

## **THE CALL**

By Shabar Ben Yahudah

*The following letter, written in the fall of 1994 to the church of my youth, records the journey that led me to the prophetic office, as well as the early stages of my walk in the ministry.*

Kevin (now called Shabar), a servant of Christ Jesus (now called Y'shua the Messiah), to "St. James Community Baptist Church"; greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me begin by expressing my appreciation for your willingness to follow the Spirit, and to work with me regarding the usage of the facility to hold prophetic meetings. God (now called YAH) bless you.

As you know, I am no stranger to "St. James". I can remember as a child how Pastor Cain blessed me with warmth and affection, and how his wife used to baby sit me after school. I can also recall the time when my dad was a deacon at the church, and my grandfather, who was a Baptist minister, would preach there when he was visiting from New Orleans.

I know that the Lord has sent me back to "St. James" as a prophet called to help prepare you for the changes that are about to take place in the body of Christ. He has given me valuable and unique experiences that will enable me to minister to those who are tired of business as usual.

In 1984, I gave my life to Christ. At the time, I was working for a music company called Silverspoon Productions. Later that year, I met a brother named Dana Marshall (now called Yashah Ben-Y'shua), who was in the process of starting a music ministry outreach. I was led to join him in that endeavor.

During the course of time however, the Lord led us away from the music business. The following year, the Lord showed Dana (Yashah) that he was called to be an apostle; and that he along with other men, must establish a model church, because the churches today are out of order.

There were many signs that confirmed his calling. One that stood out was when our assistant pastor met with us and bore witness to Dana's (Yashah's) calling. He agreed that his mission was vital, especially during these times. He also rejoiced because the Lord had placed new leadership in my life and encouraged me to follow it.

In that year, which was 1986, I stepped away from the traditional church scene and studied with Dana (Yashah) and other men at home. Just as when Elijah was led away from Israel to gain sustenance during a time of famine, I gained a deeper understanding "in the wilderness" than I could have gained under a local pastor.

In the spring of 1990, my grandfather died, and I spoke at his funeral. This was my first time addressing a church congregation in public ministry. There were several preachers there who bore witness to the calling on my life.

Later that year, I met once again with your assistant pastor and updated him on what I had been doing in the ministry. He then invited me to participate in the men's fellowship on Tuesday nights. I knew the Spirit was sending me back to "St. James" to give the church what the Lord had given me.

Soon I began teaching the men every fourth Tuesday night. I also prophesied many things concerning the future direction of "St. James" that soon after, came to pass. By 1992, when it got to the point that I was not allowed the opportunity to prophesy to the congregation at large, I was led to move on to fulfill my calling.

From that time forward, I began teaching and prophesying at various churches, organizations and home study groups around the city. I also appeared on "The Jesse Peterson Show", a public access cable TV program aimed at "rebuilding the black community by rebuilding the black man".

In April of 1993, Dana (Yashah) and I began the public access TV program "Preparing The Way", designed to help ready the "black church" for the transition from business-as-usual to the establishing of divine order. This is essential, since perfect love cannot be made manifest in the midst of chaos and confusion.

As a prophet, I must cry out against the worldliness of the church, because the judgment of God will soon fall on those who are caught up in this idolatry. We will then enter into a new move of the Spirit where, just as recorded in the book of Acts, men will sell houses and land and begin holding meetings in people's homes and rented facilities. This change is inevitable.

Of course, there are always those who don't wish to hear the truth and will leave - but there are also those who do want to hear the truth and will come.

It is up to us to speak the truth in love, and up to God to add whom He will. Just as He moved with Gideon and a reduced army of men, He will also do so with us, if we are faithful...