

# *The* TWELVE TRIBES FREEPAPER

YEHUDAH

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars... Revelation 12:1

No. 10



Rekindling the Fire  
Birth of a Nation

FREE

Some of us live on a farm in Vermont, and we heat our home with a woodstove. Many a cold morning I've gone to the stove and opened it up to find only a pile of ashes. Although it seems to be dead, I stir up the heap and blow on those black and gray coals, bringing to life a dull red glow in the burnt-out belly of that stove. I rake the coals all together in a pile, and the more I gently blow on the embers the brighter they glow until they're hot enough to ignite some tinder. I rekindle the fire.

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. Anyone who wants to know the truth will hear and accept it. But what is it?

We want to be real about who we are. We don't want you to think we're lofty and beyond everyone else. But there is an amazing quality in our people. The word *holy* is like the word *wholly*. Though most of us were living aimless lives, we all *wholly* desired to know the truth, and were willing to give everything to get it. When the gentle breath of the truth blew on the smoldering embers in our hearts, it caught our whole life on fire. When we heard it we just couldn't go back to our same old jobs, our same old routines, habits and hobbies, our same old lives. We could never be



the same again. We had to be wholly devoted to our God. That's what it means to be *holy*. Now our hearts are glowing.

We are a people with prophetic vision, a people with a hope to be a light to the world,<sup>1</sup> a city set on a hill,<sup>2</sup> a holy nation,<sup>3</sup> one that will startle the rulers and kings of other nations and leave them speechless.<sup>4</sup> We hope to become the "stone" kingdom that will ultimately topple the intimidating "statue" of this current world order, displacing it with a kingdom of love that will fill the entire earth in the coming age.<sup>5</sup> Right now we're like that small pile of embers raked together in the belly of my old woodstove. The breath of God is gently blowing on us.

We are living to see this hope that burns in our hearts consume the whole earth. However, our dreams, aspirations, and vision of

who we are as a people are nothing apart from our King, Yahshua the Messiah, the Son of God.<sup>6</sup> We are His own possession.<sup>7</sup> We don't want to be anything other than that; we don't want to be anywhere else but where He is, and we don't want to do anything other than what He's doing. We're in love with Him, and He's in love with us.

His love is making those embers hot. He has raked us all together, breathed on us, and is getting a warm glow going. And He is sifting through the ashes of this fallen world, looking for more embers to rake into the pile until there's enough to burst into a flame.

Maybe you're one of them. ✨

<sup>1</sup>Matthew 5:14; Isaiah 49:6 <sup>2</sup>Matthew 5:14 <sup>3</sup>1 Peter 2:9 <sup>4</sup>Isaiah 52:15 <sup>5</sup>Daniel 2:44-45 <sup>6</sup>See page 23 for a fuller explanation of this name. <sup>7</sup>1 Peter 2:9



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.

At that time we started to understand some of the things that were written in the Bible long ago:

*"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields — and with*



*them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life."<sup>1</sup>*

The farmer was promised a hundred farms for the one he

gave up. Those who gave up houses would gain a hundred in return. And all the people who were giving up parents, relatives and friends to be disciples, would, in turn, live in those hundred houses and receive an abundant social life with those hundreds of new brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers and children. What else could the Master have meant by those words? We saw that he was talking about starting a brand new culture, and we began to realize what was happening right in our midst — a new spiritual nation.

Soon we began to form our own economy based on cottage industry, farming, and traditional crafts, because we wanted to keep this new culture pure, free from greed and selfishness. With conviction, we



strange or defiling from the old culture is allowed to come in. Everyone must give up everything to become a part of it, otherwise our new culture would become contaminated.<sup>2</sup> It is not just material things that we give up, but also our strong opinions, philosophies, prejudices, politics, fears

We work and talk and sing and dance and eat together every day — except that we don't work on the Sabbath. As we continue knowing, loving, and obeying our Master Yahshua, we keep learning more and more about how we



should be in this new culture. We have learned that our God continues to reveal Himself to those who obey Him.<sup>3</sup> It only makes sense. Without revelation, we would perish.<sup>4</sup>

Our worship is in a circle, a gathering of men and women and children, young and old, married and single. All can speak, and all are heard, because our Father communicates with every one of His children. More understanding and revelation from His Spirit comes every day to help us know how to deal with the unusual situations, problems

and purifying circumstances that arise in everyday community life.

For us *worship* and *service* are the same. In Acts 26:7, "...earnestly *serv*ing God night and day..." the Greek word actually means both *serve* and *worship* — some Bibles translate it one way, and some the other. The way we sing to our God and what we say about Him, the things we say to and about each other, what we teach our children and how we treat them, and what we do during every day of our active lives — it all goes together. It must all be special, holy, and pleasing to Him. That is how it will remain a living, flourishing, and reproducing entity — the very life of God.

By far the most important aspect of that life is our children. They are very special to us. We respect, appreciate, and listen to them. We have a life that includes and makes room for them. This is their people, their culture, their heritage and inheritance. Everything we have belongs to them. They are not left to themselves, in their own world of skateboards, or to fill their souls with television and video games, or to have their consciences worn down by peer pressure. Children who are left to themselves to do these things have no idea who they are or why they are alive.

The way we raise our children gives them dignity and confidence. They learn to relate to and enjoy being with people of all

ages. They have plenty of opportunity to show kindness and hospitality toward strangers and guests. How unique, in a world where people can hardly say hello to each other on the streets because of their fear and insecurity.

Also, we teach our children to be wholehearted. We want them



to value and give all of their strength to everything they do. Why? Because we live for each other and no longer live for ourselves.<sup>5</sup> Our Master said, "I did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give My life as a ransom for many."<sup>6</sup> Our children are learning along with us to set aside their own selfish interests in order to serve one another, as we are building a



nation together, not our own personal kingdoms.

