

Newsong Children(*Letter from Jonathan*)

Dear Yoneq and Ha-Emeq,

In every circumstance we can rejoice in the mighty and powerful salvation we have in our Master Yahshua, because He has finished and completed what He was sent to do and nothing can undo what He has done. We can only receive the work of His Spirit in us, the labor of love to complete us and restore us to who we were created to be. The fact that we are seated with Him in the heavenlies is the proof that He cannot fail us no matter what the enemy devises to destroy us. I write this letter rejoicing that I belong to Him.

I've wanted to write to you many times in the past few months, and did write down a letter to you that I didn't mail at the time. The letter was a deep and desperate cry from my heart because of the abyss of hopelessness it appeared to me, at the time, I could not get out of. My thoughts and emotions were against me and against the truth. Even though my heart knew who was saving me because He had saved me, I could not recognize or trust that anything of faith was in me. The only thing that had any effect on my heart was the love that was communicated to me from my brothers and sisters. Their love did not fail me, because they had His love for me. I won't go into the details of what I went through in the abyss because it does not matter. It's not worthy to mention, but I do want to express the love that came to me during that time, because that love is so precious and valuable to my heart, because I'm a human being created like my Father to *need* love. I am so thankful I could be in such a weak and needy place so that love could reach me. So much that I've held onto to give me worth in my own eyes has been stripped away, but love is enduring. One thing that I remember that I wrote to you in the letter, Yoneq, that I did want to communicate to you is that I love you and that you are, to me, the father on earth that I never had. Because I was raised never knowing the personal love of a father, I have always been insecure concerning the emotions and relationships I've had with men. This is being completely healed in the Edah, but still the deep work is ongoing. Because of my deficits, I always felt more secure around Ha-Emeq and more convinced of her love for me, but even though I *knew* that you loved me, Yoneq, I still had a wall up in my heart, a wall of worthless fears because I hated myself because of my sin. The more I hated myself, however, the stronger the hold my sin had. I needed someone to touch me with the love of Yahshua in the deep, intimate places where sin was secreted away. When you and Sameach came to me in North Carolina and I was able to confess the deep, dark ugliness of my sin, and you communicated the forgiveness of my Savior to me, I was freed from the trap Satan was laying for me. You loved me, just like when you came to LaGrange where I was lost and without hope in the world. Yoneq, you are the father I never had, and without your love Yahshua's love could not reach me. I know I am close to you and this draws me closer in my heart to Yahshua.

When I first returned home to Island Pond I needed so much grace, and was so raw. There was so much care for Hannah and me, even though we were hard to care for. Hakam and Yonah and Caleb were such good and faithful shepherds to us. Yonah was especially warm and kind because of the suffering that he had experienced. I knew he was to Hannah and me, the way we should have been to Yochebed and him during their time of insecurity. I was ashamed of how little I really reached out to them when they needed love. They are very worthy disciples of our Master, and I believe they deserve much honor and respect. Someone who personally really cared and loved me as a compassionate friend was Abishai (who used to be Carlo). It was amazing, the grace he had to meet me where I really needed someone to be. He would talk to my heart and cause me to weep and weep. He is a sincere and courageous brother. Obadiah, also really pursued me and gave me much wisdom, especially showing me Psalm 73. It broke my heart when I read this from our Father, because it exposed the root of what I was really struggling with—why my feet were coming close to stumbling and why my feet were almost slipping. Even though Hannah and I were being cleansed of any personal bitterness we had in our heart towards Juan, finding the grace to love him *because* he was an enemy, still my heart hurt because he seemingly could go on and on with his lies and accusations against the truth, and there was no justice coming to deliver the children from the corruption. I see now that that injustice was defiling my heart and even weakening my stance against my own enemies. There is no natural righteousness within me

only a burning to see righteousness come, but when this hope is deferred, my heart becomes sick. My heart had become sick and I *needed* the healing of Yahshua, before he could bring deliverance in the situation. All this was allowed so that Hannah and I could be saved, not just to deliver the children. Juan's end was tragic and horrible, something our Father wanted desperately to save him from, but he would not let Him. Now what is left is the restoration of the children, and that's who I wanted to write to you about.

When Hannah and I were going through our deepest discipline of darkness in Island Pond, I was having a very hard time reading the word, but one day I was awakened with a burning desire to read. I knew that this desire was coming from His desire to speak to me. I opened the Bible to Jer 31 and immediately read verses 15-20. My heart wilted within me because I knew that this was a promise of restoration that I longed for, even concerning Hannah's children. I was so afraid to "lay hold" of this promise in my heart, because it seemed so easy to misunderstand what my Father was actually speaking, and it seemed so hard to believe. But I knew the God of Heaven was saying those words to my heart, and I knew that the restoration of Israel depended in part to my believing them. I struggled so much with this because it is difficult to see how important we are in His eyes unless we open up our heart completely and absolutely to the relationship He wants to have with us. There is so much pride and resistance that feeds doubt and separates us from the promise that faith reveals to us. Olah came to me at one point and urged me to read what I had written on the back of *Simply the Truth* years ago as a testimony of what I knew was occurring in my life. The faith I had then seemed so strange and distant to me when I read it, but there was a flicker of hope that restoration could come if I would give up my life, and repent and be washed of pride and bitterness and doubt. I knew that Hannah was waiting on me, suffering at my side, being torn apart herself, yet enduring with my weakness, but I could not seem to budge from the stubbornness of doubt. But then one night at the end of the Sabbath when our Father met His people at the gathering in Island Pond, the prophet spoke and I knew I must heed or be destroyed. That night Hannah and I cried out wholeheartedly and YHWH heard us and did certainly restore us to communion. We continued to experience much tribulation with our life, but we knew that He was with us. Continually I remembered Jer 31 and shared with some brothers that YHWH had spoken these words to my heart when I needed to hear from Him. Then, when news came concerning Juan, I wondered, could this be the opening for Hannah's children to be saved from their old fatherhood? Could it be possible?

