



In Matthew 4:19 Jesus says, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." We see in His earliest interactions with His disciples that He is calling them to be missionaries. He didn't ask them to simply study with Him, eat with Him, or walk with Him. He called them to follow and to learn from Him, and ultimately to mimic His way of ministry.

I recently read a devotion that speaks to this. I will do my best to paraphrase what it said.

Jesus was the first missionary! He did not sit by and let anyone who happened to be interested in His teaching come to Him. He went out where the needs were. Those who were sick, the sorrowing, and the sad, and He shared His message of joy, healing, hope, and salvation. He sought out those who needed to hear His message. When He was very young, He went to the Temple and challenged the thinking of the doctors and lawyers who were entrenched in the old traditions. Wherever He went He confronted and changed people. And at "end of the day" they nailed Him to a cross because He had upset their selfish, secure, smug way of life. Not only was Jesus a missionary, but He pledged His followers to be missionaries, too!

Will you join me in this journey to follow Him?

Greg Wells,  
Director of Operations

# What's New

## Let's Welcome our Summer Interns for 2024

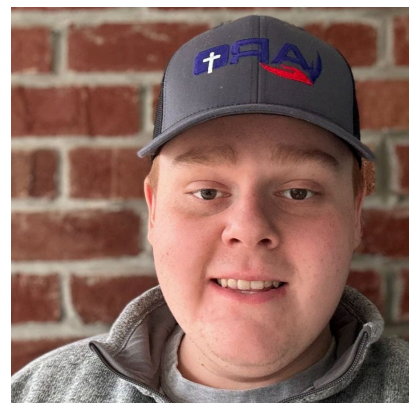
The ARO interns will be working and serving with our teams this summer in Martin County, Ky. and Nicholas County, WV. There are several ways you can partner with us to support them and the work they will be doing. First, you can commit to pray for our students as they bless our mission and ministry as they serve in the heart of Appalachia. Also, you can financially support our interns as ARO will be providing a monthly stipend for the summer months and a scholarship as they return to school this fall. Let's do our part in blessing our interns!

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I am Alize Young, I attend Mount Vernon Nazarene University as a freshman, my major is Education and Social Policies with a minor in Intercultural Studies. I learned about ARO when they visited MVNU during the fall semester, they immediately caught my attention, as my dream is to work with children and families who need extra support. I want to spread the gospel and some love!

My name is Philip Hinerman I was born and raised in Weirton, WV. I am currently a junior at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in the Emergency Management and Homeland Security program. I was introduced to ARO this past fall while volunteering at the Martin County campus with the Mandate Community and Service Ministry group from MVNU. When we returned to MVNU after our weekend in Kentucky, I felt that God was leading me to apply for the summer internship at ARO to serve in a more long-term position. Being from West Virginia, I hold a special place in my heart for the Appalachian Region and the people who live here.





My Name is Lydia Bolden and I am from Granville Ohio. This is my senior year at Mount Vernon Nazarene University where I am studying Psychology. In the fall I will be pursuing my master's degree in addiction counseling at Milligan University. Through one of MVNU's Mandate trips, I was able to volunteer at ARO. While this was a brief weekend trip I was able to witness the ways ARO is involved in the community. What really stuck with me was the opportunity I had to serve the women at the addiction recovery center. By simply being there and engaging with them, we were able to make a positive impact in their life and show the love of Christ.

# Monthly Updates

## **ARO Hosts the Leadership from Crossroads Church**

ARO was excited to host our friends from Crossroads Church this past month. ARO and Crossroads Church has had a strong partnership since 2021. They will be sending three teams to serve alongside of ARO this year. Please continue to pray for the ministry of ARO and the many churches, organizations and universities who will be serving in Appalachia in 2024.



# Thrift Store & Pantry

## Thrift Store & Food Pantry Updates

The ARO Thrift Store and Food Pantry continued to serve our community through the snow and ice in January. These ministries could not exist without the volunteers who help with unloading and organizing supplies. We even had several men drive cross country in an ice storm to love and minister to the people in our county. We are so grateful for this area of our ministry and all our volunteers and our leaders Bill and Jana Zuidema!



### ARO THRIFT STORE ITEMS

- Towels
- Tennis shoes
- Men's Clothing
- Sheets/Blankets
- Comforters/Quilts
- Christmas items/Decorations
- NEW socks & underwear for kids & adults
- Adult pull-ups (Not diapers)
- Chucks

### Hygiene Items

- Shampoo/Conditioner/Body wash
- Toothpaste/tooth brush
- Deodorant WITH antiperspirant

### FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

(For reference we service approximately 180 families each month!)

\*ALL food has to have a good expiration date!

- Cereal (normal size)
- Juice
- Chef Boyardee cans (Or other heat & eat)
- Ketchup/Mayo/Mustard/Syrup
- Cans of soup
- Peanut Butter/Jam
- Spaghetti sauce
- Granola bars/cereal bars
- Hand held can openers (non-electric)

Call or text Bill Zuidema at 606-534-0707 about any other items concerning the thrift store or pantry. Items need to be new or gently used, complete and in working order for the Thrift Store.

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# Speaking Engagements

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, February 4**

– Pickerington (OH) Church of the Nazarene

### **Sunday, February 11**

– Durbin (KY) Church of the Nazarene

### **Sunday, February 18**

– Montana Street (OH) Church of the Nazarene

### **Sunday, February 25**

– Napoleon (OH) Church of the Nazarene

**PLEASE NOTE:** Our Director of Operations, Greg Wells, will be speaking February 18 at Crossroads Nazarene, Ocean Springs, MS





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  
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