



# 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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## Pure Heart

Gaining access to someone who is famous can be a lot of work. Whether it is purchasing a backstage pass for a famous singer or going through the process of background checks and applications to visit a world-leader, work must be done. If the access is granted, we spend time in preparations to assure we have the book or the shirt we might want autographed. We pick out what we will wear, which may require a shopping trip to get the right clothes. The day of the meeting, we spend time primping and prepping so we can look our best. We look our best in hopes of making an impression on the famous person or leader.

In some ways, this same pursuit summarizes the way we come to "see Jesus." There is a lot of work as we try to do more in hopes of gaining an audience. We believe we have to go to the right place (church/camp/retreat) or we have to wear the correct clothes or we have to give the right amount of money. We pursue God with our minds and with our stuff, yet we miss the importance and supremacy of our heart.

In Matthew 5:8 Jesus says, "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*" The answer to "see God" is not the actions we take as much as the transformation of our heart and the surrender of our lives to seek holiness and righteousness. The author of Hebrews picks up on this same sentiment in Hebrews 12:14, "*Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which one will see the Lord.*"

In Psalm 24:4-6, the Psalmist writes, "*Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.*" The pure heart seeks the Lord with her whole being and desire. The pure heart is transformed and made new. From this transformation the desire to see the Lord leads us to the places where we experience the power of God. Whether that is sitting in quiet devotion or vibrant worship; whether in a small group Bible Study or the music festival. When our hearts are pure and seeking the Lord, we see the Lord.

Is your heart pure? Are you trying to see the Lord, only to realize the actions you take are not the beginning but it is the pure heart?

**Prayer: Lord, purify my heart. I want to see you as I move about in my day. When I am quiet in your presence and when I am standing with others in worship to you. I want to see you as I serve in ministry and listen to the pain and hurt of our world as I sit with friends and as I meet new people. I want to see you, Lord. Amen.**

## Family Update

The 2023-2024 school year is winding down for the Henson family. Isaiah completed his Junior Year, while Sarafina completed her third grade year. Isaiah will be inducted into the National Honor Society on May 14, and he recently participated in Dinner Theater where he was part of the Show Choir and performed dinner music.

Judah and Micah completed their Freshman and Junior years, respectively at university. Judah, as part of his participation in the University of Southern Indiana Chamber Choir, recently performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City. He also was part of the USI Jazz Band in the Spring Semester. Micah was chosen for an award in the Broadcasting Department of Western Kentucky University for his hard work and dedication to the program. Micah is interning at WBKO in Bowling Green, Kentucky this summer as part of their on-air team.

Elijah celebrated his 25th Birthday on May 5. It was good to be with him to celebrate as we were all gathered at a family wedding in Georgia.

## Devotion Email

Weekly on Tuesday, Living the Adventure Ministries shares a devotion and prayer focus for the week. In May, we will be wrapping up our focus on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. In June, we will be studying Discernment and Decision-Making. If you are not receiving this weekly devotion, you can sign up on our website: <https://bit.ly/3WvJETM> or you can email Matt ([matt@livingtheadventure.net](mailto:matt@livingtheadventure.net)) and provide him your email address.

## Guyana Ministry

The Methodist Church has a deep history and tradition within Guyana. According to the Guyana Methodist District website:

*The British Methodist Church came to Guyana (British Guiana) in 1802, when two lay persons, freed slaves, William Claxton and William Powell, came from Nevis in the British West Indies and began preaching the Gospel in the capital city of Georgetown.*

*The first Methodist Minister to arrive in the country was John Hackshaw, sent from England by Dr Thomas Coke in 1805. He was immediately deported by the then Governor Beaujon for fear that he would preach, convert, organize and educate both slaves and ex-slaves. It was not until 1814 that a British Minister was finally allowed to return.*

*Methodism in Guyana continued under the British Methodist Church until 1967, when the autonomous Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) was established.*

The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) includes Guyana, Jamaica, Bahamas, Turks & Caicos Islands, Belize, Honduras, Leeward Islands, Panama, Costa Rica, Haiti, and the South Caribbean. We have worked with the MCCA since 2010 when we first traveled to Haiti. We are pleased to continue our partnership with the MCCA as we travel to Guyana on June 24-July 2. Our team consists of three people (Matt, Judah, and Isaiah).

