

FREE!

# Still Grateful

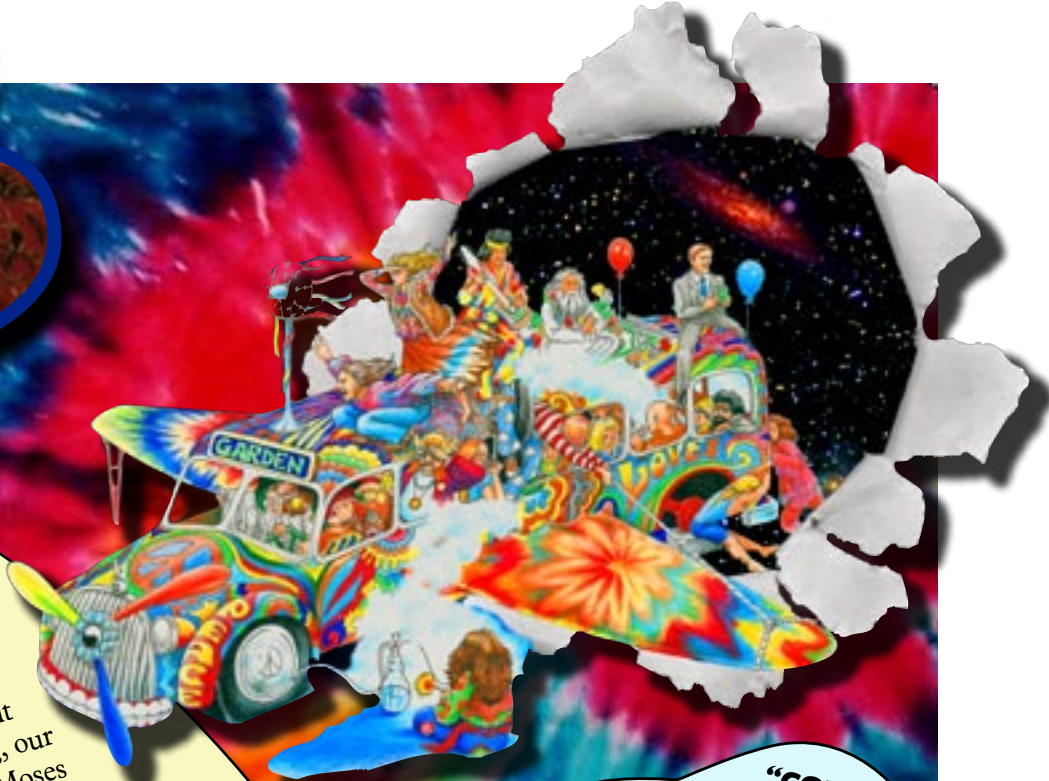
So nice to see you after such a long time.

Where have you been?  
Tell me, what did you find?  
Did you ever make it to the end of your rainbow?

We're still here, and still grateful. In this paper we've woven together little snippets from freepapers we've written over the years. They tell the story of our journey from the radical questions of the '60s to the radical life that answers those questions...



**Haight-Ashbury!** What magic these two words had in our minds! A society of free young spirits founded on love, peace, and freedom, where equality and fraternity could just be! From far and near we grabbed our backpacks and left the road. By air, foot, bikes, or hitching, our home. We dropped out of school and hit San Francisco across the Golden Gate. ♪ When we arrived, we were accepted. Our Moses was Timothy Leary. Our Promised Land was No one made any demands. No one was watching. No one asked any questions. No one had to prove anything. We were just ourselves and everyone was happy. We were really living our dreams. We could come and go as we pleased. We could wear what we pleased. There were no deadlines, no grades, no projects, no points to score. ♪ We did not care about money, no one was trying to impress, material things didn't matter. Only people mattered. Easy alliances were formed. Love was knocked down and spirits were high. No one was killing anybody, and people were beautiful. ♪ Joan Baez called it *togetherness*, and she was right. Men and women throughout all generations have been looking for that bond of love that would make them one. The desire for an end to estrangement and hostility runs deep in the human soul. The toughest nut will crack under the right pressure and the hardest heart will yield to love, understanding, and a little kindness. The most estranged and antagonistic person will respond to interest and concern, once his suspicions have been allayed. This *togetherness* is what we wanted and what we thought we had found. This was the life of the flower children. ♪



**"COME TOGETHER!"** was the cry in the heart of the '60s generation, fueled by a desire for a love we sensed was possible and a justice we knew the world needed. WOODSTOCK gave us hope that people could actually come together and love one another, caring for each other, sticking together like glue. ♪

We fried our brains, wrecked our emotions, and did irreparable damage to our consciences trying to come together because Christianity did not provide the life of love and unity we needed. Since Christianity failed, drugs, sex, and rock & roll were the only hope we had. ♪ "If by being Christians we must live as Christians live, then we will not be Christians at all," we said. "Please don't tell us of your Jesus who died on a cross to save sinners unless you can show us who he has saved lately that actually lives by his teachings! ♪"

