

## TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE

I've always believed in traveling with a purpose, and adventure is part of that. Did you ever misplace a child (or two) on a trip? Believe me, that can really add unexpected memories.

### Suggestions for Travel with a Purpose



#### **Make an effort to connect with extended family.**

Learn family stories, traditions, and get generational pictures on any trip. Small outings—trips to the beach, zoo, or museum, as well as hiking, biking or picnic outings are wonderful ways to build memories and have fun as a family. Try multigenerational family travel.

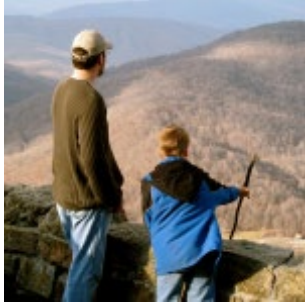
We found that the periods we spent with family (be it grandparents, parents, children, siblings, or grandchildren) are among the most cherished memories. When the clan gathers for a shared vacation, those times become engraved in the archives of our minds. There is something about multigenerational travel and sharing new experiences that seems to take on significance with time. Yes, there are hours of preparation and even moments of tension, but we've found ourselves recounting them with smiles—and now I even laugh at times that seemed traumatic at the moment, such as the disappearance of two grandchildren in New York, or when most of us got sick at Disney World.



#### **Visit places and participate in activities important to your family history, faith, or values.**

Family reunions, history trips, and patriotic trips are great! More ambitious ideas include short term mission trips, trips to study nature, or a visit to the Ark Encounter or Creation Museum in Kentucky. You could also help the needy in some way, volunteer your time to help others, or

organize a family day of helping widows with their home or yard. One year we went camping in March, when our first son was two months old because we wanted him to enjoy nature as we did. (I guess we were successful, because later he and his wife moved to several acres of forest when they bought a home.)



**Plan activities and visit places for learning experiences, or to build confidence.**

If you have an insecure or fearful family member, do something challenging, and prepare him or her ahead of time for success. There can be small hikes that gradually get longer and are combined with a surprise at the end. We took our grandsons to the Camp-of-the-Woods family camp where they climbed a rock wall, went on zip lines, and white-water rafted with us in a safe and controlled environment. When our sons were in grade school, we hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon one Christmas and spent two nights camping together down in the canyon. None of us will ever forget the exhilaration of finally reaching the rim successfully on the third day, after all our planning and work. (Of course there was that surprise snowstorm in which the four of us slept in a two-man-tent with two sleeping bags zipped together to stay warm! I still laugh at the memory of little boys crawling under us to keep warm during the night.)



**Adopt a local family.** This will not involve a long trip, but it may be across town or a drive into the country. When our children were growing up a long distance from all grandparents, two different local widows decided our children were their adopted grandchildren. It was a win/win situation. When the boys would wash Mrs. Wilburn's large sheep dog for her, they would

come home a bit wet, but with lots of tales to tell. Those dear ladies will never know the significant contribution they made to a young family.