

Elbert the hustler Spriggs

Dear Angela, my friend,

I wish I didn't always have to begin my letters with "I'm sorry it's taken me so long to write" but Angela please forgive me once again. Marsha said that is not that I'm slow in movement but that I'm so meticulous and strive so much for perfection, that's my problem, this is what hinders me. She also said that she had hope for me that I would change some day, so please be patient with me. I'm slowly beginning to really hate being this way and am praying that I will come to full repentance and be delivered from this. I want to be obedient and useful to my Father.

Anyway Angela I know that I love you and I miss you as well. I hope that things are going well with you and Amoz and your son. Angela I was so touched over the baby carrier you made for Zakar. You really did a good job. I'm glad your husband encouraged you to make it. It fits Zakar and I really well but slowly he is getting too heavy for me. I'm pretty tired now after walking down to the river and back. I appreciate so much Angela how you and your household (I hope you are still living at the Bell View) thought about me. I am truly a much-loved woman! Please tell all the women there that I was very thankful for all their letters and cards. It touched me so much, I hope Rose is doing good and Ruhamah also. I really love Ruhamah. I feel like my letter to her was lacking in tenderness and maybe not quite the comfort or grace she needed but I pray for her.

We have been very busy here this summer. There have been so many guests. Right now the people from Spain are here. Pedro and Pilar and their 2 children and Mario and Julio and their little boy Samuel. They have been here for about 10 days. I don't know whether to be encouraged or discouraged about their visit. They have definitely heard and witnessed the true gospel which has exposed and shattered their mere appearance of godliness and empty religion. I'm glad for this, Elbert wasted no time. Yowceph and Abigail have continually been pouring out all their time and energy into them in the hope that they would see their true condition and cry out to our Yahshua to save them. After the meeting last Thursday night Pedro, after quite a lengthy speech asked if we could judge whether he could be baptized or not because he wanted to receive the Holy Spirit. I wanted to be encouraged so bad but, it was obvious that there was something missing. I was thankful for my brothers who spoke their heart and asked questions that quickly exposed the fact that he was neither needy or desperate for salvation. Where was the desperate cry to be saved? Daniel Manoah said that when you are drowning in the middle of the ocean and you're thrown a life raft you don't wonder whether it's made out of Styrofoam or plastic nor are you wondering about who the people are on the boat. No - you just grab for the lifesaver because your dieing and you want to be saved!! After a few more people said things Pedro went on to say how he was thankful that God loved him. Elbert responded by saying "when you're dieing you don't even have time to be thankful, you're just thinking about how to be saved! You grab for the lifesaver who is Yahshua." Earlier Pedro said how he knew that his life was in disorder but John Abraham clarified this by telling him that his life was much more than in just "disorder" but that his life was a total mess and in fact it was an abomination to Yahweh. Martin

asked him if he wanted to be saved and Pedro seeming to be very honest admitted that he didn't know what that meant or what it meant to be desperate in the way we were talking about. We seemed to all be a little sad as the meeting broke up that night. How is it that people can be so dull to their own condition and the great salvation that's being offered to them? It just makes me so thankful that our Father miraculously opened up our eyes and ears to the good news. For the most of us, we weren't looking for Him.

Well it's been a few days since I began writing this letter, I really hope I can finish it today. Mario and Julio left yesterday and Pedro and Pilar are leaving in a few days. I'm sure they have a lot to think about. People have continued to speak to them since the last meeting. Yowceph really cried out to our Father to save them and have mercy on them after breaking of the bread last night. Our Father is really looking for a man after his own heart from Spain that the doors of that country could be opened. I hope it is Pedro.

Pedro left this morning (8/28/85). A lot has happened over the last few days. Monday Yowceph called Madrid to find out what was going on with some Spanish people who had been wanting to visit us for a long time. It seemed that there was always something happening that would hinder their coming. Now they didn't have enough money and that the engine in their truck broke down. So it would be a while they said until they could come but they asked if maybe some people from us could go down. They have some white bread Jesus pamphlets down there and they said they all come together every night to read it! The elders decided Monday that Yowceph and Abigail would go down with Pedro and Pilar today and Elbert and Marsha would leave to meet them in Madrid by the end of this week either by train or by car. Things changed after the teaching last night. We have had many guests in the house this past week - Adolf and Frau Talapek (Ephraim's mother) 2 German men and a few others that left already a few days ago and a French guy and of course Pedro and Pilar.