The counter-culture landscape of the '60s teemed with radicals, extremists, idealists, and revolutionaries lurking around every corner. Mainstream society hated these trouble makers, these communists, but we loved their passion for peace and justice. Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin jumping up and down on the table in the Chicago courtroom in 1968 didn't rattle us; they had bucked the system and won a great victory. Hope welled up within us that maybe we could change the Establishment. ♪ But were we truly radicals? Did our roots go down into a life-giving source that could sustain us and bring about the goals of the Movement? No! Time and time again we went home dismayed and frustrated. Eventually we left the Movement and fell back into the same system from which we had tried to escape. ♪

A Twelve Tribes Freepaper



**Anyone  
who graduates college  
earns a degree in religion — the religion  
of materialism. What more satisfying  
and fulfilling occupation does western  
civilization have to offer than the  
pursuit of wealth?**



Our present day environmental crisis is a lot like the story of a madman starting forest fires. Constantly at work on this planet, the madman has left a trail of death and destruction. Nuclear wastes, hazardous chemical wastes, acid rain, the destruction of the rain forest, the tundra, the salt marshes, James Bay, the depletion of the ozone, the greenhouse effect, oil spills and the contamination of the seas, the effects of Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, landfills, Styrofoam, fluorocarbons, endangered species — all these are just some of the madman's forest fires. As soon as he starts one, we run over to where it is and put it out. We spend millions, even billions of dollars in an effort to put an end to some particular facet of his destruction. But it seems like we are always one step behind him. Somewhere else another fire is starting just as soon as we're getting the first one licked. ❧ So who is the madman causing all the problems? Is it us? Or the greedy rich? Or the giant corporations? Or the politicians? No. Man is certainly a guilty accomplice in all these acts of destruction, but man isn't the madman himself. It's really not that simple. The madman in the story is really a spiritual being, the evil angel that most people call the devil or Satan. More than just a force or a mythical creature with horns, a goaty beard, and a long tail, the evil one is a potent ruler; in fact, he is the mastermind behind the spiritual system that controls much of what goes on in the world. This madman has long been bent on the destruction of the earth. ❧ One of his earliest attempts created the conditions we read about in the beginning of the Bible. Most people are familiar with Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Verse two, however, may be a bit baffling: "And the earth became formless and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the deep..." Something strange had happened in the period between verse one and verse two. What made it "formless and empty" and brought a veil of darkness over the surface of the deep was the work of the evil one. It's not like God to make something that is a ruin and a mess. ❧ Had the evil one gone unchecked for long, the earth would certainly have become uninhabitable. This is what prompted the earth's Creator to engage in the work of restoring it — bringing back the light, the sky, the dry land, and the plants and creating new animal life to replace what had been lost. The culmination of that week of work was of course, man, who was placed in a restored portion of the earth called the Garden. His task was to spread out from the Garden with his children and restore all the other parts of the planet, wresting the control of it out of the hands of the evil one and back into the hands of his Creator. ❧ This hasn't been done yet. ❧ But don't give up hope. One day the whole earth will be restored to what the Garden was like. One day the madman's forest fires will come to an end. One day, a people will capture him by their unity and see him chained in the abyss and ultimately judged. ❧ Who do you think will do it? Who do you think will have the unity, the peace, and the love in their lives to finally bring this about? The people I think who will do it are described in the scriptures. They will be people who belong to a new twelve tribe Israel who are living a tribal life in communities in twelve different tribal areas on the earth. ❧



Most of us children of the '60s came from middle class American families with middle class American roots and middle class American values ingrained in us since childhood. When the time was ripe, we threw off our parents' values and society's norms in an attempt to be free from all the chains of hypocrisy and greed that kept all the LSD America. But there was one thing that kept all the swelling emotions charged by the meaningful songs of our prophets from breaking those chains. The one thing we lacked was the power to break free from the rotten, selfish seed that was passed on to us from our middle class fathers. ❧

From the big box retail stores in suburbia to the new mega-churches that are beginning to dot the American landscape, from the barroom to the ballroom, from sea to shining sea, regardless of race, color, age, national origin, gender, religion, disability or sexual orientation, everyone is riddled with one common flaw — they simply can't get along. Say what you want, mankind is fatally flawed. So why can't people get along? ❧





Let's get one thing straight. Human nature isn't just another word for selfishness. Human nature was created just a little lower than divine nature. We are His image bearers. And the

nature of God is love. That's why most people want to love and to be loved. That's why we long for and dream of great things. But there is a flaw in human beings that keeps people from attaining to the things they desire. ♪ Q: And you people don't have this flaw? A: Of course, we have it! We come from the most damaged generation in human history. We've got more gaps and cracks and hairline fractures in us than anybody. But we've also got a lifetime supply of "super glue." ♪ Q: Meaning what? A: Meaning that the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit whom He has given us. And He, the Spirit of Love, compels us to live, not for ourselves anymore, but for the One who lived, died, and rose again entirely for our sake. ♪ This is the whole point of what we are saying about the fatal flaw in human beings. You can have all sorts of religious opinions. Your beliefs can totally line up with hundreds of Bible verses. But if you don't love each other the way Messiah loved us, then *the world will not be convinced* that you are His disciples. And if you are not one with each other just as the man Yahshua (*Yahshua is the Hebrew name for Jesus.*) is with His Father in heaven, then *the world will not be convinced* that the Father loved them enough to send His Son to die in their place, in order that they could be reconciled to Him. ♪

