



Bashan Newsletter



“Feed thy people with thy Rod, the flock of thine heritage; ...let them feed in Bashan and Gilead....” Mic. 7:14.

“Only those who awake and reform (sigh) and endeavor to share with others (cry) the light that is shining upon them, receive the seal.”—The Answerer, Bk. 2, pp. 29, 30.

Dear Brethren:

Welcome to the April 2023 issue of the Bashan Newsletter. We also welcome spring and the rebirth of nature. We thank God for His creative power on the fourth day of creation that gave us the blessing of the “signs, and for seasons, and for days and years” (Genesis 1:14).

IT MUST BE SPRING

Hush, can you hear it? The rustling in the grass,
Bringing you the welcome news that Winter's day is past.
Soft, can you feel it? The warm caressing breeze,
Telling you the sticky buds are bursting on the trees.
Look, can you see them? The primrose in the lane.
Now you must believe it – Spring is here again.

–May Fenn

(Published by Family Friend Poems June 2014 with permission of the author.)

“It is by the mighty power of the Infinite One that the elements of nature in earth and sea and sky are kept within bounds. And these elements He uses for the happiness of His creatures. ‘His good treasure’ is freely expended ‘to give the rain... in his season, and to bless all the work’ of man’s hands.

“He sendeth the springs into the valleys,
Which run among the hills.
They give drink to every beast of the field:
The wild asses quench their thirst.
By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation,

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle,
And herb for the service of man:
That He may bring forth food out of the earth;

And wine that maketh glad the heart of man,
And oil to make his face to shine,
And bread which strengtheneth man’s heart.”—*Radiant Religion*, p. 87.

In the signs of spring God not only gives us natural blessings but also gives us redemptive blessings by the signs of the antitypical Passover in Exodus 12:3-13:

THE ANTITYPICAL PASSOVER

“All the ceremonies of the feast were types of the work of Christ. The deliverance of Israel from Egypt was an object-lesson of redemption, which the Passover was intended to keep in memory. The slain lamb, the unleavened bread, the sheaf of firstfruits, represented the Saviour.’—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 77.

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“The lamb represents Christ. Isa. 53:7.

“The lamb roasted by fire, the Spirit of God. Gen. 15:17; Acts 2:3; Lev. 9:24.

“The eating of the flesh: Christ is our life, for ‘in Him we live, and move, and have our being.’ John 6:53.

“The loins girded: The truth of God, the Word. Eph. 6:14.

“The shoes on the feet: The preparation of the gospel. Eph. 6:15.

“The staff in the hand: The sword of the Spirit. Eph. 6:17.

“Ye shall eat it in haste: Do not hesitate; get ready; quick delivery. Ex. 12:11.

“Ex. 12:34: *And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading-troughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders.*

“The kneading-trough is the Bible. Eph. 6:13.

“The dough is the word of God it contains. Eze. 44:30 (the type).

“Unleavened: The unadulterated word of God, and it must be kept as such. Rev. 22:18.

“The kneading-troughs on their shoulders: Means make sure you have the whole Word of God continually with you. Thus shall you depart from Egypt. Eph. 6:13.

“ ‘The bondage in Egypt represents the bondage of sin. The promises of deliverance are the promises of the gospel. The power revealed in the judgments upon the gods of Egypt indicates the measure of power provided for the deliverance from the hard service of “the god of this world.” ’ *Review and Herald*, Jan. 23, 1930.

“The blood on the door post is the symbol of the ‘seal,’ Revelation 7; ‘mark,’ Ezekiel 9 (Rev. 7 and Ez. 9, is the same mark or seal). See *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 445.

“The blood being applied on the door post is to signify that the seal, or mark by which the 144,000 are to be sealed, is to be visible.

“The ‘door post’ and the ‘forehead’ both have the same significance. We do not mean to say that it is a certain

visible brand, or mark on their foreheads, but a ‘seal’ of character, principle, or rule; the standard being the pure Word of God. Thus they apply the blood on the door post, and their brethren in the church could be conscious of a change.

“The only ones who can have the seal are those who sigh and cry for all the abominations (sins) that are done in the church. But if any take part and try to throw a cloak over the existing evil in the church, then they are left without the seal. Read Volume 5, pages 207-12; Volume 3, page 266.”—1SR, pp. 98, 99.

