



LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFELINE

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MOUNTAINTOP ADVENTURES

Mountaintop adventures are those exhilarating moments in life when we have felt uplifted and closer to God. Such moments recharge us with new enthusiasm for life and make us feel good about ourselves, other people, and God. These mountaintop adventures are times of great inspiration in our life. We all need these inspiring interludes from time to time to recharge our spiritual batteries and to prevent our faith and life from going flat and stale.

During mountaintop adventures, we feel inspired and renewed. Such moments leave us animated, energized, motivated, excited, and activated. Once the adventure is over, however, a person can feel a sense of being let-down. Unless the ebb and flow of life and our feelings are understood and anticipated, this let-down can be devastating.

Mountaintop adventures don't just happen. We have to seek them out and prepare for them. After all, Peter, James, and John had to climb up the mountain with Jesus to witness His Transfiguration (refer to Luke 9:28-36). If they had stayed below, they would have missed it. Likewise, we must go places and associate with people who can help prepare us.

We are often told that the average person only uses 20% of his God-given potential to live, to learn, to love. The remaining 80% is wasted. That is a tragic waste. In contrast, Irenaus, a second-century Christian, said, "The glory of God is a person who is fully alive." An inspired person is one who is fully alive. Such a person is making full use of his time and talents for God and others.

To become fully alive, we need to see our life's mountaintop adventures. They don't just happen. Few people are inspired while sitting at home alone before a TV set and watching the soaps. Inspiration doesn't come while complaining on the phone about your life. Mountaintop experiences seldom occur in a darkened room over a stale cup of coffee. Inspiration doesn't just happen. We have to put ourselves in the path of inspiration and then it will come into our life.

When we are inspired, we are to share that gift with others. Jesus, Peter James, and John didn't stay on the mountain. They came down to help and serve others. God fills our cup so we have something worthwhile to share with others. An inspired person himself becomes inspiring, encouraging, and exciting to others. They have the attitude expressed in Psalm 118:24 – *This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.* With that attitude, life can be wonderful and great just the way God intended.

If we plug into God's great power by using His Word and Sacraments, we will be both inspired and inspiring to others. Inspired by God, we can live victoriously and on top of a mountain. This doesn't mean that we will not have problems. We will have problems as long as we live in this sinful world. However, if we believe and trust in Jesus, we are going to come out on top of life and all its difficulties. Life will be a great adventure. That is a promise we can count on.

So after four long years, we were able to go on our mountaintop adventure. I hope you were there too!

It is so good to get away from the everyday routine of our lives and from other people, go to a different location, get a different perspective, and spend time with sisters in Christ, hear the word spoken and preached, sing songs, hear inspirational talks, learn more about LWML business, spend time with our Lord.

Sometimes coming down from a mountaintop experience back to your daily life can be a sense of let-down. However, inspiring moments should not be pursued as ends in themselves but as means to an end, to prepare us for greater love and service to God and others.

Mountaintop adventures can come in different settings, large or small, any place, any thing that puts you in the presence of God. i.e., worship, Holy Communion, confirmation, Bible study, daily devotions, prayer, personal witness opportunities, retreats, conventions even fellow Christians inspire us.

Psalm 119:105 – *Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

What worthwhile gifts and/or talents can you share with those around you that could inspire them to greater love and service to God? Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain to help them understand who He is and what His mission in life was. Do you take others with you on your mountaintop adventures? Do *you* return with greater understanding of who *you* are and what *your* mission in life is?

The Christian Life Committee hopes that you came to the convention, brought others, were strengthened in your faith, and were inspired when you returned home to use your gifts and talents to God's glory and in His service.

For other mountaintop adventures to put on your calendar:

SAVE THE DATES!!

**LWML Convention, Milwaukee, WI
June 22-25, 2023**

**LWML CNH RETREAT, ECCO
August 25-27, 2023**