

Discipleship Journeys with Jesus

January 2017

A New Year and a New Ministry

Years ago, I (Mark) remember considering the future and finding it hard to comprehend that someday it would be 2017. But here it is.

Happy New Year!



We feel so blessed. God has given us a new ministry in the new year.

Discipleship Journeys with Jesus is off to a tremendous start. We announced the birth of our new mission on September 19, 2016.

We've made some remarkable progress with this new mission:

- Received from the Lord the vision for this new ministry
- Developed the mission, vision and plan
- Outlined 52 DJJ discipleship lessons
- Completed the first 5 lessons and began beta testing them
- Found volunteer beta testers for the 5 lessons in North and South America, India and China.
- Developed a logo and secured a graphic designer for the lessons.
- Recruited and formed our Board of Directors
- Developed a website: www.djjministry.org
- Received incorporation and tax exempt status from the state of California
- Established banking and appropriate financial practices.
- Set up all donating, bookkeeping and accounting software and systems
- Recruited office volunteers
- Set up donated office space at New Song Community Church
- Received and processed donations from 92 donating individuals, families and churches.
- Starting a small group at New Song Community Church to teach the first 10 lessons.

God has been so good. Thank you Lord and thank you to all our partners who are praying and giving to help the vision become a reality.

The vision is to take ½ million people on Jesus discipleship journeys.

*One of the other exciting things happening is all the **confirmation that we are heading in the right direction:***

- We keep hearing from leaders around the world that discipleship is such a huge need right now.
- We've been affirmed repeatedly that the DJJ vision, goals and direction are compelling.
- Carolyn has been 100% in support of this venture.
- DCPI blessed us with prayers and a "farewell party."
- Our local church (New Song Community Church) has endorsed our new ministry and is proud to have DJJ as an offshoot of the church.
- The business side of starting the ministry has been blessed with incredible vendors and systems that appear to be tailor made for DJJ but fit for a non-profit budget.
- Patty has started raising support for the first time and has been blessed with a few supporters. This is very encouraging!
- Almost all of Mark's supporters have transitioned to DJJ. Some have increased their support. Other new supporters have come on board.



Paul and Cathy Becker of DCPI praying over Mark and Carolyn Williams during farewell party.

*So, we have much to be excited about going into the new year. And, a lot to pray about as we are still a new ministry. So please **join us in prayer** about the following:*

- For the graphics that go with the lessons to be completed in time for the Brazil training in February.
- Beta testing and adjustments to the first 5 lessons in the locations mentioned on the first page of this letter.
- Writing of the remaining 47 lessons.
- Mark's partnership trip to Brazil in February. There he will be making contacts to share and test the new material.
- Recruitment of at least one additional DJJ Board member.
- Recruitment of more staff members needed to accomplish our vision.
- The filming of videos to accompany the lessons both locally and eventually in Israel, Jordan, Turkey and Greece.
- For the rest of Mark's supporters to transfer from DCPI to DJJ.
- For upcoming budget and goal planning for 2017 and board meeting, both in January.
- For an exciting new opportunity to train as Mark leads a small group at New Song Community Church starting January 16th. More information will be emailed in a ministry update.

Williams Family News

- ⇒ **God has led our son Danny to be a long-term missionary to Denmark starting this month.** He leaves Jan. 25th. He will be serving with YWAM. We're proud of his willingness to follow this leading. To learn more please email Danny at dabbybhb@cox.net.
- ⇒ We're delighted that our son **Ben got a great role in "My Fair Lady" at the Lawrence Welk Theater** near us. He is playing the role of Freddy and sings a solo: "On the Street Where You Live." **It will run from January 6 to April 2.** If you're close by and want to go, you can learn more at <https://welkresorts.com/san-diego/theatre>
- ⇒ **We're thankful for opportunities to speak at churches and events.** Also, thankful for the reach that my Podcast, *Christianity Questions and Answers* is having around the world.



