

June 28, 1994 Boston

Bonding and Training

Bonding means to join together. People say there needs to be a time of bonding between mother and child. People in the world who believe in bonding would never believe in discipline. We have to be careful what we take in from the world. Different people can take in different things from the world.

If we start taking the women out of training the men will have to start teaching. Unmarried women would have to teach even if they have less grace than the married women. Can we join together in one spirit so we won't have any denominations? We shouldn't have any strong opinions.

Some people feel that children end up independent because they go to training. It is an important struggle an immah needs to go through to train her child.

Khemdah: Ruth Aminah wants children to be taught by their parents. (We decided to read a letter of hers to Ha-Emeq:

Ruth Aminah's Letter about Bonding

Dear Ha-Emeq,

...I didn't grow up learning how to sew but I know it is really important. I can do some things on the machine, but it takes me a lot of time and a lot of times I have to ask others to help me understand. I really want to increase in this area. I will probably never be able to mend and make things like Miriam or Ruth but I want to be able to mend and make things particularly for my husband and children. To me it is a part of being a wife and immah.

The other thing is it has been hard to find the times. My day seems so busy from early in the morning until late in the evening. I have 2 little children, a 1 year old and a 3 year old. The other 3 are 11, 10, and 8. Korem and I have been married almost 13 years. I have usually been either pregnant or nursing. Sometimes I have been both. I had a miscarriage between my 8 year old and my 3 year old, and another little baby who died. She would have been 5 years old.

As an immah, I want to go into them the things they need to know to be a good wife and immah. A lot of times the girls ask me if we can sew. I really want to, and I want to teach them. I have pretty much been a training teacher most of the time I have been in the body. I have usually been full time in training. I like children and I like my groups. But something in me feels like it is dying. (I feel like what is in my heart about teaching my own children things and brooding over them is dying because I am so consumed in training and my responsibilities — like it is my career.) Maybe it is good and that is why I am writing you. Because I need help with what is going on inside of me. You are an example to me of how I want to be. I see how you support and love your husband and how you are a wonderful immah.

A lot of my time is consumed in training and planning. I find the rest of the time I am trying to squeeze in my other responsibilities. Like laundry, cleaning house, etc... The things I want to do with my children and put into them, I don't have time for. I repent to them for getting frustrated

because I feel guilty that I don't teach them sewing, etc... and I don't live with anyone else that can. Everyone seems to have children. The only way I see things like that happening is if our lives (the children and mine's) are involved in each others. If they help me with the laundry, etc...It has made me wonder if parents should train their own children. Then you would have to have a will for their whole day and you would be brooding over them, instead of trying to keep up with everything they are learning.

I am thankful for the things they are learning. But I see the only way I can put the things in my heart into them, is to draw them alongside of me. It would be difficult in many ways because no one has taught me how to do it. But, I see you do it and Naomi. I wonder if that is part of the reason children got into card playing, etc...the things that waste their time, because they weren't drawn alongside. Their day wasn't full of purpose. A lot of times games come about, or foolishness or sexual things, because their life isn't connected to their parents and totally consumed. I speak from my own failings and seeing bad fruit in my children.

In Titus 2:2-4 it says, "Older women train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God." The women were at home learning to love their husbands and children. I have lived in several house where no women were at home. They were all training teachers. The house would be dirty and wouldn't encourage the men when they got home. The women's rooms were messy too. But it was said they were good training teachers. It almost seemed like they had a career to me.

Many times I would be crying at night because I didn't have anything left for my husband. I didn't even get everything done but I thought I had grace to do the things I was supposed to do. Usually my husband and the things he wanted me to get left out. But I had given everything; all my strength and time and heart. I would see my husband suffering and I would try to be different but I didn't have anything left for him...I hadn't put him first...But, that is what I was created for. That is why I was made because my husband wasn't complete. He needed me.

If I am the greatest training teacher, pour out my life for others all day it doesn't do anything if I am not being what he needs: I am not fulfilling my purpose. It cause our Father's purpose not to come about. Because I see my husband unable to function and build up the Body. My husband goes around alone, seeing the things he needs not taken care of and his children not having care. I see this is like Christianity. There are all kinds of women teachers, preachers, etc. — they have a career, they are not content to be at home and love their husband and children. I want to have the opportunity to do what I was created to do. They are even the head. Because the husband isn't the center. I don't know if I am being clear. A lot of things went off in me when we were preparing Donna. The things I heard spoken to her convicted me and I saw many ways I have been the way we don't want to be.

