

Starting 2026 with great anticipation!

From: Gary Myers (gmyers242@gmail.com)

Bcc: jim.galli@frontier.com

Date: Thursday, January 1, 2026 at 08:51 PM PST

Hello all,

The new year is full of possibilities! My scripture for 2026 is, **“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”** – Hebrews 11:1. While in Haiti this past year, one conversation focused on faith and the comment was made, “if you can do it yourself, it’s not faith.” I noted that in my journal. This applies to both the tangible and intangible. I also noted three aspects of faith in this passage; 1) faith as *substance*, built on a firm foundation, 2) faith as *hope* looking forward with expectation, and 3) faith as *evidence* (conviction) trusting that unseen opportunities, provisions, blessings, and growth will unfold, even if we don’t yet see how.

Some provisions we are having faith for ...

Renovations - Banaba House Ministry Center

We are grateful for all God has already provided and see new opportunities based on some strategic renovations. We have this large fellowship area that has somehow been underused. So, I/we have been thinking through the different upgrades needed to make it more useful. Raymond mentioned the second-floor addition, (accommodation area for guests) which is now becoming a reality. I already had a vision for a training and equipping center that would be provision for Urban Poor Community Orientation and Immersion Program. This is our investment in leadership development through formative experiences for those called to the urban poor context.

The 2nd floor will have two rooms, one for guys and one for gals with a wall and door in the middle. This will add 16 sleeping spaces that will be needed when our Summer 2026 teams. We are also adding two restrooms (simple) that will have a toilet and shower. The sawali panels for the new walls and windows have arrived (traditional Filipino woven bamboo). These will frame in what was an open area to a usable function room. It will have large windows for free-flowing air.

Phasing:

Phase #1 was all the steel framing and rough in for the two bathrooms. *This is finished and paid for.*

Phase #2 includes all the bamboo flooring on the second floor, the walls and windows, and finish work on the two bathrooms. *Outstanding need is around \$2800.*

Phase #3 includes the new perimeter bamboo walls, raising our lower hollow block wall to stave off flooding, and assorted fixing in all our structures. *Estimated need will be around \$4200*

Your help in these needs is appreciated.

Online giving:

[Gary Myers - First Love International](#)

2026 Scheduled Mission Guests

- **Cityline Bible Church** - This group will be under the leadership of Job Hammond. He is from Cityline Bible Church, Niles, IL where he serves as the Global Missions Coordinator.
- **USA/Philippines, and Cambodia** - This group will be a collaborative between Simple Church and Bible Bound/Community Bible Church (OR) hosting a team from New Life Fellowship, Phnom Penh [New Life Fellowship Cambodia](#) | [Cambodia Churches, NGO, Children, Jesus in Cambodia](#) . Ptr Pheareak is their team leader.
- **29 Day Immersion Program** - we have one gal, Anna, planning to come for the 29 Day Immersion experience.
 - February
- **SEND International: Member Orientation Program (MOP)** - we have been asked by SEND to facilitate an urban poor community orientation for their incoming missionaries. This will be a four hour experience where we will do a community walk-about followed by discussion about: 1) concepts of culture and worldview and discuss how being a humble cultural learner can aid missionaries in their goal of sharing the gospel and ministering cross-culturally. 2) examine personal behavioral preferences (cultural values), and identify causes, symptoms, and cures for the cultural stress that is produced when our own cultural norms collide with another culture, 3) review the importance of serving in harmony with those of other cultures, and discuss some of the points of stress that they will experience in relationships with those of other cultures.
- **Ptr Colton and his daughter Haddie** - from Sweet Home, River of Life Church. This a special occasion as Haddie feels a call to missions at just eight years old. Her Dad, Ptr Colton, promised her a mission trip. She is coming to be with us. She will be our youngest guest, and we are excited to partner with God as he guides us through this formative experience that will add more clarity and direction for Haddie. They will be with us for five days.

Prayer Points:

In this season, our prayers are focused on the preparations God is putting before us at our ministry center as we anticipate the arrival of guests that he is entrusting to our care for these formative experiences among the urban poor. Our ministry center is a hub of activities that partner with the neighborhood ministries.

1. For the financial needs of our renovation projects.
2. For the people God is directing our way for formative experiences as they enter the urban (materially) poor neighborhoods.
3. For discernment as we interact with each one as we go around.
4. For Anna as we confirm her 29 Day Immersion
5. For the planning that is underway for the two larger groups arriving in June and July 2026
6. For the neighborhoods we are currently in, and the ones God is adding.

In closing, I am reminded of another key scripture that we are committed to, **"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."** John 1:14 (MSG) Building bridges of relationship. This means, moving into the neighborhood - just like Jesus did. We do life among those we serve, sharing life, listening deeply, and embodying grace and truth in every moment. We're not just delivering a message, - we're becoming it.

Praying, believing,

Gary ... and for all of us at Community of Simple Churches



Renovations_Banaba House Ministry Center_2025.docx
2.8 MB



Renovations_Banaba House Ministry Center_2025.pdf
559.1 kB