
October 2022 Newsletter



Not a Coincidence

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10, ESV

At ARO I am constantly reminded of one thing: God's plan is profound. When we ask Him to lead, guide, and direct our steps, and then ask for the eyes to see Him at work in the lives of those around us, the effect is astonishing. So many verses in the Bible point to not only God's plan for His people and the world, but also His care for every one of his children on an individual level. He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4); He knit us together in our mother's womb (Ps. 139:13).

Ephesians 2:10 says that God has prepared good works ahead of time for those who are created in Christ Jesus. This is too humbling for me to comprehend, but if His word says it, it must be so!

Being a part of this ministry has allowed me to witness incredible things that God has done, and He is increasing my faith as a result. I recently witnessed God's miraculous healing of a woman with widespread cancer - completely gone, prior to any medical intervention - to the utter bewilderment of her doctors. I have seen a family's hope and faith restored in God as a result of one of ARO's home repairs. I watched a lady drop to her knees at the altar at Celebrate Recovery, done wrestling with God and ready to make Him the Lord of her life and turn her life around, which he is doing. These events have made me laugh, cry, and ponder them in my heart. Yet somehow it's the little things - the things that are just specific enough that they can't be chalked up to coincidence - that truly amaze me, because they make me whisper, "Really, God? You care about this, too?"

How could it be a coincidence? that ARO obtains several prayer quilts sewed by a Work and Witness team in Arkansas, then weeks later passes out just a single blanket at first to a woman in Martin County going through immense trial, who immediately has tears form in her eyes and says, "Just this morning I was telling my friend that I have a small prayer cloth, and I have a blanket made out of bandanas, but what I really told God that I want is a blanket made out of prayer cloth. Thank you."

How could it be a coincidence? that a volunteer tutoring in the local elementary school works with a student whose mother overdosed on drugs but was too young to understand, saying, "My family told me that mom lived far away in a town where nobody liked her and someone bad put something bad in her medicine and she died," said to the volunteer whose son struggled with addiction for years and who knew *just* how to comfort and still protect the innocence of that young boy. How could it be a coincidence? that an ARO team arrives on an ordinary Tuesday just five minutes before a utility truck rolls up to a woman's home who is on oxygen, there to shut the power off, but the team pulls out their personal credit cards to wipe her slate clean and share the love of Christ to a woman who was convinced that God can't forgive or love her. How?

It's not a coincidence. Somehow, in God's incredible story He is weaving, we get to participate and cross threads with others to whom He sends us. I am thankful to God, I am thankful for the church, and I am thankful that I don't have to believe in coincidences!

In Christ,
Salena Lehman,
Academic Director & Campus Assistant, ARO



As 2022 draws to a close and we look ahead to 2023, we are thankful to serve a God who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow! He has provided for the ministry of ARO along every step of the way as we have humbly walked through the doors He has opened, and we trust that He will continue to provide as we follow His direction. Our sincerest thanks to those who have supported ARO with your time, monetary gifts, and prayers in 2022. Would you continue to join us as we join Him in this redemptive work?

This year, ARO would like to challenge you to prayerfully consider giving towards one of the special requests listed below. 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 exceeding a goal will be applied towards another special project; when all special projects are funded, contributions will be applied to our general fund to support all operations of the ministry as we look ahead to 2023. Mail checks or cash to:








Appalachia Reach Out
PO Box 2147
Inez, KY 41224

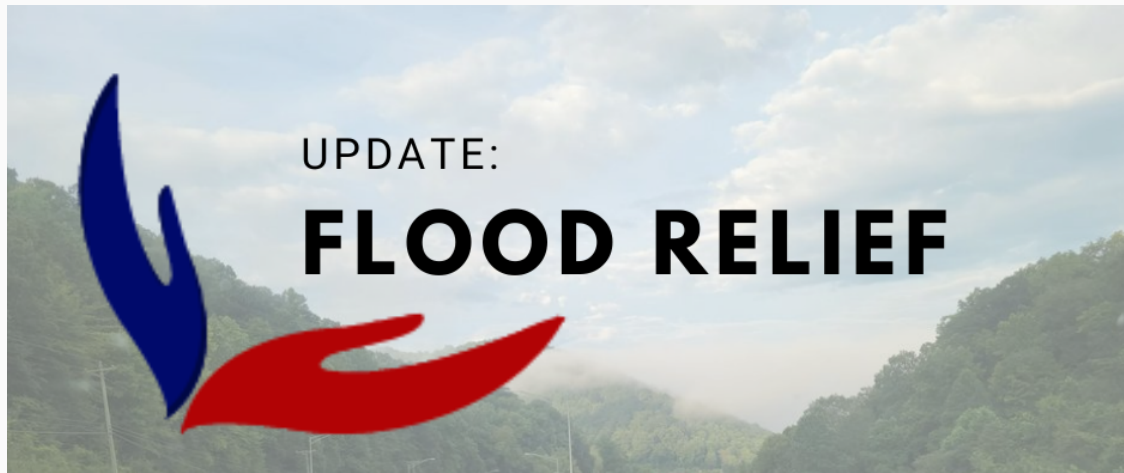
For online donations through PayPal, please visit our website at:

www.appalachiareachout.com/donate

ARO would not be able to have an impact in the heart of Appalachia without support through prayers, financial gifts, and God's direction. We want to personally thank you for your consideration to be a part of the impact ARO is making in the lives of those we serve and those that come alongside us. Your gift will go directly to these lives we serve every day and will make an eternal impact for the Kingdom!

