



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:

Inspiration tells us that “although in one sense the first day of the new year is no more to God than any other day, yet He often puts into the hearts of His children at that time a desire to begin the new year with new resolves—perhaps with plans to carry out some worthy enterprise—and with purposes to depart from the wrongs of the old year and to live the new year with new determinations.”—*Australasian Union Conference Record*, January 5, 1914, par. 1

THE NEW YEAR

Inspiration continues this trend of the significance of a New Year.

“Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.” Ps. 90:12.

“Already has the new year been ushered in....”—*Lift Him Up*, p. 15.

“Another year now opens its fair unwritten pages before you.”—*My Life Today*, p. 5

“Decide now at the commencement of the new year, ...”—*Id.*

“Another year of life is now in the past. A new year is opening before us. What will be its record?”

“Let us enter upon the new year with our hearts cleansed from the defilement of selfishness and pride.... A new year opens its unsullied pages before us. What shall we write upon them?”

“Seek to begin this year with right purposes and pure motives, ...”—*Our High Calling*, p. 7.

“Commence the new year right.”—1T 663.

Let us begin the new year with righteous resolves, decisive determinations, and precise plans. Only with system and order, time management, and prayer will we be successful.

Remember these words that are reflected in the song, *New Day*:

“Every day is a new day
Every dawn is a new sunrise....
God made all of this just for me.”

—Jeff & Sheri Easter

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What the new year
brings to you will
depend a great
deal on what you
bring to the new year.

VERN MCLELLAN

CALLED AND CHOSEN

How exactly is the president of the Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Association (DSDA) called and chosen today?

He is chosen today the same way God has always called and chosen men, including Moses, to His service. "Today God chooses men as He chose Moses, to be His messengers" (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, p. 109). Specifically, the call comes from God to the individual. "The Davidian Seventh-day Adventists shall recognize only the Scriptural law of ordination, to wit: (1) that the call to the gospel ministry must come from God to the individual...." (*The Leviticus*, p. 10).

This is the only way for anyone to be called into the ministry and this is the way God also calls prophets, porters, and apostles. The call must come to the individual. *The Answerer*, Book 5, page 93, also makes this clear: "Any Davidian who has been called of God to study for the ministry at the Davidic-Levitical Institute, Mt. Carmel Center...."

This call must then be recognized by the Association. "...the Executive Council shall then authorize recognition of his calling...." This deals with ministers, but the principle also applies to the president, who is also a minister. That is why we say, "The Association validates the calling of the president." Bashan has followed these points correctly. Doctrinally, personally, and organizationally, this is the true and complete account of how the president of the Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Association was called.

What your questions clearly show is that you are unfamiliar with these things because you do not follow the Rod in this yourself. You follow the precept and example of Sister Houteff. You have been addicted to her false teachings for a long time. To come to his senses, an addict must first come to the point of acknowledging his mistakes. Acknowledge you have set aside all these Rod truths and procedures and substituted your own and you will then be able to start your doctrinal recovery.

Bashan teaches that the living Spirit of Prophecy is the work of the live wire (the Holy Spirit) working through the ground wire (the human being). In the phrase "living Spirit of Prophecy" the words "Spirit of Prophecy" are capitalized because they refer to God, the Holy Spirit. The word "living" refers to "living persons" and is never capitalized unless it is at the start of a sentence. The

phrase "living Spirit of Prophecy" refers to the process of Inspiration, as mentioned before. No human being should ever be called "the Living Spirit of Prophecy." Such a thought is blasphemous. The Rod teaches that "God is everything, and the men of His appointment are only His mouthpiece" (2TG 27:7).

The Rod is very clear and comprehensible on this subject and every Bashan teacher and member must carefully and wholeheartedly believe and teach the truth on it.

NEWS FROM BASHAN

We begin the new year with new ideas and new resolves for Bashan, the Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Association, the final Association, the one that is to finish the work for the church and the world. We trust that you, too, will begin the year with your own personal resolves.

