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Minister

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Dear Brethren,

**IT IS DONE!** We have completed all the final editing and compiling of the new Bible—*The Holy Bible In Its Original Order*. Thursday, November 15, John and Hiedi Vogele shipped, via UPS Air International Express, the complete hard copy of the Bible text, commentaries and appendices—1416 pages total, plus two CDs—off to the printer. Additional “backup” copies of the CDs—which contain all the formatted pages of the entire Bible—were sent in a separate air express package. The manufacturer, *LithoPak, Inc.* of Hong Kong, China, will immediately begin the process of printing and binding this beautiful new Bible. It will be approximately 60 days until we receive them through the port of Oakland, California, and begin mailing them to you.

You will be pleasantly surprised, delighted and enthusiastic when you see the beautiful artwork on the front and back of the presentation box, and the gold-stamped, handcrafted lambskin cover. The paper is a special high-quality French Bible paper with gold-gilded edges and two marker ribbons—one black and one gold. It will be triple bound—Smythe stitched, spine stitched and glued. The scriptural text pages have wide margins for study notes and center column references with scriptural studies and additional explanations of critical words. And, although it is composed of 1416 pages, it is only 1-3/8 inches thick.

Beyond its physical appearance, the most important aspect of this new Bible is that it is the *first* Bible—with the Old and New Testaments together—ever printed in the original God-inspired manuscript order. (As students of the Bible, it will take some time to become accustomed to the new manuscript order of the books of the Old Testament.) As you will come to see, once the correct order is established, God’s sevenfold division of the Bible becomes apparent within the 49 books of the Bible—22 for the Old Testament and 27 for New Testament. Note that 49 is the product of 7 x 7, further demonstrating the *perfect order* God intended in revealing His Word to mankind—and especially to His Church. There is so much more to tell you about this new Bible, but it is all contained in the commentaries and appendices. You can read all about it when you receive your own personal copy.

This past Sabbath I talked with Robert Martin of our Fairfield, California, fellowship group. Robert showed me his first edition of *The New Testament In Its Original Order*. The date he received it was January 31, 2004. He commented that *now*, only four years later, we will have the *complete* Bible in January 2008!

Brethren, each one of us is an important part of a small army of faithful, end-time defenders of the Truth of God! Those directly involved in translating, writing, editing, proof-reading and compiling the new Bible are but part of this small army. All the money to pay for this project (it is completely paid for) has been freely given. From those who have been able to give much, to the widower’s and widow’s “mite,” **we are all in this together**. Such an undertaking as this could not be accomplished without God the Father and Jesus Christ’s continuous divine guidance and intervention.

We constantly need to remind ourselves that we are part of a *greater work* that Jesus Christ is personally accomplishing in various ways throughout all His churches, as well as in the world at large—all in preparation for His return and the establishment of the

Kingdom of God on earth. Furthermore, the greatest work God the Father and Jesus Christ are doing is the spiritual work in leading us to develop godly character and the mind of Christ. In fact, today, you are attending God's "Spiritual College," and you are preparing for your graduation; you will receive your diploma at the first resurrection. Everything else is secondary to this GREAT overall purpose.

When loving and serving God—whether in the spiritual or the physical aspects of our small part in this great work of Christ—we need to fully realize, as Jesus told His disciples, that we have been blessed to enter into the labor of others: "Jesus said to them, 'My meat [His goal and driving purpose] is to **do the will of Him Who sent Me, and to finish His work**. Do not say that there are yet four months, and *then* the harvest comes. I say to you, look around. Lift up your eyes and see the fields, for they are already white to harvest. **And the one who reaps receives a reward, and gathers fruit unto eternal life; so that the one who is sowing and the one who is reaping may both rejoice together** [that is, the combined work of all those that God has ever used—from the beginning in Genesis to the completion of God's plan in Revelation]. For in this the saying is true, that one sows and another reaps. **I sent you to reap that in which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor'** " (John 4:34-38).

