

Common Sense, Fatherhood, and Other Topics*Notes from an inter-regional Cooks' Meeting with ha-emeq*

Introduction

Yoneq and I went to visit the clan in Rutland, Vermont, yesterday. Rutland is so wonderful. Have you been there lately? It didn't used to be that way. Our brothers and sisters have made the grass "very green" there. Our Father gave them a very nice building. It is called the Back Home Again Café. They are going to have the "hippicrit center" and publish the "hippicrit journal" there. This is where all the hippies in New England went in the 60's and 70's. There are all still there hidden in the hills around Rutland. Havah and Elishevah of Israel were living there before they came to the community. There was a famous little café in that building in those days called the *Back Home Café*. So we are going to rebuild it just like it was and have a replica of our bus with the wings suspended from the ceiling. All the restaurant equipment is still in the building and even a lot of the dishes, and the beautiful old tables. There is a massive bar like Island Pond *Common Sense Store* had and we can have rap sessions there. They already have a giant round table all ready for the open forums. On the third floor we will have a small household to take care of the building and on the second floor the "Back Home Again Café" and then a regular café on the first floor and a shoe store. They are already fixing it up downstairs. We will have a youth hostel for backpackers — the ones with L.L. Bean backpacks and EMS shoes on (serious hikers), the ones who wouldn't accept our invitation to stay with us for free in our homes. We'll have a place for them — a big room for men and a big room for women, and even if they are a married couple they won't expect a room together. The name of it will be ***The Back Home Again Café — a Common Ground Café.***

We'll have cafes with other names and then follow the name with the slogan "a Common Ground Café." In the same way we'll have many ships and they will all have different names, but they will all be part of the "*Beulah fleet.*" That is how it will be as we are a nation full of all kinds of things that are part of the same concept and vision. We have a vision of becoming a nation. People will see the name and know what it means.

Meetings

We need to establish a place and have a table there and always know that there is going to be a meeting at that table at a certain time, and we won't cancel it because who can tell a table you're not coming?

Whoever is around that table at the appointed time will have a meeting. Many of us will always have personal reasons for not being able to attend a meeting, but we still have to have the meetings. So, just plan on there *being a meeting here at this table*, regardless if you are here or not. We do not want to cancel it. We'll have it no matter who can come. The meeting needs to meet. We need to have some kind of meeting regardless and bring matters to discuss. If all you have is a new disciple at least let her come and take notes. At least someone will be here so we can have interaction. There is always something that needs to be talked about. It isn't ever because there isn't a need that the meeting is cancelled. It is just that we didn't work it out. This is a problem.

How do we work out "assembling ourselves together" as we are commanded? (Heb 10:25). The first church didn't stop assembling together because they had a wicked heart. It was because of their *circumstances*. Their circumstances were even worse than ours. People were being arrested, killed, tortured, and surely there were difficulties figuring out how to get together. But that is not a reason not to *assemble* — on the contrary, difficulties are more reason to get together. We need each other. We need each other's wisdom. I am thankful we are together now. I'm sure all your faces around this circle represent a slew of problems that you can bring to our council and we will find wisdom for them.

Common Sense

Tamiydah wrote to me about something that is very similar to something I wanted to discuss. I was at a meeting with the leading brothers the other day, and Daniel was saying that he learned from Yochanan Abraham that there is no longer "common sense" — it is not *common*. These days we must teach

people *common sense*. We figure that there are certain things that everybody knows. That is just common sense. We think that we don't need to teach them those things. This is not true. Common sense must be passed on in this generation. In the past people worked closely together, passing on things from the older to the younger, seeing the consequences of mistakes made, and thus they learned common sense. Now people are too far removed from the way things really are so they don't learn what would seem like *common sense*.

You would think it would be common sense to see that our fourteen-year-old daughter shouldn't be "hanging out" with one of the single brothers. That is just common sense. We neglect to teach it and then we see someone doing something without common sense and we think, "What is wrong with them?" That is obviously a bad situation. But if we do not learn then something terrible happens because we do not use our common sense. Our Father gave us the name *Common Sense* for our stores because He wanted us to be an implement to restore common sense to this earth. We get this sense back when we see the outcome of doing the wrong thing. For example, it is common sense to turn off the dripping tap of hot water because we see the electric bill get bigger and bigger and the water bill get bigger and bigger. Aside from just being troubled by *wasting*, we also see the outcome in the big bills we get. If we wouldn't see the outcome our common sense might not kick in. There are people who don't know how to think this way. They don't see past the moment. They don't see that down the road there might be a consequence. This sense might not be developed in our children yet. We all had nagging mothers who sat at the kitchen table when we came home and made us aware of it saying, "You left the lights on, or that tap in the bathroom running, so look at how high our electric bill is this month. Now there will be no money for this or that." Then you thought, "Oh, if I had just turned off the light there would be more for me." That taught us directly, and we felt the effects of our lack of care in these matters. In Community we are often separated from the bills. Since we live with a "common pot" and are not the one who pays the bills, we may not see the consequences of our lacks, and we don't learn common sense. It is a tribal problem we must get past.

