

Agape⁺ Children's Ministry



When we were at Bethany Church years ago, one of the anthems we loved to sing begins with the words "To God be the glory, great things He has done." As we think about all of the incredible things the Lord has done this year at Agape, we are amazed, grateful, and humbled.



Another line from that same song is "Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Let the people rejoice." As we approach Thanksgiving, that is what we want to do in this newsletter. We want to praise the Lord and to give Him thanks for the great things He has done.

To try to list and to describe all that the Lord has so generously and so graciously done for Agape and for us personally this year would simply be impossible. In fact, it makes us feel a little like the Apostle John as he closed his Gospel. Writing of the many things Jesus did, John wrote these words: "If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written" (John 21:25 NIV).

But we'd like to share just a few of the highlights with you in the hope that you will be blessed, encouraged, and excited as we have been by the Lord's mighty power, His faithful and abundant provision, His grace and mercy towards us all, and by His unending and unending love for each and every one of us.

It began in early January. After waiting nearly five years with the components packed inside two shipping containers sitting on our campus, in one brief week a team led by our son, Tyler, was able to erect the structure for our new dining hall and kitchen. Much remained to be done to complete the project, but it was a marvelous beginning. Since then, we've installed

a new terrazzo floor, added steps and doors, with windows to come. **Praise the Lord!**



Our much anticipated new kitchen!



Later in the year, two teams, one from Shelter Cove Community Church in Modesto, California, and one from Grace Chapel from Scottsbluff, Nebraska, helped with the slab and roof for our new shop and crafts building (made from the containers our dining hall was shipped in). They laid paving stone walkways. They ministered to our boys. And so much more. One of the containers has now become a clean, secure store room for clothing and bedding for the boys living on our Kisumu campus. **Thank you Lord!**



Because the Lord moved in the heart of a generous donor, we were able to pretty much complete our rain water collection system. We are

now able to capture and save rain run-off and to use the water for irrigating the vegetable garden on campus (to help feed our boys) and for the boys to wash their clothing. **Praise the Lord!**

At our Vocational Training Center (The Farm), the footing and foundation for our new dining hall there has been laid. As the Lord provides the remaining funds, we hope to complete the construction early next year. **God is good!**

Also at The Farm, two fish ponds have been dug. Our

plan is to raise tilapia fish to help feed our boys and to reduce our rapidly growing food costs. **Praise the Lord!**

The highlight of this past month for all of us has to be the arrival of our new stainless steel kitchen equipment in Kisumu. Thanks to the generosity of a number of individuals, the GAP Food Bank in southern California, and the Spirit Lake Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake, Idaho, we now have a beautiful kitchen equipped with stainless steel counters, shelves, and sinks. These will last us for decades to come and will enable us to maintain a level of sanitation we have only dreamed of in the past. **Thank you, thank you, thank you Lord!**

This year we were blessed by the arrival of the Page family. The Lord has graciously helped them adjust so well to their new lives here. Kenya is a big change from North Carolina! Especially for their four children all under 11 years of age. But God has blessed them and they all know this is where the Lord has called them and is where they belong. Chris is already having an enormous impact on our boys and staff as he takes over the reins of leadership here in Kisumu. **Praise the Lord!**

Eric and Lisa Kjeldgaard have already been working their hearts out for Agape in the States. Their efforts have resulted in our new quarterly newsletters, our Partners for Hope sponsorship program, and our Kitanda Project. Next month, they begin full-time ministry with Agape and will be moving to Kenya with their eight children to work here on the field for a year before returning to work out of our Modesto office. **Praise the Lord!**

After a longer than they had planned furlough (God had things He needed them to stay in the States for), Steve and Dianne Warn have returned and are busy as ever ministering on our Kisumu campus. We are grateful to the Lord for their hearts for all our kids. Steve and Betty Bishop and Don and Hughena Brenneman are rotating ministry at The Farm. We thank the Lord for their willingness to serve and for the

impact their ministry is having on the lives of our vocational students. **Thank you Lord!**

We can't begin to express our gratitude to the Lord for how He has blessed and expanded the ministry this year. In addition to our ongoing outreach and ministry to boys who remain on the streets, we currently have 92 boys living on our main Kisumu campus, an additional 85 community children attending our Primary School (for a total of 177), 23 boys at The Farm, more than 350 children (both boys and girls) reintegrated, and 132 we minister to regularly at the Remand Center. It is such a joy to see so many of our children coming to know Christ as Savior and to watch as He helps heal their broken hearts and spirits. **To God be the Glory!**

We thank the Lord for the years of faithful service that Allison Hernandez has given to the ministry and for the enormous contribution she has made in helping build Agape. We pray God's richest blessing on her as she will soon take on the role of motherhood. We also thank the Lord for bringing her replacement, Kaylee Smith, to Agape. We are grateful for Kaylee's skills and talents and for her heart to minister with Agape. **Praise the Lord!**

We thank Him for good health and for allowing us the privilege of serving Him as missionaries. And we thank the Lord for you. For your prayers. For your words of encouragement. For your generous and faithful financial support. **Thank you Lord!**

There is much, much more, but we think you get the idea. God is awesome. He loves and cares for us in ways we can't imagine. He is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving.

We pray you will have a wonderful Thanksgiving. We know you will if you take a moment to remember all of the **great things He has done** in your life and in the lives of those you love.

Blessings to you. We love you,

Blake & Esther Gibbs



Coming Soon! Agape's 2012 calendars will be here in a few weeks! These beautiful 12-month calendars feature the transformation the Lord brings about when boys come off the street, and begin to accept Christ's love for them as they make their home at Agape. Agape is using the calendars to raise funds for the ministry; they cost just \$10 per calendar. If you would like to pre-order your calendar, please indicate on the response card how many you would like to receive. Agape will mail the calendars to you by the beginning of December.

Due to IRS regulations, the purchase of a calendar is not tax-deductible.

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Ministry Support for:

- General \$ _____
- Kitanda Project \$ _____
- Partners for Hope \$ _____
- Steve & Betty Bishop \$ _____
- Blake & Esther Gibbs \$ _____
- Eric & Lisa Kjeldgaard \$ _____
- Chris & Tammy Page \$ _____
- Steve & Dianne Warn \$ _____
- Other _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____**Payment Type:**

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

Mailing Address:

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Agape's 2012 Calendar!



Mailing Address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Number of Calendars (\$10.00 each)

_____ Calendars x \$10.00 = _____

Total Amount: _____

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