



# 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 February 2023 issue of the Bashan Newsletter. We hope you will allow every word to bless you.

## SITTING ON THE TREE LIMB YOU'RE SAWING OFF



“That is quite a concept, isn't it? Sometimes, we get blinded to the fact, the things we do today can affect tomorrow adversely and painfully. In other words, creating a comfortable but unwise present can sacrifice tomorrow's future.

“A story is told of a dog walking across a bridge with a bone in his mouth. When he looked down into the river and saw his reflection, he thought it was another dog with a bigger bone. He jumped in the river to get it and drowned. Jealousy and envy-based choices have consequences. That dog sawed off the limb he was sitting on.

“The following story illustrates the point I'm trying to make today. An elderly woman died recently. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, ‘They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead.’

“Her disappointment and bitterness was a ‘lose-lose’ for everyone. Now older women were going to have to carry her coffin. As Jane Austen would say, that would be a ‘most disagreeable alternative’ for everyone.

“Here's another example of sawing off the limb that we are sitting on. In a Brooklyn upscale pet shop, an elderly lady burst into the store. ‘I want to buy a canary, but it's got to be a real good singer. I've got cash, but I'm paying

only for a good singer.’

“The shop owner began moving a ladder toward a small cage on a shelf about 15 feet up, near the ceiling of the store.

“ ‘Ma'am, I'm 40 years in this business. In this birdcage is the best singer I've ever had.’

“ ‘Don't think I'm going to feel obligated to pay for something I don't want just because you're climbing up a ladder like a monkey. I want a canary, but it's got to be the best singer.’

The shopkeeper was now coming down from the ladder. “ ‘Ma'am, this bird is a veritable feathered Caruso.’

“Placing the cage on the counter, the bird burst into

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melody after melody. Awed, the woman murmured, 'this bird is really a good singer.'

"Suddenly, in a shrill scream, 'Hey what's with you? This bird's only got one leg.' The pet store owner was perturbed. 'Lady, what do you want, a singer or a dancer?'

"Isn't it a shame that she couldn't see the miracle because of her ungratefulness and extravagance?"

"Remember, when you are out on a limb, try not to cut yourself off from the very thing that is holding you up. You see this concept in action time and time again in families and marriages. Many times, the ones who love us most are the ones we cut ourselves off from. That is like winning the battle but losing the war. To do that is to oppose yourself.

"Finally, today many are cutting God out their life and lifestyle. Please don't do that. God is the ultimate Father who will never leave you or forsake you. Don't let envy, bitterness, ungratefulness or extravagance cut you off from the One who loves you the most. That is a most disagreeable alternative indeed."—Ed Delph, *Church Community Connection*, July 5, 2018.

"When God begins to destroy the nations, He will pour upon His saints the Spirit of grace. Then will they really mourn for sinning against the Lord. It is because men do not now have that spirit that their personal feelings are so easily hurt for any little thing done against them. And since the Spirit of grace causes one to mourn not for self, it is understandable that to pity oneself, and to be hurt over what others do or say against him is a sure sign that rather than being imbued with the Spirit of grace, he is imbued with the spirit of the Devil, who is daily seeking to discourage and dishearten by pitying self. Remember that self-pity is outright self-defeat. Not one of us has ever been abused as was the Lord, and yet 'self' in Him never was hurt."—1TG 9:14.

"It is not wise to look to ourselves and study our emotions. If we do this, the enemy will present difficulties and temptations that weaken faith and destroy courage. [Sawing on the branch of our faith while sitting on the down side of it.] Closely to study our emotions and give way to our feelings is to entertain doubt and entangle ourselves in perplexity. We are to look away from self to Jesus."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 249 (1905); *Mind, Character, and Personality*, Vol. 2, p. 760.

"When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the joy of heaven. No one sees the hand that lifts the burden or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see, creates a new being in the image of God."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 173.

## NEWS FROM BASHAN

**Bashan Visitors:** Brother Mark Dean with his two sons, Manoah and Manasseh, who spent several weeks with us, returned safely home to the Bahamas. Brother Mark helped with building and repair projects. The brothers will miss his knowledge and instructions at the gym. We will also miss the friendliness of Manoah and Manasseh.



## NEWS FROM THE FIELD

"May the Lord bless you as we all continue to work for the up-building of Christ's Kingdom in whatever corner of the earth He has called us to work!"

"With love and thanksgiving and appreciation for all that Bashan does to nurture and protect the flock and the undershepherds."—**Maine**

"I received the charts and the requested information.