Special Requests:

	Special Request	Description	Goal
	Celebrate Recovery Chips	Celebrate Recovery (CR) meeting chips commemorating the first day, 30 days, 60 days, etc. in recovery from drugs and alcohol, and CR Bibles for new believers. These are in high demand!	\$750
	New Teacher Tools	Classroom materials and teaching tools to be purchased for educators with less than 5 years' experience 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 '23 Martin County High School graduates who have demonstrated exemplary servant leadership in their community and intend to return to Martin County after college graduation.	\$3,000
	Food Pantry Fund	Supplemental funds to be used in ARO's food pantry to restock through our supplier, God's Food Pantry, combatting the rising food costs our pantry faces and ensuring our county's low-income families continue to receive assistance.	\$5,000
	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
	Summer Camp Van	Fifteen-passenger van to be used to transport elementary-aged children from the hollers to and from ARO-hosted Christian day camps during the summer. The van will also be used to assist with transporting Work and Witness teams.	\$30,000
	Flood Relief Fund	ARO is continuing to accept donations for those impacted by the eastern Kentucky flooding. Most of the large charities have left the area and families are receiving pennies on the dollar through FEMA for the homes they lost. 100% of flood donations go towards helping families rebuild their homes and their lives.	[Limitless]



ARO and Love Your Neighbor (LYN) continue to partner with churches, districts, families, and individuals as we invest in the Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief work in Perry County, Kentucky.

Since last Friday, October 28 through this coming Sunday, November 6 there has been and will be teams from Cornerstone (Wheelersburg, OH) Nazarene, Somerset (KY) Nazarene, Southwest Ohio District Nazarene Disaster Relief team, Hillsboro (OH) Nazarene, Crossroads (Steubenville, OH) Christian Church, Weirton (WV) Nazarene, Fortville (IN) Nazarene, and Perry (MI) Nazarene. It's amazing to see the love and compassion of Christ through each team member as they come to share His love and hope.

Since being onsite beginning Saturday, July 30 through this coming Sunday, November 6, 2022 below is the impact of ARO and LYN in partnership to lead this relief effort;

Teams - 45

Individuals - 397

Volunteer Hours - 10,468

Donated per hour labor - \$313,516.60

Millions of \$ donated in resources such as cleaning supplies, food, water, clothing, household supplies, gift cards, etc...

ARO & LYN work wouldn't be possible without partnerships in Perry County. A special thank you to Petrey Memorial Baptist Church (Lodging, food, storing supplies, etc...) & Pastor Sam Stacy, Frontline Ministries Church (Lodging, food, storing supplies, etc...) & Pastor Jeremy Gadbury, & Hazard First Baptist (Lodging, food, etc...) and Pastor Tim Reynolds. These 3 churches have made what has happened possible for our work and ministry.

I can say without hesitation the Church of Jesus Christ is alive. Please continue to pray for ARO and LYN as we continue this important and life giving ministry for the sake of Christ.
Below are a few photos of our time working in Eastern Kentucky.





Our Work & Witness team this month was from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, TN, whose students came to serve on their fall break from October 7–October 11. ARO would like to thank this incredible college group for finishing the season strong as the last official W&W team ARO will host in 2022. During their time in Martin County they brought a time of worship and sharing to a women's' Addiction Recovery Care facility, experienced Appalachian culture at Martin County's Heritage Festival and at Charles Mills' farm, helped with the food pantry and thrift store, and made an impact tutoring at Inez Elementary School and Warfield Elementary School. What a blessing they were to the people of Martin County! Thank you!

Thank you to **The Gruppen Family** from Borculo CRC who came down to volunteer for a weekend and were a huge blessing on campus! Their hearts to serve were so evident during their time here as they tackled projects from gutter cleaning to baby clothes sorting and so much more. Thank you!

Thank you to **Vicki and Steve** from Crossroads Church who brought donations for the thrift store and ARC coat drive, as well as put the hard work into replacing the outside staircase of the two-bedroom apartment. ARO is blessed to have such great friends of our staff and ministry!

A special thank you to **Timothy Alan Goodpaster** and **Bob Mortimer** from Community Outreach for Youth for the convocations you gave at 4 schools in Martin County and 8 schools in Perry County. Bob spoke a powerful message of hope from the life experience of being a triple amputee. His message resonated from the youngest elementary student to the oldest high school student, and even to the staff: the only handicap you will ever have is the one you put on yourself, he said while putting on a navy ball cap that read "HANDY" in thick block letters. Whether those handicaps be a bad attitude, drugs, a broken family, or something else – our mindset must be one of courage instead of victimhood, of hope instead of despair, of ability instead of disability. He even was able to share that this hope is in Jesus. Thank you, Bob and Tim!







 **DWAYNE'S WINTER SABBATICAL** 



Full-time ministers in the Church of the Nazarene are given a sabbath rest once every seven years. The ARO Board has blessed Dwayne with this time of rest from November 20, 2022 - January 8, 2022.

Enjoy, Dwayne!

During this time, for any ARO-related items please contact:

Bill Zuidema / Campus Director / 606-298-7470 (call)
Salena Lehman / Academic Director / 614-284-4630 (text/call)

Our ARO Food Pantry has been busy continuing to help families in our community. We are blessed that we are able to serve the amount of families we have been able to help. We want to be able to continue to serve as many families grace our doorsteps, but because of this increase, we are asking for donations to our food pantry. If you would like to donate the following items, it would be greatly appreciated:

- Family sized cereal
- Individual/single serving cereal
- Individual mac and cheese bowls
- Easy pop top cans of food
- Orange/apple juice
- Cartons of shelf stable milk
- Canned soup
- Chef Boyardee in cans

All items need to be within their expiration date

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:

Oak Hill (WV) Church of the Nazarene – Sunday, November 6
Dwayne will be on a sabbath rest from November 20-January 8

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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