



Dear Supporters,

Again this year, I open this year-end letter being just astounded at the fact it's time to write one again! The way time flies by is certainly continuing evidence of just how important it is for all of us to serve the Lord every day in every way we get the chance. So many people are living their lives with such haste, trying to fit it all in, and unfortunately so often, "all" means all the things of the flesh. With such a focus on all things fleshly, it is becoming harder and harder to get people to stop and think upon the things of God. This is just what the devil desires, but we must not allow it to discourage our efforts. Noah was not called to build the ark because God knew hundreds would get on board, but to give a chance to whomever would heed the call. Thus, we too must be willing to share the Word with the world even if it's something they may not believe they have the time for. If we do not, how will they ever get the chance to realize they are missing the truly important things in life?

That is the goal of Living Springs Institute: to publish the gospel message to whomever will take the time to hear; and 2008 was a year of doing just that. 2008 did not see much change for the website portion of this ministry; but, of course, it's still doing its job. Again, this last year we found that this ministry can reach out through the internet and touch lives anywhere in the world. Through our website, we have had the privilege of touching lives in many different countries; and this year we can add to that list, countries such as Sierra Leone and even China!

That brings us to our main publication of *Shaqah*. This kind of contact is exactly why we have converted the electronic version of *Shaqah* to a very print friendly format. This makes it very easy for people, even in other countries, to also share *Shaqah* with others. On top of that, I'm happy to report *Shaqah* did very well this last year right here in the USA. It's a struggle to find and maintain distribution locations at times, but those we have are doing better than they ever have before. Without a doubt, I can say we distributed far more copies of *Shaqah* in 2008 than in any year since we began publishing!

Of course, the marquee accomplishment of 2008 is the release of our first book, *A Sabbath By Design*. This book has been a long time in coming, but in the end, we are very pleased with the result! Copies of this book have been sent to all our subscribers and many, many others. It has served to teach the Word of God and also to increase interest in this ministry as a whole. It's our sincere hope that this book will be only the first of many, but all in the Lord's will. I believe the goal certainly should be quality over quantity, and we have never wanted to throw out materials according to current religious fads or just to spur donations. It is our desire to give solid teaching straight from God's Word. I believe this first book truly represents that desire, and I want all those which follow to do the same!

As I said last year, there is always far more you hope to accomplish than what you actually can get done. However, I believe 2008 was a solid year for this ministry. Lord willing, 2009 will see even more opportunity to share the Word! We are working on an exciting project which will help people understand the Biblical calendar God gave to the nation of Israel, and it's our hope that project will come to full promise this year. The calendar project has also caused us to purchase some new equipment which will help us produce booklets of better quality, and we hope to have a wider variety of booklets available as 2009 progresses. We never know what the

Lord has in store, but we want to keep working in His will because we know He is the only one who can bring the increase! (I Cor. 3:7)

Now, I will not take the space this year to mention each person by name; but again, I want to say thank you to all those who have continued in the work of this ministry. Record keeping, editing, distributing, writing computer code, emptying the trash, vacuuming the floor, and literally the thousand and one things which must be done to keep a ministry such as this one running, are all done by a very small group of people. They have been with me for years and I pray the Lord will bless us with more time together to do His work in what I feel is the little time we have left before the return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. They all know who they are, and that I love them all dearly. It may sound like a cliché but it really is true, this ministry would not be able to do what it does without each of them!

Of course, one of the primary reasons for writing this letter each year is to say thank you to all of you who have supported this ministry over the past year. Jesus pointed out that the widow who gave the two mites gave more than those others who cast into the temple treasury, because she gave all that she had! (Luke 21:1-4) What God needs is not bags of gold or silver, but our deep desire to see His name lifted up among men. When we give unto His work because we believe it's truly His work and not just to make a show, we know our reward is in heaven. It makes no difference whether you can give much or whether you can give little. All that matters is that you give with the right desire in your heart. I love and thank all of you because when you give to this ministry you are not giving to get your name written on some donor recognition board, but because you wish to see names written in the Lamb's Book Of Life!

In closing, please continue in your prayers for this ministry. Prayer is the real need of every true ministry as it pits itself against what often seems to be overwhelming worldliness. Some ministries have fallen to the saying, if you can't beat 'em join 'em; but we know from God's Word that no matter what happens in this world, only those who put their lives in the hands of God win anything of lasting value. Take this whole world but give me Jesus, should be our cry each day. I encourage you today and every day until the Lord calls us home, to run, not as uncertainly; and to fight, not as one who beateth the air but in the knowledge that with God all things are possible! (I Cor. 9:25-27, Mark 10:17-27) May God bless you all with a year filled with His presence!

Sincerely,  
Philip E. Busby  
Director  
Living Springs  
2008