



Dear Supporters,

Once again, by the mighty hand of God we have made it through another year. We have gotten some things done, but as I'm sure many of you feel, not as much as we would like to have. However, we praise God for another year of the freedom we have to serve Him, for we are seeing this erode more and more. This year has seen great persecution of Christians around the world, and we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere, especially as war grips so many regions around the globe. We continue to work for The Lord each day, and pray - come Lord Jesus!

I said in last year's letter that our goals for 2013 were to keep on keeping on, and that is what we have done. We simply continued down our list of things to do and have worked as hard as we could with the resources we have to get things done one step at a time. The item that took a great deal of our time and certainly our physical efforts this year is that we finally got all the utilities ran to our office trailer. Though there are plenty of things needing to be finalized about this process, we now have, not only a permanent electrical line ran, but also water, sewer, and data cables. Of course, one of the biggest parts of this project is the fact they are all underground now, so we no longer have to worry about our electric line being damaged. It will be a great help to have all these utilities in, and just to know this work is behind us!

In spite of all this physical labor, we also had some success in getting more of our articles published as independent PDFs for the website. This was especially true of the Q&As which had fallen very far behind when it comes to getting them posted to the Q&A page. Four Q&As were posted in all; and while that may not sound like a lot, most of these appeared in at least two parts as they were published in *Shaqah*. One, "A Matter Of Life And Death," was so long it became a series. In total, we republished the equivalent of 12 articles into independent PDFs this year, and created a new series page. On top of this, we also got the series page for "The Bible As A Book" up and ready to be posted just as the new year came. Thus, all in all, not a bad year for getting stuff caught up on the website!

The other big item which came about in 2013 is the trademarking of "Shaqah." This is one of those process items we were finally able to see completed, and we are thankful for it; because as I said with the trademarking of our symbol, it is important to protect those things which cause people to know materials are coming from us. With the trademark of "Shaqah," we now know there will not be another publication using this name, at least legally; and more importantly, no one can take it from us claiming we are violating their trademark.

On the subject of *Shaqah*, I can say this has been a very up and down year. We actually made great attempts to locate another distribution location for *Shaqah* this year, and we appeared to have some success at getting a new location in Estes Park, which is a place where we have wanted a distribution location for a long time. In truth, we thought we had found two locations as we were initially told they would be happy to have it, only to find out we were told wrong. In the end, it turned out it was against company policy at the first location, which is so often the case in today's world; and at the second, we got in alongside some other publication just as that location was getting ready to stop allowing materials altogether. The end of the year brought even sadder news as we found out our longest running and best distribution location would be going away. The Bible Superstore in Fort Collins closed its doors after many years of service to the communities of Northern Colorado and beyond. One by one we have seen our distribution locations diminish for this very same reason. It's just so difficult for Christian bookstores to compete in today's market place; and I'm sad to report, the Superstore was the last Christian bookstore location we had. We say thank you to The Bible Superstore, you will be missed!

In spite of the losses in distribution locations, we have seen the subscriber numbers for *Shaqah* go up again over this last year! The numbers are still not out of sight, but we are constantly encouraged by

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the words of those who write and tell us how much they appreciate *Shaqah* as well as the other materials we produce. Along with this news, I will also mention that *Shaqah* has remained at the twelve page size for another full year. This is due in no small part to the interest we continue to see of people submitting Q&As to this ministry. We are grateful for this because it allows us to go forward with *Shaqah* in the confidence we are providing teaching people are interested in hearing!

We have also seen growth in our calendar project, once again. Who gets them can shift to some degree, but every year more people order these calendars than the year before. With all the other work, we struggled a bit this year with the production of these calendars, but God brought us through and we got them out. Each year we never know just what challenges we will face when it comes to materials for the calendar's production, as it seems we live in a world which constantly desires to change everything. However, we continue to lift it to The Lord, allowing Him to guide our path, and each year we find what we need to get the job done. Lord willing, we will someday get the expanded teaching for this calendar published as well.

Speaking of work to be done brings us to the part of this letter where I talk about our goals for the new year. For that, I can tell you they are very much the same as what I said last year. Lord willing, we will continue to keep digging and getting the backlog of work accomplished. We have also done some technical things this last year, which I will not go into detail about now; but if it's in God's timing for the fruit of this work to come about, there should be things I can talk about in next year's letter. Of course, we will continue, as The Lord provides, to produce and distribute *Shaqah* in all the ways and in all the places we can. We will also do our best to continue with the calendar project, and to provide whatever books, booklets, and other materials we can to those who desire them!

As always, I would be remiss if I did not take space to thank all those who have done the work of this ministry over the year. It takes many hands, and I thank God for those hands willing to do God's work through this ministry! I want to thank everyone who has taken part in this ministry, from those who submitted Q&As to those who subscribe to *Shaqah* - we appreciate you! We thank you and encourage you to continue to share our materials with all those around you, and to let us know your thoughts on what we might do better. We also thank all those who gave financial and prayer support to this ministry! We all know free materials are not truly free. Your financial and prayer support ensures Bibles and Bible teaching materials continue to go all over the world, to so many who would not otherwise be able to afford, and thus, receive them. Thank you to all who have responded to God's voice in supporting this ministry!

In closing, I desire to leave you again this year with words to live by, spoken to us by our precious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who told us, "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:46-48 May we each see this new year as a continuing opportunity to serve God, and draw closer to being the people He has called us all to be! Thank You again, and Shalom!

Sincerely,
Philip E. Busby
Director
Living Springs
2013