I have heard things too, that if we taught our own children we might fall away from being the Body. That scares me. I don't want to have anything working in me that would cause me or others to fall away. I want to be His people. I want Him to be able to bring His purpose about. Maybe it is unrealistic. I just had thought if the women were at home we could work together and learn from each other's example.

I thought we could even teach midwifery in the evening. Then immahs would have what they need to share with their children growing up about their bodies, sex, having a baby. It would be normal. We could even talk about things we need help with. Right now the youth and women go to midwifery classes, but I think it would be more bonding if the immahs were there with the youth...These are just things I think about...

I want our Father's desires to be mine...Ruth Aminah

P.S. I read in the Bible about parents and children, husbands and wives, I read teachings, hear teachings, hear about the Bar Mitzvah, etc...and I get convicted. I cry out. There is a longing in my heart. I want it to come about. I know when it comes about, then our Father will be able to bring about everything that is in His heart. I see each of us is so important. I want to know the things I give myself to aren't dysfunction.

I want with all my heart to build my husband up...I want our Father to be able to say to me, "Well done, you were faithful to do what I created you for." I love my husband. I want to love Him like he is our Master because that is what he represents to me...I am thankful to be a part of the bride. I want to be obedient to do the things He has written down. I want to be prepared so He can come back. I love my children and I want to pour my life into them. The years go by so fast.

Elizabeth: There's got to be a balance there. All I know is that I wouldn't have what I need for 6 children. Even with just my 3 in the community — I was needed to do something else — but others put the things I wanted to in them. I don't think a woman has the grace to bond with 4 — 6 children at the same time.

Ehud: There is really a need for teachers in training, it is a spiritual gift. I have wanted mothers and little children to be together around the house. It teaches them discipline and diligence.

Edah: What I have learned is that the children who have learned to cook and clean with their parents are able to learn and pay attention. The ones who haven't don't have the attention span, the discipline. A training room is an artificial environment, where you have to come up with activities that may teach them the same things you could naturally teach them in the kitchen, etc. There is immediate conflict when you do, it requires having a will for them.

I have a 7 year old and I know I don't have his heart. I run out of time to train and teach him. The room is in disorder because immah doesn't have the time to train him to do things. A woman with a young child is out in front of her household. If she has wrong ways in her they will be exposed. Mothers should teach their younger children to work around the house. This would put the foundation of discipline and order in them they will benefit from for the rest of their lives.

Daniel: Maybe we are spending a lot of time teaching them things they don't need to know. They are learning all kinds of terminology I never learned.

David Zerubbabel: I don't think the two are mutually exclusive bonding and training. I don't think we can calculate the cost of an immah not being with her baby. There are two drawbacks I see to the way we are now doing things. One is the lack of bonding at the infant stage. The other is grouping children almost exclusively with their peers — producing a peer bonding almost impossible to break. (This peer bonding can support good behavior as well.)

The way we tend to group children together by age is done for ease of organizing teaching. Our mind we have adapted from the world in our curriculum is largely driven by the college prep mentality. Why do we have to spend so much time teaching academics? One reason we do spend all that time is the monumental effort required to keep order.

The things we started hearing awhile ago about parents teaching children really caused us to listen and consider. There were things wrong with our home schooling before we came to the Body. One was we were all by ourselves — even if we did have all the gifts they needed there would have been plenty of loopholes where all kinds of undesirable character traits could have crept through.

Could we not combine multiple levels with parents teaching their children? If we don't need to teach them as much and we wanted to get the immas involved, maybe while the baby is napping, they could tutor after the teacher taught briefly on a subject. My second child learned to read faster than my first because she was paying attention while the older one was being instructed. We could take the one room school house concept and add parents to it. We could produce a flexible situation where the children could help out in the household as the need arose. The natural unit of our life is the household. We could bring in gifted teachers to help with more specialized topics like solar energy.

Khemdah: We did try this to some extent in Island Pond and it has always fallen apart.