Yoneq hoped to establish in our complaint mornings that by discussing our "complaints" we could pass on common sense. We have often cancelled the complaint morning and have not benefited from it as we should. If complaint morning is handled properly it can be a very nice time together – not heavy. If it became heavy we found ourselves not wanting to go. But then sometimes it got too funny and then we didn't learn what we could have learned. Does your community still have complaint morning?

Since common sense isn't common anymore then complaint morning is a good way to pass on this sense. We have to pass on common sense there, not strong opinions. We as older women have a big job. We must encourage the younger women to be good wives, good mothers.

Titus 2:3-5 — "~~The~~older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things — that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed."

We must be busy teaching. We must have the character to teach. I think our Father created human beings with lacks so the older ones could exercise their godlikeness in passing things on to the younger ones. Our Father walked with Adam and taught him things. He wasn't just chatting about meaningless things as they walked together in the garden. He was teaching Adam what he needed to know.

We have to find out how women was supposed to be when she was created. Naomi, Huldah's imma, is a good example. Anyone who has been around Naomi has gained a lot of wisdom. She is always passing things on that she learned things from her imma. She gained common sense when she was raised and she passed it on to her children. Now she continues to pass it on to all the women around her. That is how it is supposed to be. We want to be a nation of *restored women*. We must be. We can't be a nation of women staying isolated in our rooms being discouraged about the problems around us. We have a big job to take care of in restoring all things.

In the world the new disciples really lost their identity. They have no idea what women are supposed to be like.

They've been filled with a "women's lib spirit" and many do not even realize it. It has caused them to lose touch with woman's original purpose. It is a lot easier with them sometimes than it is with our children. They are an empty page that we must write on. The hard experiences of life have taught our new disciples some common sense. So in many ways they seem to excel over our own children who are raised in this protected environment. We have not put into our children the common sense wisdom that people in the world have to learn through bad experiences.

Remember Proverbs 2! They'll stay naïve if we don't write something on their hearts. We're just a little less naïve than our children. But we must pass the little we have on to them with conviction and confidence. This is very important. That is why Yoneq started the intertribal meeting with reading this proverb. Proverbs 2 is so simple. Our children memorize and recite it and we think it is cute. Perhaps we think proverbs are just for children. But then we don't know the spirit of the proverbs. It is easy to forget about it this instruction in Proverbs 2 because we are really busy. There is so much to do. We forget that our main job is to gain wisdom, discretion, and understanding and then pass it on. Do we call out for understanding? We should try to memorize Proverbs 2. And then we need to get serious about doing it. If not something terrible will happen and then we're left with, "Why? Why didn't I have more wisdom?" And we're left with nothing but regret. Let's try to make a new beginning on changing this cycle and restore woman back to where she is supposed to be.

One of our jobs as women is to make a structure that can make our life happen. We have to look for a way to make this structure. We used to think schedules were obnoxious. We tried to get rid of the schedule. We hated the schedule but without the schedule our life is a mess. We cannot work together effectively without a schedule. It is like the brain of the Body of Messiah that lets us be the Body. It gets us to coordinate. It makes us women in unity going forward. In Plymouth we decided to have a women's meeting once a week. It is the hardest thing to manage to do. Our hearts are together but we must get our minds together. Talking together we will be able to figure out a structure in our lives that will enable us to put the proper things into our children and into the younger women.

In communities there must be some structure to bring the women together. We need to hear from each other. We need to be together. We can be great or we can be nothing as we let ourselves be. We set our sights very high to raise up a nation, not an ordinary nation. We want a nation like what is spoken of in Dt 4:6-9 — *"Therefore be careful to observe His Ways; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren."*

We could be incredible or raise up a generation of "amoral" children, maybe with good hearts, who do unscrupulous things but don't notice. We must have strong scruples that are our own. There must be something that our children can stand on.

