



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:

Nonny (Anonymous), as Brother M. J. Bingham used to call him, nicely penned these words about May:

“It’s May, open your eyes to the beauty of the world.”

“It’s May, it’s time to be happy again.”

“Some folks are May and some are may not.”

May is truly the best of spring. The April showers have brought the May flowers and the soil is also ready for planting. It is the celebration of Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, and Cinco de Mayo. May is the month of National Mental Health Awareness, Physical Fitness and Sports, Asparagus, Egg, Flowers, Strawberry, and, my favorite, Eat What You Want Day, on May 11 (eat healthy and moderately).

THE 2CODE 3&4:7, 8 PROGRAM

To begin this month, we want to focus on the program Brother Houteff set up in the Code, volume 2, numbers 3, 4, pp. 7, 8, and which Bashan is now implementing.

In response to Brother Houteff’s and now Bashan’s program, someone derisively asked, “Is the Association paying for converts?” No, we are not paying for converts. But just as Brother Houteff was falsely charged with this question, so we will be falsely charged as well. True brethren will not be troubled by such dishonest attacks, but these stories will be spread far and wide as the work moves forward. Here is what the Rod says:

“Is Bro. Houteff paying for every convert brought to the S Rod from the S.D.A. denomination?”

In typical Brother Houteff parlance, he replies: “Yes, Bro.

Houteff is paying for every convert but not as purported. It costs something to carry this work and to reach the people, and therefore Bro. Houteff is paying something to accomplish this great work. However, if the questioner wants to know if Bro. Houteff is paying so much per head to anyone who brings in a convert, we say, No. Those who go to work by giving studies and creating interest he helps them with their expenses to the amount of success they have. Therefore, this divine principle gives to every believer an opportunity to go to work in the Lord’s vineyard. This rule leaves without an excuse everyone who is able to go to work, provides the ‘hire’ for every worthy laborer and sifts out those who may be following for the ‘loaves and fishes.’ Quickly find your place, my brother and my sister, for the day is far spent and ‘the night cometh, when no man can work.’—1SC 16:4.

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Peonies blossom in May

The 2Code Worker Program is being implemented by Bashan based off the crediting system that compensates a worker for tithe paying converts. Each 2Code worker operates as an independent worker who will be credited with fifty percent of the first tithe from each convert brought into the message by his efforts for up to 60 converts for five years. This is not an indefinite program. It will be implemented in accordance with the inspired instruction found in *The Answerer*, No. 5, p. 48:

“Consequently, the only right procedure is that all who engage in the work of this sealing message, report their activities to the Headquarters of the work, so that the Office may credit to them the results of their labors. And if there accrues from their efforts sufficient means to enable them to give full time to the teaching of the message, then they might be granted full time status, entitling them to a necessary living expense from the financial results of their labors.”

This program is under the direction of the Membership Department who will work together with the Treasury Department to implement and oversee the program.

The 2Code Program

Eligibility:

Everyone is eligible who has at least one of the following credentials:

- Fellowship Certificate
- Bible Teacher or enrolled in the program (to be completed within a year)
- Missionary
- Minister

Instructions:

- Each 2Code worker will report his contacts on the 2Code worker form provided by the Membership Department at membership@bashanhill.org.
- Each worker gets 50% of the first tithe of up to 60 active converts for 5 years.
- Please do not urge or pressure a new convert to pay tithes; the Holy Spirit will convict those who are truly converted to do so at the right time.
- Each new convert must have one primary worker as the person to whom the office credits. This needs to

be settled among the workers and the Membership Department.

- Tithes returned to the 2Code worker is to be used for living and field expenses; expenses are your own.
- The amount received is to be tithed.
- There is no reporting.
- We do not provide electronic equipment or devices, travel, or medical expenses.
- As a 2Code worker, no monetary gift above \$25.00 is to be accepted from any member or individual contact per year.
- A 2Code worker should not solicit any tithes, offerings, or donations from the brethren for personal benefit.

