



# ADVENTURE JOURNAL

JULY 2023

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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

## Work and Rest

My family was recently on vacation in Michigan. Nancy's dad owned a house in the little village of Lexington for many years and upon his death, this home became the possession of Nancy and her siblings. Lexington sits on Lake Huron and served for many years as an escape for people from the cities to come for cool and relaxation during the sweltering hot summers. There are no major attractions within one-hour and thirty minutes, so there is a lot of time spent playing, dominoes, board games, pickleball, soccer, wiffle ball, reading, drawing, writing, etc.

The stepping out of the busyness of life and entering a time of rest, recreation, and renewal is difficult in our fast-paced lives. Henri Nouwen in his book *Making All Things New* writes, "Our lives seem like over-packed suitcases bursting at the seams. In fact, we are almost always aware of being behind schedule" (23). It seems in our being behind schedule and our suitcase being overpacked, we tend to seek ways to escape the inner turmoil, busyness, and the feeling of being overwhelmed. We, like the plate spinner, tend to not want the plates to drop, so we don't know where to begin on finding rest, renewal, and refreshment during the struggle. We feel like we are too busy to add rest to our lives.

God built into us a need for rest and renewal. Our bodies are made for a rhythm of work and rest. We must make it a priority to step out of the stream of busyness and experience the power of rest. Charles Hummel in his book *Tyranny of the Urgent* writes, "When we stop long enough to think about it, we realize that our dilemma goes deeper than shortage of time; it is basically a problem of priorities." Jesus invites us to come out of the scurry of more "to do" and sit with him for a while. In Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Are you taking time to rest, relax, and renew in your daily life? Are you experiencing the powerful rhythm of work and rest? Do you hear the beckoning and invitation of

Jesus to come to him for rest? Take time today (and every day) to experience the beautiful rhythm of work and rest and discover God's presence with you as you prioritize rest and renewal in your daily life.

**Prayer: Lord, I am busy. I confess I have prioritized work to meet the expectations of success in today's culture. Forgive me and open my ears to your beckoning and invitation to come to you for rest. I need your rest and renewal in my life. Thank you for your faithfulness. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

## Using Our Gifts in Guyana

As you receive this Adventure Journal, Micah, Judah, Isaiah, and I are in Guyana, South America on a mission trip. We are excited to return to continue our mission to the community. We felt the Lord's calling last year to return to host an art camp for youth, so on Monday-Thursday while we are there, Judah will be teaching children and youth how to draw images tied to the story of Adam and Eve, Moses, Jesus, and the Revelation imagery about heaven. I will share a devotion each day, while Isaiah and Micah will be leading games. We plan to do the camp in one church for two days and then lead the same camp at another church for the other two days.

Also, Bishop T. Kofia Nials invited us to consider a training for pastors and leaders. We have plans to teach pastors and leaders on Friday, August 4 about the use of media, the arts, and social media in the local church. Pray for us as we prepare to teach this session. We know this is a great opportunity for Micah to use his media skills and for Judah to use his art skills to start a conversation with local churches in Guyana on how to use all the senses to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We depart on Thursday, July 27 at 9:29am and will arrive in Guyana at 11:17pm. Please pray for our travels as we will be tired when we arrive in Guyana and will still need to travel about 1.5 hours to Pastor Badette's home. Also, this is Isaiah's first time flying, so join us in prayer for him. We will try to keep everyone updated on our trip through the LTA Facebook Page.

## India Trip

I will be traveling with one other person to India September 24-October 11. I am excited to get back to India where I have not been able to travel since 2019.

We are already working on our plans for the 2024 trip. 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 can 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).

## Riggings Email

Each week, Living the Adventure Ministries sends a devotion email entitled "The Riggings" to the subscribers of our email communications. If you are not receiving "The Riggings" in your inbox, consider signing up today on our website, or you can send your email address to [matt@livingtheadventure.net](mailto:matt@livingtheadventure.net) or text it to 618-830-6670 and we will add you.

The theme for the August Riggings will be "Peace."

## Join Us for Our Celebration

In Luke 9:10a, we read, "When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done." The responsibility and accountability found in reporting is best understood as part of the rhythm of ministry. As I go throughout the world to proclaim "Jesus is Lord" and seek to work with our brothers and sisters in villages, towns, and cities to meet the needs of people, it is important for me to return to the people who support Living the Adventure Ministries to celebrate what the Holy Spirit is doing.

For twelve years, Living the Adventure Ministries has hosted a Celebration Banquet at the end of the summer/early fall. We want to invite you to attend this year's Celebration Banquet on Saturday, September 23 at West Salem Trinity United Methodist Church. The meal and program will begin at 6pm and we will be done by 8:15. The evening is filled with wonderful food, fellowship, worship, and sharing the story of where Living the Adventure Ministries has been over the past year. We will also share some exciting upcoming events, as we continue to witness God's work in and through this ministry.

Please RSVP to [matt@livingtheadventure.net](mailto:matt@livingtheadventure.net) or 618-830-6670 (text message or call). We would love for you to join us!

## Upcoming Events

We are working on scheduling events for 2024. Contact us to plan an event.

July 27-Aug 5 Guyana Mission Trip  
August 10-13 New Brunswick Christian Ashram  
August 17-19 UCAI Board of Director's Meeting  
August 22-Sept. 2 Malawi, Africa  
Sept. 8-9 Minnesota Christian Ashram  
Sept. 17 West Salem Trinity UMC 150th Anniversary

## Suitcase is Packed

Over the past month my travel and ministry schedule has picked up as I traveled to Michigan for family vacation and then traveled to British Columbia, Canada where I spoke at the British Columbia Christian Ashram and at All Saints Community Church (The Anglican Mission in Canada) in Crescent Beach. After returning home for four days, I traveled to Tar Hollow State Park in Hocking County, Ohio for the Mid-States Moravian Youth Camp. It was an amazing week of focusing on Mark 12:30-31. The students and staff responded well to the program entitled "Target Life."

I enjoy worshiping and studying God's Word with people from a variety of Christian denominations. God has truly blessed us with a great nuance of stories and experience shared in unique ways. I give God thanks for the opportunity to get to know brothers and sisters in Christ from different denominations.

Thank you for your prayers for my travel and continue to keep me in your prayers as I will be traveling to Guyana, New Brunswick, Indiana, Kentucky, and Oklahoma over the next thirty days.

## Update on Nancy

Nancy's leg has healed and she has started physical therapy to awaken the ligaments and muscles which were not used during her time of non-weight bearing. She is slowly regaining strength in her leg and finding a proper gait in her walk. Please pray for the pain she still experiences and the fact that the recovery seems to be causing a Lupus/RA flare-up and she is experiencing increased inflammation and pain in other areas of her body. Thank you for your continued prayers.

## Blessed By You

At the end of June, I had the opportunity to preach at the Trinity Charge near Clay City. The three churches (Harmony, Bethel, and Clay City) play a major role in my spiritual life, as we lived in Clay City during my high school and community college career and my dad pastored these three churches (along with two others who have sadly closed over the years). The members of these congregations invested in me, and it was great to see each of them. It was also great to see my fifth-grade teacher, Becky McGrew and my Chemistry/Physics/Calculus Teacher, Lynn Van Dyke.

I was reminded once again how blessed I truly am to have people who invested in me and are still investing in me through supporting Living the Adventure Ministries with prayer and financial investment. Thank you for each person who invests in this ministry and daily prays for our work around the world. Without you, this ministry would be impossible. I look forward to sharing more stories in the coming weeks as God opens doors in a variety of places.

## 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).