When Paul sent for the elders of the church at Ephesus to meet with him in Miletus. The church at Ephesus we know lasted 40 years - about a generation until the lamp stand was removed. There is no sign of the church at Ephesus in Turkey today. They all fell away because they didn't pass on the Holy Spirit to their children. In verse 26 and 27 Paul testified that he was innocent of the blood of all men because he did not shrink from proclaiming the gospel to them. Elbert said that he also wanted to make sure that his hands were clean of anyone's blood before he left as there was a strong possibility he would go to Spain the next day and he wanted that the many guests who were staying with us would clearly hear the gospel - the good news, even from his own mouth. He started out in Isaiah 57:10. These people went on to destruction because when they heard the good news they did not say "it is hopeless" although they were at the end of their road, but found renewed strength in their own flesh, instead of letting their heart be pierced and crying out for salvation. Ephesians 1:13. The Ephesians had received the Holy Spirit after hearing the truth. Unless a person hears the word of faith, he cannot be saved. He can't read the word of faith, but he must hear it through a sent one. Romans 10:8-17 The preacher is verse 8, 14 Elbert said that he mostly wanted to talk about forgiveness that night. This really touched my heart because I saw how much God must love man that forgiveness is one of the first things He wants to communicate to him.

When true sheep catch a glimpse of YHWH's great love for them and how much He forgives them, all they want to do is repent and are even glad to give up their rotten stinking lives. Forgiveness is based upon the atoning work of Messiah, and the atoning work of Messiah is grace to its fullest extent. Messiah's work alone is what we are saved by. Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:3-5 Salvation is not based on anything good we've done but only on His mercy and His work alone. We are not working our way to eternal life - it's a free gift. On man's side repentance is insisted upon again and again. John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4) just as Peter did in Acts 2:38. You cannot be forgiven apart from being baptized into the body upon hearing of the word vs. 37, Messiah also said that men needed to repent to believe the gospel, Mark 1:14 and that repentance and remission of sins must be preached in His name. Luke 24:47 Jerusalem pattern should go through the whole world. Unless the Holy Spirit opens your mind to the Scriptures they will forever be closed. Forgiveness is linked together with faith in Acts 10:43. Yahshua paid the penalty of sin which is death. II Timothy 2:11-12 No one will live with Him unless they die with Him. Romans 6:3-8 The (past sins) of a man in Messiah have been nailed to the cross with Him. He cannot with justice inflict punishment when the penalty has been borne.

Faith and repentance are not to be thought of as our own works whereby we deserve forgiveness. Rather faith and repentance are the means whereby we gain the grace of YHWH. Philippians 2:13 Forgiveness is possible only because YHWH is a gracious giver and a God of grace. Here are some verses which so wonderfully describe the character of our Elohim. Nehemiah 9:17, A God of pardons. Exodus 34:6; 33:7 Forgiveness is rooted in the nature of our Elohim as "gracious." but His forgiveness is not indiscriminate. He will by no means clear the guilty. There is need for repentance if there is forgiveness that is communicated to the sinner. Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west so far has He taken our sins from us. Isaiah says that God has cast our sins behind His back in 38:17 and blotted out our transgressions. Isaiah 43:25. Jeremiah says YHWH will remember their sins no more. Jeremiah 31:34 Micah says He has cast our sins in the depth of the sea. Such vivid, language emphasizes the completeness of our God's forgiveness. When He forgives He forgives. Our sins are dealt with thoroughly- He sees them no more. I can not help but be overwhelmed at how wonderful our Savior is - the Elohim of Israel - worthy of our complete devotion our whole lives long.

In the New Testament several points are made clear. One is that the forgiven sinner has the capacity to forgive others. Only those who are forgiven can forgive and forget. Or else in time of argument the sin is brought up. We have the capacity to forget our past sins and former life. II Peter 2:10 When people sin against us we need to forget like our Father forgets. Luke 6:37 If we judge we must make true and clear judgments. If we don't pardon then we won't be pardoned. Colossians 3:11-14 Is talking about a renewal in the body of Messiah. The epistles are also a part of the gospel of the kingdom. Matthew 18:23-35 If we forgive from our heart we'll forget. If we don't forgive our brother we will endure a 1,000 years of suffering. We'll be handed over to the torturers. Luke 12:46 There is no provision made for lawless believers or one such as this who will not forgive his brother, except to be assigned a place with the unbelievers - cast into outer darkness until every cent is paid back, missing all the while the glorious reign of Messiah

