

Without Faith it is Impossible

Keturah began the gathering by starting the Song of Yah, which begins with the words, "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

The year of wandering: it was a marvelous time, back in 1981 or 1982 when we were camping on the beach in Portugal.

ha-êmeq — Everyone was so worried after the big storm on the beach. It was like the world had come to an end. When you live outside, a storm is really different. You don't really have any place to go in the storm. It rips your tent to shreds, which is all we had anyway. A storm has a different feeling.

Later on we didn't need tents. Our Father led us to the mountains, to an old abandoned schoolhouse.

ha-êmeq — But when we sang that song we didn't know that schoolhouse was ahead of us.

We used to take showers and baths under waterfalls — cold, cold waterfalls. Then later on ha-êmeq and I went down and spent time with Teresa on the southern coast of Spain.

ha-êmeq — At the Tribal Trading meeting, twenty years later, someone spoke up and said that Teresa's son had said she wanted to sell us her hotel. A few days after the storm, on the way to the schoolhouse, she had taken us into that hotel without charging us.

We had just stopped in front of her hotel. She came out to the bus that we were in. It was late at night. She looked at our children and invited us in.

ha-êmeq — We said, "All of us?" There were twenty-eight of us.

We were there two or three days. Then we left there and went to the mountains and the schoolhouse. Then ha-êmeq and I went back down to see her and work with her for a week or two.

ha-êmeq — I was upholstering her chairs in exchange for her letting us stay in one of the rooms downstairs.

She showed us a picture of her castle in France.

ha-êmeq — Yes, she showed us a pile of pictures. I was trying to clean up the hotel because it was kind of messy. She invited me to sit by the fire and showed me these pictures. She had this crinkly old picture. She said, “This is my castle.” She speaks English, Spanish, and French all in the same sentence. She is a French woman but she had lived in Spain for years. She knew I would do better in English so she talked in that, too.

She said, “This is my place.” It was *Tabitha’s Place* when it looked new, not how it looked when we got it. The bushes were all sculptured. Yônêq came into the room and she said, “Do you want my castle in France for your people?”

You had all just prayed in Island Pond, lifted up your voices loud, “Give the Little Flock a big house that all of them can live in.”

ha-êmeq — I thought surely he would say, “No,” because we never live in fancy places like that. What would it look like? She said, “You can have it; I don’t want it.” She said, “Go, go look at it.” So we got on a train and went to look at it, and her son showed us through it.

We were walking around the stairs and it was all messy. Children had been in there throwing things everywhere. Her husband had died and they left the place, just left their clothes. That is when we found that beautiful cup, the Victory Cup, sitting on the mantle. We just looked at each other. He said, “Do you want it?” and Yônêq said, “I think we will take it.”

We called them up in the village, and they walked over and gave our people messages in the schoolhouse. We said, “Come, we’ve got a house. Bring the bus, we’ve got a place!” We all moved in.

Chets Barur — She just let us move in without paying for it?

ha-êmeq — She didn’t tell us we would have to buy it. She just let us live in it. It was falling apart anyway. It was kind of a burden to her. She had probably heard it was getting vandalized.

Two or three years later her son came and said, “We are going to have to sell the place and there are some people interested. If you all don’t want to buy it for a \$100,000 we are going to sell it to these other people.” So, we called Island Pond and that is when the Sus push was born.

Chets Barur — That is when we paid for it?

ha-êmeq — Yes. It was the night that Lo-Nekar's daughter was born and our Father spoke to us. They decided to send all their men to Boston and work night and day. You remember what happened. You earned \$100,000.

The *Servants' Quarters* was a separate house that had originally been part of the same property with *Tabitha's Place*, but somehow they had sold it off. We were praying all the time for that *Servants' Quarters*. We made friends with the man who lived in it. He had been a general in the army.

We kept praying to our Father to bring the wealth of the nations in. Labeshu would always pray that, and at every breaking of bread we would all pray afterwards and hold hands. We would all scream. Then, ha-êmeq and I went over to New Zealand and there we met Shua. She was a poor young German woman traveling with her little girl. After a week she just surrendered and fell on ha-êmeq's lap. We took her down to the ocean. Then, right after that, she started laying out this money — \$30,000 or \$40,000.

ha-êmeq — We were so surprised!

And that was just what she had with her.

ha-êmeq — There was all this money just piled on the table. She had just been baptized. I went into the dining room and the table was just covered with money. I closed the door back, as I didn't know what was going on. Nun was there, just talking with her.

She had more money and we bought the *Servants' Quarters* next door to *Tabitha's Place*.

ha-êmeq — Our Father had heard us when we sang, "Without Faith it is Impossible," because it was impossible for us. At that point, especially, it was totally impossible. We were just sitting on these handmade benches and we didn't even have any tents left, and we had all these children, and where would we go now? We had hardly any money.

We didn't have an attitude about that.

ha-êmeq — No, but it seemed impossible. It would have been, without faith. But, we just continued on.

We didn't even think about it. We just continued on following our Father's leading. That's how Europe got going. Then, from *Tabitha's Place*, people from England and New Zealand, Australia, Germany, and Spain all came in. We were speaking about five different languages continually. Everyone was translating. ha-êmeq would be talking and four other people would be translating. You would have to raise your voice or no one would hear you. And then everyone learned English, so their children over there speak English as well as we do, in Spain, Germany, and France. It is just amazing that they are able to communicate now in English, which is becoming the universal language. So many people speak English.

So that is a little bit how we began, since you sang that song this morning.

Chets Barur — It is really a foundational lesson we can never forget. Without faith it is impossible. To go day to day not knowing, not having some master plan or financial security, but just trusting our Father, praying to Him, and going on in faith. It is really something that we can never forget. That is a seed, that is what our faith is founded on. It is like when Yahshua told His disciples to go out. He said, "Don't bring a bag with you. Don't bring money. Our Father is going to lead you."

It is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. It is knowing that our Father is going to provide for you and lead you if you trust in Him. When Aharon and the brothers were in Santa Cruz, and they were just walking, and they were told to just trust our Father and to get a house and invite people to it, they didn't know how they were going to pay the rent. They were told to just trust our Father, and the next week they met David Bekor on the sidewalk. It is always that way.

He doesn't want us to be like the world is, figuring everything out, being pragmatic. You make sure all your bases are covered. There is no room for any insecurity, financially or any other way. That is why people buy insurance and set up savings accounts. They set up all these buffers to protect themselves from the unexpected, but our Father's way is much higher than that. I want to remember that. He wants us to be a people who depend on Him, that He could really bless us, because He sees that we put our entire trust in Him and are not trying to figure everything out in the natural, or find some formula to begin a community.