Such is the nature of this world. It runs on the engine of self-interest. The souls of men — their intellect, will, and emotions — are consumed with their own needs and desires, with advancing their own careers, causes, and reputations, and with maintaining and building up the systems of this world order. Their conflicting desires and ambitions are the cause of immeasurable human misery and the looming destruction of the very planet they grudgingly share. Their eyes cannot see any way out of the cycle of sin and death they are trapped in. Even their religion does not set them free, but only comforts them in their prison. They sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. ♪

The more people are overtaken by their selfish ambitions, the further they drift from the image of God, and the purpose for which they were created. Pure love cannot be found through someone's selfishness. The empty husk of love that people settle for in selfishness eventually passes away. They get connected to an evil realm, which promotes living for themselves with little or no thought for how they ruin the lives of others. They soak themselves in drugs and alcohol, trying to escape the screaming voice of their conscience. They can't help but dig the same grave for anyone willing to listen. ♪

Even the symbol of the cross, perched high upon many a church steeple, engraved and printed on pulpits, books, T-shirts, and many Christians' automobiles, is a symbol of *death*, not life. It would be no different from someone putting an electric chair atop their place of worship, or a noose on their sacred text. Posting the cross everywhere is like again hanging the Son of God up to public shame. The true testimony to the Father sending the Son is not *how* He died, but *what* He experienced in death, and the fact that He discipled the power over their tendencies that cause death in human relationships. If His resurrection can't give people the power to overcome the fatal flaw in mankind, then what did it accomplish? ♪

"I thought I could begin life over again with new friends, in a new location. I hated what I had become, and all the lies I had told to cover over the shame and guilt of my life. ♪ "Oh, what freedom! A new start! ♪ "But wait... What was this? How foolish I was! My fatal flaw could not be healed by merely moving to a new city, or finding a new set of friends. I had tried to believe everything would change, but in the end I found that *I* was the problem. I was trying to run away from myself." ♪



"As I grew older and my personal experiences multiplied, I would meet that fatal flaw within me time and time again. Though often naïve to how I caused pain in others, the pain was real. The tears were real. The anger was real. There is a certain deep frustration, a hopeless soul-scream that comes when the ingrained, hurtful ways of two people in a relationship clash, neither of them able to see his own fault. Pride draws the battle lines, humility flees, and unwilling to yield, you close the gates around your heart and lash out, blaming others for everything that is wrong. ♪ "Though young, in the prime of my youth, and coming from a good family, I was being effectively trained to live for myself, sever ties with any who would call attention to my personal faults, and try to satisfy an ever-increasing desire for pleasure. The pride in my soul was being built up like an ancient walled city, which I thought was impenetrable. Shockingly, this was all happening in the background of my life without me knowing. I was completely unaware of the change that was taking place in me. My experiences and choices were forming my character. I had no idea how deep these poor choices would drive the roots of loneliness into the most secluded recesses of my soul." ♪



**Deep in all men is a voice that cries out for deliverance from this evil society. Men desire deeply the freedom for which they were originally created. And were the voice of that deep desire to surface in an individual, that man would surely find the very salvation that he cried out for.**



A flower displays its beauty and fades away. An animal lives its life and breathes no more.

The years of a tree are many and they end in a moment. But there is hope for a tree when it is cut down, that it will sprout again. Walk through the woods and see — it is one of the most amazing sights, the tender shoot of an oak or maple rising from a weather-beaten stump, the leaves huge on the infant tree. There is an end to everyone's life, the final barrier which no amount of genius or grit can overcome — death. All will one day be remembered only by a name carved in polished granite, all their greatness laid to rest. The rich and poor, the good and the evil, all go there. ♪ There is hope for a man that he will live again. That is the promise upon which all human life depends. That is the certainty that he will live with: that God has bound himself to give life to those who live by the standard he has put in their conscience. In today's world, men live recklessly as though their life will end at the grave. Deeds of deceit and treachery are found in those who scorn the promise and live, as they say, only for today. This is not evidence that God has broken his promise, but that men no longer believe the promise. Yet for those who live according to their conscience, the hope of life burns in their hearts. ♪ Though a man dies and he does not rise throughout all time until the heavens be no more, the day will come when he will rise. All men will be called forth from the grave. Those who did good deeds will enter life and those who did evil deeds will go to death again. For there is a second life and there is a second death. One day the measure of time itself will cease. For time has no purpose when there are no endings. Neither the second life nor the second death will ever end. ♪

