

Dear Supporters,

Last year I talked about what a hard year 2020 had been, but 2021 proved itself to be full of challenges as well. We all know that the pandemic changed our lives in 2020, and sadly most of those changes have failed to drop off in 2021. As I finally take time to sit down and to write this letter we are still under various restrictions and looming court battles over how much of our freedoms will be taken from us in the name of "safety." Just today, I found myself thinking about how much I have thanked God for the freedom to maintain this ministry and how those times often come on observances such as Veteran's Day, Memorial Day and the 4th of July. While each time I've said it in a post, letter or the like, I've been aware the day would come when that freedom might disappear, it's still so very heartbreaking to see it happening. We have seen free speech get limited more and more in places such as online where many believed freedom would reign no matter what powers might hate it, and it's only a matter of time before we see such things start getting applied to everyday life offline. Yes, even now, it's amazing to hear voices talking about how people with certain opinions and thoughts should be "silenced," but it's happening more and more and such voices are getting bolder and bolder.

Sadly, many of the same people who are saying and agreeing with such things will find themselves one day regretting their mistake in pushing that direction and, of course, that day will likely come when they find themselves sitting in the position of the one who others are calling to be silenced. By then it'll be too late and the damage will have been done. It's hard to watch, and those of us who have a voice are still trying to push back, but even moderate voices are villainized as much today as any voice considered "extreme." Thus, my thoughts during the last half of 2021 in particular have been on preparing this ministry as best we can for the day we lose the right to be on certain platforms or distribute in certain places. I can't say there are many good answers to most of those questions, and even the ones that appear to have options are very uncertain as to who or what will see any longevity. These are truly the days when we turn to the words of Jesus when He told us not to think about what you will say when they drag us before kings, judges, etc., but to allow The Holy Ghost to put the right words in our mouth. (Matt. 10:16-22) Only God knows what truly lays ahead of us, and while that has always been true, it's just become so much more obvious in our day.

I can't say I know what people who don't put their trust in God are thinking. All I can tell you is what I have always believed and now have to keep forefront in my mind more and more; I'm so glad to serve The God Who has promised an ultimate end to all this that frees us from this world and all sinful men want to do with it and in it. This is the hope we live with. We simply do not know what the future holds but we know Who holds the future! That is how we must approach 2022 in a way far greater than we have approached any year yet. As we have labored over the last year, not attempting to keep up but to catch up, we see in front of us the great desire there is for the materials we produce. I would be lying if I said there were not moments when it's hard to see joy in the increase, but it seems when exhausted times come, especially when they begin to build, we open a letter or get a message from one of you that contains words of encouragement; often ones that make us cry. It is then we see that God renews our strength to go on, and so it is for those words I thank you this year. We know for all those who sent words to us there are many more who feel the same way. For you all we are grateful! Grateful that God has brought you into our lives; grateful we get to do a work that means so much to so many.

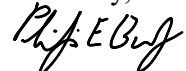
I think back on the days when Living Springs was a church and how few at any one time walked through the doors, and then I see our mailing list today and know we are where God wanted us to be

all along. I've said it before and I'll say it again, even this publication ministry we do now is not what I imagined but it is that organic flow in both life and ministry that puts us where we are. Following God's daily guidance; getting done what has to be done; filling the requests that have been made. All these things have made Living Springs what it is today and I can't help but believe we're doing the work God wants us to do. With that I want to say to all of you how sorry we are that things have been running so late in getting out and assure you we have not forgotten you, we are just that far behind still. I also want to apologize to anyone who feels they have attempted to contact us and not heard a response. Things do sometimes slip through the cracks as hard as we fight to not let it happen. There is also the truth the mail is not what it use to be. If something does not get delivered to us we have no way of knowing that, nor do we have a way to track every package/letter that we send out. I'm not saying we have an indication this is happening a lot, I only wish to say we are sorry to any it may have happened to and please let us know if you think something has gone wrong. Again, it is not our intent to forget or turn anyone down.

On a more positive note, I want to use this letter to let everyone know we do now have a way to take donations directly on our website. I don't say that to obligate anyone for a donation but just as a way to let you know if you've been looking for an easy way to donate to this ministry our website now gives you that. There are also a couple of other opportunities to see funds come to Living Springs by shopping at certain places, but the details of those I don't have room for here. Lord willing, we will be getting those details clarified on our website so all those who desire to take advantage of these ways to help Living Springs can! 2021 also brought a new printer to us and at the same time costs us less than the setup we had before. Now, instead of one printer that helps us and another that sits idle, The Lord made a way for us to keep the better machine we used all the time and exchange the slower one we didn't use for one a little faster than the better machine. This has been a blessing as we face such a time crunch each day. Even a little extra speed in printing gets us on to other things and orders out the door just that much better, which is needed now more than ever!

Small things such as these have been another evidence from God that He wants us to carry on with this work, and as I've said countless times, we will carry on as long as God makes a way. We are so grateful for all the donations and prayer support we have received this last year. They too are evidence because other than something small like I said above in this letter, we do not solicit for support much, if at all. We make do with what God provides and look to Him for all things. I know some of you have sent donations you probably thought were small but they mean the world to us. I have always been a firm believer in the five loaves and two fishes, and this ministry is living proof of that truth. (Matt. 14:13-21) So little has gone so far, it really is a miracle! As you all have encouraged us so much this last year, I want to encourage each of you to stay the course of drawing closer to God day by day throughout 2022. Come what may in this world we should each be encouraged with the knowledge we don't live for this world but for the God Who created it all. Thank you all once again, and may you find the blessings of growth in God and His Word as we go forward into another year of seeking His will!

Sincerely,



Philip E. Busby
Executive Director
Living Springs
2021