

**Banaba House update ...**

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Dear Family & Friends,

Our "pause" ...

"He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark." Psalm 91:4. This is a nice picture of where I feel I have been as well as Banaba House Ministries these last months as we have been in a *pause*. I'm sure each one of you have had those seasons where you just need stop, let the dust settle, find your bearings, confirm your way, and carry on. What could be better than to pause and wait on the Lord. And this verse is so special because if, under his wing, we are protected and very near to his heart beat. It allows us time to reflect on our ordered steps while He gives us insights into his directed path for us.

"He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul". Psalm 23:2-3. This is also a wonderful picture of God's tender care. I think we have no choice but to *pause* if we are to experience; laying down in green pastures, being lead by still waters, having our souls restored. Again, this has been our season individually and as a mission family. Life, especially in this context, can be full of chaos, conflicts, challenges, and spiritual warfare. And in the end, our souls become weary, frayed, and in need of rest. God is also faithful to lead us into rest if we will yield to him.

Ordered steps ...

We talk about these often at BHM, "The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord: and he delights in his way." Psalm 37:23. Some steps are easy, especially when they are in a somewhat familiar place. But what about those steps that take us into an entirely unfamiliar place? Henry Blackaby writes in Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God, "You can not go with God and remain where you are". I also say, it is a great adventure the other side of yes! What a precious opportunity we have had a continue to have in helping our dear young adults here at BHM find clarity for next steps and courage to take them.

Directed paths ...

As those individual steps are taken, in time, you begin to recognize a path, "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths". Proverbs 3:6. Many of you can probably reflect back to moments where you finally recognized, this is the direction, the path I should travel down: work, school, new location, new relationships, new opportunities. My Dad would say when we are younger, "you can't steer a parked car". Well, true enough! Once that vehicle is rolling it finds direction, it navigates turns, going up hills, down hills, over various terrains, fast or slow, but all in a direction and on a path.

Confirming your way ...

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there". I could write pages on lessons learned, both good and not so good, but in the end, here are a few observations. To find that road and to remain on that road through out life will require far more than what Banaba House Ministries can ever offer our community young adults. We are always talking sustainability in the urban poor community context, things that last. I will confess, I have been focused on programs and projects, but the two things that will promise success are finding Christ and connecting with the Church. You know, I believed that before, but in these communities of desperate need, Jesus is the only long-term answer. And his Bride, the church, is a provision so that we are never alone. It's like being under the wing of the heavenly Father, safe in his tender care. Yes, we can teach and train, send you to school and workshops, and we do and will continue to, but without the Lord, you'll be minus the one relationship that will sustain you as you go from life to life.

Roadmap ...

Going forward, we will be taking it a step at a time as we recognize even new paths for BHM. But for now, I can say we are working on what we can Roadmap for each one of our BHM participants. This is specific to career path development and in the end we want them to get a job! Not sure that initially sounds so missionary, but I see our life work as an act of worship as we do all unto God and for his glory. What they need are jobs so that each one can have the satisfaction of providing for themselves and helping their families. Work is also healing as you find dignity and worth through using your gifts talents, and abilities.

Simple Church Family Camp ...

Pictured in the attachment are our current Roadmappers. We try each year to see that our BHM participants go with us to our Simple Church Family Camp. This is coming up end of March and is a very special time for everyone. I am requesting for enough sponsors to send 15-20 Roadmappers as well as five BHM Team members at \$50 a piece. This is for two nights and three days; Bible teaching, prayer and devotions, swimming, great food, games, and plenty of church family bonding time at a retreat center. If you are interested in sponsoring one or more, please give or send money/check to my Mom or Dad (Ralph & Clarene) at 29784 Bartels Creek Dr, Lebanon, OR 97355, or, Gary Myers, PO Box 1713, Albany OR 97321. Please make checks payable to Gary Myers w/Memo: Simple Church Family Camp.

Step by step, lives are finding clarity and direction, paths to travel down.

Thanks for all your love and support!

Gary and your Banaba House family