

# **FATHER JOSEPH'S LETTER**

**The Church At New Lebanon**

**“Holy Mount”**

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## Zion's Center of Union



The Shakers of Sabbathday Lake “Chosen Land”

707 Shaker Road  
New Gloucester, Maine 04260  
[www.maineshakers.com](http://www.maineshakers.com)

Have you already read A Wall Of Protection?

## **Father Joseph to Mother Lucy Wright, 1796**

Joseph to Lucy, Greetings — Beloved Sister in Christ. As it appears at present that I have almost finished my Course and done my work in this Life, I desire to write to thee in few words as one whom I esteem my Equal in Order and Lot according to thy gender.

As it hath pleased God to create me for and call me to the First Lot of care in my gender and thee in thine in the present Travel of the Church — it was necessary that we should support a greater measure of the union of the Spirit and that we should labor more to be mutual helps to each other than any of the rest of the members; not for our own private good but for the good of the whole that now do and shall hereafter believe in the gift which is the Second Appearing of Christ.

It is and ever will be a matter of consolation to us both that God hath greatly blessed His Church both in things spiritual and temporal by our union and mutual labors with them and that although He hath

called us for the good of others, to support immediate union in spirit with each other and to abundant labor together, He hath kept us from all sin with each other which hath laid the foundation in and by us for the Gathering and Building of the Church according to our Order and Lots in the gift which is the Second Generation or Travel of the Church in this Latter Day.

Christ Jesus our Lord and Mother Ann are the Two Chief Anointed Ones that stand before God in relation to the Salvation of all souls, and as God hath fulfilled His Promise in them both, the Foundation is laid in the Headship of man for the Restitution of all things — though they were rejected and despised of man in this world, yet they are Chosen of God and Precious and no soul can find Salvation in this Latter Day without Faith in the Latter as well as in the Former because the Counsel of Peace for man is between them both.

Inasmuch therefore as both the man and the woman have Equal Rights in Order and Lots and in the Lord and Governance of the Church according to their gender in this Latter Day and as thee though of

the weaker gender in man will be the Elder or Firstborn after my departure; I believe the greatest measure of the Wisdom and Knowledge of God for the protection of souls will be given unto thee especially in counsel until thy power and strength both intellectual and corporal shall fail as mine hath done. I believe the late and present troubles among the young in the Church is the Chief cause of my present weakness and sufferings — as they were young and not able to receive that planting of faith in their understanding when gathered into the Church. As the adult, I always expected there would be more trouble with them as they come to ripe age and as the Foundation Principles of God's Grace to man in the present day were not planted in them, many may depart from the Faith — unless the older who are established are able to protect them until they are either planted or grafted into the present or succeeding Travel of the Church.

It hath been and is still my hope and expectation that the greater number of the young will keep their Faith and if weak in the present Travel compared with the older, they may be more useful in the next and we be compensated for our labors and troubles with them.

## Shaker Communities

### THE PROPHECY

A Worldwide Kingdom of God and Zion of His Likeness on Earth (Daniel 2:44).

### FOUNDER

Ann Lee, the Bride of Christ (1736-1784) of Manchester, England.

### BASIC PRINCIPLES

**Virgin Purity, Peace, Justice and Love**

Expressed Through: Celibate Life, Complete Confession and Forsaking of all Sin,  
Non Resistance, Community of Goods and Divine Order.

### BELIEFS

Duality of the Deity, Father and Mother God (Power and Wisdom). The Mighty Dual Spirit,  
Creator of Life, Light, Truth and Love. Duality of the Christ Spirit, as manifested by Jesus Christ  
and Ann Lee, Immortal Life, Progress of the Soul, Faithfulness, Lawfulness,  
Equality of the Genders, Equality in Labor, Equality in Property, Temperance in all things,  
Justice and Kindness to all Living Beings.

### GOVERNMENT

The Head of the Shaker Order is Christ.  
Represented in a Dual Order of Leaders, Ministry Elders and Trustees.

### COMMUNITY

Serious Minded and Competent individuals who vow to never deny  
the Father God, the Mother Wisdom, the Son Jesus Christ or the Daughter Ann Lee.

### SHAKER MOTTO

Hands to work, and Hearts to God.—ANN LEE

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