



# the Sasser Family



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I have been busy the last few months here in the States as well as a few trips to Israel. The door continues to stay open allowing us to get the gospel out to people in Israel by bringing supplies over to help soldiers. Majority of those we are helping are either reservists or reservists who work on their kibbutz as a security team. Back in June I carried by myself 6 large bags full of supplies into Israel. Apparently Israel had just changed their laws regarding donations, which would explain why I was the only one in the airport bringing supplies over. At customs they confiscated all my bags, which contained a drone, surgical backpacks, medical kits, tactical boots and tactical gloves. I spent an entire day back at the airport trying to get the bags out of customs with no success. It seemed it was going to join the storage room containing 7 tons of donations that they have confiscated. Israel has made it virtually impossible with their new laws to bring items in.

Praise the Lord, I'm able to purchase a lot of the equipment in Israel. While there I was able to get \$30,000 worth helmets about \$6000 worth of vests and \$5000 worth of boots. It was hard leaving Israel with all the other supplies still sitting at the airport. I had people working on it but unfortunately they later contacted me and said it looked impossible to get the items out. I was only back in the states for a few weeks before returning to Israel. During those few weeks some fellow labors ran into someone on the train. Being in the medical field, as well as her entire family she had a burden to get those items out for us. I was given her contact info, and I reached out once I got back in the land. After sending her all my paperwork she diligently began to pursue getting all those items released. Even in all her diligence she told me it seemed like it was not going to be released.

A few days after my arrival two more men joined me from the States. This time instead of going thru customs they tried to just bring the bags in. Unfortunately one of the men got caught and they confiscated 2 of his bags. Our first stop was a small kibbutz on the north western side

of Israel on the Lebanon border. There we were to pick up some more bulletproof vests and some helmets. We were running late because of our delay at the airport which was perfect. About the time we were supposed to be there my alarm started going off on my phone about a rocket attack exactly where we were going. They were still on alert when we arrived but at least the rockets were done, well at least for the moment. Leaving there we drove peacefully along the Lebanon border back to my apartment which is also on the Lebanon border. I knew the men were tired after a long flight and a long day. After we ate I was going to take them for a quick drive just to show them the area. As soon as we got to the top of the hill we heard several explosions. Hezbollah fired several rockets into our area. We watched as Israel shot a rocket in retaliation.

One of the men held his phone out the window and took a picture as the rocket was flying over our van (way above us). Israel did not use the iron dome since none of the rockets were falling into a town. They landed in the woods around us which caused about 5 very large fires. As we were driving down the road you could see people pulling over at temporary bomb shelters. Sad to say that is normal life in the north and also down south around Gaza. The next day we headed south, on the way down to Jerusalem we stopped at a place called in English "home front". This was started to help families who lost their homes or were evacuated from their homes because of the war. They provide nice used items to help replenish a home. It's like a large thrift store.

Many hostages who have been released as well as families who lost love ones on that dreadful day find a lot of help there getting there life started again. We were able to purchase 2 bomb shelters to help them at their location. Many people were getting scared to come because there was no place to find safety in case of rocket/drone attacks. It looks like there maybe a great opportunity there in the future. One of the men was able to give a lengthy and clear testimony of Gods saving grace to the manager. Early the

next morning we headed about 45 min south of Beersheba to a kibbutz. We were 1 mile from Egypt and about 12 miles south of Gaza. For about 2 hours we set with a commander of the security team of that kibbutz. He was ex special forces and he told us that they were some of the first to arrive to the attack that took place last October. He was very grateful for all the helmets and gloves and med kits that we brought for them.

We set there for about 2 hours talking much about Jesus. The first hour seemed to be a lot of arguing. The 2nd hour seemed to be a lot different as one of the men began to give his dad's testimony of how he came to faith in the Jewish messiah. He was intently listening and I believe got under conviction. All of the sudden he jumped up in anger and started saying that we were trying to convert him. I took the plastic off of a New Testament earlier and tried to give it to him but he adamantly refused it. Now as we are leaving he told us to take the NT because he would throw it in the trash if we left it. As we left we stopped by a kibbutz right outside of Gaza. God gave us much favor with the soldiers there.

They have invited us back next time we come, but the best thing was the open door we had to give one of the leaders some gospel literature. He was very grateful for it. The next place we stopped was almost the same. We were rejoicing at how God was guiding our steps. The last kibbutz we stopped at we began to talk to the soldier at the gate. He informed me that he was from a small kibbutz in the north that I probably never heard of. When he told me the name he was shocked that I knew it. It was actually the kibbutz beside where I live about a mile away.

It's a extremely religious kibbutz but he did not look like a very religious man which led into a good religious conversation. He listened intently and received all the literature that we gave him. Every place that we stopped at gave us a great opportunity to give gospel literature and an open door to return. There was one soldier in particular that we were trying to get up with that was in Gaza. On my previous trip I was bringing him a pair of boots but unfortunately they were still sitting in customs. One of the men that came over brought him another pair of boots. Unfortunately he couldn't get out of Gaza to get them nor could he find anyone to pick them up for him. At the last minute one of the men in his unit got a overnight leave and went home to Jerusalem. On the way he stopped by our motel to pick up his friends boots. I just happened to be on the backside of the motel on the phone which came to a sudden end. As I walked to the front entrance I just happened to run into the other brother just walking away

from giving the man the boots. He told me he needed a New Testament, that the soldier was wanting one. I left him to continue to witness as I quickly went to get one.

The man graciously received the NT as well as some gospel literature. I stood in amazement as I heard how the conversation went and how we looked back thru the day watching the hand of God guide every step. The soldier said that he was never religious but in October when the massacre took place he saw all the evil that took place but then he saw the beauty of the world and thought there must be a God (Rom 1:19-20). He wondered if could he know this God. He began to pray for the first time and he asked God to reveal himself to him. Needless to say that if all my items would not have been stuck in customs then those boots would have got out and we may never have met this man. His name is Jonathan and he is very close to coming to faith in Jesus.

The next day I get a message from the lady who was trying to get the items out of customs and she said you want believe it but they are going to release everything but the drone and the gloves. She said there is no way we are getting the other items out. Of course they are being released God had them exactly where He wanted them. We started praying that day that they would release everything! The next day as she was heading to the airport to pick up the items they contacted her and approved the release of everything ( except the drone, which they said they will release but they need more paperwork).

We rejoice in what God is doing! We are constantly getting requests from units for help and with everyone we help we are able by the grace of God to get the gospel in their hands. This year has been filled with so many blessings yet so many difficulties as well. God has been faithful! I am still struggling trying to navigate life without my wife by my side. She was such a major part of the ministry that I feel so lost at times. She handled all of the paperwork side, emails etc.. Unfortunately the email server that I used went out of business and I lost all my email contacts. I know some people wanted emails instead of a hard copy and I apologize for you not getting it. I have a new email address and if you would like to receive an email then just respond to my new email and I will have you added. It is [baptistforisrael@gmail.com](mailto:baptistforisrael@gmail.com)

Thank you for continued prayers and support as I continue to serve Him!

*Bro John Sasser*