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I was reading in the book of Daniel this week and read through the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. If you haven't read that in a while, I would encourage you to go back to Daniel 3 and read it afresh.

I was reminded of the faith that these guys illustrated as they were challenged by King Nebuchadnezzar. It is hard to imagine how I would respond if placed in this same situation. However, our reality is that God calls us to serve Him and reject the kingdoms of this world every day. While we may not face a fiery furnace, we do face the temptation to give in to the pressures of this world.

As I was reading this passage I was reminded of what the 3 boys said in verse 17 "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

The beginning of verse 18 jumped out at me, when they said, "but if He does not." They knew that their God didn't call them to forsake them in the midst of the fire. The reality is that we serve a God who sometimes calls us to live way beyond our comfort zone. There are moments in this faith journey that we need this reminder, that "if He does not" answer the way we are expecting, he is still God and is still in control.

I encourage you to live into this idea of serving God, even when we can't see the outcome of the ministry to which He is calling us. At times, the journey may be tough, but the outcome is certain and our God will walk through the fire with us!

Greg Wells,
Director of Operations

What's New

ARO Welcomes Another Summer Intern

The ARO interns will be working and serving with our teams this summer in Martin County, Ky. Please be in prayer for our four interns as they plan to join us in the next few weeks. These students are coming from various universities with a unique set of skills to serve alongside those in our community. Let's do our part in praying for our interns!



My name is Samantha Dyachenko I am joining the ARO Team from Olivet Nazarene University. I am majoring in social work and minoring in business. I look forward to working with the community of Martin County this summer.

Monthly Updates



Prayer Request

We are requesting all of our prayer partners to continue praying for Rich Mills, ARO's West Virginia Work & Witness Director. Rich has been fighting cancer since December 2022. He and Thelma are an important part of the ARO team. In April Executive Director, Dwayne Mills, paused the work of ARO in Nicholas County, WV so Rich can focus on his health. Please pray for Rich and Thelma, ARO WV, and the entire staff of ARO. ARO covets your prayers during these days. Thanks in advance for your continued prayers.

ARO Hosts Hudsonville Reformed Church the First Week of April

ARO was excited to host our friends from Hudsonville Reformed Church out of Hudsonville, MI the first week of April. Their team was able to work on a wheelchair ramp for a girl and her family in Martin County. The team also served at White Oak Hill Women's Residential Facility, Serenity House, Karen's Place Maternity Center, Martin County Celebrate Recovery and a few other projects on the campus of ARO. The team from HRC was a true example of Christ's love in action!



ARO Welcomes The Point from Seymour, Indiana

The Point from Seymour Indiana joined the team at ARO, Martin County site, at the end of this month. Small in number, mighty in impact! What a blessing this team was to the people of Martin County. They worked on a few homes, invested time in Karen's Place Maternity Center, White Oak Hill Women's Residential Facility, Serenity House, ARO Thrift Store and Pantry, and Martin County Celebrate Recovery.

As always it is such a blessing to see these teams living out Christ's love in action. What a privilege to serve our community and as always, thanks to our incredible staff, Bob and Marilyn DeJong, Heather Perry, Bill and Jana Zuidema, Judy Crum and Claudette Frederick.



ON THE ROAD WITH ARO

It has been a busy month as Dwayne traveled to many churches across several states. On Friday, April 5, he was the featured speaker at Crossroads Christian Church in Wintersville, OH for their annual Missions Banquet. ARO's path crossed with this missional church during our disaster relief work for the flood in Perry County, KY. Praise God for their continued service to those hurting in our communities.

Appalachia Reach Out felt honored to be part of Findlay First Church of the Nazarene's Faith Promise Weekend on April 6-7. Dwayne spoke at their Mission Banquet and both of their Sunday morning services. Pastor Mike McClurg has led this congregation for 23 years as they strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus and make a difference in their community. What an amazing weekend!

On Sunday, April 14, Dwayne spoke in both morning worship services at Grace Point Nazarene in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. What a privilege to be with Andrew and Lydia Johnson and their wonderful church as they serve their community in Kingdom ways.

ARO's story and mission were shared at Heritage Nazarene in Circleville, Ohio on Sunday, April 21. A huge thank you to Bill Hines and his congregation for the

invitation to share what God is doing in the heart of Appalachia. God is so faithful! To Him be the glory!

Dwayne spent this past weekend at South Charleston (WV) on Sunday, April 28, sharing the good work God is doing in and through the ministry of ARO. It was a special day to be with Pastor Kent Estep and his congregation for their Faith Promise Sunday. This was Dwayne's third year in the last four to be with SC Nazarene.

Finally, ARO was on the road to Valparaiso, Indiana for the Northwest Indiana District Church of the Nazarene - Missions Convention/District Assembly on Monday, April 29. What a blessing to be asked to share our story with our Indiana family. Dwayne spoke 4 times to all the different areas of the NWIN District. What an honor to represent our people, our community, and Appalachia.

In Addition to these wonderful churches, Dwayne was also a part of the Appalachian Ministry Conference at Tri-State Bible College and spoke at Dream Appalachia in Inez, Ky.





Thrift Store & Pantry

The ARO Thrift Store and Food Pantry continued to serve our community in many ways this month. One of the highlights this month was the semi-trailer full of items for our thrift store that was completely unloaded in 1 hour and 45 minutes. Thanks to the help of all our volunteers, including Turkey Creek Church of the Nazarene, Peoples Bank, Martin County citizens, the load drivers, and friends and staff of ARO the day was a success. The semi came from Napoleon, OH and was driven by Dan and Ron. A huge thank you to Napoleon Naz and The Grain Train for this investment in ARO's ministry. These ministries could not exist without the volunteers who help with unloading and organizing supplies. 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
- NEW socks & underwear for kids & adults
- Tennis shoes
- Adult pull-ups (Not diapers)
- Men's Clothing
- Chucks
- Sheets/Blankets
- Cabinets
- Comforters/Quilts
- Doors

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

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

(We served 170 families which consists of 378 members this month!)

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

Hygiene Items

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

-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.

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:

Saturday and Sunday, May 18 - 19

– Burlington (IA) Nazarene

Sunday, May 26

– Cornerstone (Wheelersburg, OH) 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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