

October 10, 1997

Asher

## **Raising Our Children**

### *Letter from Nun*

I hope that what I have to pass on will somehow be a help to you and your husband in raising your children. I remember your children as being very bright and energetic. They all possess very good qualities if molded properly.

It's good that you are getting everything out concerning the problem with your son and being totally open about what you are feeling. This is the first step to recovery and understanding where things went wrong. Never let things just sit and "stew" for long, lest a minor problem become a major catastrophe.

### **Prompt Action**

You say that you thought you had trusted our Father, but when you look at the results (with your son leaving) it makes you wonder whether you really did trust Him. But something like this wouldn't happen unless (in reality) you didn't place your whole trust in Him and His Word. None of our children have to be "lost." You were "silent" too long about the needs you were troubled about in your children. You may feel that you were talking about it with people, but if you weren't getting results then you should have sought for greater grace through the council of leaders — first in your household and then, if necessary, the leaders in the community at large. Somewhere in the Body there would have been grace to provide the clarity you were needing about what to do with the problems you saw in your children (particularly the son who left).

The Word says take prompt immediate action for every offense. He means what He says. We've always heard the adversary first starts a nest with one twig at a time until the nest is completed and then he has an environment to raise the little hatchlings. This is what we are creating if we don't attend to things immediately as the need arises. Deeper and deeper our

children fall into ruin because of our own *laxity*. You should look and define the word *laxity* (see page 6).

### **The Ruin of our Children**

Losing our children is not normal. Bonding is! They shouldn't be permitted much interaction with their peers while growing up to maturity — at least not until around the age of Bar Mitzvah. You can count on this setting in "ruin" to our children if they are allowed to freely intermingle with others their own age. There should even be limited time and restraints permitted for interaction with righteous children. Children thrive around adults. "So that once they are *properly trained* will be like their teacher." They are their guardian angels. So do not fear that this will cause *imbalances* in them towards others in their social life. It actually "enhances it." For you will find that the children grow at a faster pace of maturity than those children who are permitted free and easy access to their peers. Bonding is then lost and children will be compelled to act according to peer-pressure tactics. Children naturally want love and acceptance, but unless there is proper guidelines and teaching given by their parents children easily go off course and seek this attention and love from others who are just as immature as them resulting in ruin.

Ex 20:5,6 — He who loves his son, disciplines him *diligently* (Pr 13:24). This creates a bond — a bond of love, respect, admiration, trust, etc. It causes the child to "look to you" — a deferring *in his heart* for counsel, direction, advice, knowledge. Children are looking to us to know "the way" — the way of YHWH (Gen 18:19). This is why Abraham was chosen and why we were also chosen. This desire to know "the way" is most tender and sensitive when our children are young. It's not altogether impossible to win their hearts later on, but the chances become much more unlikely. Why should we take the risk when He has already provided us the means to gain their hearts at a young age and hold it until the mortar is hardened in them? We just have to do what we've been told and then we can see the faithfulness of our Father at work.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See the PS on pages 7-9 for more thoughts about this.

**Affection — Positive or Negative**

Affection is also very, very important. What bond have we ever had with anyone who did not show us *affection*? We are "affected" by someone's love. It remains with us all our days. We can also be "affected" negatively by *wrong company*. But if a father and mother show their children proper affection and approval along with discipline and instruction — their children will be their *loyal friends* forever. He will be praised from "one generation to another." A father who doesn't discipline his child *hates him* according to Ex 20:5,6. He and his children are accursed, cut off from Israel. They never were a part of Israel and never will be.

However, our Father understands our plight. We are the most damaged of all generations yet born on earth. What brooding instinct were we raised under? Even if your mother had some remnant of it left, she was still outside the commonwealth of Israel, separated from God. What hope could she instill in you as far as His eternal purpose for mankind? At most she lived by her conscience and nurtured you to go in like fashion. This is good for the nations and they will be rewarded accordingly. But we have a more secure hope, which far exceeds merely living by instinct — we have His very Laws written upon our hearts. And we pass on these laws and mind of our Father to our children continuously throughout their whole day. His purpose for forming Israel is very clear. We don't have to live in a fog about what to pass on to our children. They are either our greatest investment or our greatest shame.