Havah: Ruth Aminah's letter did not seem to address so much the fact that we are a people. David Zerubbabel's proposal — the reality is that it often falls apart because the children can often not be included in what they parents are doing. Some peer involvement is good for them, they need both time with their parents and some with their peers; bonding to their family and to training. I don't see how we are going to raise our children without training.

Melody: I teach subjects and predicates so they can write complete thoughts, and take those thoughts and write letters, articles, etc.

Daniel: We are in dire need of bookkeepers.

Zadok: I thought the physics Takif did was good.

Knowledge Puffs Up

Yoneq: We are not commanded to teach them physics. Did those children Takif was teaching have the commandments? It is all in vain if we are not obeying Deut 6:6,7. Parents and teachers both are to be teaching our children the word of God. We don't want them to learn things like physics just in case they specialize in it someday (like the mind behind public education). {Zaveeth: What Takif taught was practical, like about solar energy and how to mix up vinegar to the right concentration. He taught them practical things.} Alternative energy is good, "Physics" is not. Such learning can foster pride in our children. Knowledge puffs up. It is an evil system.

Shoresh: We have very practical needs in training which we are not meeting. We have these needs in regards to the commandments, Eph 5:11, etc.

Yahshepheth: I learned a lot through reading the Bible. The things in the Bible almost always bond children to parents. We need to incorporate the Word more in out training.

Qatan: I really appreciate the vast amount of time and energy Tsebiah, Savov, Elizabeth, Yakin and others have expended to get us a curriculum so that we can have a will for our children. I believe our curriculum is namby-pamby, however, and seems to be geared in such a way that they don't need to work hard. It should be just the opposite so that they are not whining when they are 11-14 years old, "I don't know how to do this."

I had to look words up and figure it out. It was hard work to copy so much down as I did, but that is how you learn how to have neat handwriting and correct spelling. I heard what Edah said about the foundation in our younger training being practical.

Kharash: What Qatan said takes time. But what you get out of it is a child who reads, writes, speaks, and can do simple mathematics.

Ellen: I have a lot on me. Now I have several of my children with me instead of in a training group. One of my daughters was having trouble learning something but I detected that it was an attitude. Discipline changed that. Having my children has caused me to regroup, be very busy, and somewhat less efficient than when I am working without my children. But it is so good to be with them.

Yoneq: Don't fail to let your children give reports. No one is any good if they are intimidated. In everything we do we are to make that inner commitment to Him. If we do, we will be teaching our children to be prepared to give an answer for the hope they have. (1 Peter 3:15) That's the most important thing. We have to be prepared to give an answer at all times.

Don't neglect the spiritual, important things.

Edah's Letter about the Word in Training

(This had been written several months ago, but not sent. Her husband felt it was appropriate to read at this time.)

Dear Racham,

The past two years I've been teaching 9,10, and 11 (now 10 -13) year old children for the first time. As I've been teaching, my burden for our children to know the word of God has burned in my soul. I can not stop thinking about it or talking about it. Today it came to me again as I was reflecting on the papers that my group has been working on 1 Peter 2:18 — 3:9. I believe that as teachers there is nothing more important than teaching the word of God.

I keep remembering that teacher's meeting we had with Yoneq about 14 years ago at the Green House. He opened up the Scriptures to 2 Timothy 3:16,17, All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. After reading it he said, "What else do they need?" In many other words it was communicated that we should teach everything from the Scriptures. We also discussed Deuteronomy 6 and Proverbs 1.

Often, I have become painfully aware of how my limited ability to use the scriptures hinders my ministry in the lives of my children, my brothers and sisters, and my own life. Of all the areas of knowledge that I have acquired in my own life the one most important to me now is knowing the scriptures. Nothing is more essential to me, as a member of the Body of Yahshua, than knowing the word of God.

