happen.

During this first phase, the RESCUE Israel outreach work was formed along with a board of directors from 9 local Messianic congregations. Our Soup Kitchen in Tel Aviv opened in September 2006. With the kitchen came the development of volunteers from the various congregations.

We look back and see how every step was led of the Lord. We give Him praise and the glory due His Name.

2007 takes us into phase 2 of this ministry. Rev. Herb Opalek, CEO of the Merced County Rescue Mission, Merced, CA and myself will be in Israel in March 2007 to help select and hire the first Executive Director of the RESCUE Israel outreach work in Israel.

Up to this point, the board and volunteers of RESCUE Israel's outreach have been carrying the load. The ministry is growing as we believed it would because God has such a great heart for those who are hurting. It has now grown beyond the ability of the board to manage. It is time for us to have a paid leader at the helm.

By mutual agreement our boards have committed to share the financial responsibilities of this ministry according to what each is able to do.

There were some in Israel that were looking to RESCUE Israel to carry 100% of the financial responsibility. We knew and some of the leaders in Israel made it clear that this was not healthy. RESCUE Israel's outreach work in Israel will carry 15% and RESCUE Israel 80% for this coming year. The percentages will change over the next 5 years to a 30/70% split.

We feel this is an equitable partnership. The believers in Israel are few in number; approximately .1% (one-tenth of 1 percent) of the total population. The large majority of

believers come from the working class and most ministries there depend on outside help for their existence.

We count it a great privilege to partner with our brothers and sisters in Israel to help raise up and fund the work of Rescue; to help bring the love of God and the Good News of the Gospel to the “least, the last and the lost” of Israeli society.

Phase 3 will come in 2008, the Lord willing. Our goal is to establish the first, godly emergency shelter in Israel – in Tel Aviv. If you are familiar with Union Gospel Mission Emergency Shelters here in the U.S., you know that emergency shelters becomes a “doorway.”

The homeless, addicted and poor will come to find protection against the weather, food for their stomachs, clothes, a shower and a bed to sleep on rather than on the street. In the process they will find something much more precious – the love of God demonstrated in practical way. This opens the door for staff and volunteers to share the Good News of the Gospel, telling them about their Messiah.

Phase 4 will be the development of medical and dental services which are so greatly needed.

We need your help in accomplishing what God has put on our hearts to do. Your prayers are vital as this is a spiritual battle first and foremost. The enemy is trying to destroy Israel so any attempt to help Israel and her people invites his attention. We stand fast in the promises that God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and those who bless Israel will be blessed.

Over the next two years we need to raise \$200,000 for phase 3. We know that God has the resources through His people. Your faithfulness to prayer and financial giving is very important.

If you attend a church or congregation and would like for us to contact your pastor or rabbi, please let us know so we can set up a presentation regarding RESCUE Israel.

If you have friends that have an interest in Israel, tell them about RESCUE Israel and encourage them to give.

Blessings and Shalom (Peace)

George Wehnes

*By Rescue we mean the ministry of working with the homeless, poor and addicted as God has directed and perfected here in the United States in Union Gospel and Rescue Missions. This includes the bringing of believers together in unity (in keeping with John 17:20-23) across denominational lines to share God’s love and proclaim the Good News of the Gospel apart from denominational distinctions.