



Dear Supporters,

As I write this letter, we see another year has passed and a new year dawns. In our modern world, it seems time goes faster and faster. Men are truly running to and fro and many men's hearts are failing them for the cares of this world. However, as we walk through this life, we must be careful not to let the cares of this world pull us in. (Eph. 4:11-16) Sure, we will be affected by the things which go on around us, but we must always keep in mind this world is not our home! Especially, as this world waxes worse and worse, we must cling ever tighter to our relationship with God. We must remember it's not just about the fact Christ's return could happen at any moment; but also, we never know just how much time we have left to serve the Lord. If we have the right perspective on time, we understand what Paul understood which is clearly the fact that death for the true believer is ultimate gain but to live in the here and now is an opportunity to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phil. 1:21)

In reality, the end of one year and the start of another has no real relevance. It's simply a point in God's creation which certain men determined to make the cornerstone of their observation of time's passage. All the superstition about new years resolutions, and the like, are simply a result of the fact man is always hoping for a fresh start. Sadly, this, many times, leads to more failure than success. Far too many people hope a new year will be a fresh start and once they fail to be perfect in their determinations they simply give up, but that is not how time works. The past, whether good or bad, has put us where we are; and where we are is always the point from which we must take the next step. So, no matter what day of the year it is, the simple question is, how and in what direction will we take that next step?

No matter what moment we stand at, and no matter how often we have failed in the past, we must choose the right and reject the wrong. God understands we are not perfect. He gave His Son to die for us while we were yet sinners. (Rom. 5:8) We need to learn from our mistakes but not allow them to set us back any further than they already have. Repentance for sin is not continuing to beat ourselves up over past failures, it is about living humbly before God. This means we must live with the constant understanding that, in every situation, we need God's guidance, and we will not have it if we do not stay in prayer.

Some religions will tell you to pray this many times a day or that many times a day, but every day of our lives should start in prayer, end in prayer, and be filled with communication with God all the way in between. (I Thess. 5:17) Walking upright in life is not about a one time determination that we are going to do better this year or a magical sinner's prayer we said at an altar one day. Walking upright is about inviting the presence of God into our lives continually, and seeking His will in every decision we make. So pray without ceasing, and if you find you have ceased, then begin praying again; because when we live in constant communion with God, we will be able to see, no matter what year or circumstances we find ourselves in, we can be content! (Phil. 4:11)

As you live a life in prayer, you will find prayer changes things. Prayer gives strength for the day and provision for the journey, and that is why I ask for your constant remembrance of this ministry in your prayers. There are many ministries which, today, try and define success as smooth sailing and prosperity, but we know the harder we try to reach out with the truth the

harder the devil will try to stop us. In this fight, there is only one thing we truly need and that is the prayer of those who believe. This ministry will only continue and be able to develop the materials I know God has called us to develop, if we have God's will moving this ministry. So, what I beg of you again this year, is that you keep us in your prayers daily as we attempt to reach out with the truth of God's Word!

In doing just that, one of the biggest changes we have made this year is to the name of our bimonthly publication. For the last couple of issues we have been telling people about the name change, and for the first time in the January & February 2007 issue, the new name of "Shaqah" appeared in the header. We will continue to make this more prominent until the full transition to *Shaqah* is complete! This year, we will also be building a website specifically for *Shaqah* at [www.shaqah.com](http://www.shaqah.com). We hope this will help bring up the number of subscriptions as well as lead more people to the Living Springs Institute site. We continue to pray the Lord will work all this out in His perfect will and way.

We will also continue to pray for the provision of office space for this ministry. It has been a good long time since we have had a specific place to put all our equipment and work. The Lord has brought us through another year and we have been able to get *Shaqah* published, and for that we are very thankful. However, we would like to see an ability to do more! It's my deepest desire for this ministry to be more productive for the kingdom of God than it has ever been. So I pray continually the Lord will open doors and direct us as we seek the provisions we need to do this! I hope you will join me in prayer that the gates of hell will not be able to prevail against our work. (Matt. 16:18) We know the Lord owns the cattle on a thousand hills, (Ps. 50:10) and square footage is only a matter of asking, seeking, and knocking!

Again, this year I want to take a moment and thank those who have made this work possible. I would like to thank my brother Matthew for being on the Board of Directors again this last year, for his work on the website, and especially for getting out the e-mail version of *Shaqah*. I would like to thank my mom Ruth for her work as secretary, and again, for all the time she puts in editing all the written materials we produce. I also want to thank my father Dale for continuing to serve as our treasurer. It's a great help to me that I never have to worry about the everyday bills and financial record keeping for this ministry. I also want to say thank you for his contribution to *Shaqah*; along with looking over the wording, he also double checks the scripture verses to be sure they are right, and this is also a great help! Finally, I want to say thank you to my wife Kandi for her work. She does the initial look over of everything I write, and does the layout for *Shaqah*. She also keeps track of all the records for distribution and subscriber information as well as any resource orders we receive. There is a lot of technical work involved with getting a publication out, and all the people I've mentioned take part in it in more ways than even those I've talked about. So, thank you for all the details of editing and distribution which everyone does to make *Shaqah*, the website and everything this ministry offers a reality!

Of course, I cannot end without thanking everyone of you for your continued support of this ministry. I know each of you have given as the Lord has led you, and I simply ask that you continue to follow the Lord in all you do. The devil can attack and it has become increasingly clear that he is truly the prince and power of this world. (Eph. 6:11-13) However, as I started off by saying, this is only a call to all those who truly believe in God, that we must stay in constant communion with God. Men continue to try their hardest to make this world an infertile place for truth to grow, but with God all things are possible. (Matt. 19:26) So, we dig, we plant, we water,

we even have to weed from time to time, but it's always God who gives the increase! (I Cor. 3:6-7) This year, let's remain determined to give God our lives and do His work. Let us never grow weary in well doing, for in due season we will reap but only if we do not faint! (Gal. 6:9)

Thank you, once again, for all your prayers and support of this ministry, and may God bless you everyone!

Sincerely,  
Philip E. Busby  
Director  
Living Springs  
2006