

January  
February  
2007  
NEWSLETTER

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...In that you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to Me.”  
Matt. 25:34-35*

**General Needs:**

- plates
- napkins
- plastic utensils

**Special Needs:**

- bathroom tissue
- toiletries
- deodorant
- feminine hygiene products

**Yes, I want to help!**

Financial donations may be mailed to P.O. 458, Oceanside, CA 92049, or you may donate online at [www.bolrescue.org](http://www.bolrescue.org)

Physical donations may be dropped off at 1919 Apple Street, Suite I, in Oceanside. Please call first to ensure someone is there to receive your donation.



P.O. Box 458, Oceanside, CA 92049 760.722.0800 [www.bolrescue.org](http://www.bolrescue.org)  
Bread of Life is a nonprofit 501(c) public charity that works hand in hand with churches, county social workers and other shelters. The mission is dependent on church, private donations, and grants for our rescue work.

## Running for the Home Team!

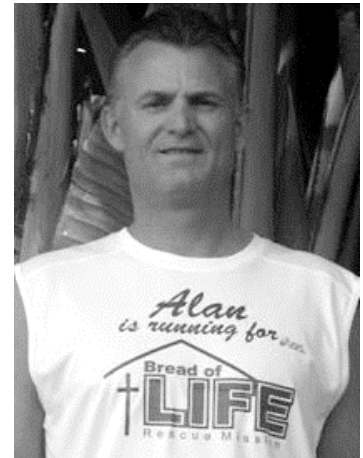
Alan Sakal, a Bread of Life board member, had never been a runner — or even liked running. But six months ago, he decided he wanted to run a marathon.

“I’m not sure what possessed me to think that,” he laughed, “But, nonetheless, I signed up for a training program that prepares you for the Carlsbad Marathon. In the beginning of the program, I couldn’t run a couple of blocks, let alone a couple of miles — but now I think I can make the entire 26.2 miles!”

In addition to the personal fulfillment running in a marathon will provide, Alan decided to use this opportunity to raise funds for the rescue mission. “I became personally involved with Bread of Life about three years ago, and have been a board member for the last two,” he said.

Alan said that God is doing amazing work at Bread of Life, and is excited about using the marathon as a fundraiser for the mission. “The most important thing you can do is to pray for the shelter and our guests. As you can imagine, these folks do not have it easy,” Alan said. “Secondly, please help me surpass my goal for Bread of Life by contributing any amount. Your contributions are extremely important right now, since I am trying to raise enough money to buy cots for our guests to sleep on. Currently, they have no choice but to sleep on the floor.”

The marathon is **Jan. 21**. To make an online donation, go to [www.bolrescue.org](http://www.bolrescue.org) and click on the link to Alan’s fundraising link, or send an e-mail to Alan at [asakal@pacbell.net](mailto:asakal@pacbell.net).



## Goals for 2007 and Beyond

Bread of Life is in need of a larger facility to successfully continue its mission to care for the homeless and hungry. The organization has outgrown its current space and is looking for a larger building to lease in the Oceanside area.

“Our dream is to open a larger faith-based facility in coastal North County which could house kitchen facilities, showers and more room to service those who have to be turned away due to space limitations at the current location,” said Steve Bassett, Bread of Life Executive Director.

The current space is 2,400 sq. ft. — so the new facility would need to be at least 3,000 sq. ft. “Ideally, the building would be in an industrial area, close to a bus line and have plenty of room for feeding and sheltering all who knock on our doors — and have room for storage of blankets and clothing, which is not available in our current location,” Steve said.

Bread of Life is dependent on church contributions, private donations and grants for its rescue work. If you know of a facility to lease or would like to make a financial donation toward this goal, please contact us at (760) 431-7965.

### Three Objectives for 2007

- Establish a more structured rehabilitation program for our homeless guests.
  - Secure ongoing funding for current operations and expansion.
  - Bring the Gospel to more of the lost.

## From Drugs to Director: The Gene Wilkins Story

With his twinkling eyes, eloquent observations and quick wit, it is hard to believe that Gene Wilkins, the new Bread of Life (BOL) Shelter Director, spent a good portion of his adult life living on the streets of San Diego. Gene's life spiraled out of control after a nasty divorce left him estranged from his wife and children. To ease the loss and assuage his bitterness, he turned to drugs and alcohol — ending up homeless. On the way down, he met his now-wife, Sarita, and together they struggled with their addictions, life on the streets and subsequent recovery.

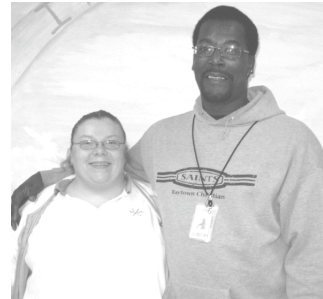
Today, the couple uses their personal experiences to help others who are struggling with addictions and homelessness. Part preacher, part counselor, part social worker, part cheerleader, Gene and Sarita alternately encourage, motivate and prod the more than 100 men and women that walk through Bread of Life's doors 365 days a year. "I had to grow in grace while I was falling on my face," Gene said, "and so my experience allows me to encourage all of those who walk through our front doors to do the same."

Having a year of experience volunteering at BOL under his belt and a new title as director, Gene said he never would have picked this job "in a million years. But now, there's no other place on earth I'd rather be! Working here gives me a much higher high than I ever had when doing drugs or drinking." Gene went on to say that the amount of raw talent that walks through the shelter's doors each day is the most humbling and surprising aspect of his work. His goal is to get "these talented individuals" back to work through sharing with them how the Lord can set them free from their addictions and their pasts — and get them moving forward into a new positive life.

This message, Gene is quick to point out, only means something if his words are supported by his actions. To this end, he and the volunteers at BOL help make their guests lives easier by helping them access support networks, directing them to voucher programs, and providing food and clothing on a daily basis. In the winter, the facility serves as an overnight shelter.

"At Bread of Life, we share how God can help break the cycle of addiction — and I have seen many lives transformed over the last year," he said. "I tell them that if God can fix me, he can fix anyone. And, I try to demonstrate His love in my interactions — rather than just talking about it."

Steve Bassett, Executive Director of BOL, added that he has been very impressed with Gene and the work he has done with the mission guests. "To have someone like Gene to minister to our guests really enhances what Bread of Life offers."



*Sarita and Gene use their experience to help others.*

## Shelter from the Cold



With a lot of help from our volunteers, we opened our doors on December 1 for the overnight shelter. The City of Oceanside has designated Bread of Life as a cold-winter shelter for the homeless in the North County area. The area is comprised of Oceanside, Vista, Carlsbad, San Marcos, Escondido and Encinitas. For the next four and a half months, seven days a week, Bread of Life will provide overnight shelter and meals to those who need our service. *The need seems impossible, but nothing is impossible with God. Thank you for your support and prayers.*

Bread of Life has seen the transformation of alcohol and drug addicted homeless into productive citizens by bringing hope to the lost through the Gospel and hands-on assistance.

To find out how you can volunteer and be a part of Bread of Life's ministry, please visit our website at [www.bolrescue.org](http://www.bolrescue.org).

