

Dear Supporters,

Here we are again, time to write the year-end letter, and so busy I'm late doing that as it seems we are on so many things at this point. 2019 was about the hardest year yet. I can't say exactly why it was such a hard year other than to sight God's Word in saying, "...little foxes that spoil the vines:..." Song of Solomon 2:15 I guess it was a culmination of so many things that caused a bit of a delay here and there. Before I knew it we were further behind than I've ever seen us. That said, let me apologize to everyone for the fact you probably had to wait a while for many of the things you requested from this ministry. It is always my hope that in the end we get everything to each person who ordered from us, but it has been very hard to keep up and stay organized as we simply try to deal with whatever seems the most pressing at the moment.

Of course, that is not to say we aren't thankful for many things about 2019. As I mentioned in last year's letter, we anticipated celebrating this ministry's 25th Anniversary. In doing so we were all reminded of how we got this far, which was by simply continuing to do the work week after week, month after month, year after year. I said the anniversary would go by quietly as we continued to do the work of this ministry, but we did do one special thing to mark the occasion. We requested a flag be flown over the U.S. capital building in Washington D.C. on April 18th in recognition of the event. This was done, and the flag was shipped to us along with a signed certificate. Every day many flags fly over the capital of the United States and many of them in commemoration of something or someone, but it was nice to think that on that day there was one flown to mark the fact God has given us this many years to serve Him in doing this work!

This seemed very appropriate in an age where there is so much discrimination against all things good in our world. The opportunity for a ministry to still do something like this without some person or group objecting that it's not appropriate for the government to have anything to do with a Godly ministry is a real blessing we still have in the United States. As much as the founding principles of this nation have been eroded by those who want evil in this world, one still has to think back to those brave men and women so long ago who fought to free this country and establish this nation. It is their efforts we still stand upon today. It was their sacrifices that over 200 years later allows even a small ministry like Living Springs to freely go about its work. Of course, this nation would not have gone on in freedom had it not been for the brave men and women who have fought in many wars of the past, and those going on even today, in order to keep this nation free. For all of them we are incredibly thankful!

With that in mind it only seemed fitting that in some way some of those who served be made a part of Living Springs' 25th, and so, on November 11th we had the great honor of taking our flag to the Veteran's Day service in Greeley Colorado, where two veterans of the Vietnam war officially folded it for us. All these things are very small symbols which may or may not mean a lot to many people, but for us this was the most appropriate thing that could be done. As we work so hard through what at times seems to be impossible odds to keep this ministry going, the desire to give up can become strong. However, I think about the little time we may have left, not just until The Lord returns, but also in just how long we will remain blessed with enough freedom to do this work. When I do, I see just how much we must go on to do what we each can do for The Lord while we can!

Little foxes spoil the vines, but little is much in the hands of The Lord! We are always thankful to The Lord for the opportunity to serve and to reach more and more people. From that standpoint alone 2019 was a year to truly give thanks, for as I have mentioned in this letter for many years now, we just keep seeing growth. The numbers of Shaqah and Calendars we produce just keep rising. The number of books and booklets we are sending out continue to go up. It has been such a blessing to read the letters many of you have sent to us thanking us for what we do! Reports of lives touched and changed, and people being reached due to Shaqah even far beyond the number of Shaqah we send out. When we read those letters and hear those reports, we just know we must keep up the good fight in spite of a world that is increasingly against all the things of God. Thus, I am thankful for those who have continued to help. We have far too little space to do what we do, and far too few hands to do the work, but we keep on keeping on. We are grateful for those who give to this ministry financially, and thankful to those who give of their time in prayer for us! We need so much prayer to defeat what the enemy throws at us, and I can't thank those of you enough who have prayed for this ministry on a regular basis! Through tiredness, sickness, and just the challenges of everyday life, we have continued only by the grace of God to maintain and keep up as well as we have.

As we begin 2020, we do so putting out an issue of Shaqah that is as late as any issue has ever been. Sickness has really set us back and at times just made it impossible to push on through. Thus, we are faced right off with the reality that it will continue to be a daily struggle. This first issue of Shaqah has shown itself to be such a struggle to get out, it was suggested we not even do it and just try to move on to the next one. When that was suggested I had to think back to another time my health was so bad I thought it possible I'd never do another Shaqah again. In that time I found myself thinking, this just can't happen, we have to get it done! By the grace of God that issue did eventually go out. So too, this time I was struck with the fact we have never missed an issue of Shaqah, and as long as it is at all possible it is my intent that we never do. We know with prayer we can continue to go on as God gives us the ability, and that is what we will do in 2020!

When I think about it all, I think about how much it comes down to sheer determination. It's all about dedication and the mental will to do what the body says just can't be done; what the world says can't be done. I think about the many things of God people have set aside because it just seems all too hard to live. However, we know we can't afford to do such a thing. We must continue to do what God has asked us to do and live the life He has asked us to live! In spite of the struggles or hardships we each may face, we need to pull ourselves up each day and determine we will continue our walk with and work for God. So it is my great hope and prayer that each of you will go on this year in walking with The Lord and struggling on in His great work each and every day!

Sincerely,



Philip E. Busby
Executive Director
Living Springs
2019