As I lay there continuing to ponder these things, the most startling and shocking thought entered my mind. What if I were confined to this darkness and silence with no way to get out? ♪ Could this be what death will be like, having to deal with the fact that you really did have a conscience which was the voice of the instinctive knowledge of good and evil within you? In the absolute darkness, confinement, and silence of death, will every person wish he had listened when he had the opportunity? How will you reason your way out of the crystal clear judgment within you? At this point you will realize that your conscience was your friend, trying to warn you many times of the things that were leading you to this place of death. ♪ Can you imagine remembering every selfish act, every wrong motive, every hurtful thing you ever did? Can you imagine the torture of not having any way to undo the things that you finally admit are wrong? This penalty will make everyone who experiences it weep with loud groanings. Some will still have enough human worth to pay the full penalty for their guilt. At the great Day of Judgment for all mankind, they will find mercy and forgiveness. Others will only harden their hearts beyond remedy. They will never find mercy, for they were given over to evil in their lifetime to such an extent that they no longer had any human worth. The penalty for their guilt is far beyond what they could ever pay. Therefore, at the great Day of Judgment, they will go to a second death, which the Bible calls the Sea of Fire. From this place there is no release, not ever, for all eternity. ♪

**Eternity is a long time. If a little bird were to take a grain of sand in its beak and somehow manage to fly it to the farthest quasar in the universe, and if it returned and repeated the process until...**

Hardly anyone knows why they're alive, and few take time to consider the value of man and what God's purpose was in creating us. We've been given the capacity to not only know the difference between good and evil, but to choose between them. We're not like animals, without self-control, being led around by our instincts and desires. And because we can choose, for the good or for the evil, beyond the drive of self-preservation and gratification, we can reach our highest potential as human beings, or the lowest level possible. ♪ And what is little known is that God gave us this age, and our lifetimes, for us to determine what level we would rise or sink to. We live in an age of wickedness when Satan holds the whole world in his power and influence to lead men astray from choosing and doing good. God wants each one of us to reach his fullest potential under the testing of this evil enemy. So, the decisions you make affect the human worth and dignity you retain. A person can keep the worth he was born with, even unto eternal life, but it's hard. It will take perseverance and much suffering. ♪

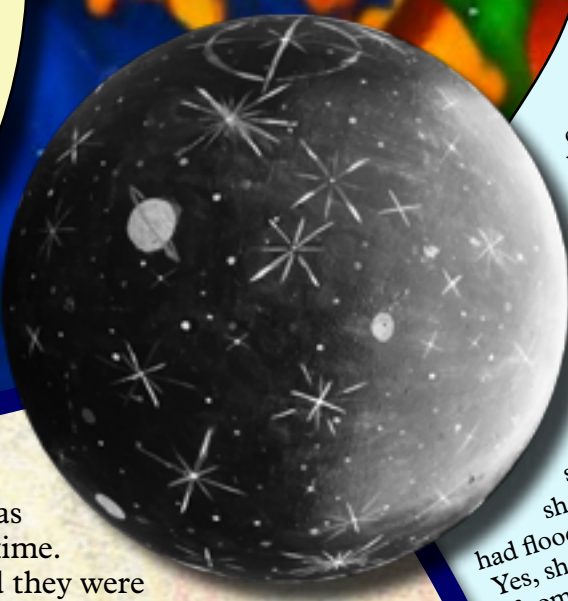
The truth is that there are eternal consequences for our actions here on earth. We don't just burn out or fade away, but our soul lives on for eternity. The agony that many feel while on the earth doesn't stop at death, but continues on until each person has paid the full wages of his sin in death — *if he can*. If he does not have the heart to feel sincerely, even profoundly sorry for the sins and wrongs he has done in his life, this means he has lost all human worth. It means his suffering will never end. ♪ Though some willfully end their lives in hopes of finding relief, the opposite is true. In the place called *death* there are no distractions, no music, no drugs to ease the pain. There is only the mind-bending torment of your conscience as it is unleashed by your self-inquisition in the blackest darkness. It is there that you must face the truth about yourself — how you hurt others and suppressed your conscience. Some will weep in remorse while others will gnash their teeth and resist the truth about themselves. Either way, death is not the end — it is the gateway to eternity. ♪

Have you ever watched a pot of water boiling? The steam vapors billow up and then dissolve into thin air. With no trace of ever having existed, they are gone. They look furious coming up from the pot, but then they just melt away. I have often heard life referred to as a vapor — how one day it all be over in an instant. ♪ Life seems so short and w purpose. But it doesn't have to be that way. Life does be a vapor that vanishes. It doesn't have to be meat empty, without substance. ♪ The God of heaven want man's life to end. He loves life. He war on and on — a life of loving and caring a He didn't intend for man's life to va a vapor. He wants man to live fo and fill the universe. ♪

I was pretty dull to the universe be the tennis courts points of light in so Every once in a while I pretty. But that night I this thing called earth, I the earth ever let go of m closer than others. I imag others, and then others... I ♪ The experience only last earth didn't let go of me th The universe is so enormo light moves really, really fast closest star to reach earth. solar system and that neares see the Milky Way, we are of light, it would take us the innumerable galaxie million years, traveling at But when you consider ho man accomplish in his sho grassy planet in the suburb we're here for, and other occur to any of us is I put there



Everybody needs an outlet. Everybody needs to be able to release the passion within them. Right? The fact is, however, misguided zeal will eventually destroy you. Reckless abandon, rebellion, and chemicals expanding your mind are not effective ways to expend your energy. Your passion needs direction, purpose, clarity, vision, or else it will only bring about chaos. ✿ You need to be set free. There is direction to be had, and this is the direction that will set you free. Totally free. Free to love. How terrible it must be to go through life without direction, without purpose, without something to really be excited about, to be zealous for with a passion. The fire that is within you was made so that it could be used to bring an ultimate, radical change to this whole planet in a real and practical way. Don't let that precious fire within be slowly snuffed out!