during the millennial period. II Timothy 2:11-12 this is GOOD NEWS because it teaches us what we must do in order to have life and enter the kingdom. It teaches us to fear YHWH. If we do not fear YHWH we cannot be forgiven in this age. Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood the forgiveness of sins. Matthew 26:28...Shed for many but not all. It proves we have been forgiven if we endure that "room" (breaking of -----bread room) and drink that cup week after week. Ephesians 4:32 There are no sins which are not forgiven by the blood of Messiah except one for the unbeliever in this age or in the age to come. And one sin is not forgivable for the believer in this age. Hebrews 10:26; I John 5:16; Revelation 3:2 Former sins are remitted or washed away in baptism - the coming into Messiah's body on earth. Once YHWH has turned His back on a person there is no hope. The one sin which cannot be forgiven for the unbeliever, as John 16:8 speaks of is the sin of the world which is unbelief. This is the worst sin there is because it is a sin against the Holy Spirit. The sin of the world cannot be forgiven unless, one turns and repents and Yahshua forgives him. No one can be forgiven who laughs at his sins because when we are convicted we are pierced to the heart. Matthew 12:31 This sin for the unbeliever is not a certain or specific sin. But it is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and this cannot be forgiven in this age or in the age to come. If a husband or wife push one another away in rejection they curse one another. Mark 3:28-29; Luke 12:10 Blasphemy is not regarding the spirit when He comes to you offering salvation from the lake of fire - ...a continuing blasphemy against the spirit of YHWH who gives the sinner outside of Messiah a chance to be forgiven. To reject the Holy Spirit is to put off the Holy Spirit saying I need to take care of my mother, my brother, my sister etc. Luke 9:57-62 If you sense the drawing of the Holy Spirit you must hate your mother, your brothers, your sister. Blasphemy is having no regard whatsoever for the Holy Spirit. We must highly regard the Holy Spirit! Blasphemy is the sin of rejection because of an IDOL which is a greater god to you than the one true and real God - saying NO but my mother! NO! but children and brother. There are many examples in the New Covenant of those who have blasphemed committing the eternal sin. Blasphemy in itself is like Acts 6:11; Romans 3:8; I Corinthians 4:12; 10:30; Mark 2:17 Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:32; Mark 7:29) is the pronouncement that the one outside of Messiah is guilty of an eternal sin. Acts 13:45 Matthew 12 warns against the persistent and deliberate rejection of the Savior's call to salvation in Messiah. Elbert said that there is a time in everyone's life when the Holy Spirit speaks to them for the last time. Elbert told us how for many years he had pushed away the voice of the Holy Spirit of YHWH of Host (Hebrews 1:14) in his conscience convicting him about his life and the sin he was participating in until his conscience had become so dull that it hardly bothered him any more. He gave the example of how it is when you smoke your first cigarette. Your whole body rebels against it coughing and choking - screaming at you not to do it. But you keep on until your body accepts it and in a little while you don't even give it a second thought. Elbert shared how even though his conscience had become very calloused there was still one sin which the Holy Spirit was able to convict him of years later and instead of pushing the voice of the Holy Spirit away he repented and he fell on his face and cried out for salvation and to be delivered from his old life. Elbert believes it was the last time the Holy Spirit would have ever spoken to him and after that his conscience would have never bothered him again. To be unresponsive leads to a state of insensitivity where you no longer sense the urgency to be

