

ADVENTURE JOURNAL

OCTOBER 2026

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

Connect to Living the Adventure Ministries

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2027 Mission Trip Kickoff Jamaica

Jesus calls everyone to be in mission. We are all called to "feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothes to the naked, etc." Out of that universal call to mission, God calls some to also travel domestically to help in communities within our own country who need assistance. An even smaller subset of people are those God has called to leave their culture to be in mission in other parts of the world. As we approach 2027, we are working on plans for domestic and international mission trips.

Our first mission trip of 2027 will be to Jamaica on January 4-12 to the village of Warsop. We will install the roof on a fellowship hall in the village of Warsop. The roof will require a new roof system be constructed and a tin roof installed. The roof is a mildly slanted flat roof design and stands about 10 feet in the air at the tallest point.

Warsop is a village about two-hour's drive from Falmouth where we have stayed in the past. On this trip, we will stay in host homes in Warsop, giving us more opportunities to engage the community and to build relationships. This will provide the team space for engagement beyond the building of the roof.

If you feel called to travel with us to Jamaica on January 4-12, contact Matt (matt@livingtheadventure.net or 618-830-6670) to learn more details about the trip.

Malawi: God Invited Me

By: Mandy Atwood

Anytime I hear a missionary speak my heart does a little dance inside my chest. So, when God invited me to Malawi, I could hardly believe it. The voices in my head said I didn't deserve the opportunity. I'm not equipped to share my faith. I don't pray well. I'm not a good communicator. I don't know Scripture well enough. But after much prayer and discussion with my husband, I was confident that my desire to travel to Malawi came from the Lord. I chose to go in obedience and trust Him with the rest, holding onto the words from my pastor, "God has already equipped you for this."

The first morning in Malawi was a Sunday which meant my first encounter with the community was at church. As I felt the enthusiasm of their worship, tears rolled down my cheeks and I thought to myself, "I get to spend eternity with these folks." It felt like a little glimpse of heaven. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, from different cultures, gathered as one to worship, pray, sing and dance for the Father. He was surely smiling over His children.

Over the course of two weeks, we met with several groups of pastors and church leaders who were eager to hear what Matt had to say. I was awestruck by the work of the Holy Spirit who never failed to provide a message that spoke directly to the unique needs of each group. Some wondered how Matt knew their circumstance. He didn't, but God did. It was a clear reminder that God knows our needs and is faithful to provide just what we need, just when we need it.

Let me share how He used an unexpected encounter to encourage me. One morning, sitting outside the lodge I let feelings of inadequacy creep back in. The manager joined me for small talk about plants and gardening before she shifted to a mission trip in which she participated years ago. In her words, there were those who preached, those who sang, and she went as just an eager churchgoer. She felt inadequate. In a refugee camp among people who had lost entire families to violence, an individual requested to talk to her, and then another, followed by many more. Her group asked, "What are you saying to them?" To which she replied, "I don't know. I'm just building relationships." Isn't it amazing what God can do through a willing heart?

What an undeserved blessing God gave me. I went feeling like I might not be ready, but God showed Himself faithful. There was never a moment He left me unequipped. I have been asked if I would go again, and the answer is an easy yes. God willing and if He has a role for me, I'd jump at another opportunity to travel with Living the Adventure. Until then, I ask the Lord to equip me where I am. Whether it be home, the grocery store line, the office, or the ballgame, as followers of Jesus we are all full-time missionaries.

Godly Wardrobe: Kindness

There is a mantra that is used on coasters, t-shirts, posters, and framed art that states, "In a world where you can be anything, be kind." The statement emphasizes the important teaching of kindness. Robert Fulghum in his book *Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, expresses the importance of the teaching of our early education that sets us up to be better citizens and understand the role kindness plays in our lives.

