
November 2023 Newsletter



If you haven't already, I encourage you to read the story of Gideon in Judges 6-8.

Have you ever faced something in life that felt near impossible, or maybe you are facing that time right now, but my guess is, you have been faced with an impossible situation? But what about an impossible situation but in the end, it was only God that got you through. He received all the glory, because the only explanation was God?!

One of my favorite stories in the Bible, that leaves me in total awe of Him, is the story of Gideon and his battle with the Midianites. Gideon was faced with a completely impossible situation. Logically all odds were against him. And what we know of Gideon is that he came from a very weak tribe, and was the weakest of his family. Let's just say

Gideon would not have been picked first to lead an army. But what Gideon did have was an army of 32,000 men. But God says-I'm going to hand Midian over to you, but you must first narrow your army down to about 300 men. From 32,000 to 300. Gideon and his army of 300 men were going to war with one of the toughest, meanest and strongest armies of his time, with only 300 men. But the story doesn't stop there, God says, put away your swords and your armor, I want you to go to war with instruments and pottery-trumpets and jars! If Gideon were to give me orders to put my weapons down and grab a jar and trumpet, after he made our army so small, I can tell you I would have for sure thought "yeah we're going to die, no way we come out of this alive". But I want to talk about what Gideon did. Gideon was

fearful, this didn't make sense, he probably looked extremely silly to his army of men to give them those crazy orders. But what did Gideon do when He was fearful and when nothing made logical sense? He let his obedience to God surpass his own conclusions. And in verse 15 of chapter 7 we see that after God gives Gideon confirmation of His plan, he worships God! His worship becomes his greatest weapon. So my encouragement is to trust God and let your obedience surpass your own conclusions. And to also let your worship be your greatest weapon and watch how God can work through the impossible and He will receive all the glory!

Jennifer Caplinger,
ARO Administrative Assistant



Mount Vernon Nazarene University- MANDATE

9 MVNU students traveled after class and made their way to ARO in Martin County to serve for the weekend. We are thankful for the sacrifice of these students. Some students served on campus, the White Oak Hill Women's Residential Facility, as well as the local elementary school in Warfield by completing some landscaping projects!

Many thanks to our Academic Director, Heather Perry, for leading these efforts!



Forest Home Church of the Nazarene (AR) & West Carrollton Church of the Nazarene (OH)

It's always a blessing to see how God works out the details of each trip, and how He puts two teams from different parts of the country to come together and show Christ's love to a community. During their time together in Martin County, they worked in 3 different homes for different repairs, the ladies served the women of the White Oak Hill Women's Residential Facility and Karen's Place Maternity., the tutored students at Warfield and Inez Elementary, they unloaded a trailer for the Thrift Store, shared the message and led worship at Celebrate Recovery, and other projects around campus. Thankful for all their work and service and those that lead the teams from ARO is quite an understatement!





SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Executive Director, Dwayne Mills, was awarded the Champions of Appalachia award, for the work being done through ARO! Please help us congratulate our leader, Dwayne Mills! We are blessed to have Dwayne and his servant leadership!



CHAMPIONS
of Appalachia

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 HONOREES:

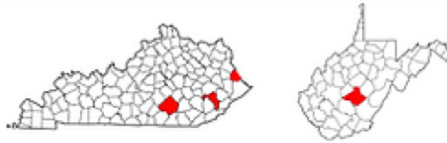
REV. DWAYNE MILLS
CALLIE D MCGRATH FOUNDATION

PRESENTED BY CHRISTIAN APPALACHIAN PROJECT
SPONSORED BY NETGAIN TECHNOLOGIES, LLC





SUMMER 2024 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Highlights

- 10-12 week internship in eastern Kentucky and Appalachia
- Compassionate ministry experience with tailored focus on your major and interests
- All expenses paid, including food, lodging, and gas
- \$1,750 scholarship awarded at completion plus weekly \$50 stipend