“ ‘The seal of the living God,’ however, by which the 144,000 are sealed (Rev. 7:2), is a special seal, being the same as ‘the mark’ of Ezekiel 9. (See *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 445; *Testimonies*, Vol. 3, p. 267; Id., Vol. 5, p. 211.) Demanding one’s sighing and crying over the abominations not only in himself but also in the church (Ezek. 9:4), it is placed upon him just before the Lord slays the wicked in the church, so that the angels may pass over them. It is the antitypical Passover seal—the blood on the door post today. ‘The angel is to place a mark upon the forehead of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel will follow, to slay utterly both old and young.’ (*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 505.)” —*Symbolic Code*, Vol. 7, Nos. 7-12, p. 21.

“The Passover, too, in which perished all the first-born of man and beast that were found in dwellings which had not the blood on the doorposts, forespoke an antitypical Passover in which all who are left without the mark because of not sighing and crying for the abominations in their midst will surely fall under the slaughter weapons of the angels (Ezek. 9:2).

“When will this come to pass?—The type unquestionably reveals the time through the fact that only the first-born were then in danger. Accordingly, the antitypical Passover will take place in the time of the firstfruit harvest—the sealing of the 144,000, the firstfruits, the first to go to antitypical Jerusalem, the first to stand on Mount Zion with the Lamb, the first-born by the Spirit. Obviously, all of the firstfruits who receive the mark will live on, and all who fail to receive the mark will perish as surely as did the first-born who at the time of the typical Passover failed to apply the blood on the door-posts.”—1SR p. e. pp. 55, 56.

“Since Ezekiel 9 begins the antitypical day of atonement, and since it is also the antitypical Passover, will it fall on

the date of the Passover (in the spring) or on the date of the Atonement (in the fall)? Paradoxically, it must, typologically, obviously fall on both but, just as obviously, it physically cannot.

“Only the truth of the type can resolve the paradox. Dealing with Israel’s deliverance from Egypt, Inspiration points up the obvious—that the Passover ‘ransom’ or sacrifice was ‘the atoning sacrifice.’—PP 274:4.

“...And as the Passover ‘ransom’ or sacrifice was the ‘atoning sacrifice’ hence the hour of the Passover was the hour of the atonement. Hence likewise in the antitype, the day of atonement as pertaining to the ‘atoning sacrifice’ (not the investigative judgment) is the Passover or Ezekiel 9, and therefore must, typologically, come in the spring, on the fourteenth day of the first month.”—*Bashan Tidings*, Vol. 12, No. 4, p. 21.

NEWS FROM BASHAN

Wedding: On Friday, March 17, Brother Dennis Thomas and Sister Maureen Earlington were joined in marriage. The wedding ceremony



was performed by Sister Danita Wilkins at the Bashan Hill Chapel. The reception was held in the cafeteria which was simply and tastefully decorated and everyone enjoyed the time. Let us pray with them to keep their covenant to God and to each other.

Visitors: In attendance at the wedding were Sister Maureen’s family - her sisters, Althea Taffe and Heather Johnson; niece Thalia Taffe; daughter-in-law, Candice Gallimore, granddaughters, Abigail and Analise Gallimore; and son, Mario Gallimore. Brother Dennis’ family were able to send their best wishes through videos played at the reception.

Vanguard Youth Academy: Who will come up to the help of the Lord? We are making an appeal for a sister or brother who is willing to move to Bashan and be an in-person teacher for grades 4th to 6th, and a virtual teacher for grades 7th and 8th. VYA is a virtual and in-person school and we are in need of both virtual and in-person teachers.

Qualifications include a desire to work collaboratively as a team member, being patient with children, a good listener, able to be flexible with different personalities, have a knowledge of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, hold a current Fellowship Certificate, be able to create effective lesson plans, and a good communicator. Teacher certification is not mandatory.

All applicants MUST have high speed internet, an efficient computer with noise cancelling headphones, and a printer.

Email sueannwilliams80@gmail.com for Applications. Please contact Oliva Ladd, principal, 631-827-5209 for more information.

