



# ADVENTURE JOURNAL

JANUARY 2023

---

*Living the Adventure Ministries seeks to work for the transformation of the world through the awakening of the Church, evangelistic preaching, and Christian people putting their faith into action through mission experiences around the world.*

---

## Connect to Living the Adventure Ministries

Facebook: [facebook.com/matt.henson.56](https://www.facebook.com/matt.henson.56)

Facebook: [facebook.com/livingtheadventure](https://www.facebook.com/livingtheadventure)

Twitter: [@livingadventure](https://twitter.com/livingadventure)

Instagram: [hensonadventure](https://www.instagram.com/hensonadventure) and [ltaministries](https://www.instagram.com/ltaministries)

Website: [livingtheadventure.net](https://www.livingtheadventure.net)

Email: [matt@livingtheadventure.net](mailto:matt@livingtheadventure.net) Phone: 618-830-6670

## Trust and Obey

Several years ago, I read Bob Roberts, Jr.'s book *Transformation* where he writes, "For some strange reason today, instead of being a power source, prayer is the excuse for not doing anything, always 'waiting on God' to do something, but it never happens. 'Wait' always wants more information..." (Page 131).

In a similar vein, Martin Luther King, Jr. in his Sermon "The Misuse of Prayer," states, "Although prayer is native to man, there is the danger that he will misuse it. Although it is a natural outpouring of his spirit, there is the danger that he will use it in an unnatural way." King goes on in his sermon to mention that one of the ways we misuse prayer is that we "make prayer a substitute for work."

In Exodus 14:14 we read, "The Lord will fight for you, you need only keep still." This seems an invitation for us to "wait for the Lord," which in many ways it is. Yet just one verse later the Lord speaks to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving! Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground" (vs. 15-16).

In prayer we trust the situation, struggle, request, etc. to the Lord with the mind of preparation to be obedient when God tells us to move. The hymn *Trust and Obey* comes to my mind when the chorus proclaims,

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

We are made for prayer and prayer is made for us. We need to find the balance of praying without acting and praying while acting. God calls us in prayer to wait upon Him, while being prepared to move when He tells us to move.

**Prayer: Lord, I wrestle with finding balance between activity and waiting. I need your balance in my life. I want to spend time in the waiting of prayer, while being active when you call me to move. Help me, Lord! I love you. I want to Trust and Obey. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

## Flood Recovery Trip

On March 12-18, Living the Adventure Ministries is leading a team to Eastern Kentucky to assist in the ongoing recovery following the torrential rains that flooded the area in July 2022. You are invited to participate in this team. We are still looking for people who feel called to serve on a mission team. This domestic opportunity is our response to God's call on Living the Adventure Ministries to be a domestic and international mission ministry.

We will leave Sunday afternoon and travel to Eastern Kentucky where we will be staying in a church's Family Life Center. We will work Monday-Friday and return home on Saturday. Our accommodations during the trip will be sleeping on air mattresses in the Family Life Center. There are bathrooms and a shower house at the church. We will prepare our meals in the Family Life Center. We will have work available to us in the areas of construction, painting, cleaning out, sorting materials, and working in the local mission store. We could also use people who would serve as cooks for our team.

The cost for the trip is \$350 per person which will cover transportation, lodging, and food. Anyone interested in traveling with our team or has questions is asked to contact Matt ([matt@livingtheadventure.net](mailto:matt@livingtheadventure.net) or 618-830-6670).

## Family Update

Micah has started a new internship with MotoRad in Mt. Carmel. He has decided on attending Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green to further his education beginning Fall 2023. Judah has made his college selection and plans to attend University of Southern Indiana beginning in Fall 2023.

## The Riggings

Several years ago I set out to provide a weekly email entitled "Riggings." The goal of Riggings was to provide tools for the adventure of following Jesus. Just as the riggings of ropes and equipment are necessary for sail boating and climbing, we need "equipment" for our adventure with Jesus. These riggings include devotion, Bible study, encouragement, and invitation.

The Riggings email goes out each Monday afternoon and we want you to receive it. You can sign up for the Riggings on our website: [www.livingtheadventure.net](http://www.livingtheadventure.net) or by sending your email address to Matt via text or email (618-830-6670 or [matt@livingtheadventure.net](mailto:matt@livingtheadventure.net)).

