

**Conditions for Returning**  
*(A letter from Patrick, and a response from Andreas)*

Patrick is a young man who met us while he was studying to become a chiropractor. He was baptized in Rutland about three weeks before the June 22nd Festival in 1994, the tenth anniversary of the Raid. The existence of an underground among the youth, and their appetite for the things of the world, aroused such doubt in him that, when added to whatever other misgivings he had, he decided to leave the Community.

Before he met the Community, Patrick had met a young German man named Andreas, who was taking a year to travel around America. They became good friends, so when Patrick met the Community he began communicating with his friend Andreas, who he knew was in a spiritual search. On the strength of Patrick's excitement about the Community, Andreas visited our brothers in Sus and also at Shua's farm in northern Germany. Obadiah befriended him and was faithful to preach the Good News to him. After many months (a wonderful story in itself), Andreas finally surrendered his life and was baptized in Sus, where he now lives and works as Obadiah's assistant in typing up the teachings. He is now called B'rak.

It was the very day of Andreas' baptism that Patrick, having left the Community, wrote Andreas the following letter justifying himself for leaving. Fortunately, due to many complicated circumstances, Patrick's letter didn't reach Andreas for six months, by which time our brothers in Reuben had already laid a good foundation in him, as you will see when you read his response to Patrick's letter.

Yoneq wanted Patrick's letter and Andreas' response to be circulated. He felt that Patrick's letter was very perceptive and necessary for us to hear, in spite of Patrick's unfaithfulness.

November 17, 1994

## Letter from Patrick to Andreas

Andreas,

You finally reached me! I hope it is not too late and I hope I can shed some light on your and my situation.

First, you said you are confused and insecure. That's great!! That is exactly how God wants you to be — especially if you are about to give your life up to Him. I understand how you feel and I don't want you to make the mistake I did — make a decision too early. Take your time and think about it, but sit back and listen to what I have to say.

Andreas, I am not ashamed in the least. I made my decision to leave and I stand by it right now. You mentioned that I was of a very "strong" character and that that may be my problem. You are right 100%. When I make decisions I don't hold back. When I decided to enter the Community, I did it with all my might because I knew I wouldn't find the truth if I didn't. So, I sold all my things and moved in. Everything the Community says is correct and it is the closest thing to the truth that exists on this earth today, and I truly believe that at this point in time they are the Spiritual Israel. Unfortunately that doesn't mean they will always be. Look at the Early Church. They were in the thousands in terms of members, but they fell away just like the Jews. Society today has made it even harder to stay focused on the goals our God and the Bible has put out for "His people." It basically came down to this, Andreas: I don't have faith in people's commitment towards reaching their goals. This may be because I don't have faith in myself when it comes to reaching goals. So, think of the tremendous goal the Community is trying to reach. They are trying to bring back God: the greatest agenda history has ever seen and the most difficult one. They are in their infancy at this point and could fall away at any moment. So here is what happened:

About three weeks after I was baptized we had a celebration in memory of the raid at Island Pond. At the celebration it came out that the Community youth (teenagers, children, etc.) had formed an "underground" movement against the Community. What I mean is that for about a year (at least) the youth have been leaving the Community on certain evenings and going out into "the world" and associating with teenagers in "the world," playing their music, etc. This is very disturbing. If you are trying to build a foundation, the children are the most precious commodity. This is the first generation of children and already they are showing signs of not carrying the torch. On top of that the youth have a large disposition towards playing sports from the world, i.e., baseball, football, soccer, etc. This also bothered me very much because the Community

speaks of despising the things of the world, yet their children are involved in things that the world thrives on, i.e., sports.

So, after the truth about the "underground" came out, the children were crying and ended up repenting for what they'd done. About a month later in Island Pond there was an incident that occurred (a minor incident) which I'm not even recalling right now. But anyway, we all got together and talked and some of the parents were crying (in repentance) because their relationship with their children was "out of control" by Community standards. I emphasize Community standards. The parents repented because they hadn't been devoting themselves to their children like they are called to. So, there I was, a single brother who had given up his life to be with a wonderful people, God's people, but around me there were bad signs. The children are vital to the Community's purpose, yet they are experiencing things they shouldn't be. The elders would tell me, "Well, the Evil One is trying to defile our children." That is true, but the problem isn't that. The problem is the parents. Don't get me wrong — you won't find children on this earth that are like children in the Community. They are as pure as you will find. But, are they being raised to carry on the purpose that is laid out before them? I don't know.

So with that I began to seriously think about what I had done and I came to this conclusion: I am 26 years old and just gave up my life to a people because their words and their life makes a lot of sense in this crazy, mixed-up, godless world. They have the truth, but do they have the means to protect it? I don't know. So I decided to return to chiropractic school with many things in mind:

1. The Community's message is clear enough that you can monitor their progress as a people and how the world around them is progressing (i.e., world politics, developments, etc.). I don't know if you've gotten into that yet, but it is fascinating.