Swimming and Modesty

If we have modesty in us it makes us feel uncomfortable when we are not being modest. We don't want to be immodest. It is hard in this immodest generation we live in. We thought we would have an environment where we could raise our children and be their only influence. We thought they would be just like us. But I guess there is something invisible that spreads from the world into the Community. Maybe it is from what they see in grocery stores on the magazine racks or on billboards or in catalogues that come in the mail. Where does it come from that our children would not sense the need to be modest?

First we saw that some of our girls wanted to wear bikini underwear. We had always bought regular underwear. We had heard about the bad effects dyes in underwear so we bought white or light colored underwear. We didn't wear little those tiny underwear because that was "harlot underwear" as we remembered it from the world. But then somehow some of our adolescent girls were attracted to wearing that very small, immodest underwear.

Where did that come from?

We have to try to win this generation for our Master. It is they who will be the *first* generation. They will be our leaders. They must have strong convictions, stronger than ours, in order to be the ones. They must be the ones who will do the right thing even if their blood spills on the ground for the sake of it. The first generation is what it counts, not us. We have got our conviction about right and wrong, but it must become theirs. Sometimes I ask Huldah how she got saved. Somehow she managed to *get* saved. How did you do it? Others just a little younger than you didn't seem to get saved like you did. They don't have much strength of character. They are fine when they are standing in front of you, but when they are out of sight and it comes time to make their own decisions they do not chose the right thing. Their righteousness is not their own. Even if they have decided to stay in the Community and take on our hearts, they are very weak in propriety, discretion, and have little wisdom of their own. Why do we want to swim with so many clothes on? Are we crazy or is there a reason for it? On our ship swimming will be a way of life. At the Lake House in the old days people were constantly in swimsuits. We had to face the issue then of what we would wear when we went swimming.

There is a certain kind of modesty necessary in swimming. We want to find the most modest way to swim. We are still looking for this. We want to find a way to get cooled off in water and not display our bodies immodestly. But some seem to rather want to "get out of" modesty. "Can't we go without our shirts on? Do we have to have sleeves on our swimsuits? Can they be shorter or smaller?" They do not want to be modest. They will do what they have to do, but the desire from within to cover themselves does not seem to be operating. We had discussed trying to have a small cap sleeve to cover the armpit and shoulder on the women's suits. But some do not seem to like that idea. When mentioning the unsightly hair under the arm it seems that some would prefer to shave the hair and go sleeveless. "Can't we... do we have to..." This is a sign that our convictions are not *their own*. If a sleeve makes the suit hotter, how hot does a little sleeve make you in the water? We must pass on a deep sense that they want to do whatever they could not to display themselves before others. It must be in their own hearts to sense the *shame* of being naked. We can go swim totally naked on the beach if we are all alone. But on a public beach that is taking a great chance. Modesty must go from our hearts to their hearts. It won't bother them unless we put it into them. We think they'll learn some how. But if we just leave them to grow like weeds in the garden then they'll be shaving under their arms and their legs soon and be just like the world. These are all common sense things. We have to give them vision or they will perish. They'll fall away from the holy nation. Perhaps it scares you when you see "sin" in your child, but we must rule over it.

Naomi: Is it going into us? We don't do things by principle. Yoneq asked us why do we wear head coverings? That is what goes into our children, what is in our own hearts. It takes time. You have to figure out they don't have it.

Unshakeable Scruples

They must learn discretion about sexual things. We found out our young people were talking indiscriminately about what they did on their first night, what they do in their marriage bed. We have to tell them not to talk about this. It is private. We only go to talk to someone about this subject to get help if we need it but not to just tell friends casually. We never talk about it. They're not wicked in doing these things, but they are naïve. They don't know what talking about it will lead to. The naïve ones become dangerous. They will become the most destructive. We can't have these children be our teachers. We must raise up righteous zealots who have *unshakeable scruples*. They must be those that will *fight* for what they believe. Some of our young men wanted to be *macho*, *tough guys*, but they aren't standing strong for righteousness. Our men must stand in a masculine way with that kind of strength for things that matter. They want to be "fierce" but they have the wrong concept. We must administer the gospel and know how to cast out evil. These little ones of our own that we haven't been able to win are the worst. But we have won some.