Dinah stood up. Above her head was a glorious display of colored clouds. Suddenly she felt a feeling that she had sensed many times before. It had always been a very tiny feeling, but now it was overwhelming. She couldn't understand what it was or quite put it into words. It was strong. It was pure. It was clean. It drew her from her secure place among the rocks to the center of the sandy beach. First she turned one way, then another; her eyes gazed in disbelief at every corner of the sky. ✿ Finally, she couldn't hold it in any longer. The powerful feeling that had swept over her like a tidal wave burst forth from her soul. "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you," she uttered over and over — sometimes softly, sometimes whispered, sometimes crying out in tears. As she repeated the words over again, she realized what it was that had flooded her whole being. It was gratefulness. Dinah was grateful. Yes, she was grateful. ✿ Dinah didn't stop to look around and see if someone might have come upon the deserted beach. Nor did she worry about people listening to her and thinking she had gone insane. No, she said to herself, I don't care if the whole world hears me. I know this is real. Whether they say I come from an amoeba or not, doesn't really matter, because I know, for sure, that Someone, somewhere, is there. And that Someone cares about me. ✿

A man's heart is like an ember hidden beneath the ashes, just waiting to be stirred up and inspired, hoping to apprehend some bit of the truth to wake up what lies dormant. Some hearts burn to know the truth. We believe that people can still hear it, and that the truth stands on its own. ✿

Shhh... listen for a moment: *lub-dub, lub-dub* ✿ Can you hear it? Put your hand to your heart — just about at the center of your chest. Can you feel your heart beating? The first organ formed, it begins beating after just three weeks. As an adult, on the average your heart valves are opening and closing 75 times per minute. Its tempo rises and falls with the swells of the tides of life — sometimes it beats faster, sometimes slower. Sometimes, though, you become consciously and acutely aware of your own heart beating. It may be an unfamiliar or unpleasant sensation. Your pulse is quickened, but it is not caused by excessive exercise or stress or strong emotion. Your heart pounds, seemingly about to burst in your chest cavity, the heartbeat echoing in your ears. What is that arrhythmic, fluttering sensation? It is a rare experience not felt by all. Something is tugging on your heart strings. Your heart is being stirred up, not by any natural cause, but by a greater power. You are being roused to action. ✿ Down through the centuries, men have experienced this tug upon the heart as they have groped for God. ✿

Before that night as I lay on my back in the middle of Peabody campus. I had always thought of the stars as something called the sky that hung over my head all the time. I noticed that they were up there, and maybe I was glad they were changed my point of view. Spread-eagle on a patch of grass, somehow clinging to felt myself suspended over a vast, deep darkness. I imagined myself falling into it, and thought about how far I would fall. I got the sense that some of the stars were lined that I would fall past these stars first, and then others, and then others, and then in my mind, the stars rushed past me in the blackness like snowflakes under a streetlight. A few minutes, but the impression stayed with me forever. And I'm really grateful that that night and drop me into space. I can't imagine how lonely I'd be right now if it had. ✿ Yes, people tell me, that just about the only thing that can travel through it is light. And that's true. Traveling at this tremendous speed, it still takes four and a half years for the light of the stars to reach us. Scientists say it is 26 trillion miles away, whatever that means. ✿ Anyway, both our own sun and the stars are part of the Milky Way galaxy. I've been told that when we look up at night and see the stars on the edge of our own galaxy, looking in. And if we were able to travel at the speed of light, it would take us a thousand years to get to the other edge of it. And that's just our own galaxy, one of billions in the universe. If we tried to reach the nearest other galaxy, it would take us two million years at the speed of light. ✿ Man dreams of space travel. I grew up reading books about it. How vast the universe is, it is really sobering. I mean, really, how much space travel can a man do in his short life span with his little putt-putt rockets? ✿ So here we are, clinging to our warm, cozy little planet in the Milky Way in an endlessly expanding universe, some of us wondering what our purpose is, some of us just trying to keep the grass mowed. Practically the last thing that would be left of us is that the trillions and trillions of solar systems in the inky depths of space were created for us to live in forever and ever because we are the most wonderful creatures ever conceived of in the mind of God. ✿

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sands of the seas  
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just be beginning.**