Returned Checks: Those writing remittance checks on their personal accounts should be sure that they have enough money in their accounts before doing so. When checks are returned, send us only the amount of the check, plus the \$2.00 service charge, which the bank charges our account, and be sure to let us know that it is for the returned check. Please remember also that if your check (tithes) bounces, unless it is replaced immediately, you are in arrears with the Lord.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS OF THE PROPHETS

“The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul. ...God created man in His own likeness. He endowed him with noble qualities. His mind was well balanced, and all the powers of his being was harmonious” (CE 63:3; 1MCP 351:2).

“Therefore, in this promised restitution of ‘all things’ under the economy of the Elijah message, it is the privilege of each to help restore, in all the beauty and perfection of primitive simplicity, the pre-eminently important institute of the schools of the prophets which, since before the days of Christ, has been a stranger to the church... (CT 255).”—*Symbolic Code*, Vol. 2, No. 9: 2.

To further strengthen this mandate in the restitution of all things, it is the goal of this Association to establish the first female Schools of the Prophets in Trinidad as well as in Ghana.

As early as 2019, missionary Field Workers were sent out to the small island of Trinidad in search of land, until the Lord providentially opened the way in May of 2022, when a property was located in Rio Claro. It not only

provided sufficient land for future endeavors, but also had a three story edifice. Though incomplete, it was a blessing that could not have been imagined. The property was purchased, and the work of remodeling commenced almost immediately after the transfer of ownership was completed.



Building to house the staff, students, and School in Trinidad

Field workers and skilled members from the neighboring island of Jamaica and Grenada, respectively, skilled in carpentry, plastering, plumbing, electrical, tiling and other construction disciplines, were dispatched to commence the remodeling to accommodate as many female students as possible. The upper floor can now accommodate ten full-time students. There are two storage areas, four full bathrooms, and a porch. The middle floor is the common area, which provides kitchen, dining, staff quarters, storage, an office, two full bathrooms, and a carport. The ground or basement level, was enclosed to facilitate the classrooms, one full bathroom, a laundry area, as well as storage for the garden tools and other accessories.



Brother Kaydon Bourg, a field worker from Jamaica.



Skilled members from Grenada (Layne Houston, at left, and Wayne Fraser, at right).

The members in Trinidad have continuously joined forces with the foreign brethren to give of their diverse talents and skills in areas such as painting, cleaning, power washing, cooking, landscaping, sewing, and most of all fellowshipping. These combined efforts have made the work so much more pleasurable and progressive. This project has given the local members much encouragement as they witness God's plan for the work, first hand.



Sister Denique Ruiz



Sister Marilyn Moses, sewing curtains for the windows at the School.

We praise the Lord, who has promised that His Association and work will know no lack of means, and it will prosper and accomplish His will and plan. We also thank the brethren worldwide for their continued prayers on behalf of the Schools of the Prophets. Truly "God's purposes know no haste and no delay" (*Christ Triumphant*, p. 34:3).

FIELD WORKERS' HIGHLIGHTS

Hello once again from the field work department. As the saying goes, "a picture is worth a thousand words," so the field workers' highlights this month will be given in pictures of the work and labor of love of Brother Trevor and Sister Karyl Bingham in South Africa and Zambia. Enjoy the picture collage of their labors and interaction with the brethren.



Brothers Shane, Alpha, Stanley, and Trevor



The Kathlehong group greet the Bingham's.

Below: The regional meeting in South Africa. Approximately 50 brethren from four areas of South Africa attended the weekend meetings. The brethren rejoiced for the time of spiritual blessing and fellowship. Please continue to pray for the work.



Sister Evelyn Doyle, at left, matron of the school in South Africa.

In **Zambia** Sister Karyl and Brother Trevor were met by Brother Lusambo, their driver.



Brother Trevor teaches while Brother Sudden translates during Sabbath meetings in Zambia.



Brothers Cephas, Trevor, Sudden, Sisters Miriam, Karyl and Brother Misheck in Zambia.



The Ngobola group in Zambia



Regional meeting in Zambia

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question: What is the Rod's stance on pre-nuptial agreements?