The generation gap is being bridged from father to son to grandson, and from mother to daughter to granddaughter. The bonds between the generations are being restored and strengthened as one of the most essential aspects of our brand new culture. Parents desire their children (from conception on — there are no abortions here) and thoroughly enjoy being with them. You see this as they generously share all that they have with them — all their wisdom and experience as well as their faith and their hope for the future. And so the heart of one genera-



took our children out of the public school system in order to teach them at home. We realized that everything we did would be in vain if we left our children to be corrupted by the disrespect, independence, and peer pressure of the old culture.

We also began creating and making our own garments, to uphold modesty and purity and respect for each other. Each step of the way our Father was leading us to be more distinctive from the world that surrounded us.

And so it continues to this day. The meals we eat together are simple and nourishing, not driven by "health fads," but simply made from whole fresh foods. We like to focus on careful preparation and serving, rather than richness of ingredients, because we know that our Father cares about what we put into our bodies. We want to live a long life so we can serve the One who saved us from death.

This new culture is pure, so nothing

and fantasies.

Our life is marked by compassion, practicality, and functionality. If someone is lacking adequate clothes or shoes, we provide them. If someone doesn't know how to keep his room clean, someone will show him. Someone who is lacking practical skills will be taught how to use his energies to serve in a cottage industry or a household or farm activity, learning a trade in the process. If a rich person comes, he gives up everything for the benefit of everyone, and of course his own personal needs are met in return. If someone comes without material wealth, he is no less significant and is taken care of as well.



tion is passed on to the next, and to the next after them!

As wonderful as our life together is, this new culture that is forming is not an end in itself. We have a magnificent purpose that is always in our hearts and on our lips, as in the chorus of a song that we often sing and dance to, parents and children and single people all together:

*We've not yet loved enough –  
We'll love and keep on loving  
until it fills the earth!  
Oh, if that is not enough,  
We'll love and watch it fill the  
universe!*



Our Master Yahshua once told a very short story to illustrate a point he was making:

*The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour until it was all leavened.<sup>7</sup>*

In those times, bread dough was leavened with a lump, a culture, saved from the previous



batch of dough. The old lump was kneaded into flour and the dough was allowed to sit until the leaven had permeated it. Our Master Yahshua was establishing a new, pure culture on the earth. He would warn his disciples, the ones

who were constantly with him, learning from him, "Watch out for the leaven of the scribes and Pharisees." "Leaven? Do the people have bread? What does he mean?" they would ask

themselves. So then he would respond plainly, "Watch out for their teaching, for the old influences that would change the pure culture I am forming among you!" And he said, "Beware of their leaven, which is hypocrisy!"<sup>8</sup> He was teaching them to be the same on the inside as they were on the outside.

He is establishing his pure, new culture, in us, teaching us to get rid of any old leaven, and he is placing his culture in areas all over the earth. Then, when it is totally pure and perfect, he will come back and cleanse the earth of anything and everything left of the old, bad culture.

Then he will start life anew, with the righteous people of the earth, and he will knead into them this new, holy culture through the kind rulership of his holy people. In that New Age his life will fill the earth... which is really not enough. It will have to go on and fill the universe! ✨

<sup>1</sup>Mark 10:29-30 <sup>2</sup>2 Corinthians 6:17-18; James 1:27 <sup>3</sup>John 14:21 <sup>4</sup>Proverbs 29:18 <sup>5</sup>2 Corinthians 5:14-15 <sup>6</sup>Matthew 20:28 <sup>7</sup>Matthew 13:33 <sup>8</sup>Luke 12:1



# What is a "Christian Culture"?

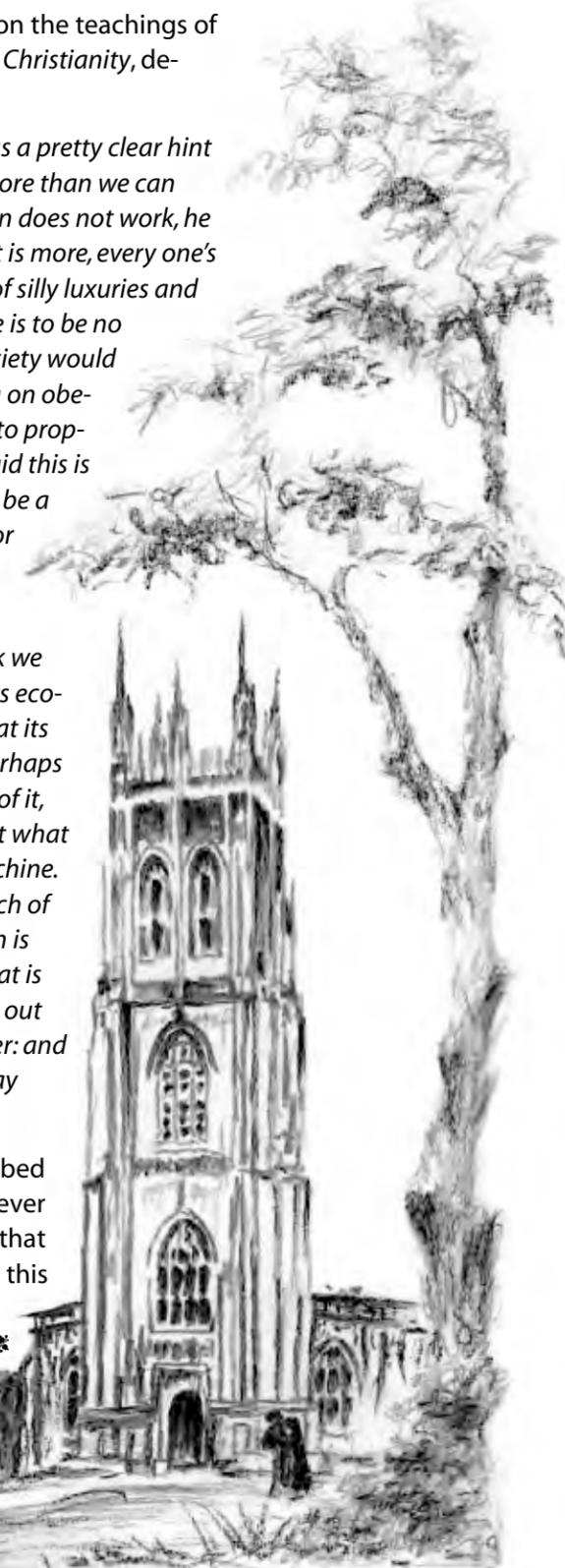
What would a society or culture be like that was actually based on the teachings of the Bible? The popular Christian author, C. S. Lewis, in his book *Mere Christianity*, described it this way:

