

Summer 2023 Newsletter



The Body of Christ

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ... For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body."

1 Corinthians 12:12, 14-15

Summers at ARO always remind me of the beauty of the body of Christ. I'm thankful for the ARO staff I get to work with, as our team is clearly divinely knit together with the different giftings necessary to carry out the ministry's mission of being Christ's love in action. Each Work and Witness team that comes to serve is divinely placed at just the right time with their unique giftings - needing a certified lift operator this week to serve His kingdom? A master plumber? A worship leader? A great baker? Not by coincidence, there they are on that week's team. Perhaps most amazingly, we can ask two different churches to share our campus for the week - churches entirely separate in location, personality, and sometimes even in denomination - and they come together and work as one to accomplish that week's mission that God has set before us. Only in Christ could that happen, because we are one body. Could you imagine asking two secular workplaces from across the country to come together and serve in such a way that required them to share a kitchen, share shower and bathroom facilities, spend 12 hours a day together, and work out in the heat together on a muggy July day? Of course that request would be doomed to fail, and maybe make for a good reality TV series, because they don't have the harmony of life in Christ.

I am encouraged by Paul's word to the Corinthians: even if the foot should compare itself to the hand, see the vastly different jobs they carry out, and doubt whether they are part of the same body, still they are working together as one. Whether you are the metaphorical hands of the Christ's body, the heart, the brain, or perhaps feeling like you're in a role poorly understood and behind the scenes like a body's thyroid, God has gifted and equipped you for His glory in the body of Christ, the church.

Salena Lehman,
ARO Development Coordinator

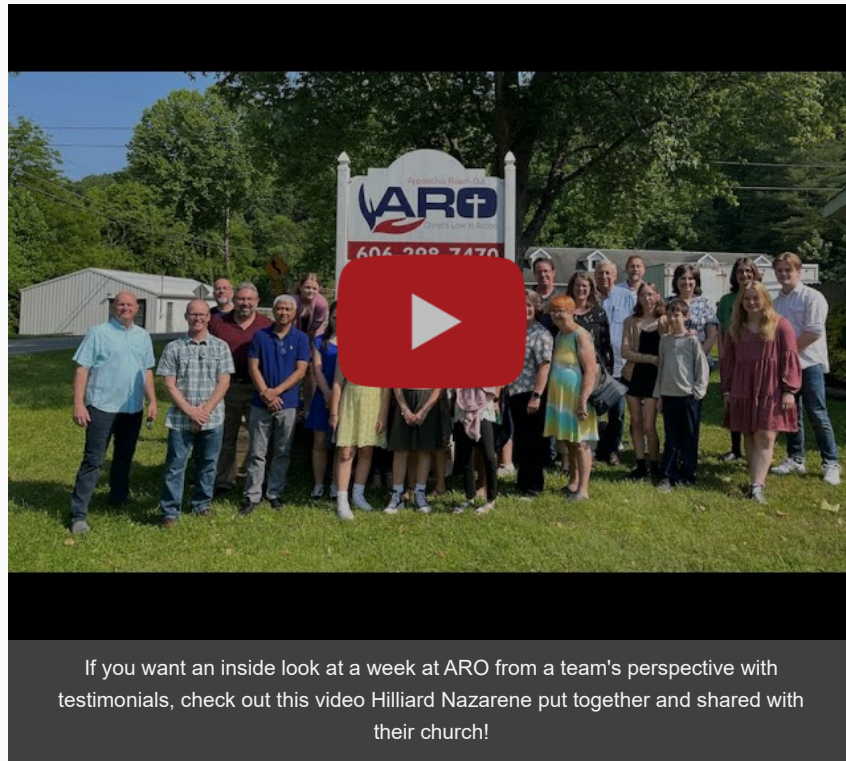


Hilliard Church of the Nazarene (OH) - Martin Co.