Mark, Danny, Gabe, Carolyn and Ben on Christmas Day

Ways to Keep in Touch:

Mark and Carolyn Williams

P.O. Box 1984

Vista CA 92084-1984

Email: mark@djjministry.org

Web: www.markalanwilliams.net

Facebook: [markalanwilliams.pastormar](https://www.facebook.com/markalanwilliams.pastormar)

Twitter: [@pastormar](https://twitter.com/pastormar)

Patty Hansen

P.O. Box 2975

Vista, CA 92084-2975

Email: patty@djjministry.org

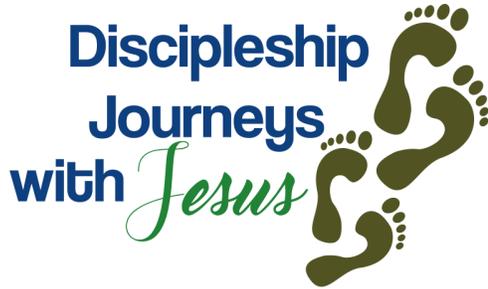
Patty Hansen Family News

- ⇒ **We are in our 8th year of homeschooling!** Terrifying and satisfying at the same time. 7th Grade is half over and we are progressing slower than I would normally want, but that is expected with the launch of the new ministry. Praying that as this 2nd quarter of the ministry is upon us that a more established routine will get us back on track.
- ⇒ **Matthew has been experiencing a lot of new things, such as going on the 3 day field trip to Catalina.** Some may know he has among other things, a diagnosis of high functioning Autism. This was his first field trip and overnight. He had an aide assigned to him, who we found out later is a Christian as well. Matthew helped lead a small group with a friend on the trip which organically came about. **Praise God for Matthew's boldness and not letting Autism stand in his way.**
- ⇒ **Thankful for new supporters!** Without them I would not have been able to replace my 5 year old laptop that crashed after many hours of use. **I am so excited to see how God leads in this and is opening up my ministry with DJJ.**



Matthew and Patty on Thanksgiving Day

Discipleship Journeys with Jesus



When we launched the Discipleship Journeys with Jesus (DJJ) ministry in September, we shared the need for special gifts to assist with the startup costs.

We're happy to report that of the \$12,500

startup need we shared, about \$8,000 has been given so far.

We are so grateful for those that gave to help with this goal. We're praying that the rest of this startup need is fulfilled through special gifts.

Would you please pray with us about this and ask the Lord if He would have you assist? If you are led to help see the 2 ways to give in the column on the right. Thank you!

Ways to Donate to the ministry:

1. Mail a check to:
DJJ
P.O. Box 2975
Vista, CA 92085-2975
2. Visit the website and link through for online donation.
You can set up a special gift or a reoccurring gift.
www.djjministry.org

Here is a small sample of what a DJJ lesson looks like in the beta test stage. From Lesson 5, Jesus' Journey to Samaria found in John 4:1-42.

This actionable accountability is seen in the beginning of the lesson to make sure that the student is ready to move forward.

Be sure you are practicing the other lessons covered so far. Please check off these journeys if you are following the practices learned. If not, please go back, review and work on your areas of weakness:

- Journey 1 to the cross: I know that I am saved
- Journey 2 to the Jordan: I have been baptized as a follower of Christ
- Journey 3 to the wilderness: I have identified my points of weakness and memorized Scripture to help me fight temptation.
- Journey 4 to the mountainside: I have identified at least one person whom I will mentor and have begun the process of mentoring that person.

Then, after reading through the passage a sample of one of the study questions.

Where was Jesus traveling from (verse 3)? _____ Note: Judea is the area in the south of Palestine. Galilee is in the north. Between the two was an area that he needed to pass through called _____ (verse 4) Note: Part of what was so exceptional in this passage is that Samaritans and Jews had great racial animosity. They didn't normally associate with one another, as you can see noted in verse 9.

Then another actionable item, sharing the Gospel. Followed by another checkpoint.

Are you ready to move on?

Stop light: red/yellow/green— please check the appropriate box:

- Red: I'm stuck. Please help. I don't think I can share my faith. I need prayer, accountability, mentoring, a spiritual breakthrough.
- Yellow: I'm not sure about this. I'm willing, but feel like I need to learn and grow more first.
- Green: I'm ready to apply the "bottom line" and share Jesus with others. Or, I already am.