*All the same, the New Testament, without going into details, gives us a pretty clear hint of what a fully Christian society would be like. Perhaps it gives us more than we can take. It tells us that there are to be no passengers or parasites: if man does not work, he ought not to eat. Everyone is to work with his own hands, and what is more, every one's work is to produce something good: there will be no manufacture of silly luxuries and then of sillier advertisements to persuade us to buy them. And there is to be no "swank"<sup>1</sup> or "side,"<sup>2</sup> no putting on airs. To that extent a Christian society would be what we now call Leftist. On the other hand, it is always insisting on obedience — obedience (and outward marks of respect) from all of us to properly appointed magistrates, from children to parents, and (I am afraid this is going to be very unpopular) from wives to husbands. Thirdly, it is to be a cheerful society: full of singing and rejoicing, and regarding worry or anxiety as wrong. Courtesy is one of the Christian virtues; and the New Testament hates what it calls "busybodies."*

*If there were such a society in existence and you or I visited it, I think we should come away with a curious impression. We should feel that its economic life was very socialistic and, in that sense, "advanced," but that its family life and its code of manners were rather old-fashioned — perhaps even ceremonious and aristocratic. Each of us would like some bits of it, but I am afraid very few of us would like the whole thing. That is just what you would expect if Christianity is the total plan for the human machine. We have all departed from that total plan in different ways, and each of us wants to make out that his own modification of the original plan is the plan itself. You will find this again and again about anything that is really Christian: Everyone is attracted by bits of it and wants to pick out those bits and leave the rest. That is why we do not get much further: and that is why people who are fighting for quite opposite things can say they are fighting for Christianity.<sup>3</sup>*

C. S. Lewis died knowing that he had not found the life he described here. He understood with the mind how things should be, but he never experienced it. What about you? Have you found the abundant life that Yahshua, the Son of God, promised? We hope that what you read in this paper will kindle a hope in you that such a life does exist in the Communities of the Twelve Tribes, and that you can be a part of it. ✨

<sup>1</sup> Swank – smartness in style or bearing. <sup>2</sup> Side – affected superiority; arrogance. <sup>3</sup> C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Macmillan Publishing Company, NY, NY, 1952, p. 64-68.



# "I came to bring fire to the earth,

and how I wish it were already kindled! ... Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother..." (Luke 12:49-53)

Every year at Christmas time more than two billion people celebrate the coming of this mysterious man called *Jesus*, but hardly anyone has a clue about why he came. Christmas carols play in the marketplaces, "Peace on Earth, good will toward men," the merchants get richer, families and friends exchange gifts, polite parties pass the time, and life goes on as usual. Where's the fire?

He came to kindle a fire that would light up this dark world with a demonstration of the *life of God* in a people who are completely at peace with one another while the world around them is in utter turmoil. It would be an electrifying, stimulating, shocking phenomenon that would cause division and controversy in every place where it spread. It would be like the fire that consumed Elijah's sacrifice on Mount Carmel,<sup>1</sup> mak-



ing a clear distinction between those who serve God and those who don't. Ultimately, it would bring about the end of the age.

Well, there *was* such a fire once, a long, long time ago. The Bible records that the first followers of this man, whom they called *Yahshua*, "turned the world upside down."<sup>2</sup> He kindled a fire of love in

them that caused all sorts of people from different classes and cultures to live together, sharing all their possessions in common<sup>3</sup> and forming one brand new culture.<sup>4</sup> It was said of them that there were no poor among them — they loved one another to the extent that the rich gave up their riches to provide for their poor

The prophet Elijah stood on the slopes of Mount Carmel and cried out to the people, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal,<sup>1</sup> follow him."

Silence expressed eloquently their confusion and hopelessness. All they had known for so long was sin and compromise with the world around them. The flamboyant and seductive prophets of Baal had led Israel astray from simple obedience to their God, and their guilt had silenced them.

Their interest rose as they understood the challenge Elijah was casting at those prophets. There would be no fire lit under the sacrifices — just a slain animal piled on the wood. "Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord, and the god who answers by fire, He is God."

But though the prophets of Baal cried out all day long, Baal remained silent, and Elijah's mockery of them began to awaken the people to the futility of their false worship. Elijah called the people to himself. They watched as he repaired the altar of twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of Israel. At that time the nation was divided, no longer twelve tribes in unity, but Elijah's altar of twelve stones expressed hope for the future.

Everyone felt a rising excitement as he dug a trench around the altar and repeatedly soaked the sacrifice with water. Even the trench was filled. They sensed the *faith* in this man and it stirred something deep in their hearts.

As Elijah stepped back from the altar an awesome fear filled their hearts. They could see that he had no doubt that *fire was going to fall from heaven*. They backed up as his powerful voice boomed, calling on the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, "Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God, and that You have turned their hearts back again."

<sup>1</sup> Baal literally means *Lord*. <sup>2</sup> 1 Peter 2:9 <sup>3</sup> Romans 12:1-2; Acts 26:7 <sup>4</sup> Luke 14:33 <sup>5</sup> Matthew 7:22-23

Instantly, a blinding flash of sizzling energy bolted from the skies above down upon the altar. The people were screaming and moaning in fright. When it was over, the fire from heaven had consumed the sacrifice and the wet wood! All that remained was a pile of dust that had once been the twelve stones. The people fell on their faces in awe, crying out with all their hearts, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

Great story, isn't it? Can you imagine what that must have been like? Those people were terrified when the fire fell from heaven, and when they finally looked up, even the altar had been consumed. Why doesn't God do something like that today? Well, in spite of that awesome encounter with Elijah and his God, those people did not continue on with a whole heart to fulfill what they were created for. No, God is bringing a different fire today, not something terrifying, but still very, very bright. It is the fire of His love, a love so different from what the world knows of love, that it could be called a *light* to the world.