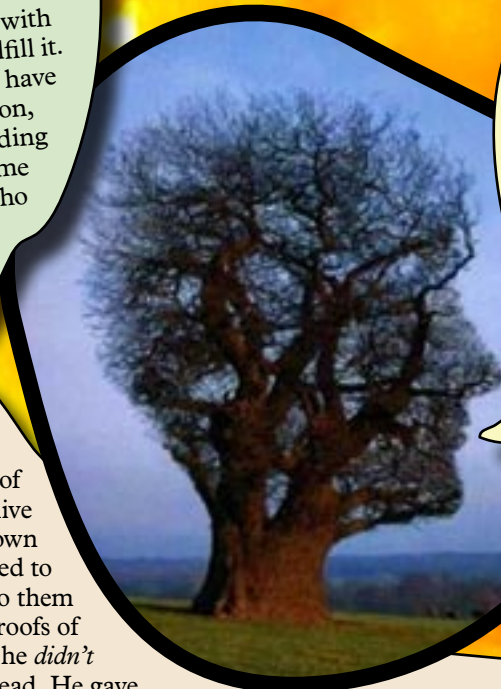


I was fascinated by Him, though, and I longed to know what He wanted of me. I was ready to do it, if I only knew how. I can't imagine going on for years with that longing and not being able to fulfill it. Of course, I realize that many people have probably experienced such frustration, maybe even some of you who are reading this article. But what happened to me was that I met a group of people who were living just like the early disciples and found out how the Master's words could actually be obeyed. ✞

The story is told that when our Master Yahshua rose from the dead, none of his disciples would believe he was alive until they had seen him with their own eyes. Do you know how he responded to their unbelief? He showed himself to them and gave them many convincing proofs of His resurrection. Yes, that's right, he *didn't* curse them for not believing. Instead, He gave them *visible evidence* of his triumph over death. And he isn't going to treat the rest of the world any different. He's not going to require them to believe unless he shows them something. ✞ The way it works is simple. Messiah Yahshua's message is made up of commands. That is why the Bible speaks of *obeying* the good news. Those commands teach his disciples how to love each other the way he loved them. Only when his disciples love as he loved will the world "get the connection." Only then will the world *know* that he was sent from heaven to take their place in death. Only then will they know that God loved them just as much as he loved his own Son. ✞ You see, obeying his commands results in a radical life, one that differs starkly from the self-preserving existence of the world. The evil spirit who rules the world holds all of its people under his power by the fear of death, but obeying Messiah frees a person from that power. Such a life of obedience actually brings a person into another kingdom — placing him under the authority of heaven. ✞ When the world sees the disciples of Yahshua the Messiah dwelling together in unity, denying themselves for the good of their brothers, it proves something. It shows that there is a power at work on the earth greater than man's natural ability. Man can naturally be tolerant of others, or even help those less fortunate than himself, but he can't forsake his own interests to live entirely for others. ✞

About thirty years ago, our culture began from a few people with childlike hearts who left the popular culture of the world, walking away from their old lives. At that time it was mainly young single people, but soon there were families with children, and even grandparents. They started giving up their houses, farms, and businesses to become part of this new life. Something special and exciting was happening — an *enlightenment*, a *revelation* was permeating us. There was an assurance of being cared for, a conviction of something worth living for. This caused us to cast off fear and self interest so we could live for each other. ✞

We were convinced that the love of Jesus could change the world if people could just see it being lived out in reality on a daily basis. We had a burning desire to see that love even heal the strife and division we were seeing between the Christian churches we grew up in. ✞ But as time went on, we sensed that there was something holding people back from having the same "sold-out" zeal we had found. We knew from our Savior's own words that the greatest hindrance to giving a hundred percent to God comes when we love the world or the things of this world. ✞



Seeds are one of nature's most amazing miracles. Locked within a tiny speck of protein and starch lies a complete blueprint for the life of a growing plant. All the information about how it will look like, how it will grow, and how it will reproduce is stored away somewhere deep in the heart of these small capsules. All that is needed for them to live are the right conditions — a little heat, a little moisture, and a little soil. ✞ Another amazing fact about seeds is how they are able to survive unharmed for years, even centuries if need be, until growing conditions become right. They are, in a sense, time travelers. These tiny ambassadors step out of one century, and awaken through vast portions of human history, and awaken much later to begin to grow as normal. The seed of Israel is just like this. Sprouting again after almost 2000 years, the wonderful life of Israel is again being seen. As the first communities in Israel formed around Messiah's life began to die, the Sovereign of Hosts preserved a seed from it and kept it till now. ✞

We are members of a new society, a *new social order*. The peace that reigns in our midst is not due to laws and law enforcement, but because we choose to. In this life of love, no one has to be cold to his neighbor. Malice, put-downs, and pay-backs are foreign to our way of life. Love restrains us from striving to get ahead of each other, from taking advantage of one another, from turning our backs on one another when times get hard. ✞

Today the brotherhood of man that began with those first disciples is being restored on the earth. It could not be *imagined* into existence. It is coming about because that same Holy Spirit has come upon a people who gave up everything for Messiah's sake. It is not the product of a group of people with a common philosophy, who seek to refine their character, ennoble their human nature, subject themselves to a rigorous discipline, or pursue a political agenda. You cannot enter it or bring it about by the strength of your will. You cannot even achieve it by polishing up your behavior according to principles you can read about in the Bible. The only way into the brotherhood of man is through death — the death of your fallen, sinful nature. And the only way to bring about that death is to come to Yahshua, to His disciples who represent Him on the earth, and surrender your life as you are baptized into the life He is establishing right now — a foretaste of the age to come. ✞

