

January 1996 Nottingham, England

Learning to Speak the Good News

Letter from Emet

Dear Lo-Nekar,

Shalom in the Name of our Master who is making us one. Lately I have seen more and more the deep work that needs to be done in me for me to be one of those that are part of the people our Father is going to perfect in unity. It seems like everyone here is having some deep work done in them, but we are very encouraged because as we are open with one another it is building us together. We have faith our Father is just preparing us so He can build on us.

News of Evangelism

We really believe He wants to build over here. He is encouraging us with lots of wonderful guests. Almost every Tuesday and Thursday night, we have about three to five guests at our Round-Table discussions and we often have guests on the other days, especially Friday and Saturday. As you have probably read we have a young man staying with us named Ben, also a young man named Patrice who the son of Ishah of Gad. Ben has been very damaged and is very dull and passive, but he wants to be with us. He is very willing and tends to believe everything we tell him. We have a lot of hope for him. Patrice is kind of like a hippie, into bettering himself, right now. He is into traveling around Europe. On Tuesday he is going to Sus. This is the first time he has really heard the gospel and we have hope for him, though he might need a little time (though who knows when he goes to Sus).

Another couple of guests we have a lot of hope for are two young single mothers called Luan and Nicki. Luan got a Freepaper from Qashab downtown (we often set up a table and talk to people there) and called us as soon as she got home (about one hour later) asking if she could come and visit us. She came to both our Round-Table discussions that week and then we didn't hear from her the next. We were surprised at that because it seemed like she was so sheep-like. She tried Christianity but it didn't change her. She didn't want God to just be part of her life, but all her life. She just seemed to soak up everything we said to her so we were very surprised when

we didn't see her again. Then on Friday we got a letter from her telling us how she felt so confused, so many people telling her so many things she didn't know what to believe. But she wanted one of us to go over to talk to her to answer her questions. She said she knew we wouldn't try to talk her into anything. So Chassidah and I went to see her and now she is coming with a friend, who is just as sincere as her, about every chance they get.

It is really wonderful living with Yohanan Abraham. It is so wonderful hearing him talk about the Gospel. That is what is most encouraging about being here, having so many guests whom we are speaking to and who are hearing the gospel. That is what really encourages me. I am learning a lot about speaking to people from compassion. We do not want to ever speak from some false obligation we might feel, but only compassion.

The Slack Hand Will Be Put to Forced Labor

In some ways this is a very difficult country to be in. In the prophecy about Issachar, Israel said that Issachar would be put to forced labor. I think we are seeing how the people in England really have the mentality of those who have been put to forced labor. I was thinking about how it says in Proverbs that those who are slack will be put to forced labor. There are many who are slack over here. They would rather be on welfare than work and when they do work they do not give themselves.

In some ways, the work over here is not very good, a lot of work is in factories or warehouses doing very menial tasks. It is pretty easy really, despite what everyone tells you, to find work here, but it is not so good. But when you look at people's attitudes, it's almost like it's what they desire, like what the Proverbs say about a slack hand. We work a couple of days a week at these kind of jobs for a temporary agency. The work is not that bad (especially only a couple of days a week), and we always try to talk to people we work with. The pay is not that good and the cost of living is high. We get a lot of our needs second hand at a flea market. We are doing well, living within our means and owing nothing but the debt of love. We are thankful our Father is providing our needs. Yoneq said that we eat the best food of all the communities.

Well, it is a little over a week since I began this letter. When I sit down to write I want to put down so much that I can never finish my letters. Patrice left Sus the day after he got there. Ben is going home. He is passive and we fear that if he just stays here it won't do anything for his passivity. He likes our life but also likes sitting on the fence. We don't want to strengthen the illusion that there is a fence, so we are sending him home until he decides what he wants. We still have a lot of hope for him and have grown very attached to him.

Another week and here I am again. I was so, so, so excited when I heard about Rivkah and Ishah Ruth. I know that our Father needs so much what He has put into them and now He can have it.

The Good News

Something is becoming very clear to me over here — what it means to hate your life, to want a new life. So many people, when they hear that to follow our Master you have to hate your own life say, "Oh, I do hate it; I want a new life." But what they so often really mean is, "I hate my *CIRCUMSTANCES*. I want new and better *CIRCUMSTANCES*."

Our Father can only help those who see that their very life stinks. I know that He wants to help people's circumstances, but He is powerless until they humble themselves before Him and confess *THEIR* sin, the rotten heart at the core of *THEIR LIFE*. So many people look at their bad circumstances and justify themselves because everyone else is so wicked and hurts *THEM*. It is so sad because it is true that the world is wicked and horrible, but it is also true that these people *THEMSELVES* contribute to that wicked system because of the corruption that is in them. That's what we have to hate — that corruption that's in us, that *IS* us, before God can stretch out His hand to really put us in an environment where we are not subject to that wicked world outside.

I can see that this is part of the evil one's scheme to keep people in bondage by making people so bitter they don't see *THEIR CONDITION* and so they can't ever be liberated. The Gospel *IS* the power of God for salvation and that is what we are learning to speak — that and nothing else. Yochanan is helping us with what *IS* the Gospel and what is *NOT*. It is becoming very simple. We were talking about Yonah the other day. He brought good news to Nineveh. He

told them they were going to be destroyed because of their sin, and they repented. This is the essence of our message today. Everyone is going to die for their sin and Yahshua is their only hope. Yonah had no great affection for the people of Nineveh, but there was something sensitive in their hearts and they *BELIEVED* the sent one. It was enough. They did not want to die, so they humbled themselves.

Today it is the same, but of course we only speak from the love we have for the people we speak to. We bathe them in love and speak the *TRUTH* that they might be saved from death. The sincere will be drawn, the insincere repelled. We have confidence that those who are willing will receive faith just as we did.

That is all for now Lo-Nekar. It is very hard to leave those you love, but we have good reason to do what is hard. We have a great purpose, and anyway, *WE* are always with those we love. Nevertheless, I do miss you and your wonderful family and everyone I came to know in Judah tremendously and I am glad for that. It is wonderful to have such friends that you would miss. So many people have no one.

Tell everyone I love them,

Love,

Emet