But where? Where is that light today on the earth? Well, wherever it is, it's going to be unavoidable. Men will see it and find hope. Did you know that the fire would not have fallen in Elijah's day if the sacrifice had not been laid on an altar of *twelve* stones? The fire won't fall today either, except where His people, a twelve-tribed spiritual nation,<sup>2</sup> are giving their bodies daily as a living sacrifice, as the apostle Paul described.<sup>3</sup> It is only there that the fervent love of God burns among a people who have given up everything to be His disciples.<sup>4</sup>

Our Master Yahshua questioned the people around him, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord!' but do not do what I say?"<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile the modern-day prophets of Baal cry, "Lord, Lord!" while their followers secretly wonder why God does not deliver them from their cold and lonely lives. Is it any wonder that there's no fire? ❄️

brothers. It was said of them that they had one heart and soul.

The fire started in Jerusalem, and at first onlookers were amazed at the wonderful things that were happening — the obvious love and care the disciples had for one another, and the zeal with which they spoke about their Master Yahshua. But soon

the tide of public opinion turned as the ranks of this new social order increased and its emerging culture stood in sharp contrast to the status quo. Sometimes their message tore families apart when only one or two members of a family responded, being cut to the heart by what they heard, and receiving the faith to walk away

from their old life. Their obedience to the Master's command to give up all their possessions<sup>5</sup> scandalized their friends and relatives, and the religious leaders. The Master had said it would be this way.<sup>6</sup> He had also said the watching world would hate His followers just as it had hated Him.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See story on page 9 <sup>2</sup> Acts 17:6 <sup>3</sup> Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35 <sup>4</sup> Colossians 3:11; Galatians 3:28

<sup>5</sup> Luke 14:33 <sup>6</sup> Luke 12:52-53; Matthew 10:37; Luke 14:26 <sup>7</sup> John 15:18-19; 16:2

Soon the fire spread beyond Jerusalem to other Mediterranean cities like Thessalonica, forming more communities just like the first,<sup>8</sup> and with the same result — persecution. Their simple and sincere life of faith was a threat to the established religious leaders, who exclaimed, “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here...”<sup>9</sup> The apostle Paul was even chased from city to city as men tried to prevent others from hearing and believing his message. They were afraid for men to be free and gnashed their teeth at Messiah’s claim that *they* were the ones in bondage. The controversy surrounding these communities spread as far as Rome, where the apostle Paul encountered Jews primed and ready to hear his radical message: “We want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect.”<sup>10</sup>

Sadly though, that fire went out. They lost their first love.<sup>11</sup> Compromise crept in and they stopped living the way they did at first.<sup>12</sup> Somehow they lost sight of the vision they began with, of bringing the kingdom of God to earth, and began setting their minds on earthly things, indulging their appetites.<sup>13</sup> Eventually the faithful ones died out and all that remained was a form of godliness without the original fire of self-sacrificing love.<sup>14</sup> The firstborn church<sup>15</sup> became like Esau of old, who forsook his birthright to satisfy his appetite.<sup>16</sup> He, and they, could not regain what they lost, no matter how hard they tried.<sup>17</sup>



Esau lived for pleasure and personal fulfillment, while Jacob’s concern was for the heritage passed down from Abraham, and caring for the needs of his people. (Genesis 25:27)

Countless attempts at renewal, revival, and reformation over the centuries have utterly failed to reproduce the life of love and unity that they had in the beginning. The Christian churches of today bear absolutely no resemblance to the first communities.

What then? Did the Son of God come in vain? Everyone remembers that he prayed, “Father, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”<sup>18</sup> How will that prayer be fulfilled, and how will that kingdom be established on earth, since the ashes of that initial fire have long ago grown cold? Can that fire be rekindled?

### The Hope of Rekindling

Just as there was a second physical son, Jacob, who longed

for the birthright that meant so little to Esau, so there must be a spiritual Jacob to obtain the inheritance that Christianity, the spiritual Esau, forsook long ago. It is amazing to see that the holy prophets of old spoke of these things:

*“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6)*

There is a secret hidden in these and other prophecies concerning the days we are living in, and the years that lie ahead.

Why do you suppose that Yahshua chose *twelve* men as his

closest disciples? The Bible records that he spent the whole night in prayer before choosing these apostles,<sup>19</sup> so clearly it was a carefully considered plan and not an arbitrary whim. He knew that the prophecy in Isaiah 49:6 was for him to fulfill — the restoration of the twelve tribes of Jacob. They would not necessarily be the physical descendants of the original twelve sons of Jacob, but they would be twelve spiritual tribes, people united by a spiritual bond of love in order to fulfill the purpose that the physical twelve tribes failed to fulfill. They were to be a living demonstration of what the God of Israel is like, spanning several generations. That life would be a light to the nations so that His salvation could reach the ends of the earth, as Isaiah prophesied.<sup>20</sup>

The apostles in the first century also understood this as their commission, and their fire burned long enough to establish twelve tribes, according to the testimony of the apostle Paul before King Agrippa, “This is the promise *our twelve tribes* are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. O king, it is because of this hope that the Jews are accusing me.”<sup>21</sup> But as mentioned before, the fire of that vibrant tribal life was extinguished, one community at a time.<sup>22</sup> What should have grown to full stature<sup>23</sup> as the spiritual house of Jacob became instead the spiritual house of Esau, also known as Edom.<sup>24</sup>

The apostle Paul describes this transformation with a different analogy — that of a pure virgin

betrothed to Messiah, who is led astray by those who alter the message, making it more appealing to the senses, just as the serpent deceived Eve.<sup>25</sup> The end result of this deception is described in Revelation 17:1-6 — the pure virgin became a *harlot*, also known as *Babylon the Great*. This transition was like the fall of old Israel from its glory as a unified nation of twelve tribes under King David to a divided kingdom fraught with treachery and every kind of unfaithfulness, as Isaiah described:

*How the faithful city has become a harlot! It was full of justice; righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers. (Isaiah 1:21)*

As old Israel fell, so did the first church, as the book of Revelation describes:

*Fallen, fallen, is Babylon the great! She has become a*

*dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hateful bird! (Revelation 18:2)*

The fate of this harlot is chillingly described later in the chapter — she is burned with fire in one hour.<sup>26</sup> It is in this judgment that the two analogies — Esau and the Harlot — come together in the prophecy of Obadiah:

*“...the house of Jacob will possess its inheritance. The house of Jacob will be a fire and ... the house of Esau will be stubble, and they will set it on fire and consume it. There will be no survivors from the house of Esau.” (Obadiah 1:17-18)*

Fortunately this fiery judgment of the fallen-away religious system is still a ways off, awaiting the emergence of the spiritual “house of Jacob” that will take hold of the

<sup>19</sup>Luke 6:12-13 <sup>20</sup>John 1:4; Matthew 5:14 <sup>21</sup>Acts 26:7; see also James 1:1 <sup>22</sup>Revelation 2:5 <sup>23</sup>Ephesians 4:11-13 <sup>24</sup>Genesis 36:1,8 <sup>25</sup>2 Corinthians 11:2-4, 13-15 <sup>26</sup>Revelation 18:8-10



inheritance. This is what the prophet Amos spoke of:

*"In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be, so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name," declares the LORD, who will do these things.*  
(Amos 9:11-12)

So what is *David's fallen tent*? What is it that must be *restored from its ruins and built as it used to be*? The years of King David's reign were Israel's most glorious, when all twelve tribes were united under one righteous ruler, a man after God's own heart.<sup>27</sup> From that time on Israel's Messianic hope was for a ruler like David who would restore Israel's glory as a twelve-tribed nation. This is what the angel Gabriel spoke when Yahshua was conceived in the womb of the virgin Miriam:<sup>28</sup>

*"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Yahshua. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."*  
(Luke 1:31-33)

Of course this is speaking ultimately of the coming age after Messiah returns and establishes his millennial reign in Jerusalem, but first there must be a holy nation<sup>29</sup> worthy of his return, as a bridegroom coming for his bride.<sup>30</sup> That bride is a spiritual nation of twelve tribes<sup>31</sup> living together in unity.

The fire that our Master Yahshua brought to the earth 2000 years ago is now being re-kindled in the hearts of faithful men, women, and children, gathering them together in twelve tribes, in twelve different regions of the earth. This is the ultimate fulfillment of Isaiah 49:6 — the restoration of the tribes of Jacob, so that the light of the life of God can reach the ends of the earth. The warmth and radiance of this fire, expressed in its love and unity,

and its very unique culture, will draw the sincere ones out of Edom<sup>32</sup> (Christianity) and the nations at large so that they will not share in his (her) judgment:<sup>33</sup>

*"Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues." (Revelation 18:4)*

So whether you find yourself in "Edom" or anywhere else in the desperate loneliness of this cold, dark world, we warmly invite you to come into the firelight and hear the message that can kindle a fire in your heart, too. ✨

<sup>27</sup> 1 Samuel 13:14 <sup>28</sup> Miriam is the Hebrew name that is transliterated as Mary in the New Testament. <sup>29</sup> 1 Peter 2:9 <sup>30</sup> Revelation 19:7-8; Ephesians 5:27,32 <sup>31</sup> Revelation 21:9-12 <sup>32</sup> Amos 9:12 <sup>33</sup> Obadiah 1:18



When a beehive becomes overcrowded, the bees decide to *swarm*. This means that the queen and half of the bees make preparations to leave the hive and start a new colony. Once everything is ready they throng together with one impulse and soar out in a noisy dark cloud, traveling closely together until they reach their final destination. Sometimes during the course of their journey they land — a very noticeable dense clump of bees attached to a branch. They are a peaceable bunch because they are engorged with honey (their food supply for the trip), and they are intent on one purpose — staying together until they arrive at their new location. Eventually, this large crowd inhabits a hollow tree trunk or an empty bee box and begins anew, working together to build a new hive that resembles their former dwelling.

This natural phenomenon helps to explain why our Master Yahshua, who spoke Hebrew,<sup>1</sup> would have used the Hebrew word *edah*, which means a *swarm* or *community*, when He told His disciples what He was establishing through them:

*"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*  
(Matthew 16:18)

Most translators use the word *church* here, which comes from an old Germanic word that refers to

# Like A Swarm

the building rather than the people. But there is a deeper meaning conveyed by the Hebrew word *edah*. In fact, His words there echo the words of the prophet Jeremiah:

*Their children will be as in days of old, and their community [edah in Hebrew] will be established before me; I will punish all who oppress them.*  
(Jeremiah 30:20)

A swarm is a body of bees that can be observed, heard and touched. So too, the people who follow the Messiah must be an observable body. In Hebrew the word *edah* also means a *witness*. So the "Body of Messiah" must be something that can be seen, touched, and heard just as Messiah Himself was when He walked the earth.<sup>2</sup> A single bee might easily go unnoticed, but certainly not an entire swarm. In the same way, a single disciple might be overlooked, but an

entire community, living in unity together, with love for each member, would hardly go unnoticed.<sup>3</sup>

Bees need to be together. It is essential for their existence. They thrive in the hive. It should be no surprise then, that the first communities of believers were described as swarms, since they were together and held all things in common:

*"All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts..."*  
(Acts 2:44-46; see also Acts 4:32-35)

These communities began when they received the Spirit of the one true God who came to dwell in one body. Now this same phenomenon is happening once again on earth. There are communities or swarms forming just like those described in the book of Acts, having the same life as the original "hive." And they are very busy — busy as bees. As a people they seek to demonstrate the life and the character of their Creator, the God who is One. ✨

<sup>1</sup> Acts 26:14  
<sup>2</sup> 1 John 1:1  
<sup>3</sup> John 17:21-23



The new social order we are talking about is not *ideal*. It is *real*.

