

## Directing Children

Dear Shoresh,

Yoneq just got a letter from Hannah, wife of Levi, and it brought some things to his mind that he wanted to communicate to you so you could pass it on.

She was talking about the awkward feeling of being the “mother of the bride.” But Yoneq said that hopefully soon we will become more “normal” and quit sending the nice young girls and boys to live away from their parents to “live in Boston,” etc... Parents should keep their children at home until they marry. They should leave their father and mother and cling to one another. Of course there will always be special behavioral problem cases, but this is the exception. That way the parents will be in charge of the weddings, along with their households, rather than by-standers trying to “fit-in.”

She also talked about how our children (boys) strive to be “carpenters and musicians in Boston” like children in the world strive to be rock stars. But the children despise hard work and are not trained to labor by the sweat of their brow. They should stay at home, work in their father’s trade. They should learn skills – like Chazaq is a good plumber (a practical skill), but he spends his time running the computer in the soap shop, doesn’t he? And what do his sons do? We need to train all the children in gardening and stop being such lazy adults — if you have gardens the adults must be examples of zeal in pulling weeds.

We must stay away from hi-tech even though it is appealing. We must continue to learn practical skills so we will be prepared. We need farms.

The children must be trained in proper table manners. There must be someone in each household who still knows proper manners and is sensitive to how we all err — making a bad example for children to grow up in. And then we must be faithful to maintain the standard. We always tend to fall away so there must be prophets in each household who obstinately keep calling us back to the standard.... or else we’ll perish. We must work along with the little children to teach them exactly how to do things right, and not just put them to work by themselves. Look to the gifted ones to lead us.

We need to be continually reminded of these things, and not grow weary in these things. Maybe you can expand upon these things, and communicate it to the others.

We will be in Brazil December 9 through January 9 if you want to write us a letter. We love you.

Yoneq and Ha-Emeq