Virus

The virus we had long ago in Island Pond was a warning. We couldn't figure out how it was spreading. It

brought us into a new era of hygiene. Germs were much more deadly and hard to control than we thought. We saw the invisible thing was spreading. Spiritual things spread the same way as these germs. We must be on guard. We don't want to be an austere, Puritan-type person looking down our noses and writing laws on all of our walls. We do not want to be wearing black clothing and keeping our ankles covered. But the Puritans had some good concepts. They saw the destructiveness of the world and the dangers of immodesty. They wanted to stop it in their lives. We have to figure out how to stop it yet still be attractive and joyful and free. We must be totally modest and pure. Yoneq recently reminded us of what he had written long ago on the wall inside the front door of the Vine House. It said, "Our Father specializes in the impossible." What we have set ourselves to do is really impossible. We have to give our life's blood to establish this. We have to figure out a structure that will make this happen. This is our greatest goal to keep hold of what He approves of and hold onto it right through the race.

Shomerit: This meeting goes together with what we read in the child training teaching. There is a word called "inculcate." It means to teach by repetitive drill. Sometimes I wonder if I am being a nag. But I think how do I do it? I have to keep saying it over and over again. I wonder if they are getting it but after a long time maybe a year I hear them say something and I think they are getting it. Accusations come to silence us and make us think we are stupid. From television I learned that adults are stupid and they are trying to keep kids from having any fun. I wonder how it is supposed to be. That way of thinking and seeing ourselves must be undone. Our minds must be renewed. Daniel said Proverbs 2 talks about being "wayward." *Ward* means a direction and it is a direction away from us. It is the same as untaught. If they get into some terrible circumstance because they are untaught and it is my job to teach them, then it is my fault they are in that situation. We have meetings in the household and I see the youth girls and I see they need to be drawn in. They need to know we value what they see and need them, that we're their friends. Then they are willing to let us handle their lives. If we have meetings and teachings they can come and learn. Then our comments are not a threat from a distant person they don't know cares about them.

The secret of winning their hearts is giving them attention while keeping a stance before them without losing our confidence. We know they will try to show us they are smarter, taller, older, etc., than we are. We smile a wise smile and let them know we know what they are trying to do and why and we are going to help them through it. We must get confidence and not be threatened by the sin of the younger generation. It is terrifying to see sin in our children. We must stand our ground. We know sin has destroyed and will destroy again. We see it in our children and we want to run from it. We do run and then our children end up saying as adolescents, "I can't talk to my parents," because we're not talking to them.

There is one thing that all children have — they all have mothers and fathers. So there is hope for these parents to educate and win them. Children come into this world small as tiny helpless babies. They do not come out as 13 year olds. Think how terrifying that would be. They come out very needy. They need our help in everything they do. So, we have a chance to win their hearts. We've got them in our hands. Start early.

"Keep the Swaddle"

The subject came up about passing babies around in the Intertribal meeting of the leaders. We said it isn't good to do this. There is a proverb that says baby-passing will give you a great fright. It is not actually just like that, but the practice will lead to a pattern of disrespect. But some people had made it a law. And there no way we can live by the law. So, let's see how it is: Everybody wants to hold those sweet little babies. And it is handy for the mothers to have people hold them sometimes. This must be done in the proper way. But it is really clear that we don't want to pass them around indiscriminately. It isn't for the "baby's good" that we pass them around, but for the pleasure of those who want to play with them. If babies are treated as toys we are going to lose our "swaddle" on them. We keep a tight hand on the child. This begins with swaddling and once they are free from the physical swaddling we must continue our tight control of their lives. If we give the baby away, later we may see it across the room with someone else tossing it in the air and we wonder how it got there. The baby gets excited by this stimulation and he comes back to the mother all worked up. This ultimately brings trouble on ourselves and that baby

The mother would do better to give the child to the grandmother or to some other regularly-specified person who has the same mind as the mother about this baby. But we don't turn away our brothers either, saying, "Don't touch my baby." We let them hold the baby momentarily with the imma remaining there introducing this "friend" to her baby, and then she should take the baby back. We can let the little children who want to hold the baby sit down by us and hold the baby for just a minute but we keep a tight attitude over the baby and we **keep the swaddle**. We don't want to undo the restraint that swaddling has brought into the baby's life. They sense the tight attitude and it makes them secure. If you allow others to play with a child it loses respect for them. The baby begins to see the adults as playmates. Then the child comes back to other adults and is disrespectful. If you see someone playing with a child you must swoop down and save them gracefully. You must get them to a safe place. Playing will make him disrespectful and that will bring you much sorrow in his later years.