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. We do not do things out of obligation, but because we choose to. In this life of love, no one has a right to be cold to his neighbor. Malice, put-downs, and paybacks 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.

# A New



# Social Order

Everyone knows what the old social order is like, in which each person is responsible for his own life and the lives of his family, if he has one. Once people have food, clothing, and shelter, they may try to be kind to their neighbors. But there is a limit and there are barriers — racial, religious, political, and economic. No matter how many laws are passed, the walls between people still remain. Even within families there are barriers. One brother has his set of friends, the other has a different set, the sister

has still another. And many families can't even sit down and have a simple meal together without fighting.

## A Radical Solution

The new society we live in is not this way. We have found a radical solution



that enables us to love. The chains of fear and guilt that used to bind us have been broken.

Who can love when the barrier of guilt rises up? That barrier is the painful weight, the sudden memory that comes when you are with someone you have hurt, or someone who has hurt you. Who can give when they are afraid of losing their possessions, their time, even their own life?



Our Master Yahshua, the Son of God, has washed away our guilt with his own innocent blood. He has given us the power to forgive others just as he forgave us. We have received the same spirit that raised him from the dead, his Holy Spirit. Now we can dare to suffer loss in loving others, because fear and guilt no longer have any power over those who trust him.

The new social order we are talking about is not *ideal*. It is *real*. Ideal societies are the territory of dreamers and intellectuals.



No one has ever thought up an ideal society that actually works in reality. In fact, there is no location on earth where you can observe an ideal society at work. Manmade societies are based on laws, and laws can only limit evil, not

create virtue.

No, this new social order is not perfect. We who were raised under the old order are faulty in our love. The desires of the self tug at us, and we are continually in need of forgiveness. But our Master Yahshua



gave his life to pay for our sins so that we could forgive each other and press on towards the goal — that his new order would one day fill the whole earth.

So it is not because of rules, regulations, or even religious principles that we in this new social order live together and share our property and possessions.



Bible verses do not have the power to cause people to love and respect each other. The Bible by itself can't even make people agree on what it says. The thousands of Christian denominations are ample proof of this.

The old saying, "Birds of a feather flock together," aptly describes

*Manmade societies are based on laws,  
and laws can only limit evil,  
not create virtue.*



the poor church, the conservative church, the liberal church, and even the "gay" church. Today, there is a denomination for every inclination.

The saying holds true even for communal living, both religious and otherwise. Whatever "intentional community" a person joins depends on his intentions. Some rally around a social cause, others a political agenda, and still others a

every social institution of the world, including all religions. Unless forced to do otherwise, people naturally gravitate toward others who have a similar self-interest. So in Christianity, for example, you have the white church, the black church, the rich church,



doctrine or philosophy. But the deeply rooted barriers of guilt and fear spring up even there. Ultimately self-preservation outweighs all other considerations and even birds of the same feather find it difficult to nest together for very long.

Yet, despite these overwhelming obstacles,



the prophet Ezekiel, 2500 years ago, recorded a vision of something new and different. In his vision God Himself took a tender shoot and planted it so that it would grow up to become a mighty tree itself:

*Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. (Ezekiel 17:23)*

This prophecy might seem obscure and unimportant if the Son of God had not echoed its words some 500 years later:



*What is the kingdom of God like? ... It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; and it became a tree, and the birds of*

*the air made nests in its branches. (Luke 13:18-19)*

This new kingdom is a social order ruled by the God of love. He is the "someone" who planted that tree. It is His doing. It is not because of man's ideals or laws that we are able to live this life of love, but because of His Spirit.



### Restoration

All the prophets since ancient times have spoken of this new social order in which all things are restored — the relationship between humanity and God, men



*To gain this life costs you everything...*

and women, parents and children and between the different races. Some will not be able to see the difference between what we are

describing here and a dozen utopian ideals and philosophies. Some will feel that it is too good to be true. But there are those who are ready to do the will of their

Creator and they will know whether this is actually God's kingdom we are talking about or just something we made up. To gain this life costs you everything, but as our Master Yahshua said:

*Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. (Luke 9:24)*

All who really believe that he died as a payment for their sins will no longer live for themselves but for him —

giving all their possessions, time, and energy to see his people flourish and his justice prevail.



If you are looking for a nice community where you can do your own thing, you would certainly be wasting your time to come here. But if you desire to live a life of self-sacrificing love, to experience the deep soul satisfaction of doing what you were created for, we invite you to be a part of this new social order that is re-emerging on the earth. ✨



# THE THIRD INCARNATION

Reincarnation — the rebirth of the soul in another body — has been the hope and fascination of countless men and women for thousands of years. Perhaps this is because it is akin to something that is deep in the heart of their Creator, in whose image they are made. He desires nothing greater than that the essence of who He is would be made visible and tangible in



human form. He actually made Man (male and female<sup>1</sup>) with a human spirit that is compatible with His divine spirit, in the hope that they would be joined together — man linked to God, able to express His heart on the Earth. We call the first man *Adam*, which is simply Hebrew

for *man* or *mankind*. He was created pure and clean, an empty vessel ready to be filled with all that was in his Creator's heart.

But through an old and sad story that you can read about in the Bible,<sup>2</sup> Adam lost his vital connection to his Creator, and his descendants have been groping for Him ever since, unable by their own strength or intellect to reconnect. They could not get past the barrier of selfishness in their own



hearts. So, in order to open the way past that barrier, God took a pure human seed preserved from before Adam fell, and placed it in the womb of a Hebrew virgin named Miriam,<sup>3</sup> and she conceived and gave birth to

a son, whom she and her husband called Yahshua,<sup>4</sup> which means “Yahweh's Salvation.” In a very real way he was a second Adam<sup>5</sup> in that he was born without the fallen nature that is common to all of Adam's descendants. But unlike Adam, he chose to always keep his heart turned



towards his Father,<sup>6</sup> ready and willing to obey His every word. Into this pure and willing vessel, God was able to pour His very essence — His *Word*. As the apostle John described it: “*And the Word [of God] was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*”<sup>7</sup>

Reincarnation —  
the rebirth of the soul in another body —  
has been the hope and fascination of countless men and women  
for thousands of years.  
Perhaps this is because it is akin to something  
that is deep in the heart of their Creator,  
in whose image they are made.

