



ADVENTURE JOURNAL

MAY 2026

Living the Adventure Ministries guides the way to a growing relationship with Jesus through mission experiences.

Connect to Living the Adventure Ministries

Matt Henson, Lead Evangelist & Executive Director

Facebook: facebook.com/livingtheadventure

Website: livingtheadventure.net

Email: matt@livingtheadventure.net Phone: 618-830-6670

India Travels

As you are reading this Adventure Journal, I am traveling in India. I will be meeting with leaders of the Methodist School in Kanpur and the director of Nur Manzil Psychiatric Hospital. I will also be attending the Sat Tal Christian Ashram where I will attend the sessions, spend time in study and prayer, and participate in the annual meeting of their Board of Directors. Please pray for my safety as I travel and for me to find space to listen to the Lord's guidance and leadership for this season in ministry. I will return on June 2.

If you would be interested in traveling to India with me in 2027, our dates will likely be September 24-October 11. I would love to have you travel with me to see the beautiful tourist and historical sites, while learning more about the Indian culture. The highlight of the trip is attending the Sat Tal Christian Ashram where we worship Jesus together with brothers and sisters in Christ from India. Contact me if you want more information (matt@livingtheadventure.net or 618-830-6670).

Jamaica & Malawi

International mission experiences put our faith into action and invite us to put our full trust in God as we travel in countries where our normal daily routine is changed. The environment is different. The language is different. The food is different. The daily responsibilities of life are different. We meet each day as the foreigner in a new land. While recognizing the beauty of the Kingdom of God, we work together with brothers and sisters in Christ to proclaim the fullness of the gospel that intertwines our personal holiness and social holiness.

In Micah 6:8 we read, *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."* Our mission experiences invite us to live out these prophetic words as we travel to partner in mission.

In the summer, we have two great opportunities for people to travel in mission with Living the Adventure. On July 20-28, we will travel to Central Jamaica where we will lead Vacation Bible School, help with light construction, engage in community activities, and share the love of Jesus. The cost of the trip is \$1400/person.

Our second summer trip is to Malawi, Africa, on August 5-22. We will lead a Christian Ashram on the beach; engage with leaders in training sessions; and proclaim the gospel in villages where churches are growing and multiplying. We will also spend time with new pastors who we ordained last year. This trip costs \$3,500/person.

If you are interested in traveling with us in 2026 or would like to be placed on a list for 2027 trips, please contact Matt (matt@livingtheadventure.net or 618-830-6670).

Basecamp

In the last issue of the *Adventure Journal*, I announced our new ministry center and office called Basecamp. The building, a former fitness gym, features a large meeting space where we will host Bible studies, prayer groups, workshops, trainings, and worship nights. We have scheduled an eight-week Bible study that will meet each Tuesday night beginning on September 15 and concluding on November 3. We are planning other opportunities beginning in the late summer/early fall.

To host these events, we are seeking to create comfortable space for each gathering. Our list of needs and dreams for the building include tables, chairs, small couch, large TV for presentations, bookcases, and sound system. We will also be renovating the office space and redoing the stairs to the office as the present staircase is spiral and not conducive to people easily accessing the office.

We look forward to having an Open House when the work is completed later this year. Please keep this new ministry opportunity in your prayers and consider how the Holy Spirit might lead you to support Basecamp, where people are equipped, renewed, and sent out into mission.

Thank You

Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity. As we move through the busy days of summer, we appreciate your ongoing support. You can contribute to our ministry through sending a check to: 203 N 2nd Street, Albion, IL 62806, or through our website (livingtheadventure.net/#contact). You can also become a regular ACH giver on our website.

The Christ of Every Road: Christlike

(This is part five in a series on the book The Christ of Every Road by E. Stanley Jones. To see the other parts of the series go to livingtheadventure.net and look under Updates at the bottom of the page. If you would like to receive the weekly devotion through our Guide Email, you can sign-up at the top of our homepage.)

As I walk through life, engaging with people and considering how those people perceive me, I often wonder, “Do they see Jesus in me?” That is, are my actions Christlike. As we continue to study *The Christ of Every Road: A Study in Pentecost*, Brother E. Stanley Jones sets forth the argument that the Holy Spirit is Christlike. He writes, “If God is a Christlike God, then it follows that the Spirit is a Christlike Spirit. The same content of character will be in both. Then if the Spirit lives within us, he will not make us other than Christlike” (Page 63).