Yahshua had absolutely no expectation of filling the earth in this age. He did not commission His disciples to make the world a better place by infiltrating the world's society, industry, or government. On the contrary, He called them to come out of that fallen system, even at the cost of their family ties, in order to follow Him. Together they would form a "city" set on a hill; together they would be a light to the world around them. Their "cities" (communities) would be islands of refuge in the midst of a world in bondage to the evil one — a foretaste of the fullness of Messiah's kingdom that will fill the whole earth in the next age when the evil one is bound. ✞



Yahshua knew that all of us would experience tremendous fear and be shocked to the core of our being when we discovered that to have this new life we had to utterly abandon and literally give up all the security that we acquired in our lifetime, leave it all behind, and begin to put all our trust in Him. Instead, we would get our security from heaven. We would get our values from His words and instructions to us. We would have to begin to trust Him to meet all our needs and use whatever wealth we had to build this new nation. What an inspirational calling! What an awesome cost! ✠ Today, as during His lifetime, He is not looking for individuals who are *willing* to forsake everything, but for those who *will* actually do it — give it all up for Him — just like He did for us! That is the cost — everything. There is no short cut. His encouragement to all men is, “Do not be afraid, little flock [to forsake everything, all your possessions], for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom [this new nation of those who have given all]. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, and unfailing treasure in heaven, where no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” ✠

There is no toll gate at the entrance to the kingdom of light. The abundant life of the Son of God is freely given. But just like a tunnel under the Berlin Wall, the way of escape that leads to the kingdom is narrow and difficult, and few are they who even find it. Nothing of the old life can pass through it, which is why only those who hate their life in this world will be able to make the passage. ✠

Q: So a person has to live in community to be saved? A: Putting it in those words might lead to a misunderstanding. But one thing is for sure: You *do* have to believe in Yahshua in order to be saved. And another thing is certain, also: If you *do* believe in Him you *will* obey His commands. And if you *do* obey His commands, the chief one being to love one another as He loved us, it *will* produce community. And when you live a common life with other disciples, denying yourself and taking up your cross daily, striving to love one another as He loved us, you quickly find out the inroads that sin has in your life, and your soul starts being saved.

Q: So, then, you see salvation as a process that happens in community? A: If the community is based on obeying the Master’s commands, yes. The continual demand to love exposes selfishness of every kind. The fatal flaw in mankind — self-concern — which is at the root of all human problems, quickly comes to the light. We see it for what it is — the very image of the evil one. We face the reality that self-concern is the venom of the serpent, a paralyzing poison that keeps us from being able to love. And if we wish to continue following our Master, if we want to be transformed back into the image of the God who is Love, then we have to deny *self* every day. ✠

Q: So, then, does a person have to join your group?

A: If a person is really serious about doing the will of God, if he wants the Kingdom of God to be expressed here on earth as it is expressed in heaven, and if seeing the unity and love that our Master prayed for become a reality means more to him than his own life, then here is what he should do: He should immediately leave any place where the Master’s commands are not being obeyed, and where self-sacrificing love and unity is not being expressed. He should quickly go to the nearest place where such obedience and love and unity are the daily reality. When he gets there, he should tell them he wants to be saved, because if he comes from a place where the Master is not being obeyed, then he has not received the Holy Spirit, because the Spirit is only given to those who obey Him. The reason that we are here in this place is that we wanted to do His will, and this is the first and only place we saw it being done.

Q: So the bottom line is...?

A: The bottom line is this: Are you willing to do His will? ✠

## The One We Follow Yahshua the Messiah

WHO IS Yahshua? He’s the most loving person to ever walk the earth, the greatest friend that ever lived. The little children in his day instinctively knew that he was the kindest, and the best. Most people today would call him Jesus Christ, but we know him by his Hebrew name Yahshua, which means “God is powerful to save.” What sort of people did he come to help? The ones who know that there has to be more to this life than anything the world has to offer, people who long for a second chance to start all over, to have a fresh new start, a new beginning, a new breath of life and the power to love. When we heard about this Yahshua, and that he loved us, we heard it from a people who were actually living together and loving one another. That really affected us. Some of us gave up everything we had and moved right in, others it took us years to even come around. But one thing we all had in common, whether we knew what to call it or not. We were longing for forgiveness. We wanted peace with “God,” whoever that was. We wanted to know the purpose for our lives, what we were created for. ✠

REAL. That’s the word you would use to describe him. He wasn’t playing a game. He wasn’t projecting some image, trying to get people to look up to him. There wasn’t a speck of deceit in him. He didn’t have anything up his sleeve. He was exactly what he appeared to be. He said exactly what he meant. And that’s why people loved him. Or hated him. ✠ Some people promise you the moon, but he wasn’t like that. There was substance to what he said. He talked about real things. Like greed. And fear. And selfishness. Things that are inside everybody. Things that are phonies don’t want to admit and cowards don’t want to face up to. ✠