This was the first incarnation — the embodiment of the very heart or essence of God in human flesh, Yahshua the Messiah.<sup>8</sup> As a man he walked in unbroken communion with God, showing his followers how to love. People came to know, in a very



real and practical way, what God was like. When you saw him, you saw the Father.<sup>9</sup> That is what *incarnation* is for — to reveal the heart of the Father to mankind. The religious establishment of his day — the Jewish scribes and Pharisees — could not stand his invasion onto their turf. His purity, compassion, and spiritual authority were a threat to their

stronghold on the people's souls and pocketbooks. So they had him crucified. But they did not understand their own prophets.<sup>10</sup> They did not understand that death could not hold him captive because there was no sin, no iniquity in him. Death is the outcome of sin, the place where we must face our guilt and receive the penalty for every word and deed



that caused hurt.<sup>11</sup> Having no sin of his own, he became a ransom for us, receiving the full wages of our sin. He endured the agonies of death<sup>12</sup> on our behalf for three days and three nights. Then his spirit and soul returned to his body, infusing it with eternal life.

Once he had convinced his disciples that he was truly alive again, they were overjoyed and expected that he would immediately take the throne in Jerusalem and establish the Kingdom of God on the earth.<sup>13</sup> But that was not his intention. It was not enough that God had one man on the earth in whom He could dwell by His Spirit. He wanted a whole *nation* of men and women who would utterly abandon their own independent, self-



ish lives and give themselves unreservedly to him when they heard of his sacrifice for them. So he told his disciples that he was going to return to the Father. They were to wait in

<sup>1</sup>Genesis 1:27 <sup>2</sup>Genesis 3 <sup>3</sup>Or *Mary* in English <sup>4</sup>Commonly known as *Jesus* in English <sup>5</sup>1 Corinthians 15:45 <sup>6</sup>Both Adam and Yahshua could rightly claim God as their Father, or *Abba* in Hebrew, which means *source*. <sup>7</sup>John 1:14

<sup>8</sup>Or *Christ* in Greek; *Messiah* means “anointed one” — the one having the “anointing” of God upon him — the favor, authority, and understanding or *mind* of God, which is the fullest meaning of the “word” of God. <sup>9</sup>John 14:10 <sup>10</sup>Isaiah 53; Psalm 16:10; etc. <sup>11</sup>Romans 6:23 <sup>12</sup>Acts 2:24 <sup>13</sup>Acts 1:6

Jerusalem until the Spirit of God came to dwell in them, giving them the power to express God's heart on the earth.

Then it happened: the Holy Spirit came upon them in great power and they spoke boldly to all the people who were gathered in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost.



They called them to repent for crucifying the Messiah who was sent to save them. As a result, 3000 people surrendered their lives that day and were filled with his Spirit. Together with the original disciples they formed a unified body (a community) that powerfully expressed the character of God by the way they loved one another:

*Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid*

*them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.*

(Acts 4:32-35)

This was the second incarnation — the embodiment of the very heart or essence of God in a people who were totally surrendered to Him.<sup>14</sup> For several decades their radical life of love and unity turned the world (as they knew it) upside down.<sup>15</sup> It was intended that



together, as a body, they would be every bit as real and visible and tangible as Messiah himself had been when he walked the earth.<sup>16</sup> But by the end of the first century there was very little vitality left in that "body" as the letters to the churches in the Book of Revelation show.<sup>17</sup> These letters were an appeal to the churches to "wake up" lest their light be snuffed out. But did they wake up? In the centuries that followed, the warm, vibrant, and inviting life of those early communities mutated into a cold and rigid institution that coerced people to believe and slaughtered those who refused. If ever the life and passion of the first communities began to emerge, it was quickly snuffed out.

For almost 1900 years, history does not record another lasting occurrence of the very same communal life as those first believers. However, the prophet Isaiah said that one day there would be a people who would be called the "Repairers of the Breach"<sup>18</sup> — a breach of time during which God had no body to dwell in on the earth. The apostle Paul also quoted Isaiah as predicting that, "Unless the Sovereign of Hosts had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom, and we would have been made like Gomorrah."<sup>19</sup> A spiritual seed was preserved in heaven until the time of the end, when just as Isaiah said,



the whole world would become like Sodom and Gomorrah. We are now in those days.

The prophet Daniel predicted that, "In the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to another people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."<sup>20</sup> It is clear from the context in the book of Daniel and the references to his prophecy in the book of Revelation<sup>21</sup> that the ten "kings" of this prophecy form a world government

that will emerge in the very last days of this present age. And it is during the days of those kings that God establishes a "kingdom" on the earth that will never be destroyed or left to another people. This "kingdom" is the third and last incarnation, and it is being formed on the earth right now, even as the forces of "globalization" are forming a world government.



Right now the Spirit of God is calling together a people who are being formed into the very Body of Messiah. They are responding to the same message that formed the second incarnation — the call to leave everything and follow Yahshua the Messiah, the call to love one another just as Messiah loved them, the call to lay down their lives for one another *daily* in a common life of love and unity. They are being formed into a holy nation, a royal priesthood<sup>22</sup> who fully represent Messiah on the earth again — the *Third Incarnation*. ✨

<sup>14</sup>John 14:23; 17:23 <sup>15</sup>Acts 17:6

<sup>16</sup>1 John 4:17 <sup>17</sup>Revelation 2 and 3

<sup>18</sup>Isaiah 58:12 <sup>19</sup>Romans 9:29

<sup>20</sup>Daniel 2:44 <sup>21</sup>Daniel 7:24; Revelation 17:12 <sup>22</sup>1 Peter 2:9

## Why He Came

Matthew 5:17 — Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

Mark 10:45 — For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Luke 5:32 — I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

Luke 9:56 — For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.