ARO is so grateful for all this generous team did to invest in Martin County and beyond. They led ARO's first Vacation Bible School of the summer at Warfield Park, a few home repair projects as they helped one family who was disabled by finishing their wheelchair ramp, continued to work with a widow ARO has been serving, spent a day at the White Oak Hill Women's Residential Center (Addiction Recovery Center), Karen's Place Maternity Center (ARC), served and shared at the Martin County Celebrate Recovery, helped clean a few apartments at Riverside, knocked out a number of projects on the campus of ARO, unloaded a trailer for the ARO Thrift Store, and showered our community with God's love. What an awesome time together.

Thank you Hilliard Nazarene, we are better because you were the living example of Jesus here on earth. Our community has been changed because of your willingness to come and serve.





If you want an inside look at a week at ARO from a team's perspective with testimonials, check out this video Hilliard Nazarene put together and shared with their church!

Borculo Christian Reformed Church (MI) - Martin Co.

Throughout this week Borculo CRC worked on the campus at ARO, unloaded a trailer for the ARO Thrift Store, worked in homes, led ARO's second Vacation Bible School for the summer, worked at Riverside Apartments, Warfield Elementary School, visited and loved on the residents of White Oak Hill Women's Residential Facility(Addiction Recovery Care) & Karen's Place Maternity Center(Addiction Recovery Care), and led worship at the Martin County Celebrate Recovery. They also brought donations for the Thrift Store & Food Pantry in which some volunteered. What an impact of showing the light, hope, and love of Christ this week!

Thanks Borculo CRC for your partnership with ARO. You all don't just show up to serve, but give generously through prayer and financial support. You are on a mission and making a difference for Jesus.



Cultivate Community Church (MI) – Nicholas Co.

It was a privilege for Appalachia Reach Out West Virginia to partner with Cultivate Community Church as we continue serve the community of Summersville, WV & Nicholas County. God moved in an amazing way. Below is a text Rich, ARO's W&W Director, received. This is from a mom who needed a hand up to help her and her children.

"I want you to know that I've never seen happier, talented and good hearted group of young people in my life. After such dark and trying times I've gone through lately. It has done my heart good yesterday to meet them and talk to a couple of them. The young lady that took me room by room explaining the repairs also took the time to talk to me about how many people had a hand on it all, so that I might have a nice and safe home. Out of love and caring THEY HAVE RESTORED MY FAITH and HOPE FOR OUR CHILDREN. And those that take the time to teach them how to be good caring and loving people. I needed help and from strangers I've RECEIVED MORE THAN I WOULD'VE EVER DREAMED. You are wonderful and may God bless you."

This is what it's ALL about. Being the hands, feet, heart and mission of Jesus!



"Triple Threat" Team – Martin Co.

Three churches were represented as teams at Appalachia Reach Out this week: the Alabama North District within the Church of the Nazarene (AL), Richardson Church of the Nazarene (TX), and Spiceland Church of the Nazarene (IN).

God moved in some powerful ways as these teams painted at Eden Elementary and Martin County Middle School, painted the old Martin County Jailhouse, a few home projects, projects on the campus of ARO, unloading a trailer for the ARO Thrift Store, served and led at the Martin County Celebrate Recovery, loved on residents at Karen's Place Maternity Center (Addiction Recovery Care) and White Oak Hill (Addiction Recovery Care) and other ways to let all know Jesus cares and loves each one. A special thank you to these teams for coming to serve to be...

"Christ's Love in Action."





Alabama North



Spiceland Church of the Nazarene



Richardson Church of the Nazarene



Parkview Nazarene (OH) - Nicholas Co.

Another great week of ministry as the ARO WV Work & Witness staff led by Rich and Thelma Mills continue to serve in Nicholas County, WV by being the hands, feet, heart and mission of Jesus. It has been a busy few weeks, but God has been faithful.



Grace Community Church (VA) - Martin Co.