2. When I left school to join the Community, I had a hard time dealing with the fact that I didn't finish what I had originally set out to do — finish chiropractic school. I need to prove to myself that I can "stick to my guns" when I decide to do something.

3. The Community needs chiropractors and if I go back (more likely, when I go back), I will save them the trouble of having to pay to educate me.

4. So, I have got all the time in the world to sit back and see if they increase as a people, more spiritually than physically. They must increase before I go back. I am not going to get involved in something if there are indications that it might not work.

5. I still have the travelling bug and it has always been my desire to travel around the world for a year or two. After I do that, I would think about settling down.

6. I want to further study the Scriptures and the Early Church. I already found out that right after Yahshua died people did not only live in community. Many went off with their

families, or alone, and lived in caves. So is community the only answer? Again, as the message gets clearer, we will find out.

7. I will probably return. My gut instincts about human nature make me question whether or not it can last. So, basically, I lack complete faith. I want to return, but their standards need to be higher — especially toward the children.

8. I don't want to live in the Community in the United States. There is far too much temptation and I am weak with that. I want to live in the third world — maybe Brazil or Honduras. Hopefully when I decide to return they will be established somewhere like that.

So what is my advice to you? None. It is your decision. Yes, I am strong, but you are much more simple. I envision you in the Community and I pray that you move in with them. If you do, I promise you, you will see me as a brother. Probably sooner than expected. I miss them a lot, but again, I need them to increase and I need to work things out of myself. I want to leave you with this in mind.

One month before I moved into the Community, a backpacker visited the Community in Boston. She was in the middle of a backpacking trip and told the Community that after the trip she was coming back to move in. Well, it just so happens that the two people who were ministering to her were twins who had been in the same predicament as she was when they met the Community. They also were on a backpacking trip. At that time the people ministering to them begged them not to continue on their trip and to move in immediately. They agreed and did. So, likewise, they pleaded with this girl not to finish her journey because if she left, she would be without the protection of her angels, because her angels were now there to stay. Their job was finished by leading her to God's people. If she left, she was an open target for Satan who would now want her dead rather than alive. Well, she decided to leave and said she would be back in two weeks. She never returned. The Community kept calling her and finally they found out that while on her trip she fell off a cliff and died. You must take this into consideration. I do every day. I fear for my life. I am walking on hot coals every day. You know how I love to travel, right? Well, I can't tell you how scared I am to fly now, because Satan is the Prince of the Air. You know where to reach me. Feel free to share this with Obadiah or whoever. It is their right to read this. Let me know how things turn out.

Love, Patrick

May 27, 1995

Sus, Frai

## Response from Andreas

Hello Pat!

The letter you wrote me on November 17th reached me on May 21st. November 17th happens to be exactly the date on which I've been saved.

I've never read such a bizarre letter in my whole life. Although I can rationally understand you, I cannot believe what you are saying! After reading your letter, I was totally out of myself for you and thinking, "Does he really know what he is saying there? Can he really calculate the risk? I hope he hasn't had any accidents yet."

I immediately sat down again and prayed to our Father that He wouldn't let you die like that, but show you His mercy and somehow bring you back to His people. After that, I couldn't sleep for one hour, which is very unusual for me.

You see, Pat, I'm truly worried for you. I've never been this worried for a friend before. I can't be indifferent about your decision since it depends on this decision where you will spend eternity: in eternal life or in eternal death. Pat, that's why I urge you to cry out to our Father for faith and to return to the Community immediately!!!

What you're doing is you're playing with your life. It's very frightening how you reason. When Yahshua said to the fisherman, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men," they immediately left their nets and followed Him (Mt 4:19-20). Our Master cannot use anyone who first comes, then goes reasoning whether or not the goal is possible to be attained.

Of course, you need the faith of Yahshua to fully commit yourself to the task that He has called you to. So you need to cry out to our Master with a broken and sincere heart that He would reveal Himself to you and give you His faith. If you can't do this, you are proud and strong in your own mind. All this is unworthy of our Master. You have to become like a little child. To set out you need just faith like a mustard seed, then it can develop into a strong and beautiful plant.

You're going to monitor the Community's progress and how the world around them is progressing. Are you making Yahshua a mere object of study? Then it would be better if you had never met the Community.

"No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62)

"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.' And he answered and said, 'I will, sir,' and he did not go. And he came to the second son and said the same thing. But he answered and said, 'I will not,' yet

afterward regretted it and went. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The latter." Yahshua said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax gatherers and harlots will get into the kingdom of God before you."