Ecclesiasticus 30:9-11— Pamper your child and he will give you a fright. **play** along with him and he will bring you sorrow. Do not laugh with him, or one day you will weep with him and end up gnashing your teeth. While he is young, do not allow him his freedom and do not wink at his mistakes. Bend his neck in youth, bruise his ribs while he is a child, or else he will grow stubborn and disobedient, and hurt you very deeply. Be strict with your son, and persevere with him, or you will rue his insolence. They see you as a mobile hanging over their crib that makes them laugh. Because you have taught them to laugh at you, they laugh at you and become disrespectful. Then they are 13 and we will say, "Why are they so disrespectful?" It is because you played with them or let someone else play with them. What is the problem we have with our children now? Disrespect! It is the great fright. How can we get this into the mothers? How can we make sure that every single woman in this community knows this?

Chezekah: I see my daughter is eight years old and is warm and friendly. The single brothers like her and she likes them. But I see it isn't wise. She will learn to get her good feelings from the approval of men. I must train her what is proper and appropriate. She is getting over-stimulated with all that attention. It isn't proper to jump on their laps.

We have to get all mothers to know that.

I remember ha-emeq and Prisca had a meeting with us. There was a cupid spirit affecting us and we were so relieved to learn about it. They were so warm and we had a meal together. We should have meetings with our girls.

Now we have the minchah so perhaps we may think that is the only meeting we need to have. We hear from our Father at the minchah, but there are other times when we need to be taught or discuss things. Our children do not get a lot in the minchah so they need times when it is broken down for them.

Yoneq was speaking to us that we must name our enemies. It isn't very hard to figure out what the enemies are. We see two young girls talking and a third comes over and starts talking to one of them and the other one starts to feel bad. We see it on her face. It is jealousy, strife coming in. We must teach them to see it and name it. We must recognize the enemy or we will always be tricked. We will lose every battle. We must be aware of what is going on and be on guard naming the enemy. If we don't do this we will always be the losers, always losing the battle. There are always warning signs. We have to be on guard but full of warmth and love.

Recognize the Driving Force

There is one thing about a son. He will possess a driving force to become a father. The community needs fathers. Today on this earth there is a famine for fathers. We must have a restoration for fathers and mothers. We must support fatherhood with everything within us. There has to be a restoration to raise our children properly. This is the whole purpose of our Creator — sons and fathers. It is a complete loss if we don't learn from what we have lost. We have to learn from our mistakes so we won't ever do this again. Our Father wants to reproduce himself in a son. Really it has never been done.

We must be the watchtowers. We see things and we must talk about them. We must have a small warm meeting and get responses so we know what is going on. We can deal with incidents in these small meetings. Don't just

let the women come in and listen and leave. Draw things out of them so you know where they are. Yes, we can be fooled. They can deceive us and then go. There is always a danger if the “watch dogs” aren’t watching. We can win people. Our way is love. We can’t wink at errors.

Savav: An imma must know her child and watch her and know what those *looks* mean. Proverbs 7 talks about a naïve son in Israel. Why was he naïve? He was untaught. Proverb 7 speaks of a young man devoid of understanding. He was void because we are not teaching them.

Naomi: There is a difference between being innocent or naïve. We must teach them. A dangerous child is naïve. We must pray for our children, wearing out our knees for them. There is pressure on our children to turn away from us. It is scary. We must bring them back. We need to help one another develop relationships with one another. We must have vision for restoration restoring it to the place where it fell. We must restore motherhood. If we are not good with our children we won’t be good leaders.

For example, we used to be able to have childcare on Shabbat. We thought it would be so nice. It was for a while but then evil came in and it wasn’t nice anymore. That is the sadness of sin. It destroys what is nice. Sin entered in so it is better not to have it. If we have Wednesday afternoons it will have to be so structured that there can be no sin. It takes a lot of involvement.

For restoration to happen we must have vision of how it is supposed to be. We know what the first edah was like but we don’t know much about what women were like. Those things were such common sense they thought they didn’t have to write it down but it is lost now. We have to go back to where motherhood took its fall. We have to find the way by ourselves.

Fatherhood

I understood something very deeply about fatherhood. Fatherhood has a lot to do with motherhood. I was considering why we have a crisis of leaders. There is hardly anyone to lead the edah because there is a crisis in finding men who can lead their families. It isn’t discipline that it is said in the Scripture that a man who does not control his household can’t be a leader. It is just a fact that they just aren’t leaders. It is obvious because their families aren’t being led (1 Tim 3:4-5). The Edah would be just like their families. We thought they would be such good leaders but they’re not. We have to accept that. They may seem like they would be good in government, but they do not turn out to be, and the Scripture proves itself to be right again.