"I am re-reading my December Newsletter. Much self-examination. It was interesting to hear of the Present Truth moving forward in St. Vincent and Ghana, and how the Lord and His Holy Spirit are working in Zambia with a wonderful harvest of tomatoes and carrots. We always grow tomatoes, some green onions, Anaheim peppers (lasts for 2 years), and brussels sprouts for the first time last year and we were blessed with a good harvest. Now we have to see how our grape vines and a new lemon tree will do. Brother Powell was very good at growing fruit! I had good crops of lemons and limes in San Diego, California. I just added rose food granules and water to the soil!

“How are things going in the Philippines now?”—**Nevada**

## WHAT REAL REFORMATION MEANS

“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.” 2 Peter 1:12.

Here are the main points taken from the Sabbath afternoon study entitled *To Survive the Coming Day of Judgment, We Need Deep Reformation*:

1. Matthew 22:37: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

2. Zechariah 8:16: Every one of us is admonished to **teach the Truth to his neighbor**, to do whatever he finds close to his hand.

3. Zechariah 8:17: Of all the things Christians need to learn, this one thing is most urgent: That they be honest with themselves and with others, that they **always speak the truth**, that they cease imagining evil against one another.

4. Matthew 7:12: Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

5. Answerer 4:92: The Bible gives no endorsement to idleness. It is the greatest curse that afflicts our world. **Every man and woman who is truly converted will be a diligent worker.**

6. 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 9:25; 10:31; 1 Timothy 2:9, 10; 1 John 2:6: The believer should recognize his body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, and that therefore he should clothe that body in neat, modest, dignified apparel. Further, that in eating and drinking and **in his entire course of conduct he should shape his life as becomes a follower of the meek and lowly Master.**

7. 1TG 7:13: **Be calm, decent, respectable**, Heaven-like beings, endeavoring to do God’s will on earth as it is done in Heaven.... We ought to **be stable, firm** in everything, lacking nothing.... **They know what they believe, and believe what they know.** Most important of all, they know that they are led by God, not by man.

8. Proverbs 17:22: **Make friends.** Be **cheerful** and **calm** at all times.

9. 1 Peter 3:15: Study Christ’s method, and be always **self-contained**—possessed of a calm, collected, controlled spirit, ready to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS OF THE PROPHETS

**Haiti:** The work commenced in Haiti shortly after Ghana. The same zeal, resources, manpower and funds were invested in this School. Brother Patrice Hilaire, a citizen and resident of Haiti, was sent to spearhead the construction, as well as to mobilize other workers and volunteers for the School. We praise God for all who worked to make this School a success in spite of the civil unrest manifested in countrywide violence, riots, kidnapping, and murder.

The land space, unlike the other Schools, is small, but sufficient to have three additional buildings. Two were designed and outfitted with cupboards and bunk beds for the incoming students, whilst the third was specifically built to secure a generator and solar system. In addition to this, the other existing building, which was used for Sabbath meetings, now has a fully functioning kitchen, an office space, classroom, and visitor accommodation. Surrounding these buildings are many fruit bearing trees, and on the remaining portions of land, they have planted other useful crops such as corn, banana trees, beans, and okra.



**Corn Plants and Banana Trees**

“...The cultivation of the land will bring a special blessing to the workers. We should so train the youth that they will love to engage in the cultivation of the soil.”—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 311.

This School is an active testimony of the Lord’s purpose, being manifest through His humble self-sacrificing servants. Haiti has suffered much loss in its development, not to mention the lives that are wasted in political strife and corruption. But the way of the Lord is

not hindered; He is bringing about His will through every believer who will in some way or the other, answer the call to do His bidding. Let us all pray to this end.

Toward the end of January, the School officially began regular sessions with four students and two teachers.



**Students and Teachers**



**Student Buildings in Haiti**



**The Multi-purpose Building In Haiti** with finishing touches of paint on the exterior. Beautiful!

“However craftily the plots of Satan and his agents may be laid, God can detect them, and bring to nought all their counsels. The response of faith today will be the response made by Nehemiah, ‘Our God shall fight for

us;’ for God is in the work, and no man can prevent its ultimate success.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 645.