A brother and friend of mine named Yacob wants you to know that all you are doing is justifying your life, finding excuses for leaving and staying away from the Community. In the essence, you didn't really give up your life in baptism. Your commitment wasn't sincere, otherwise you would have "stuck to you guns" when you were put to the test three weeks later. You wouldn't have abandoned you brothers and sisters and you would never have abandoned Yahshua. For this is what you have done in reality: you have abandoned Yahshua; you have broken the covenant with Him.

What you've done is actually worse than what certain children, youth, and parents have done in Judah — they saw their fault, regretted it, and repented for it. So they were loyal in the end. They didn't forsake our Master. But what you've done is totally insincere. They may not be the most perfect parents and their children were certainly doing bad things, but I'm sad to say that you are an insincere person. They remained a part of the Body of Messiah; they keep following our Master, whereas you are out of the Community.

You need to see two things: the worth of our Master and your own sinful condition. Only if you can truly see what our Master has done for you, that He literally died for your sins, will you be able to commit yourself sincerely, i.e., with faith. If you don't get to a point where you truly see the worth of our Master, maybe you are not redeemable any more.

You left the camp and you are sneaking around it like a deceitful rebel now. On top of that, you made yourself judge over people in the Community and the Community itself. This shows what condition you are in. You can't see your own sinful condition. Otherwise, you would realize how badly you are in need of salvation. Instead, you point to the faults of your former brothers and sisters. Man, you ought to have stayed with them and given your best to help educate their children! That would have been love and sincerity. To remove the beam out of your eye before you point at the speck in your brother's eye. Don't you know that the world will be judged by God's people? So do you want to judge or be judged one day? You will be judged according to the way you judged.

I hope you see clearly that you are heading to the second death. If someone hears the truth, recognizes it, and rejects it, afterwards God cannot do anything with that person any more. He deserves the second death because he consciously rejects the truth and the love which is in God in order to continue his own selfish life.

Pat, you need to make yourself aware of the fact that if you cannot forsake chiropractic and traveling, you are not worthy of our Master. He calls on you to abandon everything totally. Your old life has to completely die. In case you weren't totally aware of this, now you know it.

There was the case of a man who went back to his old life just in order to finish his studies. He never came back. It's even better not to have finished your studies since they are a mighty bridge back to your old life. But all the bridges that open a way back to your old life have to be torn down.

In a few years, you'll have finished chiropractic school. And then? You will get job offers and other opportunities to exercise this job. And even if you should join the Community again then, if you don't cut it off, it will sometime inevitably draw you back unless your commitment is totally sincere.

Right now you have nothing apart from your rotten, stinking self life. You don't have any sacrifice for your sins. You are outside of the Commonwealth of Israel, the only place where salvation is really possible.

"He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal." (John 12:25) You don't hate your life yet.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34) You know you can't love as He loved as an independent individual separated from God and the Commonwealth of Israel.

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." (John 15:4,6)

A Spanish brother and friend who I also shared your letter with said that you fire many conditions rather than accepting Yahshua's conditions. You cannot model Yahshua in your own image, but He would like to transform you into His image.

"Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace." (Luke 14:31,32) Yahshua is much stronger than you. Only He can forgive you the sins that you are still indebted with now. His terms of peace are total surrender. You have to open your gates so as to let Him enter in peace.

You think you have all the time in the world to sit back and watch God's people as it progresses. This is a fatal error. Pat, let me ask you this as a friend. What do you have if your soul is demanded from you this very night? Nothing. You would have no excuse. You don't know when you will die.

I pray every day that our Father would have much mercy with you, not surrender you to death prematurely, but speak to your heart and bring you back to His people. Pat, I also fear for

your life. It's an incredible thing to imagine that you are headed for the second death if you don't come to repentance, because you've now made a covenant with the evil one.

It really is a good thing that there is the fear of death/God in you. This means there is still hope for you. You have to really see what is motivating you. Judge yourself right. I think you don't even realize what spirits are at work in you. Get rid of your pride, your self-exaltation. Humble yourself so that our Father can save you. Go back to the Community and don't wait any longer. It might be your last day today. I really want that you should live and not die.

Excuse me for all the hard words I wrote in this letter. I didn't mean to offend you at any point. I am your friend. As a friend, I felt the duty to write to you absolutely openly, hoping that you would see more clearly what you are doing. Pat, please do yourself a favor — finish your old life and get back into the waters of salvation. Your first baptism was not a true one. It doesn't profit you anything. You are even accursed for it because you turned away from it and made a covenant with the evil one by doing so. Baptism is either a blessing or a curse.

May you be blessed and live forever. Excuse me for taking all this time to write you. I wished I could already have your answer in my hands. Please get back to me.

In Yahshua's name,

Andreas (your friend)