



Mr. Ritchie Wade Mills

March 6, 1953 ~ June 13,
2024

Born in: **Steubenville, OH**

Resided in: **Weirton, WV**

The ARO family is deeply saddened by the loss of our good friend and brother in Christ, Rich Mills. Rich and Thelma have been a vital part of Appalachia Reach Out over the last 2.5 years as they faithfully led the site in Nicholas County, West Virginia.

Words fall short to describe the impact Rich had on so many throughout his life. He was kind, gracious, loving, caring, encouraging, inspiring and most important Christ-like in every way.

As I mentioned before Rich was Appalachia Reach Out's Work & Witness Director for our West Virginia site in Nicholas County, WV. Because Rich & Thelma said YES to serving in this ministry role, there are individuals in heaven today. I want to share with you two message I received in the last year from Rich concerning two families that were impacted –

This was a testimony from Tanya sent to Dwayne, ARO's Executive Director, from Rich.

I want you to know that I've never seen happier, talented and good hearted group of young people in my life. After such dark and trying times I've gone through lately, it done my heart good yesterday to meet them and talk to a couple of them. The young lady that took me room by room explaining the repairs also took the time to tell me how many people has a hand on it all, so that I might have a nice and safe home. Their love and caring they have restored my faith and hope for our children. And those that take the time to teach them how to be good caring and loving people. I needed help and from strangers I've received more than I would've ever dreamed. You all are wonderful! May God bless you!

Another testimony from Rich about Katie. Katie was a young mother of a few children and Rich lead a team work on her home in the summer of 2022. I received this text last summer in 2023:

I wanted to pass this on to you. Katie died in her sleep last night. ARO built a roof over their deck and an out building for them last summer. Katie had the stage four cancer and grew very close to the two different teams. I believe she is in heaven today because of ARO.

Rich was married to Thelma for nearly 51 years and they raised three children together. They were blessed with 8 grandchildren and one great grand child. Rich had a passion for music and was accomplished on the piano and guitar. He loved collecting Lionel Trains and antique glass. He enjoyed working on old time pieces, both clocks and pocket watches.

Rich's legacy will continue to live on for generations to come. His commitment to loving and serving others will never be forgotten. As it was so eloquently stated at his celebration of life service, "I believe on the other side standing on the shores of Heaven Jesus said, "here he comes!" He will be my side for eternity. So as you think of him being gone here on earth, it's my prayer you'll remember he is gone from your presence, but is always in your heart, mind and he speaks through your life as he is now in the presence of Jesus for eternity! Mills family I hope you feel the love and warmth of our dear Savior now and in the days, weeks, and months to come!"

In His Service,
Dwayne and the ARO Family

What's New

ARO Welcomes Chance Cooper

Appalachia Reach out has exciting news to share! In June, ARO officially opened up another site in Appalachia, Scioto County, Ohio. ARO in partnership with the South Central Ohio Nazarene District, Cornerstone Nazarene Church (Wheelersburg, OH) and in the near future other churches and organizations will be working side by side to serve those in southern Ohio and surrounding areas.

ARO's new Director of Ministry Advancement in Ohio (Work & Witness Director) is Pastor Chance Cooper! Pastor Chance serves in full time ministry as the Outreach and Assimilation Pastor at Cornerstone Nazarene Church. He is passionate about serving his community and tristate area through different ministry efforts. Chance has led both work and witness and disaster relief teams across the country, while also leading small group ministry, outreach efforts, ministry councils, and a recovery ministry at Cornerstone. Being a first-generation Nazarene, Chance's life was radically impacted by Christ through the local church. Now, reaching people to experience the same love of Christ through the Church drives his passion and effort in ministry. He and his wonderful wife, Shelly, love to explore God's creation through hiking, camping and as many adventures as possible.

Welcome to the ARO Team Pastor Chance & Shelly.

God is on the move in the mountains!





QUILT AVAILABLE FOR AUCTION

This BEAUTIFUL quilt was hand made by Beth Sowers. Beth was a part of ARO with the summer team in 1976. The last couple years Beth and her husband Jay have returned to help at ARO a few times. Beth is known as quilter Beth and she has supplied over 100 hand made baby quilts for the baby showers at Karen's Place Maternity Center. We are ever so grateful for her talents and generosity in quilt making!

If you are interested in bidding on this beautiful quilt, please send your bid to our Administrative Assistant, Christa McNichols, at christamcnicholsrn@gmail.com. Please note, there is a minimum bid for this handmade quilt of \$500. The quilt will be available for bidding through the end of the summer at which time the new owner will be notified via email. All proceeds will go to benefit ARO!

The quilt design is: Winner's Bouquet

It is queen size 88" x 104"

The fabric is of vibrant colors and batik patterns

Monthly Updates

ARO Hosts Team from Springdale Nazarene Church

Appalachia Reach Out has been blessed to host several teams since our last update. In May, the ARO site in Martin County hosted a team from Springdale Nazarene Church from Cincinnati, Ohio. It was a joy to serve alongside this dynamic team as we began home repair for a special family in our community. They invested in several Addiction Recovery Ministries and helped with Martin County Celebrate Recovery during their time with us. They also provided resources for our schools, ARO Thrift Store & ARO Food Pantry, unloaded a trailer for the ARO Thrift Store, along with many other projects. They served by being Christ's Love in Action in ALL ways!