Like the scapegoat wandering around in the wilderness until thirst or hunger or wild animals killed it, he took the sins of the whole world far away into the fiery darkness in the core of the earth. In that wild landscape he finished the agonizing ordeal. In a tossing sea of volcanic sulfur and molten stone he received the storm of Heaven’s full wrath against sin. Like a helpless victim drowning in the flood, he passed through a suffering too great for us to understand. A universe of hurt and shame, of unpayable injuries and ruined lives, of corruption and perversity was paid for, one crime at a time, in that brief three-day eternity. Finally it ended! ✠ What had given him the strength to go on and on? Love, for certain; only love grants such strength to endure. But wasn’t there something more? Something else that had captured his heart and was the center of all his attention? What could have fascinated him so? Who was it? ✠ It could only have been those who would follow him and be like a bride married to him. ✠



## COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

### TENNESSEE

**Community in Chattanooga** 900 Oak St. Chattanooga, TN 37403 ☎ (423) 752-3071

**Community in Pulaski** 219 S. Third St. Pulaski, TN 38478 ☎ (931) 363-8586

### GEORGIA

**Community in Savannah** 223 E. Gwinnett St. Savannah, GA 31401 ☎ (912) 232-1165

**Community in Brunswick** 927 Union St. Brunswick, GA 31520 ☎ (912) 267-4700

### NORTH CAROLINA

**Community in Asheville**, 9 Lora Lane Asheville, NC 28803 ☎ (828) 274-8747

### Community Conference Center

(between Statesville and Hickory, NC)  
471 Sulphur Springs Road  
Hiddenite, NC 28636 ☎ (828) 352-9200

### VIRGINIA

**Stoneybrook Farm** (Washington DC area)  
15255 Ashbury Church Road  
Hillsboro VA 20132 ☎ (540) 668-7123

### VERMONT

**Community in Island Pond** P. O. Box 449  
Island Pond, VT 05846 ☎ (802) 723-9708

**Basin Farm** P. O. Box 108  
Bellows Falls, VT 05101 ☎ (802) 463-9264

**Community in Rutland** 134 Church St.  
Rutland, VT 05701 ☎ (802) 773-3764

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Community in Boston** 92 Melville Ave.  
Dorchester, MA 02124 ☎ (617) 282-9876

**Community in Hyannis**, 14 Main Street  
Hyannis, MA 02601 ☎ (508) 790-0555

**Community in Plymouth** 35 Warren Ave.  
Plymouth, MA 02360 ☎ (508) 747-5338

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Community in Lancaster** 12 High Street  
Lancaster, NH 03584 ☎ (603) 788-4376

### NEW YORK

**Oak Hill Plantation** 7871 State Route 81  
Oak Hill, NY 12460 ☎ (518) 239-8148

**Common Sense Farm** 41 N. Union St.  
Cambridge, NY 12816 ☎ (518) 677-5880

**Community in Oneonta** 81 Chestnut St.  
Oneonta, NY 13820 ☎ (607) 267-4062

**Community in Ithaca** 119 Third Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850 ☎ (607) 272-6915

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Cochecton, NY 12726 ☎ (845) 583-1071

### MISSOURI

**Community on the Lake of the Ozarks**  
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**Stepping Stone Farm** Rt. 2, Box 55  
Weaubleau, MO 65774 ☎ (417) 428-3251

### COLORADO

**Community in Manitou Springs**  
41 Lincoln Ave, Manitou Springs, CO  
80829 ☎ (719) 573-1907

### CALIFORNIA

**Community in Vista** 2683 Foothill Drive  
Vista, CA 92084 ☎ (760) 295-3852

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We used to be desperately lonely, even though most of us had a lot of friends. Some of us were successful in what we did, and some of us were failures beyond hope. We came from everywhere and we have done everything trying to make sense out of our lives. But no matter what we did, we were left feeling dirty inside. We were scarred deeply from the effects of mistrust and hurtful relationships. We strove for acceptance, money, and whatever else could give us comfort. Some of us had dreams of a better life, but most of us had given up the struggle, settling instead for compromise and consent to "the way things are." We were lost, scattered, without direction, doing our own thing. ☎ Then we heard a voice that spoke to us right where we were, exposing the emptiness of our lives. This voice matched up fully to the longing of our hearts. Somehow a lifetime of being unable to trust was shattered by this voice of hope. It came from a people who had their dirty conscience washed clean. They had a clean slate and an absolutely new life. This new life they eagerly offered to all who wanted it. ☎ So now we have a life together. We no longer have to be separated by race, education, appearance, pollution, status, or where we came from. Instead our days are filled with seeking not only our own welfare, but also the welfare of others. This new life has given us the power to care. ☎ We hate the war, strife, hatred, starvation, murder, injustice, greed, and selfishness that is leading the whole world to destruction. We want to see all of this come to an end. But we are convinced that the demonstration of our new life together is what will bring about the end of this age. We want many, many more people to hear the voice of hope we've heard, to come and see the life. This life we speak of in this paper is what you were born for. Your whole life you have been trying to find it. We are thrilled to be able to invite you to come and see that it's real.



## WHO WE ARE

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*Most of us children...*  
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