Devotional: The devotional for 2023 is *Radiant Religion*, the first devotional published by the church (1946). Its theme is "Happiness in Christian Living." It is a good theme for those who are en route to the kingdom, not as a "band of mourners" (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 94) but as a happy, contented, cheerful band of Kingdom-bound saints.

We are working on our own Davidian Devotional, which we hope to print and post online for 2024.

Sabbath Afternoon Specials: We hope you have been enjoying the Sabbath afternoon specials from Bashan. We would love to hear more from you, as well. If you have a song, a poem, or an instrumental piece, the world field would appreciate hearing it.

New Xerox Machine: We praise the Lord for the new addition to the print shop equipment—a Xerox Versant 280 Press! We are now able to not only fold booklets, but trim the top, bottom, and lead edges. This enables us to produce complete booklets from one machine. We thank the Lord for the increase in efficiency and speed.



Vehicles: We also praise the Lord for the purchase of two used vehicles and a 2022 gooseneck trailer that will be hitched to the larger 2003 F450. The smaller truck, to be used around Bashan, is a 2002 Dodge Dakota. Though they are older vehicles, our crackerjack mechanic, Allen Ladd, is willing and able to fix any problems.



Seminars: Bashan conducted several year-end Seminars in several islands and countries with teachers from headquarters. All were blessed. Meet the brethren, via their photos.



Barbados Seminar Attendees



Jamaica Seminar Attendees



Antigua Seminar Attendees with Brothers Jon Dodd and Phillip Scott, Jr.



Zambia Seminar Attendees



Guyana Seminar Attendees with Brothers Davin Campbell and Richardo Smith



Some of the St. Vincent Group Seminar Attendees



Grenada Seminar Attendees



Kenya Seminar Attendees



Ghana Seminar Attendees

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Ps. 133:1.

Please remember the brethren worldwide in your prayers and especially the Schools of the Prophets. Prayers and alms are needed for the establishment, maintenance, and progress of these Schools.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

"I've not been working about a month now but would rather be working even though it seems there's always something to do—so far, anyway. I'm getting all things in place for my new role in life—retired."—Octogenarian in Illinois

"May the Lord continue to bless all who are studying this message. Help us to be kind to everyone we meet along life's pathway and do all we can to be in good health."—Western U. S.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS OF THE PROPHETS



The new property for the School of the Prophets in South Africa is located in an area called Bela Bela in the province of Limpopo. Its climate is warm year round with an average temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Flowers, sunflowers, cotton, mealies (made from corn) and peanuts are cultivated in the Bela-Bela area.

Brother Shane Stanley from Bashan went to South Africa in late November for three months to work specifically on upgrading the existing buildings, and to establish a consistent supply of water, power, and communication for the property—the preliminary work in getting the School up and running. At present, there are three young men residing at the property with him, including the first volunteer, Alpha Mokobodi. Sisters Nokuzola Ramancwana, fondly called Sister Zola, is the current cook, and Kopano Rinkwest, sister Beverly Moore's daughter, is being trained for the office work and as an all-round helper.



Sisters Kopana and Zola Brothers Alpha and Shane

FIELD WORKERS' HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome once again to the Field Workers' Highlights page. This month we have reports from more of the brethren working in Africa. The Lord is giving them success as they commit themselves to the building up of His Kingdom. Please keep them in your prayers and continue to give God the praise for all He is doing.

Shem Ontomwa Mogoi – Kenya



Christ's greetings, Brethren. My name is Shem Ontomwa Mogoi. I am from Kenya and work specifically in the Southern region, but I do engage brethren in other parts of Kenya, mostly through online platforms.

My values are honesty, hard work, and faithfulness in all my activities. My interests are preaching, reading the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy and the Shepherd's Rod, and meeting new brethren from different areas. I am grateful for this opportunity to address critical issues regarding the work in Kenya. Throughout my work, I have encountered both positive and negative experiences. One negative experience is the Wave Sheaf group that greatly affected our progress. However, we were able to reorganize ourselves and encourage the brethren that didn't fall into that trap.

