

***Religion that God accepts as pure and without fault is this:
Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and do not let this world make you evil.
James 1:27***

Hello friends . . . grace and peace,

It's quite simple really: if there's something wrong in the world, the mission of God is to set it right. And, as people who follow the person who showed us exactly what "setting things right" looks like – Jesus – we as Jesus followers ought to do all we can to partner with God to help make that happen.

To put it more simply: when we see a need, we help. That means we say, "Why WOULDN'T we help?" before we say, "No, we can't do that."

As many of you probably know, there is a region in The United States that suffers from systemic and generational poverty more than anywhere else. The Appalachian Region stretches across parts of 13 different states: New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia.

Help has come in many ways to many of these places. There are many opportunities throughout Appalachia to be a part of what God is doing, being the hands and feet of Christ, helping families to be warmer, safer, and drier in their homes.

But there is so much to do. Because of the landscape and topography of most of the area, help comes in waves, and most of the time, slow moving waves. Families in need of assistance are sometimes forced to wait months or years before help arrives.

So, we're going to go. We're saying, "Yes, we can help!" We're going to let our brothers and sisters know that we care and that we want to bring as much help as is needed. We're going to follow Jesus and by doing so, we're going to change the world.

You wanna join us? You're invited. Assuming you are currently in 6th grade up through a senior in high school, you are invited.

Here are some details:

Who?

Any and all current 6th – 12th graders who feel a desire and call to be a part of the Jesus Movement.

What?

A mission trip – aka "Love Journey" – to Appalachia in order to help spread God's love and mission by providing help and assistance to families living in systemic poverty.

Where?

Appalachia Region – precise location TBD. Could be Tennessee, Kentucky, or West Virginia.

When?

July 16-24, 2022, **PLUS** 2required team gatherings: Saturday, May 21 from 1 – 4 pm, at St. Thomas, and Wednesday, July 13 from 7 am – 7 pm at a Ropes Course.

Why?

Because the Jesus Movement is real . . . and because there is no limit to where God calls us to share God's never ending and never-failing Love.

With Whom?

We will be partnering with Appalachia Service Project www.asphome.org which has had an ongoing presence of Christian ministry across the Appalachian Region for more than 50 years. Check out their website, like them on facebook, follow them on instagram. We worked alongside them in 2019 in Jonesville, Virginia.

What Will We Do?

ASP will assign us a family or two in need of home/property repair. We might be ripping off a roof, laying a subfloor, putting up drywall, building a retaining wall, digging a trench, whatever is needed. The bottom line is we'll be serving others in the name of God, in Christ.

How Much?

The cost is \$850 per person. BUT, because of our partnership with Lambeau Field and Delaware North and the fundraising we've already done, that cost drops down to only \$100 per person. Yeah, no joke!

Fundraisers?

As mentioned above, we have already raised thousands of dollars through Lambeau Field and Delaware North. We may also do a couple of other fundraisers that have proved successful over the years like a car wash and a hot dog sale. We'll let you know.

Support Letters?

The other main way that you will raise money is by writing TEN (10) support letters to family and friends, letting them know what you're doing, why you're doing it, and asking them to pray for you and help support this trip. We will teach you how to write support letters. *If you choose not to write support letters, then we ask that you personally contribute your own cost (\$100) of the trip as well as participate in other fundraisers.*

What Do I Have To Do Now?

Pray. Think. And pray some more. Talk to family and friends. Listen to God. Ask questions. Oh, and be in prayer! (did we mention prayer yet?) Official sign up will take place online starting Monday, March 21 at www.styg.com/signup or www.styg.com/lovejourney Registration will close Monday, May 2.

More Questions?

Call/Text/Message/Email/Snap/Insta/Tweet/FaceTime your questions to Aran. Heck you could even make a TikTok with questions in it!! (lol) No question is bad or wrong. If you have thoughts, comments, questions, anything . . . reach out. Use any and all contact methods listed below.

After COVID cancelled our trip in 2020 and we were forced to do a shortened Chicago trip in 2021, we are excited to once again be doing a full week mission trip – aka "Love Journey". We are excited to invite you to be a part of The Jesus Movement as we participate in God's Love and Mission. We are excited about the possibility of you jumping on board with what God is doing at St. Thomas, in Appalachia, and more.

peace to you



Aran Walter

(920) 379-6229

aranwalter@gmail.com

[@aranwalter](https://www.instagram.com/aranwalter) Snapchat, Insta, TikTok, Twitter, WhatsApp, Etc.

www.styg.com

www.facebook.com/aranwalter