But notice something: In the genealogies it always goes from father to son to father to son. It goes back all the way to Adam and then it says, “And Adam was the son of God.” The term *father* isn’t just a nice name. He could have taken any name — “Great Warrior”, “Force”, etc. — but He is called *Father*. Why Father? That is who He is. Why did He take that name? Why Father? Why did our Master come as a *Son*? We pray to our Father who is in heaven. There is a *secret* here. There is something we don’t see in that relationship between father and son.

Fathers and sons are foundational to the universe. There is a channel here. The son comes forth from the father, but remains in a relationship with an open channel. Adam was the son of God. They walked together in the garden. If Adam had kept that relationship the whole of humanity would have been sons. Though our Father knew what would ultimately happen to man in the fall, His plan was nonetheless the same. There was this relationship that God wanted with all humanity. This channel was opened to the Almighty God from His creature, His son — man. If it had been preserved, then there would have been a whole universe of sons, in His exact image, free and using their will to glorify their Abba.

Be careful. We are saying words that you have heard and you can miss the depth of what I am saying in the commonness of these words. *Father... son...* You’ve heard it so many times. The channel is from this most awesome being that is filling all things to this little tiny soft human. God named this man dirt (*adam*) and opened this channel to him as a son. He could have preserved the whole universe. God’s heart was that he had a chance to not give in. If he had used it well and turned to that channel in all situations, it would have brought glory to God and brought about His will on this earth. But Adam used his will to disobey. That channel was broken.

We feel a certain warmth towards Adam because he loved his wife so much, but he used his will to disobey. He broke that channel with his Father. There was no longer that relationship. They have to be reconnected to have that relationship. Then Adam had a son and he was Cain. Isn't that horrible! What a mess! Cain was a bad man and then it went on down from father to son until our Master. He was announced by His heavenly Father as, "Behold, a *son*." Then when he was immersed he called him, "My beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." See how great this announcement was! There is *that relationship* again. He had his will connected to the channel of his Father to do his Father's will. He was being a son that night in the garden when he was dripping great drops of blood. "Father, Your will be done." He kept that connection to life. How many sons have there been? Sons... daughters are sons too. To maintain that relationship, the same relationship until they get to be 13, and then the man he is supposed to be comes forth. We say, "This is my son, a son of the commandments." Then we can say, "Here is a son of the commandment." He will cry out, "Father help me." Our sons can relate to Yahshua who struggled to maintain his channel to his abba. He kept that channel open. He always turned to that channel. Our sons will cry out "Abba" so they get that channel.

The father whipped his son's will and won his will. He handled him until he was soft as putty and he bent his neck when it was stiff and the child there always walked in image of God. This is how it is supposed to be. It isn't supposed to be only one son of God, but many brothers, many channels. All kinds of things war against this. When we pray we say, "Father help us."

I was in a terrible car wreck and I shocked myself and prayed, "Father help us." I knew I had a Father. Shepherds are Fathers. Why? Because that is what they are. In the Catholic Church they call them "Fathers." They knew the relationship. We don't even know how to be fathers. They are good people, but don't call them *fathers* because they are not fathers. There is just one who made that relationship. All of our shepherds are trying to be fathers. Not almighty, but *father*— this is why shepherds are fathers. We don't even know how to be fathers. Now we are trying to be fathers caring for our people, noticing them, getting them into order. We're always thinking of them. We must re-establish this. We don't even know how. We want to be shepherded. People leave saying they weren't shepherded right. If we can find out what a father is then we can start being a nation. There is a driving force for a son to turn into father. It is something basic, a drive that the evil one gets in and perverts to sexual fantasy.

The stem went by gut instinct. We were men with good intentions, but we don't know what we're doing. We must support the fathers, support fatherhood.

We can be like lobsters because we don't do it right. We're trying to have *bar mitzvah* and it is the hardest thing to sit our sons down and teach them. We've got to get past this point. If we do it, it will be easier for him to do it with his son because he has had a father. Naomi at least had a mother. I have zero memories of a mother.