Responsibilities

- Assist with hosting summer missions teams and summer ministry programming including home repair, community service projects, VBS, addiction recovery outreach, thrift store and food pantry ministries, and more
- Engage in Appalachian culture and seek to understand the nuances of generational rural poverty
- Apply your career and/or personal interests and giftings in a rural setting








"His hands, His feet, His heart, and His mission"

Contact Heather Perry for More Info:

hperry1688@gmail.com

END OF YEAR GIVING CAMPAIGN

We would like to ask you to prayerfully consider giving towards one of these special requests. If you would like your contribution to go towards one of these projects specifically, please note this in your donation (e.g., in the memo line of a check). Funds not designated towards a specific goal will go towards the general fund. To give, use the enclosed, pre-addressed envelope to send a check or cash and return the below attachment below with your donation. For online donations through PayPal, please visit our website at: www.appalachiareachout.com/

| Need | | Goal |
|--|---|-----------------|
|  CR Food | ARO partners with Celebrate Recovery (CR) in Martin County, regularly hosting between 100-200 men and women who share their testimony of deliverance from addiction. Cooking this crowd dinner every week is a blessing for all involved. | \$1,000 |
|  Teacher Tools | Huge hit in 2023! Classroom materials and teaching tools to be purchased for educators within the Martin County School District as an investment in our students. | \$1,500 |
|  ARO Servant Leaders Scholarship | Three \$1,000 college scholarships to be awarded to Class of '24 Martin County High School graduates who have demonstrated exemplary servant leadership in their community. | \$3,000 |
|  Internship Program | ARO is recruiting 3-5, college-age summer interns to assist with Work and Witness teams and to be equipped with valuable ministry experience relevant to their gifts and callings. | \$12,000 |
|  Work and Witness Fund | Your donation will support the new Perry and Pulaski (KY) county sites as well as Martin (KY) and Nicholas (WV) county teams as they build roofs, sure up floors, install wheelchair ramps, and more for families needing a hand up. | \$30,000 |

To donate by cash or check, please send your donation to the address below:

ARO
PO BOX 2147
Inez, KY 41224



2024 PRAYER GUIDE



For the Ministry of ARO:

- Pray for the families and community partners we have worked with in 2023 and will work with in the future
- Pray for ARO staff and their families
- Pray for God's clear direction in the expansion of ARO sites, such as in Perry and Pulaski counties

For the People of Appalachia:

- Pray for families who are still stabilizing from the 2022 eastern Kentucky flooding that leveled their homes
- Pray for businesses and industries to bring an increase of careers to the area
- Pray for churches as they evangelize and make disciples of Christ in their communities

Thrift Store & Food Pantry Updates

Our ARO Thrift Store and Food Pantry is run everyday mainly by our wonderful volunteers. When our Pantry and Store are closed—we have workers and volunteers working to stock shelves, unload trucks, coordinating food pick-ups and drop-off donation items continuously even if our doors are closed. We want to thank our leaders Bill & Jana Zuidema for leading this incredible ministry.

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)
 - Adult diapers

All items need to be within their expiration date



We are always so thankful for all our partners across the country. And what a privilege to be able to speak to three different congregations this last month.

It was a privilege to be at Marysville Church of the Nazarene with one of Dwayne's college classmates, Pastor Brian Richardson. We are so excited to have this church serve with us in Nicholas County, WV in the summer of 2024.

Later on in the month Dwayne was able to travel to Paulding, Ohio, to the Paulding Church of the Nazarene with Pastor Jeremy Thompson. This church will be bringing a team to Martin County in 2024, and we look forward to this partnership!

Our last stop for the month was in Fairfield, Ohio, at Fairfield Church of the Nazarene, with Pastor Darin Fowler. We look forward to sharing about all God is doing in the heart of Appalachia and what an honor it was to share with this faith community.



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:

Be on the lookout in the near future for our Executive Director's 2024 speaking schedule.



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



DONATE NOW TO ARO



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Forward

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