This week ARO had the awesome privilege to partner with the Grace Community Church from Arlington, Virginia. It was a blessing to serve our community once again. There were many opportunities for ministry in Martin County and beyond. ARO was able to offer our 3rd and final Vacation Bible School at Warfield Park for the summer of 2023. It was an honor to serve in a few homes, unload an ARO Thrift Store trailer, more work on the campus of ARO was completed, serve at Inez Elementary School, participate and serve at the Martin County Celebrate Recovery, serve at Karen's Place Maternity Center (Ashland, KY), and White Oak Hill Women's Residential Facility (Inez, KY).

Above is not an exhaustive list, there is always things done in the community each week with teams like Grace Community that are never seen. God continues to open doors for ARO with our partners all over the country.

THANK YOU to all those who have faith and believe in ARO's mission and ministry.



Northridge Community Church (VA) and Medina Church of the Nazarene (OH) - Martin Co.

What a wonderful week loving on the Martin County community and beyond. Both of these churches were a great example of "Christ's Love in Action." This week was full of showing the love of Christ through serving. It's hard to capture a week with folks who come to be the hands, feet, heart, and mission of Jesus, but here are some of the ways they loved on our community: worked on the campus ARO, unloaded a trailer for the ARO Thrift Store, 3 homes had repair work, worked in the Martin County Middle School & Inez Elementary School, served at the Martin County Celebrate Recovery/Karen's Place Maternity Center/White Oak Hill Women's Residential Facility, and continued our work on the Martin County Courthouse & Jail.



Northridge Community Church



Medina Church of the Nazarene



Graafschap Christian Church (MI) - Nicholas Co.

God did amazing things this week through the leadership of Rich and Thelma Mills in Nicholas County, WV. They led and hosted this wonderful team from western Michigan. Reports of lives being changed, encouraged, and uplifted continue to come out of West Virginia. It is so encouraging to see what happens when the family of God comes together. A number of projects were completed as "Christ Love in Action" was displayed all week in the Summersville area. God has been faithful once again.

It is a joy and honor to partner with the West Virginia North & South District Church of the Nazarene. A special thanks to Rev. Bret Layton and Rev. Kevin Dennis and the Nazarene Campground for allowing ARO to be housed in Summersville. It is an honor!





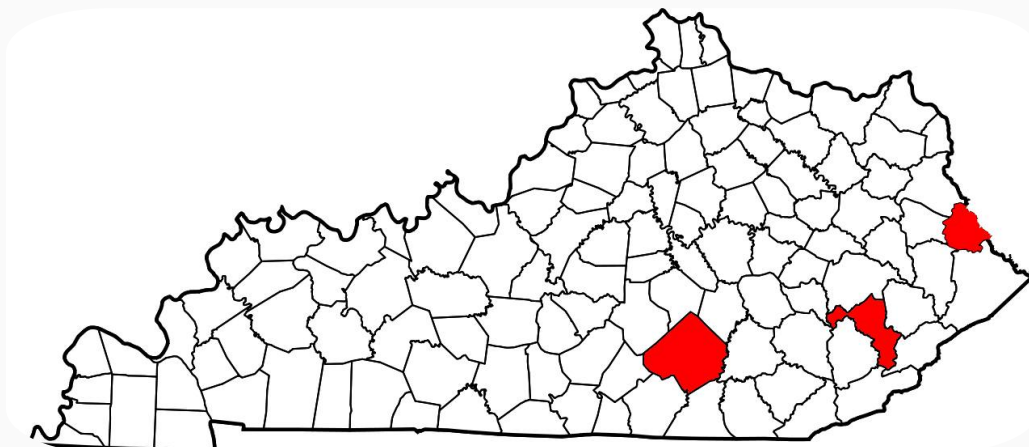
Big News!

At General Assembly in June, ARO shared about the doors God is opening for ministry - not just in Martin County, KY, but beyond.



Click the above video link to Facebook to hear Dwayne officially introduce two new ARO Work and Witness sites, and introduce our new Director of Operations, Greg Wells!

"Appalachia Reach Out after much prayer and conversation will be opening up two new sites in eastern and south central Kentucky. I'm happy to announce ARO will now have Work & Witness sites in Perry & Pulaski Counties. We are excited for this new chapter as ARO continues its long commitment to serve the beautiful people of Appalachia! Adding these two sites will give ARO 4 sites. Martin, Perry & Pulaski Counties in Kentucky & Nicholas County in West Virginia.



