



“Give Authority to Jesus”

I encourage you to spend time reading Luke 5:1-11 & John 21. The cool thing about this passage is you see the same miracle take place in the Bible two separate times. Jesus asks the disciples to lay their nets down or to toss them to the other side. What makes these story's unique is there are miracles throughout the whole Bible, in the New and Old Testament, but these two are very similar. I think we could all say we all desire miracles to take place in our lives, whether in our marriages, our families, our health etc. In both passages, we see Simon Peter fishing in his boat and Jesus asking him to lay down his nets. Peter had been fishing all night in the same water he had been fishing in, he says, but because you said so, I will. Through Peter's example we see that for miracles to happen in our lives, our lives and circumstances don't have to be perfect, but we also don't have to be in complete brokenness for Him to work. What we see in this passage is that Peter gives over authority of his life to Jesus. Simon Peter was in the best part of the Sea of Galilee, and fishing was best done at night, his circumstances were "perfect". What we see in this passage is that it's not about our circumstances, its about the authority we give God to intervene. In both stories Peter gave Jesus the authority to intervene. What would our world look like if we were a body of believers that still believed in miracles and God is waiting patiently to intervene in our lives. As we approach the Lenten season we are reminded Jesus healed the sick, fed the thousands, raised the dead, and walked out of a grave himself, then lets also believe that because of His goodness and who He is, miracles can still take place if we hand over authority to Him.

In His Care,

Dwayne P. Mills,

Executive Director, ARO

This month we were blessed to see how God's people partnered with us! We had multiple truck loads delivered this month from Mt. Vernon New Life Nazarene, our Michigan family, and Nashville Parkview Church of the Nazarene to our Thrift Store which will help support our ministry. We also were able to deliver the funds to Western Kentucky, for the relief efforts, that were raised through ARO's family! What a month to see how God provided in so many ways for ARO and also for those across the state of Kentucky. Will you continue to pray for ARO in the days ahead as we get ready to welcome our first team for the 2022 year!

Please enjoy the pictures below that highlight just a small portion of the work that ARO was apart of this month!



One of the greatest highlights of the month, was delivering a \$35,000 check and \$2,500 in gift cards to Bob McCabe for the Western Kentucky Disaster Relief. This was made possible by all our ARO partners! Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity!





Please help us welcome our newest staff to ARO: Bob & Marilyn DeJong Bob and Marilyn will be serving as our Work & Witness Site Coordinator at our Kentucky campus. We are very excited to see how God will use them to bless the ministry of ARO. We look forward to the days ahead as we partner with Bob and Marilyn! Please enjoy a short bio below.

We are Bob and Marilyn DeJong and are excited to share with you our story of what brought us to Appalachia Reach Out. Back in '76 and '77, Marilyn was a summer volunteer, a dream that God placed on her heart since she heard about ARO at the age of 12. She then moved to ARO as a full-time employee. In the summer of '78, God, through His providence, brought us 500 miles from our West Michigan homes to meet in Inez, Kentucky at ARO's vacation Bible school program. It was love at first sight and the rest is history!

Since that first meeting, God has blessed us with 41 years of marriage, 4 children who are also married, 4 beautiful granddaughters, and one more on the way. During most of these years, God called us to spend our time living in the small town of Lake Odessa, Michigan where we raised our family, attended Harvest Community Church, and were used by God to serve in the surrounding community. We own a gravel company called Great Lakes Gravel and Sand, and we smile at the thought that God has brought us from the mountains of Kentucky to literally put us in the pit (gravel pit) of Lake Odessa for 30 plus years. Throughout this time, we have stayed in touch with ARO - bringing loads down, and helping with VBS and prom. Even as we were living our lives in the "pits" in Michigan, our hearts still had a longing for the mountains of Kentucky.

God, through His divine timing and wisdom, has brought us full circle and is returning us to where we started. We are both honored and humbled to be called back to Kentucky & ARO to serve in a larger commitment of time and energy. We praise God for giving us another opportunity to serve Him in the mountains of Kentucky and look forward to working with ARO as their work and witness coordinators. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



STAFF HIGHLIGHT-GET TO KNOW OUR STAFF

- What is your role at ARO and when did you start? *I started working for ARO in May of 2021 as the Administrative Assistant.*
 - What are 3 words that you would use to describe ARO? *Missional, Jesus-centered, Generous*
 - What drew you to ARO originally? *I remember first seeing the work that ARO was doing through social media. The work always "struck a cord" with me because my family's roots are in the heart of Eastern Kentucky, just down the road from ARO. I always loved seeing how ARO loved people in tangible ways, and through that I could see people's lives being transformed! I was very excited to be apart of the work of ARO when the position was presented to me!*
 - Best vacation you've been on? *Turks & Caicos*
 - What is your favorite sport? *To watch-baseball or basketball. To play-tennis.*
 - What is your favorite meal? *Ham & beans, potatoes & cornbread, or donuts!*
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If you are in the area where Dwayne will be speaking, or want to plan to hear about ARO and how God is moving in the mountains, we would love to see you on the road!

Dwayne's Upcoming Speaking Schedule:

Sunday, March 20th–Petrey Memorial Baptist Church–Hazard, KY
Sunday, April 3rd–Muncie Southside Nazarene –Muncie, IN

Saturday, April 9th–South Central Ohio NYI Convention–Circleville, OH
Sunday, April 24th–West Charleston Church of the Nazarene–Charleston, WV



Thank you for partnering with ARO to be *Christ's Love in Action*. Thank you for your faithful prayers, service, giving, and trust in ARO! Will you continue to pray that God would continue to guide our footsteps? Thank you in advance for your faithfulness!



Feel free to contact ARO's Executive Director, Dwayne Mills, at dwayne.p.mills@gmail.com



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