When Funds Are Sent:

- The Membership Department along with the Treasury Department will arrange for payments to be made to the 2Code worker on the 25th of each month.
- By the 25th of each month, a printed report should be made for all enrolled 2Code workers. Everyone should receive their funds by the last day of the month.
- Where amounts are very low by their standards, we will pay quarterly, in some cases.

Retroactive Pay: The 2Code worker will be paid 50% of the 1st tithe of each person who have been returning tithe starting January 1, 2022.

Hours of Work: Each 2Code worker operates as an independent contractor and can set his own hours.

Outside Work: Outside work may be an option. Since the program is based on the remitting of the tithe of a tithe paying convert, the worker's income is set, based on this system. In other words, “ten tithe paying converts will yield as much tithe as the whole income of one of them and if they can live on that much, you can, too, and if it should take **twice as much** for your living as it does for theirs, all you would need to do is to go and win ten more tithe paying souls. Then as long as you are in Christ's service and in nothing else, and as long as your twenty converts remain faithful and true tithe payers you will have a steady income. I know not of an easier way for making a living than this. Do you? Neither is there any doubt at all for having this much success in winning souls

to Christ if your hearts are right with God and if you are working for souls and for the advancement of His Kingdom instead of for "loaves and fishes" and for self-exaltation. Thus entering into Christ's service will be your credentials -- an evidence that God has approved of your conception of the truth, accepted your service, and that you have made 'your calling and election sure.' —2SC 3,4 p.7, 8.

Records: If any tithe paying convert stops remitting tithe, then no tithe is, of course, credited to the worker anymore. Each tithe payer remains to the worker's credit for 5 years, if faithful, after which he is removed and replaced by (hopefully) new converts. This record will be carefully maintained by the Membership and Treasury offices from the local level to the international level.

NEWS FROM BASHAN

Baptism: On Sabbath, April 29, Jacob Staly was baptized in the Bashan Hill chapel. Jacob has been with us for a few years as a visitor, resident, and worker. We pray that his journey with the Lord will be as if "wrapped in the love of Christ and in the 'arms' of God" (2TG 34:29), so that the enemy's darts will not distress him.



Bashan will baptize any eligible candidate for baptism whom the church refuses to baptize.



Seminar and Youth Camp 2023: Mark your calendars with these special dates and send in your reservations early. Monday, July 3 to Sabbath, July 8 for Bashan Seminar; Tuesday, July 11 to Wednesday, July 19 for the Bashan Vanguard Youth Camp.



Time Change: For the summer, when clocks move forward an hour, our new hours, central time, are: Wednesday, 7:00 pm; Friday, 7:30; Sabbath afternoon, 4 pm.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

"Sorry I'm late. I broke my wrist in two places. I am not left handed so pardon my handwriting. I have a cast for five to six weeks.

"God bless you all."—Illinois

"This spring has kept me busy with having to replace our garden sprinkler system but it will be worth the work as the summer temperatures climb here."—Nevada

SEDITION

Sedition is incitement and discontent to, resistance of, or insurrection against lawful authority or established order through overt conduct (speech, organization, protest).

We usually see sedition as against the government of a country (lawful authority, established order) but never as applicable to God's government. Paul recognized this, however, when he stated the following:

"For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:" Acts 24:5

This pestilent fellow, a ringleader of the Nazarenes, went around inciting discontent, rebellion, and insurrection.

"With one accord, Satan and his host threw the blame of their rebellion wholly upon Christ, declaring that if they had not been reproved, they would never have rebelled. Thus stubborn and defiant in their disloyalty, seeking vainly to overthrow the government of God, ...

"The same spirit that prompted rebellion in heaven still inspires rebellion on earth."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 499.

"God placed man under law, as an indispensable condition of his very existence. He was a subject of the divine government, and there can be no government without law."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 49.

“...we are sacredly denominated by God and are under His theocracy.”—7T 109.