We have to figure out how to do this. You can go so far off with only a teaching. There must be an example. It is the whole purpose of God. We don't just remind each other, "Don't forget about child training teachings." Our children are growing up and they are hard to handle. We need to learn and keep going. We have lost, but it will be a complete loss if we don't learn from our mistakes. We must warn people. There is a driving force and purpose to bring forth children. Don't be shocked by potential for trouble in these children. Try to win them. Support the struggle to win them. Our God knew how to make us become parents. He wants to reproduce himself in his son. It has never been done. Training has been such a great trial for us. It costs so much. We set our hand to train our children and we must do it. If you are around one of the ones who are won it will encourage you and help you endure and go on. Keep making them and winning them until we have a whole generation of those fathers and mothers who know how to do it. Get vision beyond the battle you are in. Start to see *sin* in the child as the enemy, not the *child* as the enemy. Our God doesn't deal with us that way.

Bachirah: We must be alert when we see the boy and girl relationship, even little girls friendships that get so tight. We want them to bond with us, not always be with a few friends. They always want to be together. If they get too close with each other we lose that friendship with them. Their friends don't have wisdom for them. We must capture our children's hearts. We'll be their confidant. Most of the time they should be with us. Part of

how we lost our first generation is that we were not their confidants but we allowed them to have exclusive relationships. They went to their friends instead of their parents.

You look at our little children. They have a desire to be a mother. We need to cultivate that and train that. It is a good thing. A line of wisdom will flow. We lost part of the first generation. They made a line of connection with each other. They formed tight exclusive relationships. We thought it was kind of cute, but it was deadly later. Huldah and Elishevah were friends but it didn't exclude others. They had relationships with their immas. Naomi: We must let fathers be fathers or the fathers lose confidence. There is a lack of trust in the parents so children have that connection with peers. Father can't handle the child if the imma holds it back. The imma doesn't see the channel. The child doesn't know the channel. The man will have no backbone. The imma can prevent the child from being raised. Again the woman is the key to restoration. Immas must allow abbas to be abbas to open the channel, not losing their confidence. It is easy to be discouraged. We failed. We didn't do it. Yahshua learned obedience through the things he suffered. We must learn through our sufferings.

Melachah: I have been suffering for quite a while. It is easy to see how I have failed. I didn't do what I needed to do. Yahshua learned obedience through what he suffered.

We don't want to be in the realm of "did we fail?" We only failed if in rebellion we turned away from what we knew was right and resisted our brothers when they came to us. Our God is all-powerful and can make up for our lacks. We do need to learn. The stem is not the ones who are going to do it. It is almost as if we don't exist. He taught us to start to count with one.

The first generation is the one who must do it. Those who make it through the upheaval will be the first generation. The wheat is tossed into the air with the winnowing and lands and the other things get blown away. Some things will stand. It doesn't mean we failed any more than that our Father failed. His intentions were to make a good world. The battle is continuing to overcome and set ourselves to raise up some fathers.

Mithkah: Men will get confidence to be fathers. We need to pour into women so they can respond. I see we can't get discouraged. One line encouraged me to learn from what we lost. I see all my mistakes but I can't give up. We have grandchildren and spiritual children still to raise.

We must get people under our care to recognize their will and that they are making choices all day long. We teach what a choice is. If you get the children to recognize their will and teach them, they make choices and they will be accountable. We have to get a hold of that will. We sit them down and say, "Tell me what choices you made today." Then lead them to see the consequences of those choices. We have to help them figure out they are responsible for those choices. Many people don't realize they are making choices. They are not clear they are making choices. They must take control of their lives and see they are in the image of God and are able to make these choices.

The Son of God made choices. He said to his Abba, "Your will be done." If we understand this we can relate to Yahshua and see what choices He made. If we don't keep the bond with our Father, then we can't be called sons any more.

When people first come in and are immersed they are tender. We must ask them what their ambition is. "What do you want to be?" We must tell them that here in the community our first priority is our children — this is a place of children. We are all full-time teachers of children. That is what everybody here is.

In the world nobody wants to be a teacher. It is a terrifying job in world. It used to be a common desire to have this profession, but now the children are so hard to handle and people feel so bad about themselves that they don't think they have anything to teach. We've got to be teaching all the time. Teachers plan every day and we are all teachers. We must all be making teaching plans. We must have that mind. Honor your teachers! Do special things for them. It is up to us to do this. We must raise the level of respect for this profession in our midst.

It is the most important job. We value our teachers. They quit like the fathers quit unless you give them confidence. People made it hard for them. We make it hard on our shepherds too. They will quit too.

