



# ADVENTURE JOURNAL

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*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.*

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## Connect to Living the Adventure Ministries

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

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

### Gardener for Jesus

When I attended community college, I was the student worker for the life-science professor. Part of my responsibility was to oversee the greenhouse in preparation for our annual spring plant sale. The professor gave me his expectations of what I was responsible to do each week. Mostly it was to make sure the plants were sufficiently watered. This meant making sure they did not have too much water or too little water. I quickly discovered I did not have the greenest of thumbs and I was not able to easily tell if the plant was sufficiently watered.

Over the years, I have purchased plants and seeds to put in a flower bed, garden, or flowerpot. I tend to be the grunt laborer, while Nancy gives the guidance on proper placement, adequate water, and any needed food for the plant. I enjoy seeing and smelling the flowers when they bloom and seeing the enjoyment of people when the fruit/vegetable that is produced is consumed. Yet, I am not a master gardener or even a good recreational gardener...I have a "brown thumb."

As farmers and gardeners are actively planting their fields, gardens, and flower beds, it reminds me of Jesus' tendency toward agronomic explanations for discipleship and our growth in Christ. Paul picked up on this imagery as well when he wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:6-9:

*I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building. (NLT)*

Our calling as followers of Jesus is to sow and plant the seed of God's Word as we walk along in our lives. We are called to tend the seed that is sown and planted with the hope and prayer that growth will come to the seed. We

are not in charge of the growth—that is God's job. We are also not responsible for all the fields, but the fields where God has placed us and called us to plant. This brings to light the beauty of our variety and uniqueness of churches and personalities to work in the fields. Jesus said after his interaction with the Samaritan woman in John 3:35-38:

*You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! You know the saying, 'One plants and another harvests.' And it's true. I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest." (NLT)*

Where is God calling you to a life of discipleship where you are sowing and planting seed? Where is God calling you to a life of discipleship to water and tend the seed? How are you prepared for the harvest? Are you willing to work alongside other gardeners to work in the fields where there is need for harvest?

No matter if you have a "green thumb" or a "brown thumb," we are called to plant, sow, water, tend, and harvest—God brings the growth.

**Prayer: Thank you for calling us to sow, plant, water, and harvest the fields. When we feel weak or we try to bring the growth in our own power, remind us that you are the one who brings growth in the seed and in our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Preparing to Travel

The month of June serves as a season of preparation for me as I approach a busy travel schedule over the next five months. In the next five months, I will travel to Canada on two occasions, eight different states, South America (Guyana), Africa (Malawi), and Asia (India). I will reside for periods of time in seven different time zones and will spend multiple hours in airports. IT IS SO EXCITING!!!

I covet your prayers as I prepare and as I travel. Also, pray for me as I write sermons, presentations, and devotions for each of these opportunities. I plan to give updates during my travels, so if you are not already following Living the Adventure Ministries on Facebook or Itaministries on Instagram, go "Like" or "Follow" our ministry sites.

Finally, pray for my family as I travel. I am truly blessed with a family who is part of this ministry and I am grateful for their support of my travels. Pray for my times at home to be filled with quality time and renewal for our relationships.

## India Trip

The window for joining me in India this year has closed, but the plan is for me to return to India again next year. If you have interest in traveling to India for a discipleship and tourism experience, the 2024 Trip is tentatively scheduled for September 24-October 11. There will be opportunities to witness the beautiful Taj Mahal and Maharaja palace, while also learning about the ministry of E. Stanley and Mabel Jones. You will experience a week-long Christian Ashram at Sat Tal Christian Ashram, where you will worship Jesus and experience the Kingdom of God in miniature with brothers and sisters from around India. If you have interest in traveling with me in 2024, please contact me soon ([matt@livingtheadventure.net](mailto:matt@livingtheadventure.net) or 618-830-6670).

## Family Update

School is out for the summer. Judah graduated from Edwards County High School on Saturday, May 21. He graduated with honors and will continue his education at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Indiana studying Graphic Design.

Micah graduated from Wabash Valley College with an Associates in Science and Art, and an Associates of Applied Science in Radio and Television Broadcasting. Micah graduated with highest honors and will continue his education at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky pursuing a double major in Broadcast Meteorology and Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies.

Isaiah completed his sophomore year and Sarafina completed second grade.

## Upcoming Events

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

June 8-10 IGRC Annual Conference (Display)  
June 25 Clay City, Bethel, Harmony UMC Pulpit Supply  
July 7-8 British Columbia Christian Ashram  
July 9 All Saints Community Church (Crescent Beach, BC)

## Website

We are working to bring our website up-to-date to share the ministry story of Living the Adventure Ministries. Please take a look at the updated website ([www.livingtheadventure.net](http://www.livingtheadventure.net)) and let us know what you think. We want the website to provide updates to what is happening in the ministry, while providing reports of how the Holy Spirit has been at work in and through our ministry.

## Join Us for Our Celebration

Come join Living the Adventure Ministries on Saturday, September 23, as we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit through our ministry around the world. The Celebration Banquet is a great time of reconnecting with our partners in ministry (that is YOU) and to share our vision for the next year. The evening is filled with a great meal, wonderful worship, and a devotion and report. We are blessed to announce that Joyful Noise will join us again this year to lead our time of worship. We are also working to secure a guest speaker for our event.

The Celebration Banquet will be on September 23 at 6pm at West Salem Trinity United Methodist Church in Mount Vernon, Illinois. There is no cost for the meal. Mark the date on your calendar and join us for a great evening of celebration and worship.

## Guyana Trip

The Living the Adventure Ministries Guyana Trip will feature an Arts Camp for children and youth. We are working on the schedule and the supply needs for this trip. We will travel July 27-August 5 and there are four of us traveling (Matt, Micah, Judah, and Isaiah). Please pray for our trip preparations. We will share the list of needed supplies through several social channels in the coming weeks. Keep your eyes open for the list in our *Riggings* email, our Facebook and Instagram pages, and in next month's *Adventure Journal*. Finally, pray for our team member fundraising efforts, as the team is three of my boys and me.

## Grateful

I am grateful for each person who prays for Living the Adventure Ministries and for my family. The knowledge of people praying for me as I travel and as I prepare is a great encouragement. I can sense your prayers and know the Lord is always with me.

I am also grateful for your ongoing financial support of our shared ministry. You are a true blessing to us. We are grateful for each investment we receive and know there is fruit being borne as a return on your investment. Thank You!

## Prayer Team

Thank you for your ongoing support of Living the Adventure Ministries. Your prayers are much appreciated as I prepare for speaking engagements and plan for mission trips. I am grateful for each person who is part of our Prayer Team. The Prayer Team receives a weekly email with different prayer requests and information about where I am traveling. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Team, email your information to [matt@livingtheadventure.net](mailto:matt@livingtheadventure.net).