### **Bioh Issac – Ghana**



I am Bioh Isaac from Ghana. I gained entrance to the School of the Prophets, located in the Eastern part of Ghana on February 7, 2021 and graduated on December 28, 2022. Initially, I had in heart and mind to be at the school for only seven months, then quit, and continue with

my worldly education, but as the days continued, the love, passion and my interest to learn and know more continued to grow. I gratefully thank God for that beautiful time in the School of the Prophets, giving me a chance to know that the keys of the kingdom are now situated at *BASHAN HILL*. What motivates me through this Christian journey, that’s always on my mind, is the promised kingdom, the crown at last, the millennium, and earth made new. These four promises strengthen my faith and encourage me to look ahead. May God continue to hold the reins in His hands at Bashan Hill and continue to strengthen Davidian Seventh-day Adventists (Membership). I also pray that we exercise our will power to reform, by taking hold of Christ and refraining from all worldliness, to become men and women wondered at. May God bless you all for your time and support to get the work done and be cut short in righteousness. Amen.

### **FIELD WORKERS’ HIGHLIGHTS**



The work continues to move forward as the Lord continues to bless His work. One of the

exciting things happening at the current time is that we are setting up our first home in Techiman, Ghana, to house graduates from the Ghana school as they begin to get experience working for the local churches. It will house five graduates and two staff members, and will be used for meetings, as needed. In addition, it will have a garden to produce fresh vegetables. It is our goal to establish these houses wherever we have schools, to provide opportunities for the graduates to take the message to the local communities.

## Alex Alcime – Haiti



I am Alex Alcime, a field worker for the DSDA Association. I live and work in the northern region of Haiti.

The Lord has blessed my efforts in the field; brothers and sisters have taken hold of the truth for this time and study groups are being

established. There are those who receive the message with great enthusiasm and determination, wanting to become a member of the DSDA, as well as others who refuse to hear and call the message fanaticism.

Sharing the truth with as many brothers and sisters as possible is my main interest because it is one of the elements of paying the price.

## Louisa Kenin – Ghana



My name is Louisa Kenin. I am presently doing field work in Accra, Ghana. I feel very honored and humbled to be a co-laborer with the Lord at this time of urgency in the work of sighing and crying. In my experience, so far, I see how much the church is

lacking spiritual power due to doubt and disbelief of the Testimonies. Also, as I make contacts, I realize that there are many in the church who have never heard about the Rod message and know very little about Sister White's writings. By God's grace, two sisters have been very open to what I have shared. Praise be to God!

Indeed, the harvest is great but the laborers are few. Let us not have any doubt or fear of being rejected by our brethren in the church. If we give ourselves wholly to the molding and leading of the Holy Spirit, I believe the Lord will do a great work in us for the church and the world.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Question:** If a Davidian passed away, is there an option to request a Davidian minister to come and perform the service?

**Answer:** Yes, Bashan can provide a minister when it is necessary and possible to do so. For further information, contact sister Claudette McGibbon, the Executive Secretary.

**Question:** My sister is married to a non-believer and she has realized it was a mistake. He is a divorcé and not interested in her beliefs at all. What advice do I give her?

**Answer:** "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth...." 1 Cor. 7:39.

She is to make the most of it. "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? Or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?" 1 Cor. 7:16.

Your sister must understand that she must not expect to have a marriage that is ideal in all respects, from a Davidian point of view. There will be difficulties and shortcomings in the marriage, but if there is no breaking of the marriage vows on his side, she should be content to live with him, and be the best wife she can be to him.

## FIVE STEPS TO BECOMING THE PERSON GOD WANTS YOU TO BECOME

1. **Do Your Part:** It is not much, but it will take every ounce of strength you have to do it.

"If we are faithful in doing our part, in cooperating with Him, God will work through us [to do] the good pleasure of His will. But God cannot work through us if we make no effort.... Let us not be deceived by the oft-repeated assertion, 'All you have to do is to believe.'"—*Review and Herald*, June 11, 1901.

"We are not to fail of doing our part. God says to us, 'Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.'"—7BC 939.

2. **Be Physically and Mentally Strong and Healthy:** "How can a nervous dyspeptic be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh him, a reason for the hope that is in him, with meekness and fear? How soon would such a one become confused and agitated, and by his diseased imagination be led to view matters in an altogether wrong light, and by a lack of that meekness and calmness which characterized the life of Christ, be

caused to dishonor his profession while contending with unreasonable men?”—*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 153.