Unleash the women's creativity in your community and listen to their ideas. We must take advantage of vastness of our minds. Women are smart, quick; they are vast. We must hear their ideas and channel them. Bring them to women's meeting. We all must watch for women or children that can organize and type and write. They may be

the ones to be bookkeepers and storytellers and writers. We could make so many good books. We must teach them properly. Look for those who are good bookkeepers and plug them into someone!

We have a gold mind in our children. We are 100% devoted to one cause. Our own passivity and slackness is the only thing that will hold us back. We must make teachers out of people. We must have a meeting with our girls to teach them not to be naïve. We can make a program just for them. We have a few materials to work with. We must teach what is propriety, what is proper. If we know that something makes boys stumble then you are rebellious to keep doing it. If you don't know and maybe you enjoy the attention you must see there is more to it. This isn't a world where you can keep your illusions. Our children have to know the hard cold facts. You hate to tell them that. But somehow they have to understand things without it making them cold. How can we teach them to be wise and innocent at the same time? We must be specific and let them know. When you wear shirts with big collars and you lean over, the boys can see your breasts. It causes brothers to stumble. It is baffling why it would, but we know it does. It seems so funny. Then after you tell them it is up to their own will if want to hurt someone. They ask what about this one and this one? They see they need you to keep from hurting someone. It has to dawn on them.

Chezekah: Pr 2:11 — Discretion will guard you.

Aiyalet: We need our brothers and sisters to help us. I have hope, even though I know I can't do everything my children need, because I live with people who love my children. They will help me. Children need to bond to us but they also need to bond to others too. We are watchful but we include others in our lives.

Sewing

Do we sew in our communities? We need to have seamstresses. We will have a seminar on sewing and fitting garments. Mary Martha will teach it.

Women say there is no time to sew, but if we set up our machines and only do that little bit, it will get done. One day we take 15 minutes and find the pattern. Then another day we cut the garment out. Maybe the next day we only sew one seam. But we keep going and then we have it. Tell the ladies that and they will get hope. Teachers give hope.

We need to write down what we want to learn at the seminar. Maybe we can also make a good set of patterns for community. We want to learn fancy work and mending. We will do that after sewing seminar.

Eating

Melachah: Now that minchah is 7 and 7 I have been thinking about not eating heavy food so late.

Elishevah: Your liver is supposed to detoxify during the night while you're breathing all that fresh air while you sleep but it can't do this if it is digesting food.

You don't sleep well on heavy food. Bring up at women's meeting what your body needs. Teach wisdom and common sense. Arrange the schedule so that there is grace to make the big meal in the afternoon.

Those that go out need to have a heavier lunch too so they will not come home and be too hungry for the light meal. Serve soup and bread and raw things. That way people can eat what they need. If they are still growing there is something to fill up on.

Popcorn

Popcorn is only a celebration food. It is not banned; it is OK. We like popcorn, but do not build your meals on it. It should never be on the menu. Have a cold rice salad where you would have had popcorn. It is not our way of life. We don't eat corn chips and potato chips often. We have a sandwich and we want something with it. If you need something substantial make it out of grains. If you want something light make it out of vegetables. Popcorn doesn't fill them. It only fills their plate. Save it to draw people together. You get good feelings from popcorn. It smells special. It should be a sign to them that something special is there. Don't feel life coming from popcorn. There is no nourishment to fill you with things to fight off the new virus. Be clear — we like popcorn, but be careful about the kernels.

Chopsticks

Remind the ladies that it is our national identity to eat with chopsticks. We all eat with chopsticks. By the time a child is 4 he can eat with chopsticks. The way food is prepared must be chopstick-friendly. Cut

things up in chunks. Win people over to chopsticks.

How do we cut our nails?

If we work hard our nails will automatically be short. Long nails are for those people who just sit around not doing anything. We want them to be evenly cut and have care. For the sake of cleanliness we wash our hands often and clip our nails shorter than the ends of our fingers. Different people's nails are different so some might have a little white curve past the quick but they should not be long enough to be able to really hold dirt. Especially children with worms should have their fingernails very short.

Children using the Telephone

Our children should only use the telephone to communicate brief messages that we have initiated.

Telephones are not for long conversations for anyone. E-mail is much better or writing letters if we have something longer to communicate. Many young people are very free with the telephone and this is not proper. They are spending lots of time on the phones. Parents must be instructed about this.

Trusting New Disciples

We must trust people. Years ago disciples got saved and before long they were the ones taking the bank bags to the bank to make a deposit. They were disciples and we didn't think about how long they had been there. Sometimes we were disappointed but many times it made such wonderful disciples out of them because they said, "Wow someone trusts me!"