

DAILY-NEWS RECORD ONLINE

Riding For The Kids

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Missionary Travels 575 Miles On Bicycle Through Valley

By [Aimee Cregger](#)

Offerings. Fundraisers. Mission trips.

These are typical ways that churches and missionaries raise money to help the less fortunate. But David Argabright is no typical missionary.

"I wanted to make a great statement about the need in Asia," Argabright said. "I felt led to do more than lay brick."

Argabright has been a volunteer with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries since 1982. He began participating during a difficult time in his life with the encouragement of his family.

He has served on five continents, most recently in South Asia.

Woodstock resident Bob Collett has traveled on several missions with Argabright and is a friend of his family. When attending a retreat in 1985, Collett heard Argabright speak and decided to join his team to Peru.

"I have worked with David in South America and Bangladesh constructing child development centers," said Collett. "It's a great thing he is doing."

Last summer, Argabright made a trip to South Asia along with his daughter. The main mission of the trip was building child development centers in the area.

"On our flight back my daughter started crying and challenged me to do more," he said.

It was there that Compassion 575 started. At 52-years-old, not having ridden a bicycle in 30 years, Argabright decided he would ride 575 miles for the children of South Asia.

The journey would begin in Front Royal and follow the entire length of Skyline Drive (105 miles) and the Blue Ridge Parkway (470) and end in Cherokee, N.C. Each evening he would stop at a close-by hotel for the night.

On June 1, Argabright, his wife Sharon, Collett and a few others met for prayer before he started his journey. Sharon followed behind with food, water and spare bicycle parts in the family car.

According to Argabright's blog following his trip, he traveled 65 miles on the first day. On the second day, he traveled 65 miles again, leaving 445 miles to go.

"Today was a great day as we finished the Skyline Drive and then rode 25 miles on the Blue Ridge Parkway. There was much climbing," he wrote in his blog.



David Argabright stops to take in the scenery along Skyline Drive in Shenandoah County on the second day of his 575-mile bicycle ride for the children of South Asia.

Contributed photo

At the time of publication, Argabright had raised \$70,000 in donations for the children of South Asia. He is currently still collecting donations.

Putting 60 to 70 miles behind him each day, Argabright completed his journey on June 10. All of the money raised will go to further missions in South Asia and help Argabright and others construct more child development centers.

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