

## August 2022 Newsletter



### Where is the Church?

Over the past several weeks, I have been able to reflect on the Church, and it's impact on the people of Eastern Kentucky. I think many people in hard times have questioned "Where is the Church"? Why isn't the church stepping up, what does the church have to say about this issue, etc. In the last six weeks, and really as my time as Executive Director of ARO, I have seen the church literally show up, there was no question where the church was. The Church has been in the trenches, when in times, many others have not. I can confidently say that as we have navigated these difficult, uncertain, heartbreaking times in the most recent days in Eastern Kentucky, we have called on the Church, and there was no question where they were. They are with us, they are working alongside us, they are praying for us, they are driving materials for us, they are loving people with us. God's peace, his comfort, his love, is being poured out on his people, through his people, during a most difficult time. I think a real test of the faith and love of the Church is what happens when adversity strikes. Does the Church run toward adversity, toward the brokenness of the world, because of sin, and blots it out with the love of Christ, saying "Satan you may try, but you will not win". Or, does the Church run, hide and ignore? I think Scripture clearly states that our faith and love in Him should bear fruit. We should see evidence of Him in us. I'm thankful for the Church and how it has literally been the Hands, Feet, Heart, and Mission of Jesus Christ in the last six weeks. I'm thankful the Church has charged into the midst of adversity. I'm thankful they are bearing fruit. I'm thankful for the love of God being poured out on those that have faced extremely difficult times. *"You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you."* John 15:16 May the Church take this appointment seriously. Oh God, may we bear fruit, and may there not be a question "where is the Church?".

In His Care,  
Dwayne P. Mills,  
Executive Director, ARO

# Donate to the Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief

MOST NEEDED ITEM:  
**WATER!**

**Deadly and catastrophic floods have ravaged Eastern Kentucky. EVERY PENNY donated will go directly to help with the Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief. You can donate through the following ways listed below!**



Dwayne Mills-815-278-0179 📞

appalachiareachout.com 🌐

Appalachia Reach Out 📺

PO BOX 2147 Inez, KY 41224 ✉

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As many have heard of the recent catastrophic flooding in Eastern Kentucky, we ask that you remember to pray for the people that live in these small towns and many other surrounding communities. Many people lost everything, some even lost loved ones. Please consider praying and partnering with us financially to help with flood relief. We guarantee that ever dollar sent will be used for those effected by the floods in Eastern Kentucky.

### **Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief Update**

Since the catastrophic flooding in Eastern Kentucky, ARO along with Love Your Neighbor (Somerset, KY), Executive Director, Greg Wells have collected over \$100,000 in financial donations. This has helped to date with donations to the 2 churches (Petrey Memorial Baptist Church & Frontline Ministries) where our teams are staying, material, supplies and other expenses. Since Wednesday, August 3rd-Friday, September 9th we have hosted 26 teams with 249 individuals. As well as 5,456 volunteer hours have been given, which is a total of \$163,407.20 in charitable work. We have been able to donate tons of resources for the Perry County Distribution Center. Those who want to come and serve with ARO/Love Your Neighbor have 3 weeks in the fall to serve. We are asking teams to arrive on Sunday evening and depart on Friday morning. ARO will be in Perry County, (Hazard, KY) during the weeks of:

September 25th-30th  
October 9th-14th  
October 30th-November 4th

Below are a few photos of our time working in Eastern Kentucky.



As ARO continues the work with flood relief, we have continued to host Work & Witness teams in Martin County, KY. We want to say a special "Thank You" to **Bob & Marilyn DeJung, Jay & Salena Lehman, and Bill & Jana Zuidema**, as they have been leading the efforts on campus at ARO in Martin County! We are so thankful for them and their work they do every day for ARO!

During the month of August ARO and **Springdale Nazarene** in Ohio partnered with the Martin County Back to School Bash to provide much needed school supplies for the children of Martin County. With Salena Lehman leading these efforts for ARO, we had a very successful event!

With the help of **Blanchester Nazarene** in Ohio, **Wendy Skates and Denise Chaffins**, we were able to provide free haircuts, school clothing and school supplies to the children of Warfield. We held this event at the Warfield Community Center. Thank you to all those that volunteered to make this happen!

We also want to thank all those that help support the ARO Thrift Store, by either loading and unloading trailers and semis full of items for the store, or those that coordinate the drop off, and to our staff and volunteers that run the everyday tasks for the thrift store. We couldn't do this without you!

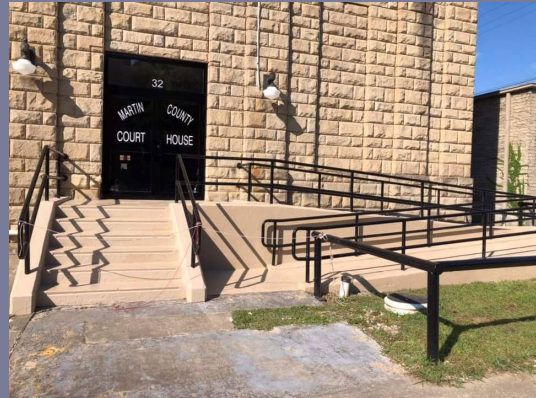
Our Work & Witness teams this month were from **Lima Community Nazarene** in Ohio and **Forest Home Nazarene** in Arkansas. They were incredible workers this month and were the tangible hands and feet of Jesus! During their time in Martin County they worked on 3 major home repairs, the Kingfisher Trail, Heritage Village, the Martin County Historic Courthouse by refinishing floors and the entrance steps and ramp to the courthouse. They also partnered with Martin County Celebrate Recovery with a meal and worship service, and worked at the White Oak Hill ARC Facility. What a blessing they were to the people of Martin County! Thank you!













Our ARO Food Pantry has been busy continuing to help families in our community. During the summer months, our numbers for families served have continually increased. 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 out 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
- Orange/Apple Juice
- Canned soup
- Cartons of shelf stable milk
- Chef Boyardee in cans

\*All items need to be within their expiration date\*

Also if you want to donate financially to ARO's Food Pantry, please just indicate "Food Pantry" in the memo line.

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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:**

- Hurricane (WV) Church of the Nazarene - Sunday, September 11
- Teays Valley (WV) Church of the Nazarene - Sunday, September 18
- Charleston Calvary (WV) Church of the Nazarene - Sunday, October 2

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! We want to thank all of our partners who have donated time and money to the Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief. 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](mailto:dwayne.p.mills@gmail.com)

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