saved. Our sins need to be washed out immediately. If we are not quick to repent and confess our sins we become dull. Deliberate highhanded sin can only be forgiven through much purging in the next age. To be unresponsive not only leads to a state of insensitivity but also confusion where evil is accepted as "good" and good for evil. Luke 9:62 has no meaning whatsoever as the words of life and is not held in high regard as the word of YHWH Himself. Hebrews 4:12-13 is not even respected enough to cut the heart of the eternally cursed rejecter of the eternal spirit. Romans 10:16, 21 The people's ears are grown FAT and heart DULL. Acts 28:26 If we say the Holy Spirit is evil then we don't recognize the Holy Spirit and we cannot be saved. We recognize the Holy Spirit because its a clean spirit which holds us together and teaches us to love one another. In verse 22 of Acts 28 the church became known as a sect or cult. Many of those who gathered together to listen to Paul would not believe because they had other gods. I John 5:16 is the baptismal yow which they confessed saying that Yahshua is Sovereign. Numbers 14:3; Ezekiel 14:10 He is the God of all grace and the very means of bearing sin are instituted by Him. The sacrifices avail only because He has given the blood as the means of making atonement. Leviticus 17:11 The Old Covenant knows nothing of a forgiveness that is wrung from an unwilling god or purchased as a bribe. Forgiveness is only possible because God is a God of grace, a God of pardons. To Him belongs mercy and forgiveness for He is merciful and gracious and long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth and keeping mercy for thousands. Exodus 34:6-7 So we must come out of our old fatherhood to be saved. No longer influenced by it. This teaching on forgiveness that Elbert gave was really wonderful. The Holy Spirit really came upon him as he had much much grace to speak. It was as if from the very mouth of our sovereign Yahshua. Much mercy was expressed as well a urgent sober plea to the unbelievers to respond. At the very end Elbert asked if there was anyone who wanted to be saved, no one responded. I couldn't understand why none of the guests weren't weeping to be saved after all they heard - the lake of fire goes on forever and ever and ever and ever. When the trillion years have passed you are no further ahead then when you first began. Fear and grief filled my heart for Adolf as he gazed out the window. Was it possible that the Holy Spirit had already spoken to him for the last time? Why was he not reacting? We had prayed so fervently and so much for him. After a few minutes Elbert said that he personally felt that there was no more hope for anyone who did not repent that night. Salvation goes to someone who will hear. Elbert said why should we waste our time preaching the gospel a 1,000 times to somebody who is obstinate and won't let go of their life and don't have ears that hear when there are people in Africa who are dieing and have never heard the good news before! It seemed many have felt their life was more valuable than the surpassing greatness of coming to know our Elohim, Creator of the whole universe; even Him. After the meeting Adolf began to spread discord among the brothers about Elbert speaking evil lies and accusation. Elbert spoke directly to him, completely exposing what he was doing - telling him that he had blasphemed and that he and Frau Talapek would have to leave that night. We still pray for Adolf that if there is any chance at all of him repenting that our Father would save him. Although Adolf has blasphemed it is not yet clear whether he has basphemed the Holy Spirit. Only time will reveal it, if he repents or if he continues to speak evil about us up in Germany. We have learned now that he has been speaking evil about us in Germany. Well Angela this letter has gotten so long. I better end soon or else it's going to take you a week to read it. I just really had it

on my heart to share with you the teaching because it really spoke to me and Elbert encouraged me to write about it. I'm sure that by now you know the news of Pedro, that he left along with his family the next day. How could any of us go with him to bring the good news to others when he himself had not repented. He had heard the whole gospel very clearly yet still this point did not respond. There was nothing more to talk about with him until he repented. There is no fellowship between us since this time though the other people in Madrid who wanted us to come down have called again almost pleading with us to visit them so Elbert and Yowceph are leaving this Monday - to evaluate the situation and see if there are any sheep among them. There might be a tendency for us to be discouraged after all what has happened concerning Pedro and Mario but we are not. Our Father is working very hard to open the doors to Spain. We must give Him no rest and not keep silent day and night until His will is accomplished and His heart satisfied as it talks about in Isaiah 62:6-7.

Angela I'm so thankful to be in the household of YHWH. To be on the mountains of Zion is the most wonderful place that anyone could ever dwell. Last breaking of bread Elbert talked about the sons of Seth and how they were content to dwell on the high places of Zion but they were continually looking down towards the descendants of Cain (the world) desiring their life and the way they lived. They lived on the slopes of the mountains, on the very outer edges of the camp of Israel - therefore they were consumed. Elbert shared in a recent teaching how that probably many of us who haven't been outside the gates of Tabitha's Place in almost a year probably but how wonderful it is that we can day and night out our entire life serving in the tabernacle - what a privilege and blessing it is to serve as a priest in His house. I never notice how long its been since I last went somewhere because I love living at Tabitha's Place and being involved in the lives of my brothers and sisters. I know the ones who go to the market need much more grace as they always have to pray against defilement and to be cleansed. They can't wait to come home and be back in the life again after a draining afternoon in the world. Elbert said that those who always envied the ones who functioned on the outside a lot aren't here anymore and those who took advantage of that place are also not here today. Angela we have such a wonderful wonderful life - we have YAHSHUA. I love you -your friend Kirsten.

P.S. Mispa and Beati are due to have their babies real soon. We are really looking forward to the birth of their children. Please give my love to Joellen she is very close to my heart.