I can remember how I felt going to my first cook's meeting. I felt unqualified, unprepared, inexperienced, naive, shortsighted, ignorant and lacking insight, wisdom, and understanding. Then, a few years later, I started reading the Proverbs. As time has gone by, the Proverbs have become a source of direction to me. In the face of unfamiliar situation I have actually had insight or known how to respond. Because of the record of our Master's teaching on the mountain, I've had occasion to judge rightly in the matter of lending and borrowing. Paul's directives to love, be of one heart and mind, to restore our brothers in a spirit of gentleness, to not think too highly of ourselves, and also to regard our brother more highly than ourselves have pierced my heart over

and over again over the past two years. These are just a few examples. Without the scriptures we'd be totally lost. Our whole life, everything we know about who we are, where we are going, and how to do it is contained in the word. What greater gift can we give our children that they would know the word of God.

Without the word we would be empty husks. What about our children? Is it strange that our pre-youth and youth would be strangely unemotional about the things of God and our life if they haven't been trained up in the scriptures? At a meeting we recently had in Bellows Falls it was said, "IF the word of God burns in our hearts, what makes us think it won't burn in the hearts of our children as well?" That tore the veil right off my eyes! Of course it will. The word of God is not boring. It is the most vital, satisfying, stimulating thing that can be taken into the human soul. Nothing can compare to it! Nothing brings more life, security, insight, vision, purpose than the word of God. It's everything we lacked and longed for before we came here.

2 Timothy 3:14,15 says, But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convicted of, because you know those from whom you have learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. As an immah I feel the weight of this. 2 Timothy 1:5 even speaks of the influence of Timothy's grandmother and his immah.

As an immah and a teacher of our children the significance of these passages and others, such as Deuteronomy 6 are standing out to me. There is nothing more important for me to pass on to our children — from those who can reach and crawl right up to those who work side by side as fellow recipients of the grace of God. Whether it be by the standard with which we judge and train our children or the examples of our lives or the things we give them to read and study and memorize, the Scriptures must be the source of it all or we are unwise.

The word, the law of God, is satisfying to the soul. If the soul isn't satisfied it will feed on something else and we will lose our children, or they will grow up with a bent in them that will later come against the anointing (either at their hands or their children's).

I feel something urgent in me. I can hardly put it into words. I believe that we must redeem the time. It's my desire that this could be impressed upon all of our teachers. What good is it if our children can do our books, head up our kitchens, and run our industries if they don't know the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation. Reading this makes me wonder if our failure to impress the word upon our children isn't responsible for the strangely unemotional state of some of our 11, 12, and older children. They are coming of an age where the Scriptures should thrill and excite them, especially as they make a covenant with our Master. Some of the youth seem content to go on, working and living among us, seemingly unstirred by the word. Perhaps their dullness is the fruit of our lack to raise them in the word. I want to repent for my failure as an immah and a teacher.

My view of this has been affected by something that Naboth recently read at one of our sacrifices. He read that our children are born for salvation. There is no question about their purpose or destiny — it isn't hanging in the abeyance until they reach the age of accountability and receive the gospel or otherwise leave someday. This has set me free to bring the word as a standard for their lives. Somehow I felt like the best I could expect from was the, "golden rule," when in reality I can call them to the same standard that our Master exemplified. There is only one standard for us and our children. Our children aren't being raised for the nations, they are being raised to be that Kingdom that has such a clear standard of righteousness that all the other kingdoms of the earth will fall by its glory. Matthew 5, 6, and 7 are the standard for their behavior as well as ours.

(But see the notes from the June 20 sacrifice, "Instruction on Household Matters," about Matthew 7:12 — the fulfillment of the law and the prophets which we are to apply in every area of our life or we will not enter the Kingdom.)

I don't know if others have done better than I in training our children in the word. I'm not sure how much we use the Scriptures in our teaching. Our workbooks use very little. Recently, I've started using the Easy-to-Read Bible as a source for the sentences my J and K students use for finding subjects and predicates, etc. The children really like it. It stimulates them to read and explore the Scriptures. I just pray and pick the passages for different exercises. We talk about them and find other places that the same things are talked about. My heart is that our children would be saturated with the word. I'd like to see us discuss every way we can to utilize the Scriptures in their training.

We gave a hearty amen to Edah's letter.

Yoneq: Matthew 5:6 says, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after the word of God (righteousness).

Yemimah: The books we have used in training have limited us in incorporating the Scriptures.

Hakam: I know what Edah said is true about stimulating our children with the word of God. In Nova Scotia I was the most diligent I ever have been to read my children stories. Hananiah was talking to another little child at the Festival and he said, "We are in the world, but not of it." The other child said, "We are?" And they began talking about something I had told Hananiah long ago.