Answer: While the Rod has a lot to say on marriage, pre-nuptial agreements are not mentioned. However, the Rod makes it clear that agreements are necessary and important between the two adults, male and female, before and during the marriage. These agreements are to keep the marriage union safe and secure, now and for eternity. Inspiration sanctioned that these marriage agreements entered into was not for, and is not intended for, "just in case the marriage union ends."

"Marriage was from the creation constituted by God a divine ordinance. The marriage institution was made in Eden."—*Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, p. 159:2.

Marriage is an agreement (covenant), a holy or divine

establishment made for holy or divine beings to enjoy eternally. It is as firm as the Sabbath. Both are a must for mankind to be whole, healthy, sane, and connected to God. In the beginning man understood and kept the principles of the marriage covenant (agreement).

The Rod does not address pre-nuptial agreements because there is no necessity for it. A pre-nuptial agreement is a man-made covenant that couples enter into before their marriage to protect their assets and possessions should the marriage fail. But Davidians believe in God's purpose to restore marriage. They follow the principles of courtship and enter into a marriage to last through eternity.

Two Davidians may not obtain or keep a pre-nuptial agreement before marriage. Davidians enter into marriage for eternity, not upon conditions. The possibility of marital failure is a mistaken worldly presupposition, and provision for it is also a mistake.

Instead of a prenuptial agreement, follow God's directive: "Even if an engagement has been entered into without a full understanding of the character of the one with whom you intend to unite, do not think that the engagement makes it a positive necessity for you to take upon yourself the marriage vow and link yourself for life to one whom you cannot love and respect. Be very careful how you enter into conditional engagements; but better, far better, break the engagement before marriage than separate afterward, as many do."— *The Adventist Home*, p. 48:2.

"Enter into no enterprise unless you are sure that it is in harmony with the will of God."— *Letters and Manuscripts*, Vol. 20, Lt 5, 1905, par. 4.

IN CLOSING

"The soul redeemed and cleansed from sin, with all its noble powers dedicated to the service of God, is of surpassing worth; and there is joy in heaven in the presence of God and the holy angels over one soul redeemed, a joy that is expressed in songs of holy triumph."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 126:2

Sincerely yours to be ready to speak...in season and out of season, watching to win souls,

The Bashan Family

Jerusalem Is Destroyed



2 Kings 24:8-20; 25:1-21; 2 Chron. 36:5-21; Jer. 27:12-14; 29:10; 38:14-23; 39:1-9

The people of Judah turned from the Lord and worshipped false gods. For many years, the Lord kept trying to help them. He sent many prophets to warn them, but they did not listen. Instead, they made fun of the prophets. How did God put an end to their idolatry?

The king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, captured King Jehoiachin, the princes, the servants, and the craftsmen, and he took them all to Babylon. He also took all the treasures from God's temple. Then Nebuchadnezzar made Zedekiah king of Judah.

At first, Zedekiah obeyed Nebuchadnezzar. But the nearby nations and the false prophets advised Zedekiah to rebel against Babylon. Jeremiah warned him: 'If you rebel, there will be murder, famine, and disease in Judah.'

After ruling for eight years, Zedekiah decided to rebel against Babylon. He asked the Egyptian army to help him. Then Nebuchadnezzar sent his army to attack Jerusalem, and they camped around the city. Jeremiah told Zedekiah: 'God says that if you surrender to Babylon, both you and the city will survive. But if you don't, the Babylonians will burn Jerusalem down and take you as prisoner.' Zedekiah said: 'I won't surrender!'

A year and a half later, the Babylonian army broke through the walls of Jerusalem and set the city on fire. They burned down the temple, killed many people, and took thousands as prisoners.

Zedekiah escaped from Jerusalem, but the Babylonians chased after him. They captured him near Jericho and brought him to Nebuchadnezzar. The king of Babylon made Zedekiah watch as his own sons were executed. Then Nebuchadnezzar blinded Zedekiah and put him in prison, where he later died. But God promised the people of Judah: 'After 70 years, I will bring you home to Jerusalem.'

QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT

Would the young people who had been taken as prisoners to Babylon remain loyal to God?

ENJOY THE POEM, COLOR THE PICTURE

Spring

The wind told the grass
And the grass told the trees.

The trees told the bushes
And the bushes told the bees.

The bees told the robin
And the robin sang out clear,

"Wake up!
Wake up!
Spring is here!"