The wardrobe God has picked out for us includes kindness that goes beyond the simplicity of being nice to a deeper concern and action of living kindly toward other people and kindly toward ourselves. The power of self-deprecation and self-abasement steals our ability to show kindness to ourselves. We focus on our failures and weaknesses, allowing them to speak louder than our strengths and successes in our lives. We are unkind to ourselves when we see ourselves as unworthy of love and incapable of offering anything to the good of the community. In Fulghum's book he lists some key things he learned in Kindergarten that are ways to be kind to ourselves: "We live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some."

Likewise, we are invited to express kindness to other people as we look at their situation and witness their struggles and defeat. When we come alongside the person in kindness, we express our kindness in some of the key features of Fulghum's book: "We share; We play fair; When we go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together."

God shows us kindness through His mercy, grace, and love. In Ephesians 2:7 Paul writes, "*So God can point to us in all future ages as example of the incredible wealth of his* ***grace and kindness*** *toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.*" God showed His kindness to us when He sent Jesus to provide a way for us to experience the fullness of eternal life. This same kindness is part of our wardrobe as we seek ways to show mercy, grace, and love to others and to ourselves.

As we live our lives following Jesus, we are putting on the wardrobe God picked out for us. In a world where kindness is not regularly broadcast and tearing down other people has become far too common, we want to show kindness to people and to ourselves. We want to be the light of kindness, love, and compassion that shines through the darkness of hate, discord, and division.

Prayer: Lord, our world needs more kindness. We need to be kind to ourselves, knowing you are doing a wonderful work in us. We need to be kind to those near to us. We need to show kindness to those who are unkind. You showed us your kindness in Jesus, and we want to show kindness through our daily adventure with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

End of the Year Giving

In Isaiah 55:8-9 we read, "'My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,' says the Lord. 'And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.'"

When we entered 2026, I could not imagine the giant leaps we would take in ministry this year. I could not imagine our ministry having an office and ministry space like we have at LTA Basecamp in Albion. I could not imagine expanding our mission ministry to include Jamaica or having someone travel with me to Malawi, opening new doors for ministry with two more networks of churches. I could not imagine the way our new office would open doors for the community to better understand what Living the Adventure Ministries' mission is and how we want to "help people grow in their relationship with Jesus."

It has truly been an exciting year.

As we approach the end of 2026 and begin to look toward more ministry opportunities and expansion in 2027, we need your support to help us end this year strong and propel us into the new year. With new expenses created with our Basecamp and with increased costs for travel, your investment in this ministry is vitally important. We are grateful for each gift.

We are inviting you to invest in our expanding ministry. We need your prayers and your financial support to make it possible for us to continue the work of evangelism, discipleship, mission, and transformation.

You can make an end of the year financial gift through:

- Mailing a check to 203 N 2nd Street, Albion, IL 62806 or in the enclosed envelope.
- Contribute on our website by clicking "Donate Now."
- Invite your church or Sunday School to make an end of the year contribution or become regular supporters.
- Give a stock gift or IRA Distribution gift

If you have questions, contact me (Matt—618-830-6670).

2027 Invitations

We are looking forward to the opportunities Living the Adventure Ministries will have to proclaim the Kingdom of God in various places domestically and internationally in 2027. If your church or organization would like to have Matt preach or teach for an event or would like to plan revival/renewal services, please contact Matt (matt@livingtheadventure.net or 618-830-6670).

Upcoming Events

Nov. 1 Albion Methodist Church Pulpit Supply
Nov. 6-7 Antioch Church Christian Ashram
Nov. 8-11 Pinkstaff Church Revival
Nov. 22 Albion Methodist Church Pulpit Supply
Dec. 6 Albion Methodist Church Pulpit Supply
Jan. 4-12 Jamaica Mission Trip

Haiti Store—New Items

We have moved our Haiti store to Basecamp at 20 W Main Street, Albion, IL. As we approach the holiday season, come check out the shop and support Haitian Artisans and the mission ministry of Living the Adventure Ministries. We have great Christmas decorations and gifts to be shared.