



Dear Supporters,

Here we are at the start of a new year, at least, as we count the times and seasons on our calendar. I don't know about you, but every year which passes makes me long more and more for the return of our Saviour! For some, the new year is filled with hope; and for others, the new year is very depressing. However, what we all need to understand is everyday is a day the Lord has made, (Ps. 118:24) and if the Lord chooses to give it to us then we should use it to seek and serve Him! (Eph. 5:14-21, Col. 3:22-24) As this world waxes worse and worse, it becomes clearer and clearer to the true believer that this is what our lives should be focused on. Sin has taken such a hold on not just this country, but our world as a whole. It seems there is not a day which goes by that I'm not reminded of the scripture which says, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isaiah 5:20 As I study, teach, and seek to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, it never ceases to amaze me how different we live our lives from the way God intended us to. There is simply no wonder at the facts of man's degrading health, environment, and governing systems. What the world is ailing from is a lack of truth, and even as we personally attempt to live in the truth of God's ways, we find this world, by virtue of just what it is and how it goes about its daily activities, is against us more and more.

However, there is another scripture which the Holy Ghost constantly reminds me of, and that is the one which says, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6 In a world which is so at enmity with God, (James 4:4) there is no way for the one who follows the ways of God to accomplish much of anything; but thanks be to God, we are not left comfortless. By the Spirit of God we can survive and do the work God has called us to do! It's truly in that strength that this ministry has accomplished what it has this past year. God has shown us, even without much support or help, we can still do those things He would have us to do, if we just keep working for and trusting in Him.

I can say that while it is true we did not even come close to getting all the projects done which I wanted to in 2007, we have seen God's hand at work, and I believe we are growing in our ability to do His will. The first thing I want to mention is *Shaqah*. As you know, our bimonthly publication went through a name change in 2007, and I am pleased to announce it has been good. The transition went smoothly, and as far as I can tell, everything about the name change has been positive! If anything, it has increased our distribution as well as interest in this ministry as a whole. I cannot express just how motivating it has been to even get some written correspondence and a few phone calls from people thanking us for publishing *Shaqah* and telling us how much it means to them. There are no words for me to convey just how much your words have meant to us!

This year, we have seen again what a blessing it is to have this ministry out there and available to anyone who has access to the internet. The website has drawn interest from, not only all parts of the United States, but from those a world away as well. The questions submitted through the Living Springs Institute website have come from literally all over, and this last year we even picked up a subscriber to *Shaqah* who lives in Africa!

Another thing we have seen progress on this year is the publishing of booklets. This is a goal we have had for a long time but just have not gotten to it. However, this year we have published two booklets: one consisting of an article from *Shaqah*, and the other a Q&A from our website. The good news in all this is that we now have a format for creating booklets. So, just about any article from Living Springs which anyone desires to have in a booklet form can easily be made.

One of the reasons we were/are able to do this, is due to a new computer program we obtained in the spring. It's actually a serious upgrade to the program *Shaqah* has been published with for about four years now, and the new capabilities are a blessing! There are so many programs out there which do all kinds of things automatically, but we need the capability to lay things out the way we want them to look and in a way which keeps our printing costs down, so all of our materials can be printed on demand. This new program gives us the ability in a far better way than its predecessor. The other things this program has brought to us is the ability to publish our documents in PDF format. Because of this, we are changing the way we publish on the web. *Shaqah* and all of our articles in the past have been published in HTML, which is nice but did not provide us the ability to give people over the internet something as savable and printable as PDF documents are. As we write new articles and get the chance to convert old ones, people will be able to save information from our website with ease, in a format which is easy to print out at anytime. Even the electronic version of *Shaqah* is now done in PDF, which means e-mail subscribers see exactly what print subscribers see. We know these files take a little longer to download, but it's worth it!

Now, I have saved the best bit of news for last, and it's an answer to the prayers I have asked you all to pray for so long now. Living Springs Inc. is now the proud owner of a 528 square foot office trailer! This may not sound like much to most people, but that is because they have not been completely without a facility for several years. I know in just last years letter I pleaded with you all to pray for some square footage to run this ministry out of, and the Lord answered those prayers. There just happened to be this beautiful office trailer being used as a sales office in a housing addition not too far from where we live, and my wife and mother just happened to drive past it just after the for sale signs went up. We prayed about it, and everything fell into place for us to get it. Now, most office trailers are not in very good condition and they actually cost a fortune, but this was a case where the people needed to get rid of it, so the price was excellent! It has both heating and air conditioning, it has a rest room and a small kitchenette, it even has some extra cabinets and counter space the previous owners did a very nice job building into it which we will make good use of. As to its condition, everyone who has seen it has commented on just how amazing it was to find an office trailer in such "like new" condition!

There was some question about just how we were going to move it, but the Lord led us right to the perfect company. He even cut through all the red tape to getting it done, and now we are seeing the hand of the Lord at work in getting everything set up inside the new office. We have been able to get rid of a few things we now know we will not be needing, and the Lord is providing new equipment that we do need. Just awhile back we were able to pick up some brand new shelves for just pennies on the dollar. When it all comes together, you just know it's the Lord's will. I am so thankful to the Lord for our new office space. We finally have a place to do the work of this ministry and for me to do my studying and writing. So, again, thank you all for your prayers!

Well, it has come to that point in the yearly letter where I need to close. Just as the time seems to fly by, so too does my space for writing; but as always, I want to thank all those who have put their hands to this ministries plow over the past year. I want to thank my brother Matthew for his service to this organization as a director, for his work on the website, and for getting out the e-mail version of *Shaqah*. My mom Ruth has continued her work as secretary of Living Springs, and spends all kinds of time straining her eyes doing editing for all the written materials we produce. Also, my dad Dale has continued to serve as Living Springs' treasurer. He does work on *Shaqah* and is always helping me with many other projects both great and small. I am ever thankful to the Lord for their service to this ministry and to me personally over all these many years!

I also want to say thank you to my wife Kandi for her work. She does initial editing and layout for *Shaqah*, keeps all the records for distribution and subscriber information, helps me with resource shop orders and just a whole lot of things. In truth of fact, all these people do whatever needs to be done. I thank the Lord for all their help! I even want to say a specific thank you this year to my four year old son Elum, who actually has been, and is growing to be, a bigger help to me each day in a thousand small ways only he has the energy to accomplish!

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank all of you for your continued support of this ministry! We may not be the richest ministry, but God always takes the little and makes it into whatever we have need of! So, again this year, I simply ask that you continue to follow the Lord in all you give, and I earnestly ask for your time in prayer. There is no greater support which any ministry can receive than the time believers spend on their knees in prayer! That is what has accomplished the work we have done in 2007, and it's the only thing which will accomplish the work of 2008!

May you have a year filled with the presence of the Lord. Thank you, once again, and God bless you all!

Sincerely,
Philip E. Busby
Director
Living Springs
2007