ARO Welcomes West Carrollton Nazarene and Napoleon Nazarene

West Carrollton Nazarene and Nap Naz were teams #8 and #9 for ARO this summer. Even though these teams were smaller in number, they partnered up with the ARO Summer Interns & ARO Staff to serve many folks June 1 - 14. We were able to continue to partner with Christian Appalachian Project and repair an entire home for a mother and her four children. We served at White Oak Hill Women's Residential Recovery Facility, Martin County Celebrate Recovery, Serenity House, Karen's Place Maternity Center, unloaded trailers for the ARO Thrift Store, worked on the campus of ARO and helped us serve families as part of our summer program. Great things are happening this summer at ARO.



Alabama North District Church of the Nazarene

ARO had an awesome team arrive from Alabama North District for a great week of ministry and service. They led our first summer VBS at Inez Park, served at multiple Addiction Recovery Care sites, Martin County Celebrate Recovery, worked on 2 home repair projects, served in the ARO Food Pantry, continued the ARO Food Fun Run feeding 17 families, worked at Martin County High School, helped paint the Warfield Park Community Center, began to stain the downtown Inez stage, and many other points of service.

A special thank you to the Gardendale Nazarene church and Madison Nazarene church for leading this team. You were amazing!



ARO Hosts Largest Two Teams of the Summer

Caledonia (MI) Christian Reformed Church and Grand Haven (MI) Reformed Church arrived in Martin County on Saturday, June 22. It was nonstop being the hands, feet, heart, and mission of Jesus. Throughout the week we worked on 3 homes, served at White Oak Hill Women's Residential Facility, Serenity House, Karen's Place Maternity Center, Martin Count Celebrate Recovery, White Oak Hill Worship Service, The Family Food Fund Run, Worked at Warfield Elementary School, Vacation Bible School at Warfield Park, worked on the ARO Campus, and so many other projects.

As always we want to send a huge shout out to the ARO Staff. What happens through our Work & Witness Ministry isn't possible without the following team of Bob & Marilyn DeJong, Heather Perry, Bill & Jana Zuidema, the ARO Summer Inters (Phil, Alize, Sam & Lydia), Judy Crum and Claudette Frederick. You all make it happen.

Finally, thanks to our local partners for our hospitality and generosity; Mi Xochimilco Mexican Restaurant, Turkey Creek Nazarene, Warfield Park, Cloud 9 Cafe, Inez Freewill Baptist Church, Masterpiece Cafe, Pig in a Poke, Evan's Hardware, Quality Metal, R & J Hardware, Christian Appalachian Project, Lowes, and there are many more. It takes all of us!



ON THE ROAD WITH ARO

Appalachia Reach Out is honored to speak anytime we are invited to share our story and mission. In May, Dwayne was invited by Christian Appalachia Project (CAP) to speak at their organization's National Day of Prayer event. What an honor to challenge CAP's almost 200 employees. CAP's mission is "building hope, transforming lives, and sharing Christ's love through service in Appalachia." What a wonderful organization helping thousands of people every year!

Dwayne also had the privilege of speaking at Cornerstone Nazarene in Wheelersburg, Ohio on Sunday, May 26. It was a wonderful time of worship with Pastor Matt Hancock and his congregation in both services. God was with us as we shared the ARO story of how God is moving in the mountains!

ARO was blessed to be at the Eastern Kentucky District Church of the Nazarene Youth, Discipleship, and Mission Conventions and District Assembly this summer. A special thanks to this EK District for loving on ARO's Food Pantry. They graciously donated cereal, family size juice, peanut butter and macaroni and cheese. EKD you showed up BIG. What an overwhelming response! Many families in Martin County will benefit from your generosity!



Thrift Store & Pantry

The ARO Thrift Store and Food Pantry continues to serve our community in many ways this summer. A huge shout out to Springdale Nazarene Church for gathering items and bringing a box truck with donations for the store and pantry. All together they brought over 800 pounds of food and items for our pantry. This crew headed up by Judy Donley did a lot in the 24 hours they were in town!

Also this month, Bob and Marilyn brought down a trailer from Michigan with donations. An additional truck was brought down by Lonnie Blosser and Doug Helton from Northern Kentucky.

In June we had a work group from Borcula CRC (MI) that was working at our PerryCounty site come down to volunteer on the main campus for a few hours. What a blessing they were to our ministry.

As was mentioned before, the Eastern Kentucky District Church of the Nazarene donated 1800 pounds of food to the pantry. Thanks to all the people who donated food, helped transport it to our pantry, and organized it!

We are so grateful for this area of our ministry and all our faithful volunteers and our leaders Bill and Jana Zuidema!





ARO THRIFT STORE ITEMS

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

*(Please NO head boards/foot boards,
NO entertainment centers, NO car seats,
NO TV's, NO computers, NO electronics!)

Hygiene Items

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

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

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

(No expired dates or dates that are close to the day you donate it!)

- Cereal (normal size)
- Juice
- Flour
- Salt and Pepper
- Vegetable Oil
- Chef Boyardee cans (Or other heat & eat)
- Ketchup/Mayo/Mustard/Syrup
- Cans of soup
- Peanut Butter/Jam
- Spaghetti sauce
- Granola bars/cereal bars
- SpagettiO's and Hamburger Helper

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**

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, August 25

-Three Rivers Nazarene (MI)

Sunday, September 22

- Kelloggsville (OH) Nazarene

Sunday, September 29

-Spiceland (IN) Nazarene



Thank
you!

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



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