We have made tremendous progress with the few available resources. Our progress can be seen from the large numbers of people who are willing to attend the seminar this year (over 70 persons). It is my prayer that the Lord will send more field workers into this part of His vineyard so that the work can continue to move forward.

Samuel Antwi – Ghana



I am Samuel Antwi, a Bashan field worker currently operating in the Ashanti region which is in the middle of the country. I have also had the opportunity to work in Zambia, Togo, and Malawi. With the advancement of modern technology, we reach out to many Adventists (SDAs) across the length and breadth of Ghana, as

well as other parts of the world. Hence, we are glad to say that many SDAs have been brought to the valley of decision. Some are unconcerned, some reject, some see the truth but sadly choose to be like Nicodemus. Nevertheless, there are several converts and groups raised up in Ghana and other parts of Africa, by His grace, and are feeding from Bashan, the only true and valid pasture for God's people today.

My encounters with different people throughout the years have provided a lot of experience, both positive and negative. Sometimes obstacles and hindrances, including hatred and opposition from the church, is like facing the giant, the lion, and the bear. However, with unflinching zeal, we are confidently pressing forward as an army with banners proclaiming the good tidings and awakening multitudes throughout Laodicea. May God continue to bless our efforts, for so shall we be wise enough to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Dodman Gideon Anatsui – Ghana



I am Dodman Gideon Anatsui, a field worker in the Southern Volta of Ghana. Adventists in the Volta are oriented by the Church leadership to regard the Shepherd's Rod message as the source of false teachings and all who represent the message are

looked upon as agents of false doctrine who must be avoided at all cost. As a result, some elders and pastors decided to take the law into their own hands to discipline me.

However, there are opportunities to locate the few honest ones. This happened only when I prayed to the Lord to lead the way. These honest ones come my way. Note! They come my way; not that I come their way. This shows that it is only the Lord who grants success in a field such as ours.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question: Should we return tithes on our gross pay?

Answer: We may do so but we are not asked to do so. And if we are not asked to do so, it is best that we do not. We return tithes on what we have (our net or take-home pay), not on what we do not have (our gross pay).

Gross pay refers to all the money your employer pays you **before** any deductions are taken out. Gross income includes wages, tips, dividends, alimony, pension, and interest.

“Let us consider for example the case of a potato grower. Say that he is *without* expense for hired labor, irrigation, rent, etc. If free from such overhead and if his gross returns are \$50 an acre, then the whole amount would be subject to tithe, which of course would be \$5 an acre. *If, however, he must operate with an overhead expense to produce his crop, then obviously such expense should be deducted from the gross value of the produce, and only the remainder tithed.* For instance, if the gross value of the crop be \$50 an acre, and the overhead expense \$10 an acre, then the net increase [which is what is left after all deductions], the amount subject to tithe, would be \$40 an acre, and the tithe only \$4 instead of \$5 an acre.

“If, on the other hand, one is a wage earner, sustaining the expense of social security, transportation to and from work, etc., then he deducts the amount of such expenses from his wages before tithing them. For example, if he receives \$100 a month wages, and if he must spend 10 cents a day, or about \$2.60 a month, for transportation, he then deducts \$2.60 from \$100, which leaves \$97.40 to tithe.

“If one's income is from rentals, then he deducts the amount spent on upkeep of the property from his untithed gross income. Thus figuring one's income, one tithes all his increase [which is what is left after all deductions].”—*4 Answerer*, p. 47.

HOW TO TURN WASTED TIME INTO GOOD USE

The message gives the following wisdom from 1TG 4:25-27 for all Davidians. These counsels not only save time but improve our characters. It is the “daily Christ-like deportment, the righteousness of Christ in one's daily life” (1TG 21:5), the wedding garment.

1. Do away with useless talking and policing others.
2. Learn to control our tongues and to keep our noses out of other people's business.
3. Do not make of yourself a tale-bearer by telling it to anyone but rather plead with the guilty one.
4. Do not make yourself a criterion for any and do not force your ideas on anyone but on yourselves.