Luke 12:49-53 — I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

Luke 19:10 — For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

John 3:19 — And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 6:38 — For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 6:51 — I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.

John 9:39 — For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.

John 12:27 — Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save Me from this hour"? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

John 12:46-47 — I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

John 18:37 — Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Yahshua answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."



# Our Master Yahshua\*

It is twilight, the time between the lights. The edge of the sky fades into violet, and above it hangs a veil of deep blue. Behind both waits a heaven of black, fast approaching, and the second set of lights, the small, dim stars of evening.

In a tomb, a man's body is set down and left to rot. Three nights drag by. Three mornings come and three long days. Now it is twilight again and his spirit returns to his body. Death flees away like a frightened crow.

Suddenly his eyes flutter open. His nostrils fill with air. His first sharp breath rushes into his chest like a flood of fire. It's charged with the sweetness of twilight, the cool of the evening, the delicious fragrance of plants growing in a garden. Like a sword, it cuts the strangling noose of lifelessness. Soon every cell in his body is surging with new life. A smile fills his lips and well-being springs up from his guts, up the entire length of his chest, and escapes his parted lips like the beginning of a triumphant cry.

He sits bolt upright, throws off the bloodstained linen. The newborn power of life fills his every movement. It wells up like a fountain as his feet swing down from the rock and touch earth. He is on his feet, standing, walking, springing into the twilight.

Did you see his eyes when they first opened, after his eyelids had flung off the air of the tomb? His first glance pierced upwards through the graying light and the sullen rock around him. It broke out into the violet and blue of the twilight until his sight captured the trembling, unseen universe beyond. He saw triumph. He saw death's cold limbs

shake as if blown in a gale. He saw the fleeing serpent pinned head-down beneath a staff. And the stamp of a heel crushing its head. Little wonder he smiled.

Or praised his God.

Or went to meet those he loved.

Wouldn't you?

\**Yahshua* is the

Hebrew name of the Son of God. It is what His father Yoceph (Joseph) and His mother Miriam (Mary) called Him when He was born, as recorded in Luke 1:31 and Matthew 1:21.

The footnote for this verse in the NIV New Testament reads: *Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua*. In Hebrew, as in old English, there is no "J" sound, and the name is more accurately rendered *Yahshua*.

It means, "I am powerful to save," since it is constructed from *Yah*, the name of the Father (as in *Hallelujah*, "Praise Yah"), which means "I AM," and *shua*, which means "power and authority to save."

We call Him *Yahshua* because that is truly His name.

(John 5:43; 17:11)

# Rekindling the Fire

## Birth of a Nation

### COMMUNITIES – WHERE YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

#### IN THE USA

##### Community in Island Pond

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

##### The Basin Farm

P.O. Box 108, Bellows Falls, VT 05101  
☎ (802) 463-4149

##### Community in Rutland

115 Lincoln Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701  
☎ (802) 773-0160

##### Community in Boston

92 Melville Ave, Dorchester, MA 02124  
☎ (617) 282-9876

##### Community in Hyannis

14 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601  
☎ (508) 790-3172

##### Community in Plymouth

7 North Street, Plymouth, MA 02360  
☎ (508) 732-7201

##### Community in Lancaster

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

##### Community in Coxsackie

7 Ely Street, Coxsackie, NY 12051  
☎ (518) 731-7711

##### Community in Oak Hill

Rt. 81, Box 81A, Oak Hill, NY 12460  
☎ (518) 239-8148

##### The Common Sense Farm

41 N. Union Street, Cambridge, NY 12816  
☎ (518) 677-5880

##### Community in Buffalo

78 Pleasant Avenue, Hamburg, NY 14075  
☎ (716) 649-7835

##### Community in West Palm Beach

6311 Wallis Road, W. Palm Beach, FL 33413  
☎ (561) 686-7561

##### Community on the Lake of the Ozarks

119 Main Street, Warsaw, MO 65355  
☎ (660) 438-4481

##### Community in Colorado Springs

406 Karr Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80916  
☎ (719) 573-1907

#### OTHER COUNTRIES

##### ARGENTINA

##### Comunidad de Buenos Aires

Batallón Norte y Mansilla,  
1748 General Rodríguez, Argentina  
☎ (54) 237-484-3409

##### AUSTRALIA

##### The Peppercorn Creek Farm

1375 Old Hume Highway  
Picton, NSW 2571, Australia  
☎ (61) 2-4677-2668

##### BRASIL

##### Comunidade de Londrina

Rua Jayme Americano 420, Jardim California,  
86040-030 Londrina, Paraná, Brazil  
☎ (55) 43-336-5857

##### CANADA

##### The Community in Winnipeg

89 East Gate, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2C2, Canada  
☎ (204) 786-8787

##### DEUTSCHLAND

##### Gemeinschaft in Klosterzimmern

Klosterzimmern 1  
86738 Deiningen, Germany  
☎ (49) 9081-272847

##### ENGLAND

##### The Stentwood Farm

Dunkeswell, Honiton, Devon EX14 4RW, England  
☎ (44) 1823-681155

##### ESPAÑA

##### Comunidad de San Sebastián

Paseo de Ulia 375, 20014 San Sebastián, Spain  
☎ (34) 943-58-00-29

##### FRANCE

##### Communauté de Sus

64190 Sus/Navarrenx, France  
☎ (33) 5-59-66-14-28

Call us toll-free 24 hours a day —

*In the USA and Canada:*

**1-888-TWELVE TRIBES (1-888-893-5838)**

*In the UK:*

**0800-0743267**

*Visit our website:*

**www.twelvetribes.com**

English Español Français Deutsch Português Magyar Afrikaans

*For addresses of our  
Common Ground  
Cafés, please visit  
our website.*