So much has happened and is happening concerning this, that I hardly know how to relate it all. Hannah and I are in Oviedo, which is the town in Florida where they live. It is a small town of about 10,000, an outlying suburb of Orlando. The house we have has three bedrooms and a very large yard, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre of lawn. At this point the children will come to live with us probably by the end of next week. The HRS are moving up the court date from August 7 to June 21 because they want us to have custody of the children. They have heard all the accusations against the community, but they believed us when we told them the truth. In fact, Edgar Morales, who is the protective investigator for the HRS told Heather that it's not true that her mother is in a cult, but that's just what religious people say who don't like the way we live. He has really served us as a member of the government.

What has been most encouraging to us is the response of the children. Their step mother continues to pound into them that we are in a cult, but they are seeing through it and their "fear" of the community is slowly dissolving as they are restored to our heart. Jennifer longs so much to see Stacy, who she remembers as the best friend she ever had, and when Tsiy-Tsah sent her a candle from Island Pond, Jennifer immediately sat down to write her a note to thank her. Heather is the most bold about her questions concerning everything she does not understand, head covering, hair, etc., but she is a sponge wanting to understand everything. Hephzibah is very, very warm, affectionate, and needy. I told her that her Hebrew name was Hephzibah when she was little and she was so excited, and wanted me to call her that. In many ways she is still a little four-year-old girl, but in spite of all her many, many behavioral problems, the good foundation in her is obvious. This is true of all the girls. Samuel is more difficult and needy, but he is very responsive; he requires much, much firm patience. They are so excited about living with us. Anna is still at the "House of Hope", a prisoner in many ways. We are waiting until we are awarded custody before we confront that situation too strongly. There is a strong charismatic spirit over the

whole place, and they heavily indoctrinate the girls there in the “name it and claim it” gospel of prosperity. Somehow though, Anna is not being able to receive this deception into her, and they are a little frustrated with her resistance. Jennifer is a “good little Christian”, self righteous, and shallow, but not unyielding to the gospel. There is a deep deep well in her that has never been touched. She has definite ideas concerning her future, but is opening up to the possibility that God has another will for her than what she’s learned in Sunday School. There is so much about each that gives us much hope and so much in each that will require more work than we can ever imagine. We are crying out for wisdom as we face into this long-awaited but overwhelming future. It is like a powerful wind and a consuming fire. Hannah is expecting her eighth child in three to four weeks and is experiencing the greatest suffering and the greatest hope of her life. She is an amazing, wonderful woman, more worthy than she ever begins to realize, but the glory of our God is radiating from her poured-out life. Timshal and Yadel brought furniture and Netsakh and Yadah down this past week, and will be here for at least two more weeks. They have been a great, great help to us. Yadel and I were able to work together on the new Grateful cover down here and to mail it to Island Pond. So far, I am finding work here that helped us to get the things we needed to set up the house, plus what was sent from Island Pond. Timshal will need to take the Rabbit back to Island Pond so we are also needing a vehicle. So far our God has provided at every step, so we continue to trust in him.

Now, I want to write to you about David Taylor. He and his wife took us in and really cared for us when we were first here. They are really wonderful people, so open to all that we share with them. David is reading the paper to Billy Graham, and this is opening more and more the gospel to him. He sees through Christianity a great deal, and he understands the concept of the “local church”, but the standard of unity that would bind us to him as brothers causes much suffering. He wants us to be *one* very much, but the great death and commitment to *one* baptism, *one* Lord, *one* faith, *one* God and Father that is the requirement of the gospel is a great cost to him. I have been able to talk with him about Larry Davis’s sin of leaving the body he was committed to and going else where and starting over as if everything was alright between him and the Lord, and David understands that this was wrong. He also sees the damage that Gene Edwards is causing. I see that much of what David needs to grasp needs to come from others, and he longs to meet with you and Hakam. He loves you, he says, and has stood up against a flood of accusations that came from Juan. He has such a precious heart, and I see how much our Father wants to save him from being on his own, but how much labor is still necessary to clear up the veil of Christianity. It is obvious that he is in communication with Holy Angels, however, and is receiving us completely. He has helped us in so many, many ways, and still receives some very hard-to-receive sayings. I am going slowly, however, wanting to completely understand our Father’s heart toward David, but I know I’ve grown to love the sincerity of his concern for what is true. I hope so much that you or Hakam or both of you could talk with him again.

Yoneq, I’m going to end for now and send this off; I’ve only touched on much that needs deeper communication, but I know that YHWH will give you the fullness of understanding in your heart through His Spirit. Give my love to all who serve so faithfully in Reuben.

Love,
Jonathan

P. S. I know that Hephzibah will be overjoyed to see both of you as her heart is cleansed to love the truth. Please pray for this complete work. She is still so tender, and I know your love for her is a seed that our Father will water to fruition. Hannah sends her love and deep appreciation for all that you are to her and all that you’ve done for her.

P. P. S. After we read this letter at one of our tables in Albany, Yoneq spoke about lost sheep. He said that shepherds need to know when to go after lost sheep to save them. One time a family in Sus left and they dropped everything to go after them. They arrived in the same town the family went to, 800 miles away, on the same day the family did. The family turned right around and came home. It was the right time. When Yoneq heard that

Jonathan wasn't doing well, Sameach and he arrived at Hannah's mother's house before they did at 3 AM. After letting them sleep, they knocked on the door. They were the first people Jonathan saw after he woke up. This was the time Jonathan spoke of in the letter.