5. Understand that no one is in debt to bring his life to anyone's standards and maxims.
6. Do not make enemies by your tongues. Make friends.
7. Do not have your feelings on your fingertips.
8. Do not end the day with no credit to be recorded on your page of Heaven's ledger.
9. Do not misinterpret other peoples' motives. Try to see and interpret everything in the right way. Give everyone a chance.
10. See the good in everyone and close your eyes to all evil.
11. Let your conversation be on the subject of promoting God's Truth for the day.
12. Think and study, and when you talk religion, by all means do not become a bore. Go on with your talk only as far as your listeners follow you.
13. Do less visiting. Much visiting is only a waste of time and a temptation to discuss the notes in the eyes of others and to overlook the beam that is in your own eye.
14. Study and learn the Truth for this time. Find out how to give a study and how to answer questions in a simple way, without having to go into a lot of history or biography.
15. Measure your words by the golden rule. If you will do to others what you would have them do to you, you will have less trouble, greater joy in life, many friends all around you, and fair sheaves for the Heavenly Garner.

IN CLOSING

Please continue to pray for all the sick and afflicted on the prayer list, the students, staff, and ongoing work at the schools of the prophets, the army of youth, and all Davidians everywhere.

“He who blames others has a long way to go on his journey. He who blames himself is halfway there. He who blames no one has arrived.”—Chinese Proverb

Sincerely yours for a blessed New Year,

The Bashan Family

GOD PROTECTED HEZEKIAH AND JERUSALEM



2 Kings 17:1-6; 18:14-37; 19:1-37; 2 Chronicles 32:1-23

The Assyrian Empire had taken over the ten-tribe kingdom of Israel. Now Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, wanted to take over the two-tribe kingdom of Judah. He began taking the cities of Judah one by one. But the city he wanted most was Jerusalem. What Sennacherib did not know was that God was protecting Jerusalem.

Hezekiah, the king of Judah, paid Sennacherib a lot of money to leave Jerusalem alone. Although Sennacherib took the money, he still sent his powerful army to attack Jerusalem. The people in the city were scared because the Assyrians were getting closer and closer. Then Hezekiah told them: 'Don't be afraid. The Assyrians are strong, but God will make us even stronger than they are.' Sennacherib sent his messenger, the Rabshakeh, to Jerusalem to make fun of the people. The Rabshakeh stood outside the city and shouted: 'God cannot help you. Don't let Hezekiah trick you. There is no god that can protect you from us.'

Hezekiah asked God what he should do. God answered: 'Don't be scared by what the Rabshakeh says. Sennacherib will not take Jerusalem.' Next, Hezekiah received some letters from Sennacherib. The letters said: 'Just give up. God can't save you.' Hezekiah prayed: 'Please, Lord, save us, so that everyone will know that you are the only true God.' God told him: 'The king of Assyria will not come into Jerusalem. I will protect my city.'

Sennacherib felt sure that Jerusalem would soon be his. But one night, God sent an angel to where the soldiers were camped outside the city. The angel killed 185,000 soldiers! King Sennacherib lost his mightiest soldiers. He had no choice but to go home defeated. God protected Hezekiah and Jerusalem, just as he had promised.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

How did God protect Jerusalem? Do you think God will protect you?

CHILDREN'S POEM AND COLORING PICTURE

Jesus, the Nice Shepherd

Jesus was a shepherd,
A nice one slim and tall.
He loved the sheep so much,
He loved them one and all.

The sheep began to know Him,
Spending time grazing the hills.
Soon they knew His voice,
And followed as He willed.

The sheep began to grow,
Stronger and lovelier every day.
They became good friends,
With their Shepherd right away.

They loved the nice Shepherd,
Who led them in pastures green,
And always gave them water,
Never once was He mean.

One by one they followed,
This nice shepherd as He led.
And they loved him as a father,
Trusting Him as they were fed.



Written by Jacquelyn K Heasley