## Contribution Receipts

We are thankful for each person who financially invests in Living the Adventure Ministries. It is through your generosity that we can travel around the world to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to provide encouragement and support to people who live in difficult situations. As a 501(c)3 organization, we are required to send receipts to each person who has made a financial contribution to the ministry in the past year. We will send the receipts the week of January 22, so please be watching for them in your mail. If you have contributed in 2022 and do not receive a letter and receipt, please contact Matt ([matt@livingtheadventure.net](mailto:matt@livingtheadventure.net) or 618-830-6670).

## Mission Opportunities

As I look back over my life, I realize time and again how God placed me in certain positions to teach me and prepare me for future leadership. In 2003, when I made my first mission trip experience, I could not understand how God would use the next 20-years to establish an international mission ministry. Yet, over the past 20-years, I have led 41 mission trips domestically and internationally and in 2023, I have four trips already scheduled.

Earlier in the *Adventure Journal* you read about the upcoming trip to Eastern Kentucky. This year, I will also be leading a team to Guyana, South America on July 27-August 6. The focus of our trip will be to continue to expand our relationship with the Caribbean Methodist Church in Guyana, while leading an Arts Camp for children and youth. The Arts Camp will serve as an opportunity for us to engage students in an area of study that taps into their creative side. We will teach art skills, while sharing the Gospel with the students in attendance. The Art Show at the end of the week will seek to engage the parents and community where once again the Gospel will be shared. There will be opportunities for other areas of service throughout the week for the team, as we work with the local church to discover projects in the community and in the local church.

Another trip experience this year will be a trip to India on September 24-October 12. This trip will be a mix of tourism, spiritual growth, and mission experience. As part of the trip, you will experience the Sat Tal Christian Ashram, where you will find rest and experience of God in a retreat setting.

If you would like to know more about these trips, contact Matt ([matt@livingtheadventure.net](mailto:matt@livingtheadventure.net) or 618-830-6670).

## Night of Prayer and Praise Report

Once again, the Night of Prayer and Praise was a powerful experience of the Holy Spirit at work in people's lives. We witnessed people receiving freedom from burdens, struggles, and disease, and we heard testimonies of God's healing from last year's Night of Prayer and Praise experience. We want to take the Night of Prayer and Praise to new locations in 2023. If your church or community would like to host a Night of Prayer and Praise, please contact Matt ([matt@livingtheadventure.net](mailto:matt@livingtheadventure.net) or 618-830-6670). Keep watching our Facebook Page and Website for information about additional locations.

## Make Disciples

A familiar passage to many people is the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20. As I was thinking about this passage recently, I read Eugene Peterson's paraphrase from *The Message*. Peterson paraphrases this passage: "Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

God has been placing a challenge in front of me over the past year or so to consider how I am living into this calling to "make disciples." I can see how God uses the events where I preach to "make disciples," yet I wonder about the ongoing work of making disciples in my "as you are going" daily life and in my creating content to share through publications, social media, and other platforms.

In 2023, I seek to focus more on discipleship in obedience to God's call to use the platforms He has given to me to share His love, mercy, and grace, while inviting people to live the Kingdom of God way of life. As I approach this challenge in my life, would you be willing to share your experience with discipleship in your own personal adventure with Jesus? Did someone in your life come alongside you to intentionally disciple you? If so, who? Or, has your discipleship adventure been more "find your own way" where you have picked up nuggets along the way to help you grow in Christ? Finally, are you actively and intentionally discipling someone who is growing in Christ? If so, how did you create this relationship and what resources (if any) are you using?

## Upcoming Events

We are working on scheduling events for 2023. Contact us to plan an event.

Jan. 20-22 West Virginia Wesleyan College Christian Ashram  
Feb. 17-20 California Winter Christian Ashram  
March 12-18 Eastern Kentucky Mission Trip

## Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is a great way to support Living the Adventure Ministries while shopping on Amazon. We are registered with Amazon Smile as an organization you can support through Amazon Smile. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select Living the Adventure Ministries as your organization you are supporting. Each time you shop on Amazon, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to shop. We receive a percentage of your purchases in support of our ministry.