“Those who today murmur against God’s appointed agencies, weakening the confidence of the people in them, are doing the same work that the children of Israel did. The Lord hears every murmuring word. He hears every word that detracts from the influence of those whom He is using to proclaim the truth that is to prepare a people to stand in the last days.”—*Christ Triumphant*, p. 121.

There are pestilent, rebellious fellows now, ringleaders some, inciting discontent and rebellion against God’s government at Bashan. Those with a discerning eye can easily recognize them by their overt or covert thoughts, comments, insinuations against Bashan. Beware of them, Brethren. They will not lead you closer to God, His people, His government, His Association, His pasture, or His truth. And you need to be close to God and all that He holds dear to be saved.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS OF THE PROPHETS

The School in Ghana is located in the eastern Region of Ghana in an area known as Koforidua. Being the first School of the Prophets to officially open their doors to incoming students, in 2019, the numbers were quite encouraging. A total of 16 young men applied, and all were accepted. Unfortunately, though they came with much zeal, the forested environment, yet to be built up, the school standards, unlike anything they had ever encountered, and the acts of self-denial, which was a must for their personal development, seemed too much for some, and 2 of the young men eventually left of their own accord. After these, 4 more students, being a first born, male, or only child, took leave after the first year because of family demands and traditional expectations. The remaining ten successfully completed the course of training, as they consecrated themselves to the training and discipline necessary to make their calling to this School a success, thereby glorifying the Lord.

In our early pioneering days, we prepared our meals on a three-stone fire. Our meals, study meetings and religious services were all held in the first incomplete building. Now we have a multi-purpose building which has a full size, functioning kitchen, storage area, indoor and outdoor eating areas, and three guest rooms with bathrooms as temporary lodging for guests and part-time workers. Both

past and present staff and students contribute daily to the ongoing development of the facility. The student quarters, chapel, office, male camp site, which subs as the classroom and staff quarters, have since been established in the order of necessity. The school also has an infirmary and an annex to the office for additional housing.

This School, as with the others, is not only about building up edifices, but that these buildings would afford each student an opportunity to become trained, skilled, self-supporting, self-governing, teachers, and ministers who can work with a pick and shovel in one hand whilst sharing the gospel. They study, plant, repair, construct, garden, cook, mentor, nurture, and manufacture many of the things which are needed right there at the School for its daily functioning and development. The pictures below show some of the continuous daily activities in which the students and staff participate.



The workmen continue the task of plastering the external wall of the chapel



The recent grading of the road which runs through the property

Twice annually the students visit a place they have not seen before. Their most recent outing was to the zoo, located in the capital of Accra.



The students on their way to the zoo

Richardo Smith – Jamaica



My name is Richardo Smith. It has been a wonderful, life changing blessing in accepting the message of the hour. In 2012, after I accepted the message, my family, friends, and church brethren rejected me, but John 16:1-4 (“These things

have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you”) Psalm 27:10 (“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up”) and 1Timothy 4:12 (“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”) were the most encouraging verses through the trials. Every trial needed a different amount of faith and grace.

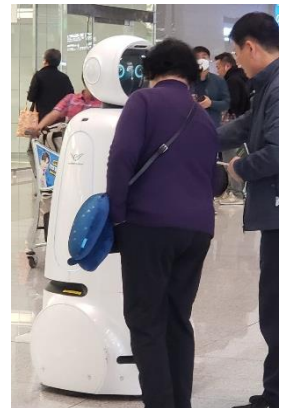
Fast forward to 2018, I was a bartender, entertainer, dispatcher, and tour guide and I longed to leave that environment. My conscience was eating me alive each day, so I prayed for the Lord to help me find other employment. In 2019 I heard Brother Trevor give a study on Gideon’s band and the Lord is needing them for His work to be accomplished. I knew in my heart at that time that the Lord was calling me into His work, so I said to myself; “why waste your youth and all your skill on that which does not profit in the life to come?” I enrolled in the School of the Prophets at Bashan in 2021. Trinidad and

Guyana were my first missions and it was a tremendous blessing to be there, spending time with the brethren. Then I was off to Ghana for training and work. I would have to write a book about the Lord’s mercies toward me. Now with the help of the Lord I’m in South Africa carrying forward the work in the School there. Praise the Lord for His continual grace and love. My encouragement to everyone is “do not flinch because the lion roars, do the work that the Lord appointed you to do. When He calls you be ready to move.”