The Holy Spirit brings actual life to us which leads us to overcome fear, practice courage to live, and witness to the transformation the Spirit brings to us. Our words of witness are important, but they need to be confirmed with our actions. The word become word speaks philosophically and morally, which many religions of the world will claim. The word become flesh is the action and expression of that faith in a way that can be experienced.

In the New Testament, people were willing to accept Jesus as a good teacher. They struggled, though, with how he put those words into action. Consider the Rich Young Ruler in Luke 18 who comes to Jesus and says, “*Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*” Jesus engages with the man about keeping the commandments and the young ruler is overjoyed that he can confirm his obedience to those commands. Then Jesus says, “*‘One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.’*” The man is overwhelmed with sadness at these words because he was extremely rich. He is unable to surrender at this level to follow Jesus.

Jesus’ call goes beyond our saying the “Sinners Prayer.” Jesus calls us to a life of surrender, where we are transformed and become more like Jesus as we mature in our faith. E. Stanley Jones writes, “To seek for the spirit to be made Christlike sends one to a self-surrender that leads straight to the heart of the gospel—a cross. Christ’s power lies in a cross: ‘If I be lifted up on the cross from the earth, I will draw [all people to myself—John 12:32].’ Our power lies in that same cross. Only those who know how to take up the cross for the world know how to move that world” (64).

The way we live our lives often speaks louder than our words. Our witness is the proclamation of God’s love for us and how Jesus died for our sins. Our witness is also a

proclamation of the change the Holy Spirit is doing in us as we become more like Jesus.

Are your actions in line with your words? Are you surrendering your life each day and experiencing the reality of becoming more Christlike in your daily living and interaction with others? If not, surrender your life more fully to Jesus and invite the Holy Spirit to do a deeper work in your life.

Prayer: Lord, I want to be more like Jesus. I want my words and actions to be a proclamation of the Spirit’s work in my life. Forgive me when I try to do this life on my own, not surrendering everything to you. Thank you for your grace and mercy. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

A Friend Remembered

A few weeks ago, I received a call from one of our former board members, Jackie Snider. Jackie called to share the news of her mother’s death. Her mom, Marlene Simms Cummins, was a leader in the conference as I was coming into ministry. Then, when Nancy and I served in Troy, Illinois, Marlene was a leader in the congregation.

Marlene played a major role in my early days of ministry, as she gave me suggestions, encouraged me to see things in different ways, and to commiserate with me when we were both frustrated with certain decisions at the denominational level. Marlene was not only a member and leader of the church, she was also the grandmother of two of the youth in the church. I had the blessing of watching her engage her grandsons in ways that drew the best from them.

A great memory for me was when I was discerning my call to leave the local church and move into traveling ministry. I had delayed my ordination because I wanted to assure it was God’s Will for me to be ordained to live out this calling. As I was approaching a major deadline and still not working hard on the work needing completed, she walked into my office and said, “I have a roll of duct tape and I know how to use it. If you don’t sit down and get this work done, I will tape you to your chair and sit here till you get the work done.” Her forthrightness and confidence to confirm God’s call on my life helped me take the necessary steps to be where I am today. I am blessed to have known Marlene and give God thanks for her family who continues to be in my life.

Family Update

The school year is coming to a close, which means our boys in college are home for the summer. Judah completed his Junior Year at the University of Southern Indiana and Isaiah completed his Freshman Year at Olney Central College.

Nancy continues to pursue her Master’s Degree and with some additional work, hopes to complete her classes early this fall.

Upcoming Events

- May 18-June 2 India Trip
- June 13-18 Texas Christian Ashram
- June 19-25 Family Vacation
- July 13-16 Bridgewater Christian Ashram
- July 20-28 Jamaica Mission Trip
- August 7-22 Malawi Mission Trip

Update from Haiti

Shelley from Papillon in Haiti recently reported, “Families are still being forced to grab whatever they can with their children in arms to flee gang territory.” Also, “Artisans are not stopping work even with daily threats from gangs and instability. They have a job to do and aren’t going to let anything keep them from feeding their families.”

Come to our store at 652 IL Route 15, Albion to see the art from Papillon and their artisans.