I don't think proper academics with the proper spiritual foundation being laid in our children will happen without the tutors Yoneq is talking about. The good administrators are too busy to put the proper spiritual input into our children. Sometimes we have people in the wrong places.

A Teacher with Glory

Ha-Emeq: There must be men with glory and dignity who would take control and command respect, commanding the children's attention continually. The children would see that this is serious. They would have admiration for such a teacher. They would want to be a teacher instead of wanting to grow up and drive a Bobcat.

We should have a one room schoolhouse where the older children helped the younger, and all along the rabbi is in complete control. The children would be coming forth from that bonded situation between the parent and the child. (If a child wants to go somewhere and spend the night with another child, it is a sign of decay.) If the authority and glory were upon us we could rule over even a large group of children. The rabbi would do the principal teaching.

Our curriculum might need some altering but it is usable as is.

Yoneq: We are to open the New Testament and have them read it wherever their eyes land. We can do this in training, in our family gatherings before the sacrifices, and even at the sacrifices. (Havah: This is a means to the real goals of our training.)

What is a rabbi? The first thing to learn from the word is don't call him a rabbi. (Matt 23:8) Also, 1 Thess 5:12 and 1 Tim 5:17 should guide us in all that we teach; teaching that will bear fruit is hard work.

Ha-Emeq: I used the term, "rabbi," because it creates an image, one teacher doesn't have. We couldn't have done this ten years ago because we didn't have the glory to do it. We see what we need. Is it possible? Yes, by the grace He provides...

Boaz told me, "I see this is a long way off for me." But could he bring order into a chaotic situation? Yes, as he changes into what he is meant to be. We can be a lot more than we think we are.

Kharash told me, "Anyone who had that kind of glory would be gone all the time on Billy Graham crusades, etc." He wouldn't be able to maintain his glory unless he had helpers. We could keep the 4-6 year olds in one group in each house, and the babies up till age three would be with their immahs. Mothers should be nursing their babies longer anyway, until age three. It would be so much better if nursing always worked as a natural birth control and mothers had more time with each child when it was younger. The 4 to 6 year old children would be learning to read so they would be ready to be in the older group of children. They would come into that older group right at the point where they are able and wanting to grasp more and more of the truth with their young minds.

Yoneq: Glory is inner worth. In Matt 25:14 there is the ability, — which everyone has — but they have to have glory upon that ability. John 14:21 and John 12:26 — This is glory, that honor is glory. The greater faith you have, the more peace you have. Why? The more you can forgive. The rabbi is not a tyrant. The more respected you are, the easier it is to be in unity. We can all have glory. (Kharash: This person is to visibly represent our Master to our children.) He is a man not given to anger, etc.

Ha-Emeq: They couldn't be the administrator of everything. Remember, you can be a teacher 5 minutes after you learn something. (The older children should certainly help in the instruction.) Women like Melody would be assigned to support the rabbi.

Yoneq: He would have periodic meetings with the parents. If the rabbi's glory carries over into the parents he can help them where they are falling short.

Hakam: They were extremely motivated in communications class. They were taught the word in an applied manner. It got into all their skills, writing, etc.

(Havah: It really spoke to them when we came back from wherever we were to teach them.) I have always taught these kind of classes with the mind that is a another generation growing up outside of the community that our children are going to have to relate to.

We never received in training what should have, that 1 Peter 3:15 would be the emphasis, the goal of our training. We haven't been coming from there in how we have looked at training.

Yoneq: It was a phenomena First Day — our children weren't dead. They need to know the earth is going to spin twice as fast someday. They need to know the word. I think our children really saw how they were loved and that they have not been injured, but pain was inflicted upon them for the purpose of discipline.

Racham: One of my sons told me that approved history books put a love of the world in him. It goes along with what was in Yoneq's letter about our children reading books — they could defile the whole community. So I want to encourage you to throw away your American History Bibliographies. If there is anything good in there, we'll extract it out and redistribute it without the book reviews. What we've learned in history in the last 6 months about Roger Williams and freedom of conscience is so valuable. We can teach history from the Stone paper.