

December 2007

Dear Friends,

“Be filled with the Spirit... Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:18, 20.

I love this time of year, this time to praise God and thank Him for His goodness!

He has greatly blessed our work here at LLT. I'd love to share with you how He has provided, opened the way, brought us to the right people and places, taken care of the little things.

With the help of friends like you, we've been able to move ahead on three important fronts:

1. Multiple translations of *The Seventh Day* videos;
2. A new series on the Nature of Man and the State of the Dead, presenting Bible truth in a combination of documentary and dramatic formats. The first episode focuses on the ultimate destiny of the lost;
3. The new DVD companion to *The Seventh Day* series: four full hours of Bonus Features.

Translations

This year we have devoted much time and energy to making *The Seventh Day* available in several foreign languages. The challenges are great! Languages are so complex!

We've discovered how easy it is for even professional translators to miss subtle meanings, misunderstand bits of sarcasm, or fail to follow complicated paragraph and sentence structure. So we've added another layer to the process – an additional review of the translated scripts, looking particularly at the problem areas.

In some cases we have already been able to move from the translation process to the actual recording/editing phase. I am so grateful for the generous support that has enabled us to proceed. Here's an overview of our progress:

- Voice recording and audio processing of the Arabic version is done. Entering the Arabic text is now underway – the final step before replication/broadcast.
- A commercial dubbing company in Hong Kong is handling the voice recordings of the Chinese translation. Our liaison in Hong Kong is Achim Buchmann, a German businessman. He has plans for wide distribution in mainland China. He believes the Chinese people's passion for history will make *The Seventh Day* series a real hit. I hope he's right!
- The Adventist Media Centre in Germany is finished recording the German translation of Hal Holbrook's narration, and they are proceeding with the other voices.

- We have a complete French script in hand, and our friends at Il Est Ecrit (the French version of It is Written) are working on production in Montreal.
- Pastor Robson DeOliveira is helping with the final review of the Portuguese script.
- Dutch and Russian translations are currently at the review stage.
- Scripts are currently being translated into Cambodian, Danish, Korean and Romanian.

Although volunteers are helping with some of the translations, we often need the services of paid professional translators. Much of the recording and editing has to be done by companies that specialize in translation work for movies and television programs. Our production costs for the languages mentioned above will be between \$120,000 and \$170,000 – a small price to pay for sharing the truth about such a decisive end-time issue!

Friends, the Sabbath/Sunday question will soon agitate this world. As recently as September 9, Pope Benedict XVI addressed the subject, urging Austrian Catholics to protect Sunday as a day of spiritual focus. He pointed out that Christians need this weekly appointment with the Lord to give them a sense of direction and help them move beyond "the bustle of everyday life."

The pope went on to link Sunday with Creation. According to his misinterpretation of the biblical data, Sunday should be celebrated not only as a day of rest but as "the church's weekly feast of creation." This is a blatant rejection of God's Creation memorial, the Sabbath! It underscores the tension between the authority of church tradition and the clear teaching of Holy Scripture.

Eternal Torment

In October we traveled to Australia to film interviews with two prominent non-Adventist theologians – both of whom have written books against the traditional doctrine of Eternal Torment. Dr. David Powys, an Anglican vicar, and Dr. Christopher Marshall, a university professor, also stand with us in our belief that man does not possess an immortal soul.

Dr. Powys affirmed the doctrine of man's single nature, and emphatically declared that the dualistic view of man as being formed two parts, body and soul, is neither biblical nor Christian, and has its source in the pagan philosophies of ancient Greece and Rome.

Dr. Marshall pointed out that the traditional teaching of eternal torment requires God to be eternally, unrelentingly violent against the unsaved. Such ongoing, never-ending retribution surpasses the requirements of justice and is inconsistent with the biblical picture of the character of God.

More than a century ago Ellen White wrote, "The doctrine of eternal torment has led many to disbelieve the Bible." (*The Great Controversy*, 587.) If that was true back then, how much more so today! The traditional views of the immortality of the soul and eternal torment have painted a horrible picture of God. Wielded in the hands of pastors,

priests and evangelists, these delusive teachings have brought a harvest of fear and confusion. It's time for us to present the truth about the nature of man and the character of our God.

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions.” (*Ibid.*, 588.) This prophetic statement from Ellen White encourages us to press on in our endeavors to distribute *The Seventh Day* around the world, and to produce an engaging and persuasive series on the nature of man and what happens at death.

Bonus Features DVD

Our value-added DVD – supplement to *The Seventh Day* – is now ready for distribution. We've been working on this for over a year, and we think you'll be pleased with the result. It has grown to fill a double-sided DVD with over 4 hours of bonus features, “the rest of the story.”

For example, you'll find a history of the “Sabbath project” from beginning to end. Being in front of a camera is definitely not my favorite place to be, but I know the story well, and I'm privileged to share what God has done.

There are fascinating bits and pieces from our experts – interesting things that we couldn't squeeze into the five *Seventh Day* videos. A selection of informal clips takes you “behind-the-scenes” of the production process.

Dwight Nelson joined Jim Wood and me to talk about the project, the experts, the scripts, and some of the historical background behind the presentations. We discuss each of the five parts – two and a half hours in all.

For those who are interested in in-depth study and research, we've added a collection of files in computer-accessible format. There is a full set of transcripts with footnotes and documentation. We've also included a new series of studies on Sabbath-related issues: “problem texts,” the mark of the beast, the covenants, etc.

A Special Gift for You

As a special “thank you,” we will send a FREE COPY of this *Bonus Features DVD* to everyone who contributes toward our projects between now and the end of the year! I know you will be blessed and enjoy the material.

Friends, events these days make heaven more and more real, and more and more desirable to me. Can you imagine yourself walking the golden streets with Jesus? You meet people along the way; they share their stories, recounting the events that connected them to heaven. In amazement you hear that your words, your prayers, your work, your contributions, were a link in the chain that connected these precious people to Jesus!

We have a little time and a big work. Would you consider prayerfully how the Lord would have you partner with us in these projects here at LLT? Your prayers, your contribution, large or small, will help advance the work of communicating vital, end-time truths to a lost world.

May God bless you with a peaceful, joyous holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely,

Pat Arrabito