





# About The Mission Hike Ministry



In April 2011 RAs were introduced to Craig and Suzy Miles who are missionaries who serve hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Their ministry is named Appalachian Trail Servants (AT Servants) and RAs learned about the needs of these hikers both physical and spiritual. We decided that the ministry of AT Servants was a great ministry to support through our mission efforts as it uses the skills emphasized at Wilderness Challenge every day as they work to reach hikers for Christ.

Craig and Suzy are Mission Service Corps missionaries, which means that they receive no financial support from the North American Mission Board or the Annie Armstrong Offering and we are excited about the opportunity to help support this ministry. To learn more about AT Servants visit their website [www.trailministry.org](http://www.trailministry.org). Below you can read one of the stories featured in RAs about AT Servants.

The RA Chapters earn points towards the Honor Chapter Award based on participation and sponsors collected. Thank you for considering supporting this project!

## *Hiking Out On Faith*

*Put on your hiking boots and lace them up tight as we take on the Appalachian Trail. This trail touches fourteen states and is 2,178 miles long. Each year there are about two thousand people who attempt to hike the entire trail from Georgia to Maine but only about fifteen percent of those actually complete the entire trip.*

*We will be spending the next four weeks learning how Southern Baptist missionaries are using fun and exciting ways to take the Gospel to the world. Appalachian Trail Servants is a ministry that is dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus Christ to the hikers on the trail. Craig and Suzy Miles are Mission Service Corp missionaries that work to care for the hikers on the trail. They do this by helping churches in towns along the trail learn how to best help hikers. What they do to help churches is very important because the people who are hiking the trail are sometimes very lonely people and do not trust others. Often, churches send groups to the trail to minister to the hikers. Their intentions are good but it is a one shot deal for the mission teams. They do not have time to get to know the hikers and the hikers feel like they are being hunted. So the Miles help churches do the simple things that help the hikers and plant seeds of Jesus' love. The simple things the churches do are often cooking meals for the hikers, providing transportation to and from town so they can get supplies and setting up medical clinics where their physical needs can be met. The trail town church ministries do not seem like a big deal but they continue to plant the seeds of Jesus' love.*

*They also send out trail chaplains that spend at least three months hiking the trail. This gives the chaplains plenty of time to get to know the hikers and to build friendships with them. As they build those friendships it makes it easier to tell them about Jesus. There was a hiker on the trail that was having a very tough time. When Craig met him in Georgia he would barely speak to him. Later on a mountain in North Carolina he saw him again. This time he walked up and introduced himself. He went by his trail nickname, "Chicken Wing." They spent some time visiting together and they promised to find each other again in Virginia. In Tennessee, Craig saw his hiking partner who's name was, you guessed it, "Kentucky Fried." Chicken Wing was not with him so he told Kentucky Fried that he was praying for them and he hoped to see them again soon. By the time they reached Virginia Chicken Wing was looking for Craig and found him at a church where the doctors were able to help him with his injuries and he shared his burdens with Christ that day. Craig was faithful to Chicken Wing and over time he realized that Jesus was the only one who could truly help him.*

*Have the Faith to build friendships with those who need to know Jesus. Never give up, Jesus never gives up on us!*