

Appalachia Reach Out

February/March '21

March 31, 2021 Issue #16



Prayer List For 2021

1. Families in eastern Kentucky recovering from winter storms and floods.
2. 2021 Ministry Schedule
3. ARO Staff & their families!

"If it wasn't for ARO, Martin County wouldn't have made it through these trying times."
- **Flood Relief Worker**

Psalm 118:16

"The Lord's right hand is lifted high;
the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"

God's Abiding Presence

In the December '20/January '21 Newsletter, I wrote about God's faithfulness. Little did I know eastern Kentucky would be rocked with two winter ice storms, a snow storm, bitter cold, rains, and flood waters beginning the middle of February and running through the beginning of March and yet God was with us each step of the way. On Friday, February 19, Appalachia Reach Out was rushed into storm/flood disaster relief mode for 36 straight days. In the middle of all of the things pulling at our attention, ARO did it's best to help in multiple counties; God's presence was with us. I John 4:16 says, "So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." This Word is true and God's abiding presence was with all who served during these days. Abide, in the Biblical definition means, "to remain stable." This is exactly what happened during our time trying to help those impacted the greatest by these unprecedented natural disasters. God's presence was our guide each day as we leaned into what He had for us. If you haven't experienced this abiding presence, I would encourage you to call on His name and He will answer. I'm so thankful we serve a God whose abiding presence is always with us. - *Dwayne P. Mills, ARO, Executive Director*

Work & Witness Teams Arrive

Even in the middle of storm/flood relief efforts, ARO welcomed back Work & Witness teams to eastern Kentucky for 2021. In the past few months it was an honor for ARO to partner with the Nursing Department from Indiana Wesleyan University in February/March and the Alabama North District Church of the Nazarene in March. These teams jumped in and helped others who came to serve on Disaster Relief teams. It was such a joy to watch as they without hesitation were in storm/flood relief mode with ARO as we served the people most impacted by the natural disasters. ARO was able to welcome in a great number of different Disaster Relief teams who came and provided supplies and labor hours to serve alongside of ARO in our effort to share the love and hope of Christ in very perilous times. It was a welcome sight to see the Church step up and be the Church. Please continue to pray for ARO in Kentucky and West Virginia as we welcome in close to 30 Work & Witness teams this year.



Panoramic picture taken Monday morning, March 1 during the flash flood, this is across the street from ARO on ARO's property. You can see ARO's Warehouse in the right of the picture. God's hand pushed the water out of this building.

"So we have come to know and to believe the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." I John 4:16



Above is a picture of the Convoy of Hope semi-trailer, delivering over 30,000 pounds of nonperishable food items at ARO's collection sight for supplies in Inez, KY.

Thanks!

Thanks to all of you who support us through prayer, serving, and financial support. You can learn more about supporting us online at www.appalachiareachout.com.

Our address is:
PO Box 2147
Inez, KY 41224
Phone: (606) 298-7470

Thanks for your continued prayers and financial support. If you would like to financially bless the ministry of ARO, you can do this through our website or send a check to the above address. Thank you!

You can contact Dwayne Mills,
ARO Executive Director at
dwayne.p.mills@gmail.com

ARO's Impact in the Storms

To God be the glory! ARO and its partners have had a great and life-changing impact on eastern Kentucky and its wonderful people. Sharing the numbers below is only scratching the surface of the impact during the recent storm/flood relief efforts. The Church is a mighty force when it shows up!

As mentioned above Friday, February 19 through Friday, March 26 which is a total of 36 days, ARO was in the trenches helping in the heart of Appalachia being Christ's love in action! The ARO family made its way to serve alongside of our ARO team on the ground in eastern Kentucky from Pennsylvania, Indiana, Tennessee, Virginia, Michigan, Ohio, Alabama, California, Wisconsin, and Kentucky. Those who couldn't make it sent in financial donations from all over the US.

Also, the outpouring of support from Martin County School District Resource Center Directors, Martin County Ministerial Association, Martin County Kiwanis Club, civic organizations, local businesses, magistrates, local government officials, churches, individuals, etc...ARO will forever be grateful. It took all of us!

The work is NOT DONE, ARO will not give up until we can help those who need a hand up. Our desire is to always be Christ's hands, feet, heart, and mission. ARO hopes this has been evident?

Here are some numbers...AGAIN, TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

1. Over 200,000 pounds of nonperishable food items = \$340,000 value!
 - Over 100,000 pounds in Martin County
 - Over 80,000 pounds in Lawrence County
 - Over 20,000 pounds in Lee County
2. 3,300 labor hours = \$90,000
3. Over 100,000 bottles of water donated.
4. Over 500 Flood Buckets = \$22,500
5. Other donated goods...hygiene items, paper towels, toilet paper, small appliances, clothing, bleach, etc... = \$25,000
6. Relief supplies & materials.
7. ARO full-time staff worked 80-100 hour weeks.

Rough estimate in total dollars is between \$550,000-\$600,000 given through the mission and ministry of Appalachia Reach Out!

ALL FOR JESUS!



Warfield IGA in Warfield, KY was flooded. This is one of two grocery stores in all of Martin County, KY. Thankfully, they are back up and operating for our residents.