“Since the mind and the soul find expression through the body, both mental and spiritual vigor are in great degree dependent upon physical strength and activity; whatever promotes physical health, promotes the development of a strong mind and a well-balanced character. Without health, no one can as distinctly understand or as completely fulfill his obligations to himself, to his fellow beings, or to his Creator. *Therefore the health should be as faithfully guarded as the character.* A knowledge of physiology and hygiene should be the basis of all educational effort.”—*Child Guidance*, p. 360.

**3. Be Strong Spiritually:** “Many are spiritually weak because they look at themselves instead of at Christ.... Instead of looking at ourselves, let us constantly behold Jesus, daily becoming more and more like Him, more and more able to talk of Him, better prepared to avail ourselves of His kindness and helpfulness, and to receive the blessings offered us. As we thus live in communion with Him, we grow strong in His strength, a help and a blessing to those around us.”—*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 259.

**4. Persevere:** “In perfecting a Christian character, it is essential to persevere in right doing. I would impress upon our youth the importance of perseverance and energy in the work of character building.”—*Messages to Young People*, p. 45.

**5. Sacrifice for Others’ Good:** “Many shrink at the idea of making any sacrifice for others’ good. They are not willing to suffer for the sake of helping others. They flatter themselves that it is not required of them to disadvantage themselves for the benefit of others. To such we say: Jesus is our example.”—*Testimonies*, Vol. 2, p. 31.

## IN CLOSING

### “WHO ARE WE?”

Who are we to question God’s plan?  
For He made us with His own hands.  
We are nothing compared to His name,  
Let Him lead and spare us of all the shame.

Who are we to break God’s rules?  
After He calls us His precious jewels.

Live by the commandments, a very great thing,  
And He will keep you under His wings.

Who are we to use God’s name lightly?  
At home and in public ever so proudly!  
Little do we know when we are feeling so sublime,  
We could be gone at any time.

Who are we to deny God’s existence?  
Do you think the world is a mere coincidence?  
Who do you think created you and me?  
Do not be deceived for He is our hope and much more to be.

Who are we to speak ill of one another?  
Be honest with your sister and brother.  
Do not disappoint or let down,  
For under the fire you will drown.

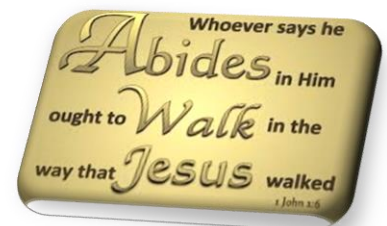
Who are we to judge?  
When we cannot see the hearts of men like God the great Judge.  
First consider the beam in our eyes,  
So our decision will be wise.

Who are we to deny the present truth  
That has come for the old and for the youth?  
Mighty destructions are in the master plan,  
So for our sake please God rather than man.

—Alia Francis, Jamaica.

Sincerely yours to follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth,

The Bashan Family



## **JOSIAH LOVED GOD'S LAW**



**2 Kings 21:26; 22:1; 2 Chronicles 34:1-33; 35:1-19**

Josiah became king of Judah when he was eight years old. In those days, the people were practicing magic and worshipping idols. When Josiah was 16 years old, he tried to learn how to worship God in the right way. When he was 20 years old, he started to destroy the idols and altars in all the land. And when Josiah was 26 years old, he arranged for God's temple to be repaired.

In the temple, the high priest, Hilkiah, found the scroll of God's Law—maybe the very scroll that had been written by Moses. The king's secretary Shaphan brought the scroll to Josiah and began to read the Law out loud. As Josiah listened, he realized that the people had been disobeying God for many years. King Josiah said to Hilkiah: 'God is very angry with us. Go and speak to him. God will tell us what we should do.' God answered through the prophetess Huldah: 'The people of Judah have left me. They will be punished but not while Josiah is king, because he has humbled himself.'

When King Josiah heard the message, he went to the temple and called the people of Judah together. Then he read God's Law out loud to the whole nation. Josiah and the people promised to obey God with all their hearts.

The nation of Judah had not celebrated the Passover for many years. But when Josiah read in the Law that the Passover should be celebrated every year, he told the nation: 'We will hold a Passover to God.' Then Josiah prepared to make many sacrifices and arranged to have a chorus of singers at the temple. Then the nation held the Passover, followed by the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which lasted for seven days. There had not been a Passover like it since the days of Samuel. Josiah really loved God's Law.

### **QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT**

How did King Josiah react when he heard God's Law?  
How did God feel about Josiah?

CIRCLE THE 7 WRONG THINGS IN THE PICTURE  
AND COLOR THE PICTURE