The apostle Paul made it clear that we are all part of the same household. As Paul writes, this is why Jesus came and why we have been called: "And *that* He might reconcile both [Israelites, Jews and Gentiles] to God in one body through the cross, having slain the enmity [of sin and a carnal nature] by it [the crucifixion and resurrection].

"Now when He came, He preached the gospel—peace to you who *were* far off and to those who *were* near. For through Him we both have *direct* access by one Spirit to the Father. So then, you are no longer aliens and foreigners; **but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of the household of God**. You are being built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets [and their writings], Jesus Christ Himself [and His teachings] being *the* Chief Cornerstone in Whom **all the building, being conjointly fitted together**, is increasing into a holy temple in *the* Lord; **in Whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in *the* Spirit**" (Eph. 2:16-22).

As we study the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation, we need to retain this great overview and purpose of God and the work that Jesus Christ is doing in each one of us. We as ministers and elders are to be helpers of your joy in your calling of God. We are to serve the brethren and teach them the Word of God in spirit and in truth that they may grow in grace and knowledge. Paul wrote of the central, overall purpose of the ministry in serving and teaching the heirs of salvation: "And He gave some *as* apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers **for the perfecting of the saints, for *the* work of *the* ministry, for *the* edifying of the body of Christ; until we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto *the* measure of *the* stature of the fullness of Christ**; so that we no longer be children, tossed and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men in *cunning* craftiness, with a view to the systematizing of the error; but **holding the truth in love, may in all things grow up into Him Who is the Head, *even* Christ** from Whom all the body, fitly framed and compacted together by *that which* every joint supplies, **according to *its* inner working in *the* measure of each individual part, is making the increase of the body unto *the* edifying of itself in love**" (Eph. 4:11-16). This is the single minded focus that we all—teachers and brethren alike—must have.

Concerning attaining the goal of perfection, Jesus said: "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. **It is sufficient for the disciple that he become as his teacher, and the servant as his master**" (Matt. 10:25). Jesus is the Great Teacher. We are to develop the character of Jesus Christ by letting the mind of Christ be in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Paul wrote, "Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). This is accomplished through loving God the Father and Jesus

Christ “with all our heart, mind, soul and strength”—and “loving our neighbors as ourselves.” Indeed, we must love each other as Jesus has loved us.

Paul continually reminded the brethren that in order to develop the mind of Christ, they always needed to be loving and obedient to God, because it is God Who is spiritually working in them to give them the will and desire to do the things that are pleasing to Him: “So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **For it is God Who works in you both to will and to do according to His good pleasure.** Do all things without complaints and disputes; so that you may be blameless and without offense, innocent children of God in *the* midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as lights in *the* world, holding forth the Word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, nor labored in vain” (Phil. 2:12-16).

These words of the apostle Paul best express the motivation, reason and purpose behind this Bible Project. It is our heartfelt desire that everyone one who receives this new Bible—*The Holy Bible In Its Original Order*—may more fully understand the Word of God and be inspired to grow in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Finally, the following prayer of Paul is also our prayer for all who receive this new Bible: “For this cause, I also, after hearing of the faith in the Lord Jesus that is among you, and the love toward all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; **that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you *the* spirit of wisdom and revelation in *the* knowledge of Him. And may the eyes of your mind be enlightened in order that you may comprehend what is the hope of His calling, and what *is* the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe,** according to the inner working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from *the* dead, and set *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above every principality and authority and power and lordship, and every name that is named—not only in this age, but also in the *age* to come; for He has subordinated all things under His feet, and has given Him *to be* head over all things to the Church, which is His body—the fullness of Him Who fills all things in all” (Eph. 1:15-23).

Due to all the work in finalizing the Bible Project and getting it off to the printers, I have been late in writing this short November letter to you. Perhaps next month I can write a longer letter covering specific prophetic events we need to be watching.

Once again, brethren, thank you for your love, and for your prayers—for all of us and for all the brethren—that you offer up daily to God the Father and Jesus Christ. Also, thank you for your continued support, so that working together we have been able to complete this enormous Bible Project. May God the Father continue to bless you with His love and grace in everything you and yours do.

With Love in Christ Jesus,

Fred R. Coulter  
FRC

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