

Our time with family and friends here in America is rapidly drawing to a close. We leave for Africa on February 15th. Our flight will take us about 11 hours overnight to London. Because we won't arrive in time to make the connecting flight to Nairobi, we will spend the night in London. (We are grateful to have a comfortable, inexpensive hotel near the airport we use whenever we are there.) On the morning of the 17th we will depart London on our 8 hour plus flight to Nairobi, scheduled to arrive at about 9:00 that night (Nairobi time). We will stay overnight there and then fly on to Kisumu the next afternoon. It is a lengthy journey. We will leave San Francisco on Wednesday and won't arrive in Kisumu until Saturday. But, we are grateful for how easy it is in comparison with missionary travel years ago. We are very excited to be going and are looking forward to being back in Africa with our boys, our staff, and our missionaries.



The entire Gibbs Clan in Hawaii, Summer 2011

We have thoroughly enjoyed getting at least a little caught up here. There never seems to be enough time. Our kids and grandkids are all doing well for which we praise the Lord. We got to see a couple of

Kendall's soccer matches and a couple of Ireland's as well. We attended one of Raegan's volleyball practices. Davy's water polo season hasn't begun yet, so we didn't get to see him play during this visit. Connor was selected for the Freshman/Sophomore volleyball team at his High School, but they haven't begun play yet either. Hopefully we will be able to catch some of Davy and Connor's matches this Fall after we return home in mid-August.

As we head to Kenya, we look forward to spending time with our missionary team and getting brought up to date on all that has happened since we left in November.

Chris Page has done an excellent job taking on the leadership of the ministry in Kisumu. We hope to be able to help and encourage him in his multiple responsibilities. It will be special fun to see how Tammy and the children (Sutton, Connor, Seth, and Lyla) are doing.

The Pages hosted the Agape's inaugural Staff Appreciation Lunch at their home. They invited all fifty-three of our Kenyan staff members to enjoy a nice relaxing afternoon of fun, food and fellowship.



The event was a huge success. After a wonderful lunch of beef pilau, chicken and rice, and lots of deserts, they played a game similar to 'Let's Make A Deal' with over 30 prizes! Super fun day!



The Kjeldgaard family (Eric, Lisa and their children; Nick, Kate, Stephen, Matt, Chris, Jack, Charlie, and Gracie) arrived in Kisumu after we departed. It will be great to see how they are adjusting to their new lives of ministry in a totally new culture and environment.



Matthew, Jack, Chris, and Charlie on their first day of 'Agape School'

We know from their emails and phone calls they are doing well, but seeing them all there first-hand will be special.

We are especially anxious to dive back into the many projects awaiting us. A number of you have contributed funds to help us

complete some of those projects, including our retaining walls, our campus-wide drainage system, our poultry project (for eggs and meat), and many others. Thank you for your generosity.

Steve and Dianne Warn have been working closely with Chris and Tammy Page and with the Kjeldgaards developing crafts and games for our children. The tactile aspects of crafts and games help combat the effects of glue sniffing. They actually help the brain re-wire itself to circumvent the damage the glue has done to the boys' brains. Dianne has also been heavily involved in developing curriculum for our younger children. Steve has been carrying on some of our facilities projects.

A special "Thank You" to all of our friends and family for reaching out to us while we have been here. We are grateful for your love, your warm hugs, and for your heartfelt words of support and encouragement. We thank the Lord for your part in our lives. When we come back in August, our plan is to remain in the US until early 2013. It will be our longest time in the US in several years. So, hopefully, we will be able to spend more time with you then.

**Praise Reports:** We are grateful to the Lord for:

- A good month financially in December
- Caring for and protecting our missionary families in the field (including two accidents that could have been very serious but were not)
- Our dedicated, hard-working Kenyan staff
- Each of the children the Lord has placed in our care

**Prayer Requests:** Please be in prayer with us that the Lord will:

- Grant us traveling mercies as we return to Africa
- Provide for Agape's growing financial needs
- Continue to expand the ministry
- Lead more missionaries to join us in rescuing and helping street children
- Grant wisdom, insight, discernment, and courage to our missionaries
- Keep our missionaries and their families safe, well, and healthy

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we travel. We will miss you. Thank you for your faithful financial support. It is your prayers and your contributions that make it possible for us to minister with Agape. We are grateful to the Lord for you.

Blessings to you,



*Blake and Esther Gibbs*

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