We will be working in the Mahaica Circuit, which consists of eight churches who will gather in one worship experience on June 30 as we celebrate Home and Family Sunday. As part of the day, the team will speak about Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. Guyana has one of the highest per capita suicide rates in the world. It seems the heritage of Jonestown and the Jim Jones Peoples Temple massacre continues to live on in the country. It is our hope to have open conversations with the congregation about the importance of mental health awareness, counseling, and support, while learning about the daily struggles leading to the high suicide rate.

Matt will be meeting with church leaders to discuss church renewal, revival, discipleship, and evangelism. According to *Operation World*, Guyana is 52.7% Christian and 18% of the country is unevangelized. The second largest religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam. There is a great need for the Gospel to be proclaimed and the Kingdom of God experienced in Guyana.

The team will also be working with some of the local churches on minor repair and construction projects. We are finalizing the budget and hope to have a clear project

cost need in the coming days. Please join us in prayer for the team as they work on their presentations and make final preparations for the trip.

## India Trip

I am excited to travel to India again this fall. I am also excited that a few people are choosing to join me as we experience the beauty, majesty, and history of the Indian culture. This trip features an opportunity to experience the tourist sites of India, while focusing on your relationship with Jesus. It also gives you an opportunity to meet brothers and sisters in Christ from another culture and experience.

The first leg of the trip features sites like the Taj Mahal, Maharaja's Palaces, and Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim religious sites. We will have guides and drivers who will navigate the streets and the story for us. Their wealth of knowledge and desire for people to learn makes the experience a true joy. The second leg of the trip will feature a week-long experience at the Sat Tal Christian Ashram. We will join the Winter Session of the Christian Ashram learning about and experiencing the Kingdom of God. It is always a blessing to listen to the experience of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living their faith in what can at times be very difficult situations.

The dates of the trip are September 25-October 11. You can view the itinerary on the Living the Adventure Ministries website (<https://bit.ly/3UCznT5>).

## Malawi Ministry

The partnership between Living the Adventure Ministries and the United Christian Ashrams International Ministry is expressed well in our work in Malawi. I will be traveling to Malawi, Africa, again at the end of August and beginning of September. During this trip, I will lead a Christian Ashram, meet with village leaders and micro-credit recipients in a local village, and meet with local church leaders about ministry expansion, leadership, and discipleship.

If you are interested in traveling with me to Malawi, Africa, please contact me (matt@livingtheadventure.net or 618-830-6670).

## Thank You

Your generosity, love, and prayers are a great encouragement to me. As we look to the future of Living the Adventure Ministries, we are thankful for each person who invests in our domestic and international ministry. I am grateful for the times I have to preach in local churches for Sunday morning services, revival services, and special worship nights. I am also grateful for the times I have to travel to Christian Ashrams and to partner with ministries around the world as we seek to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all nations. We know as we continue to seek the Lord, He will provide for all our needs through your generosity and love. Thank You!

## Upcoming Events

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

May 19 Golden Gate/Conway UMC Baptism Sunday  
May 23-28 Argentina and Uruguay  
June 24-July 2 Guyana Mission Trip  
July 8-11 Iowa/Nebraska Christian Ashram  
July 12-14 Arizona Summer Christian Ashram  
July 20 Bridgewater Christian Ashram

## Haitian Art Store Open

We continue to have our Haitian Art Store open at Herschel Johnson Implement (652 IL Route 15, Albion). The store features unique artisan gifts made in Haiti. We have a wide variety of metal art hand made from 55-gallon drums. There are hand made bracelets, earrings, and necklaces. The sale of these gifts support Haitian artisans and Living the Adventure's mission ministry. Check out some of the items on our Facebook page.