



July was another busy month for us as we hosted a team from Grace Chapel Community Bible Church in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Their 10 member team of mostly high school and college students came to minister to our boys and to help with some of our many work projects on the campus.



The team built trusses and erected them between our two containers. Then they put the roof on (yeah!), which was a big step.

They did lots of painting. They helped sort and arrange clothing in the new storage area created by one of the containers. And much more.

Most importantly, they probably spent more time with our boys than any team we've ever had. They played games, threw water balloons, threw shaving cream balloons, and they taught the boys new baseball games. It was all great fun for every one of our kids. But they also spent lots of time just sitting, talking, and loving on the boys. We can't thank them enough for all they did on the projects and for our boys. They were a pleasure to be with and a blessing to us. Thanks Grace Chapel team!



For most of our boys, other than eating, football (American soccer) is probably the most all consuming passion our boys have. They love the game and play it virtually every chance they get. Each school term (there are three terms per year) our House Parents divide the boys into teams and conduct an Agape Football Tournament. Since the current term began in May, each Sunday following the morning church service, four exciting and very competitive football games have been played working towards a Championship Match.

to watch the matches and to then see how they conducted the Championship. Prior to the game, we had to go to the middle of the field where the two teams were assembled so we could be introduced to each player and shake their hands. Then we had to say a few words of encouragement to the two teams. Finally, we had to kick the ball into the air as a signal that the match could officially begin.

Today, at the conclusion of our Agape church service, they held a formal presentation ceremony where we presented the trophy to the winning team and gave each member of the team a small notebook as a gift. (Our Tournaments rival the rituals of the World Cup...what fun!)



Special thanks to those of you who have donated soccer jerseys and to the Grace Chapel team for bringing soccer shorts for our boys. They love being able to wear them to play their tournament matches.

On the project front here, we are grateful to report we are making significant progress. We are delighted to have so much work completed on the "container building" that will provide much needed storage as well as a covered shop and crafts' area for the boys.

Work has been progressing on the terrazzo floor for our new dining hall and kitchen. There is considerable more work to be done, but the first "rough grind" has been completed and we are very encouraged by how good it looks. When it is finished, the floor should be very hard and durable, and also easy to clean and to keep sanitary.

A special "thank you" to those who responded to the need we mentioned in our June newsletter concerning funds for new kitchen equipment. We are grateful to you and to the Lord for providing so generously and so faithfully. We are working with the supplier to finalize his quote so we can get the equipment ordered. You can't imagine how excited we are and how much we are looking forward to having our new kitchen. Thank you! Thank you!

We are continuing with our walkway paving and rain

Last Sunday was the Championship. It is so much fun

water collection projects. As the Lord provides the necessary funds, we hope to tackle a number of additional projects as soon as possible. Many of these projects relate directly to rain. You wouldn't believe how hard it rains here. And when it does, our campus turns into a muddy, slippery, slimy mess. We need to take advantage of the water the rain provides. But, we also need to reduce the amount of damage and erosion the rain causes on our campus.



On the taking advantage of the benefits of the rain side of the equation, we want to add two more storage tanks to our water collection system to collect and save rain water off of the new dining hall and kitchen and to link that to the rest of our collection and distribution system. We utilize that water for the boys to wash their clothes and to water our garden where we are growing vegetables to help feed our boys.



On the side of controlling the damage rain does, we would like to construct two stone retaining walls to help prevent erosion on the campus. Further, we

hope to construct a nearly campus-wide system of connected covered trenches and large pipes to provide proper drainage. The drainage system we envision should make a major difference on our campus.

As we enter into August, we can't wait until Chris and Tammy Page and their four children arrive. We have dreamed and planned to have them here for a long time. Now it is about to become reality. Please pray for the Page family. They have given up everything in America to come here to serve the Lord with Agape. Pray the Lord will make the transition an easy one for Chris and Tammy and especially for the children. Pray they will be able to acquire all of the things they need (from furniture, to pots and pans, appliances, silverware, an internet provider, a vehicle for six, and so much, much more).

We praise the Lord for His financial provision for the Pages, but ask you to continue to pray for their financial needs. They have so many things to purchase and

remain about \$400 per month short in their monthly support. Most of all, please pray the Lord will bless their ministry here and that He will confirm in their hearts each and every day that they are where He wants them to be and are doing what He has called them to do. With that in their hearts, we know they can meet every challenge they will face.

On the Agape home front, Lisa Kjeldgaard has done a fantastic job completely redefining and redeveloping our sponsorship program. If you are not currently participating, we urge you to check out our new Partners for Hope program. It provides an easy way for you to be involved in the lives of our children and in helping Agape provide for their care.



Lisa has also developed a completely new program we call our "Kitanda Project" (kitanda means "bed" in Swahili). By becoming participants in the Kitanda Project, churches, groups, or individuals may sponsor a bed at Agape. It is a great way to trace the progress of the boys occupying an Agape bed as we care and provide for them and as you pray for them to be successfully reconnected and reintegrated back into their families. Over time, you or your church or group will have an entire gallery of children you have helped prayed home.

Please contact Lisa or Allison Hernandez in our Modesto office to obtain more information about the Partners for Hope and the Kitanda Project. The office number is (209) 543-9255. You will be blessed by being a part of either of these programs.

Thank you for praying for us and for supporting us so generously and faithfully with your contributions. In July, we celebrated our 46th wedding anniversary and can't believe how blessed we are to be able to be here. We thank the Lord and we thank you!

Blessings to you. We love you,

Blake & Esther Gibbs

PO Box 5062
Modesto, CA 95352-5062
www.agapechildren.org

Local: 209.543.9255
Toll Free: 888.572.4273
agapekids@agapechildren.org

Ministry Support for: General \$ _____ Child Sponsorship \$ _____ Steve & Betty Bishop \$ _____ Blake & Esther Gibbs \$ _____ Allison Hernandez \$ _____ Eric & Lisa Kjeldgaard \$ _____ Chris & Tammy Page \$ _____ Steve & Dianne Warn \$ _____ Other _____ \$ _____**Total \$** _____**Payment Type:** Cash Check Please make payable to:
Agape Children's Ministry
PO Box 5062
Modesto, CA 95352-5062 Credit Card Visa Mastercard

Name on Card: _____

Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Exp. Date: _____ / _____ V Code: _____

Signature: _____



Can we pray for you? Please use the
back of this form for requests.

Mailing Address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____