FIELD WORKERS’ HIGHLIGHTS

THE PHILIPPINES

On April 19th, Brother Jon Dodd boarded the first of several planes taking him to the Philippines. En route he had a layover in South Korea. He noted that there are life-size robots to help travelers navigate through the airport! By God’s grace he arrived safely in Manila on Friday, the 21st.



He is there to hold regional meetings with the brethren and to provide training for our field workers, Brothers Reiljuri Lucero Nunez, Deven Maasin, Tera Bacasmo and Noel Diaz, Jr.

These four young men are receiving the training that will help them to become solid workers in the Lord’s vanguard army. Please keep them in prayer as the Lord fits them for His service.



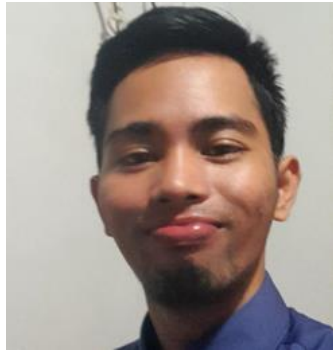
Reiljuri Lucero Nunez



Tera Bacasmo



Deven Maasin



Noel Diaz, Jr.



Youth Sabbath School

The meetings held on the 22nd of April in Luzon were well attended. It was a blessed time of studies and fellowship. Meetings were also held in Bohol on the 29th and there will be subsequent meetings in Mindanao on May 6th.

FAMILY NEWS



Baby Sarah was born to Michael and Natasha Phipps of Jamaica on October 8th, 2022. Let us pray for the family.



IN CLOSING

Our prayers go out for the sick, afflicted, weary and burdened. They also encompass the students and staff of the developed and emerging Schools of the Prophets, and all Davidians everywhere.



The beautiful iris, showcased on one wall of the office at Bashan.



The Luzon Brethren enjoying the fellowship

Sincerely yours to be hopeful, grateful, cheerful,

The Bashan Brethren

DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS OBEYED GOD



Daniel 1:1-21

When Nebuchadnezzar took the princes of Judah to Babylon, he put a court official named Ashpenaz in charge of them. Nebuchadnezzar told Ashpenaz to find the healthiest and the smartest young boys among them. These young boys would be trained for three years. The training would prepare them to be important officials in Babylon. The boys had to learn to read, write, and speak the Akkadian language of Babylon. They were also expected to eat the same kind of food that the king and his court ate. Four of these boys were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Ashpenaz gave them new Babylonian names: Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

These four boys were determined to obey God. They knew that they should not eat the king's food because God's Law said that some of it was unclean. So they said to Ashpenaz: 'Please do not make us eat the king's food.' Ashpenaz told them: 'If you don't eat and the king sees you looking sick, he will kill me!'

Daniel had an idea. He said to their guardian: 'Please give us only vegetables and water for ten days. Then compare us with the boys who eat the king's food.' The guardian agreed.

After the ten-day test, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier than all the other boys. God was pleased that they had obeyed him. He even gave Daniel the wisdom to understand visions and dreams.

When the training was finished, Ashpenaz brought the boys to Nebuchadnezzar. The king spoke with them and saw that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were more intelligent and alert than all the other boys. He chose these four to work in his royal court. The king would often ask them for advice on important matters. God had made them wiser than all the king's wise men and magicians.

QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT

Even though they were in a foreign land, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah obeyed God's law. Will you too obey God and do what is right, even when your parents are not with you?

COLOR THE PICTURE

