



Darla's Last Corner

In past newsletters I have shared about Moses, a young man who was born in a park gazebo on a rainy night to a street girl who was all alone. (An eye-witness gave this account to a newspaper reporter.) At the age of three, Moses' mom told him she was going to buy bananas and that he should wait for her. She never returned. So Moses grew up on the streets and became a familiar beggar in Kisumu. When we held our first meetings for street children in 1993, Moses attended. He face showed little expression, and I remember someone saying, "Don't worry Mama, he isn't normal, but he won't hurt you." (Moses was later tested and found to have only a speech impediment.) Putting the last 18 years on fast forward, he was invited to Agape when we rented our first little house. He learned his ABC's on a homemade blackboard, and was proudly counting to 10 in English and



welcoming visitors by the end of the year. Our Agape staff members became his legal guardians and the other boys were like his brothers. At last, Moses had a family to nurture him. We arranged for him to be a carpenter's apprentice for a time, then Agape hired him to cut the lawn and to care for the plants and flowers. He enjoyed doing that job and has faithfully worked as our landscaper ever since! Our staff taught him to save his

money, and eventually he was able to move into a little house. I remember the day we took members of a visiting college team there for a housewarming party. Moses was beaming from ear to ear...I had never seen him look so happy!

When he was in his late 20's, he asked our staff to help him find a wife. After several months, they introduced him to a lovely, gentle but hardworking lady named Grace. What a prize! Moses and Grace were married and produced a strong healthy son they named Paul Darla Angode! Just a few days ago, I received this message from our manager, Lebaus:



"Hi Mum, I hope this letter finds you well in the Lord...I wish to let you know that we have another child from Moses, the wife brought to us a baby girl on Sunday. We praise the Lord for what He is doing in Moses' house."

This story demonstrates God's provision for a helpless child. How thankful I am Agape came into existence when Moses was in such need. To see him now as a loving husband and caring dad, providing for his family, is an amazing transformation!

These have been very fulfilling years and I love telling stories like this. However, since I can no longer spend as much time visiting and getting to know all the new boys and girls, I feel it is time to pass the baton to those who are directly on the field. I will continue writing a series for the quarterly newsletter and serving as an active Board Member. Agape will always be part of my life, and who knows...someday there may even be a book!



Because He lives, *Darla Caldwell*



We are praising the Lord to be safely back "home" in Kenya. The trip here was a long one, but it went well and without any

problems for which we are grateful. We thank the Lord that once again, as He has so faithfully done over all these years, He not only brought us here, but all of our checked baggage arrived as well. It is always a joyful moment to see our bags coming down the luggage conveyor.



We arrived in Nairobi on Friday evening, May 20, and spent the next day in the city visiting a couple of

manufacturers of stainless steel kitchen equipment. We are hopeful we will be able to equip our new kitchen with stainless steel counters, sinks, and work surfaces. Stainless is expensive, but it much more durable and much more sanitary than anything else available here.

With our boys, the additional children in our Primary School, and the staff who are working on the campus, we serve nearly 450 meals every weekday and about 350 meals per day on the weekends. (That's just under 3,000 meals per week!) We are praying the Lord will provide the funds we need for two special wood burning stoves that will cut our consumption of firewood (which is extremely expensive here) to less than 20 percent of our current usage, saving us hundreds of dollars every year. With the funds we presently have available, we need another \$3,500 to \$4,000 to outfit the kitchen the way it needs to be. Please pray with us that the Lord will provide for this need.

When we flew from Nairobi to Kisumu late

Saturday afternoon, we were delighted to see the lush green fields and farms surrounding Kisumu. Much more rain is needed here to insure a good harvest later in the year, but it was so encouraging to see things so green and growing so well. Please pray for more rain and for good crops. Drought over the past year and a half have driven food prices very high making it extremely difficult on the people, and it has significantly increased Agape's food costs as well. Some of most basic food items, such as maize and beans (we purchase lots of both), have increased in price by 50 to more than 100 percent over the past 18 months.

Our first Sunday here we got to attend Agape Church on our main campus. It was such a joy to see the boys worshipping and praising the Lord. And there are so many new ones since we left. In fact, our Outreach Ministry team leader told us that since January, we have been able to take 97 boys off the streets to Agape. Many of those have already been reintegrated back into their families. Praise the Lord!

Visiting the campus for the first time quickly showed us how hard the staff has worked during our time away. They have painted the exterior trim on the dorms. They have completed the first phase of our rain water collection system. They have planted shrubs and plants to help beautify the campus, including spelling out our Agape name in plants. The shamba, our vegetable garden, has practically exploded with new growth and our cooks are harvesting onions, sukuma wiki (similar to kale), and tomatoes. Plus, corn, bananas, and papaya are on the way! The shamba is beginning to help significantly with our food budget!



It is nice to get back into the groove here. We particularly enjoy the Monday morning Management Team

meetings where we hear reports from all of the Agape Department Heads and listen to their plans for upcoming events and activities. Another highlight of our Mondays is to sit in on the Reintegration Team meetings to learn about their visits to our boys' homes and their efforts to restore our boys to their families. It is amazing to hear about all that the Lord is doing. Every week there are reports of the Lord clearly and miraculously at work in the lives of our boys and the lives of their families. God is good.



As we move into June, we are busily preparing for the arrival of a team from Shelter Cove Community Church in Modesto, California. This is our home church and the church that, along with Calvary Chapel in

Modesto, sent a work team last fall. That team put new roofs on our dorms, painted the interiors of the dorms, and put curtains up. What a blessing they were.

The coming team is a large one, with 18 members, and is made up of mostly high school students and young adults from Shelter Cove plus one member from Calvary Temple Church, also in Modesto. We are really looking forward to having them. We are bringing in extra bunk beds and mattresses and planning meals for their stay. We are also obtaining materials for the projects they will be working on. Shelter Cove has blessed us even further by providing the funds needed to purchase the project materials. We pray for their protection as they travel and that the Lord will impact their lives in a mighty way as they step out in faith and obedience to serve Him by serving Agape.

Megan Barnes, whom many of you will remember from our newsletters last year, has just arrived (after climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania). She is a talented, skilled, and gifted counselor who, during her last two visits, helped many of our boys deal with the emotional trauma they have endured. We are delighted she is here and know she will have a tremendous influence on our boys.

Thank you for your prayers for our safety. We feel them every day. Thanks, too, for your faithful and generous financial support. You bless and encourage us. We are grateful you are our partners in ministry here in Africa.

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: _____

Yes! I would like to receive newsletters by e-mail.