**Force of Spirit**

How deep a problem is created when we reason! A "reasoning woman" does not respect her husband. She will also find that she doesn't command her children's respect with her *force of spirit*. Such women will "reason" with their children as well. There is no room for reasoning when you know the mind of Messiah. If a woman is at odds with her husband, she does not know the mind of Messiah. It may even be true that our husband is a bit mindless and inattentive regarding his children, especially when he has come straight out of the world. They may have been pretty intellectual about things at first. Yet our husbands, just like us, can acquire much

more of our Father's heart and mind about child training, but years may be lost (with our children) before a good footing is properly laid.

But this was not the downfall for your son. The heart communication and bond makes up for most lacks in any parent. That's always the problem when we lose our children — we don't get to their heart. We don't *reach it*. Even if some years went by with your son before a solid enough foundation about child training was laid in you and your husband, this was not the reason your son left. We may do all the right things, under principle, but still remain detached, aloof, and distant. We can't win their heart being "principled."

We have to hear first in our own heart about the things that seek to destroy us. We have to hear what it is that separates us from our Master, then we can cut off the things that are in our children, the things that separate them from us. We can't live in the community just acquiring more and more head knowledge about child training if we aren't taking the teachings to our own lives and judging the sin that ruins our children and us. If we are open with our lives in the Body and honest with ourselves, then we will have the strength of spirit and character to effect a lasting change in our children's character as well.

### **What I Do With My Children**

The most important thing is COMMUNICATION and DISCIPLINE. If we discipline properly it communicates LOVE to our children. We capture their heart and bonding results. They are secure with us and trust what we say about Yahshua and God's purpose on earth. They never doubt it, because we have never given them any *cause* to doubt us — our LOVE for them or the Word of God. There is still hope for your son if his heart can be reached. How was our heart reached? Was it not through love being communicated to us? This love is what saved us. It bonded us to our Master forever. Well, that was about all I had to say. I don't know if any of this will help you, but I hope it does. I think you both have changed a whole lot over the years and have increased in wisdom and understanding — both with each other and your children.

This is what I do with my children: I ENJOY them! They know this — how? Because I spend as much time with them as possible. They know I suffer if I can't be with them. That communicates where my heart is to them. They are all I have directly from me. They won't stay children for long. I must make my investment now. Later will be too late. I try to have "family time" with them at nights before going to bed. I try to make it a special time where we can have stories, or a snack, or drink. They see the effort that Judith and I make for them and the result is BONDING — LOVE. They like me and I like them. The more time I have with my children, the better. But I must give them this time, or I better "make" the time to be with them.

I know that my circumstances here in Asher are probably a bit different from both of yours, but still "LOVE FINDS A WAY." If you love them, you will make the sacrifice. Sometimes, you have to communicate the need to be with your children on a regular basis, whatever is necessary to win their heart as a parent you must do. All I know is if your heart is turned, it's automatic and absolute — the children's heart will be turned to you as well. This is objective, it's in Malachi 4:6. It always holds true. We can't blame anyone but ourselves if things go wrong. They don't have to if we simply do what Yoneq has taught us. He has passed on the heart of our God to us and made our Father's purpose clear in how to train children. None of us does this perfectly — no parent is without fault, but this need not stand in the way of our children being saved or in love with our God and us.

### **Our Children's Lacks**

Our children will always have lacks, just like we do, but their hearts will also be "one" with our Father. Their passion and zeal will far outweigh whatever lacks they may have. Like Zakar, for example. I suffer that he has not had greater opportunity with his education because of the circumstances that Judith and I have been living in over the last 10 years, but what he has gained by being "brooded over" by us will have a much more lasting effect in his life. He will always be learning (although I am sure he is well behind other youth there in Judah in his education), but the real investment has been made in his life spiritually. And like Miriam and

Martha, I think I have made the greater choice. It wasn't within my means to give him what other youth have had in educational skills, but I have give him what I could give — what every parent CAN give and that's your love, time, and heart. I think it bore good fruit with him and hopefully it will in all my children coming up to Bar Mitzvah. Sekel is next and she is showing the signs of being a very wise young woman — since she has no other thought than to serve our God. I am very pleased with her.