Also, ARO has decided to bring on the team, Greg Wells. Greg will serve full-time as the Director of Operations for ARO. Greg has served in local church ministry for 30 years. He is committed to the mission and ministry of ARO. After considerable prayer and conversation, the ARO Board believe this is the next step in building a stronger foundation for being "Christ's Love in Action" through the mission and ministry of ARO. Greg has accepted this new position effective August 1. Greg's main role will be to oversee our Perry & Pulaski County sites and also help ARO continue to hone how we work in these communities and with Work & Witness teams from all over the country. Welcome, Greg and family!

This new step for ARO is just phase one of our 5-10 year plan which I had the honor to present to the ARO Board of Directors in April '23. There is still many more possibilities as we continue to seek the face of God for the future. To Him be ALL the glory!

GOD IS ON THE MOVE IN THE MOUNTAINS!"

- Dwayne Mills, ARO Executive Director



Welcome to the ARO team, Greg and Family!

Welcome, Academic Director!

This summer, Heather Perry has been a vital part of the Martin County Work and Witness team as an intern. We are excited to announce that she has accepted the call to stay on full-time as ARO's new Academic Director and maintain the strong partnership ARO has with its local schools. Salena Lehman, ARO's previous Academic Director, finished her role this summer as she and her husband are expecting a baby in September and so have moved to be closer to family. Salena will be staying on staff remotely as ARO's Development Coordinator. Please join us in welcoming Heather to ARO's main campus full-time!



Feeding Martin County

ARO would like to thank the Pallottine Foundation for their partnership in supporting our food pantry! The Pallottine Foundation of Huntington was established with proceeds from the sale of St. Mary's Medical Center, and continues the legacy established by the Pallottine Missionary Sisters of caring for the spiritual, emotional, and physical health of those in the region. They have partnered with us in providing a \$15,000 grant that will help feed the 120+ families ARO's food pantry has been serving every month. Of this amount, \$1,000 has been given in partnership to each of the Martin County Schools' Family Resource and Youth Service Centers to stock their mini-pantries at all five schools.

Praise God that as we have seen the need increase at our food pantry, He continues to open doors and provide!



iPads for Students

For the third year in a row, ARO has sponsored two iPads for students attending our local school's academic summer camp. This encourages good attendance at the education and enrichment camp, and the tablets make great fun and learning tools for the winning students. Congratulations, Abby and Jackson!



Food Pantry Updates

Our ARO Food Pantry has been busy continuing to help families in our Martin County community. They were able to serve 145 families in June and 127 families in July. What a blessing to continue to serve so many people. A HUGE *Thank you* to our leaders Bill & Jana Zuidema. We are so appreciative of the work you do for ARO!



If you would like to donate the following items, it would be greatly appreciated:

- Family sized cereal
 - Family sized orange/apple juice
 - Cartons of shelf stable milk
 - Canned fruit, soup, or Chef Boyardee
 - Pinto beans in bags
 - Peanut butter/jelly
 - Mustard/ketchup/mayo
 - Spaghetti noodles & jars of spaghetti sauce
 - Handheld can openers (please no electric can openers)
 - Shampoo/conditioner
 - Liquid body wash/hand soap (not bar soap, and please pack toiletries separate from food items)
 - New socks and underwear (all sizes)
- *All items need to be within their expiration date*
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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, September 10 – Flemingsburg Nazarene (Flemingsburg, KY)
- Sunday, September 17 - Madison Nazarene (Madison, AL)
- Sunday, October 1 - Paulding Nazarene (Paulding, OH)
- Sunday, October 8 - Marysville Nazarene (Marysville, OH)
- Sunday, October 29 - Fairfield Nazarene (Fairfield, OH)



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! All that has been accomplished would not be possible without you! Will you continue to pray that God would continue to guide us?



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



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