Here is a section of a Messenger teaching called, "Laxity" which has not been edited yet by Yoneq:

*“Lax means: looseness, not tight hands, not firm. That means you don't mean what you say and you communicate this uncertainty to your child. Lax means: slack, loose, not strict or not exact, vague. The parents lack significance due to their laxity and slackness. The parents are weak, not straightforward but ambiguous, indeterminate, equivocal. Laxity crossed out the First Church (Rom 11:20,21,22).*

*“Compromise, laxity, and intrigue must be resolutely resisted. Resolute means: with fixed purpose, boldly, firmly, steadily, with perseverance, having a decided purpose, determined, resolved, fixed in determination, bold, steady, firm. It is the steadfast resistance of what destroys (like cancer.)”*

This part of the teaching is just in the "rough draft" stage, but I thought you might glean some very insightful information from it to help you in raising your children. I like your children. They have energy and passion. They are vivacious children. I still have hope for your son if you just keep communicating with him and keep, like you said, "a listening ear." He is an adult now and has learned the "ways of the world" rather than followed the "way of Yahweh," but he can change if he judges what he has given himself over to — just like what we did when we were saved. There can still be healing for all of you in the long run. You've learned a lot through all the things you and your husband have suffered. Our Father will surely reward your faithfulness to Him.

I love you both very much,

NUN

P.S. I wanted to add something about the part of the letter concerning the “ruin” of our children. Talking with Chets Barur while he was here also made it more clear to me that what we had done with our children (being the ones who they are primarily bonded to) was an appropriate response in Judith and me to what the child training teachings said. Chets Barur told me that he had felt (looking back in how he was raised in his early childhood) that the time he seemed to do the best in his life and felt the most secure was when he was in Nova Scotia with his family.

Again there (as it was for Judith and I in New Zealand), the community was just beginning and Chets Barur spent all his time with adult supervision. There were not so many children his age to associate with and as a result he was channeled in the "narrow way" (the Way of Yahweh, Gen 18). It helped him to see things more objectively. But if he had been subjected to a lot of freedom with his "peers" it would have spoiled him more (bonding negatively towards those his own age). Of course, I am not saying there is not an appropriate place for children to "associate one with another."

But I think it is all too easy to be distracted by the many cares of community life and for our children to fall to the wayside. Then they develop closer relationships with other children their own age, rather than what Yahweh has delegated to them in their parents. The primary relationship would be developed first and foremost with their parents. Therefore, restrictions may be necessary to insure that your children are bonding to "you" and not an "outside" element (like another child or group of children). There is a time and place for everything.

What seems to be more appropriate is that this "social interaction" would come at a later date in our children's life (like say, once they are Bar or Bat Mitzvah). Then you can count on them to a certain degree on having "self-judgment" in their social relationships within the Body. Of course, as the children are growing up they will not feel "restricted" IF your heart is turned towards them (Mal 4:6). They sense YOUR love and will naturally desire the security of it. They will desire to be under your authority.

They may have "covered times" which the parents may feel is suitable as their children are growing up — like within the households the parents and their families naturally associate with one another.

Perhaps the children will even interact together earlier on in childhood with one another in something like a project or a number of other things. The parents have to be in tune with one another so that the children will not go "unnoticed," and their activities would not be without "monitoring and attentive covering." (That is, an adult or parent would always be present to provide "objectivity.")

### **The Spirit of Bar Mitzvah**

I think this is why Yoneq has also had the vision of "cottage industries" where we could work and train our children in an appropriate skill right beside us. Also, the spirit Yoneq and ha-emeq have ALWAYS had and passed on to us as parents is, ENJOY YOUR CHILDREN. They are NOT a BURDEN to you. LOVE them and they will LOVE you in return. GIVE them your time and they will respond in like manner. If you give and look out for them, they will give and look out for you. Is this not the whole spirit and vision behind child training which culminates in Bar Mitzvah? Of course it is. That's why there is never any question in our children whether they are going to be a Bar Mitzvah one day. They never have a contrary thought to this IF they have your love as a parent. If they have your love then they will also have your "heart" in following our Master.

Well, I just wrote this to make sure you understood that these were not my own thoughts, but those which Yoneq and ha-emeq have faithfully passed on to us here in Asher and personally with me — for which I am very grateful. They are our example as "spiritual parents" to all of us. They have not only parented us (the parents) but our children as well. We will never go wrong if we listen to their direction for us in raising our children. It has borne "good fruit" and we all know that a good tree cannot bear "bad fruit" nor a bad tree bear "good fruit". You know a "tree" by its fruit (Mt 7:15-20). We must listen to them though, for like everything we receive from

them, nothing comes without our willingness to obey the voice of "faith" they pass onto us. If we take it to heart, then we as parents will gain the heart of our children.

That was all I wanted to say for now. Thank you again for writing back. I hope some of these things will be a help to you both. I love you very much. I am very happy to hear that your younger son is soon to be a Bar Mitzvah. Your labors have not been in vain.