

# The Agape Pages

September 2011

Jambo Sana (hello very much)! Greetings to all of you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ! We are overcome with joy to send all of you warm greetings from Kisumu, Kenya for the first time. God has been so good to our family and has blessed us abundantly over the past month. It is difficult to express within this newsletter all that has occurred over the past few weeks, but we'll give it our best shot!

On August 3, our family departed from Atlanta, Georgia, arriving in jolly old England the next morning. After a quick nap to compensate for the lack of sleep on the previous evening's red-eye, we spent a few hours in the heart of London as tourists viewing Big Ben, Parliament, Buckingham Palace, etc. The following morning, we jumped on another flight arriving into Nairobi around 9 p.m. After a three-hour wait in the visa line and a short drive to our hotel, we made it into bed at our hotel at around 1 a.m. The morning of the August 6, we got on our final flight of the trip arriving around 11 a.m. at our new home, Kisumu! We were greeted warmly at the airport in Kisumu by Blake and Esther Gibbs, as well as a few of Agape's management staff members: Lebaus, Johnstone, and Winfred.



Since our initial welcome to Kisumu, the days and weeks that have passed have been a blur. We've been living at the Gibbs' house since we arrived as we outfit and furnish our new home (about a block from the Gibbs' house). Blake and Esther have been so pivotal in making our family's transition into Kenyan culture so smooth; thanks guys! By the time you receive this newsletter, we should finally be moved into our new home...hopefully! In many regards, we've kind of started from scratch outfitting a home – pots, pans, utensils, beds, furniture. We sold it on one side of the earth, to purchase it anew on the other.



Probably the biggest thing that we've had to get used to in Kenya is how long it takes to get things done; let's say that it takes 30 minutes in the States to run an errand...in Kisumu, you'd better plan for two-three hours. I can't quite figure it out. Kenyans are also much more personable than Americans. If you pass by someone you know (even someone you work with and see every day), you will normally exchange pleasantries for at least 30 seconds to a minute, where in the States, you'd probably just say hello. As Americans, we're so used to jumping from task to task, especially at work; in Kenya, people are much more focused upon personal relationship building. Very different, but good!

We've also had a wonderful time getting to know the boys and staff at Agape. Tammy and I hit the ground running, attending our first Agape management team meetings within two days of our arrival in Kisumu. Since that time, we've had the opportunity to sit-in on a number of planning meetings as we slowly begin to learn the processes and procedures of a whole new organization in a whole new culture. Chris also had an opportunity to visit five of Agape's reintegrated boys in their home villages with Agape's Reintegration Team (over

"Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies."  
Psalm 148:1-4

**Agape**  
*Children's Ministry*

Bringing hope to children at risk

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the past year, Agape has reunited over 200 children with their families!); it was an incredible experience to see how God is moving as the Gospel is preached in these remote villages.

As for the kids, they are doing wonderful here. They are having a great time in Kisumu getting to know the boys at Agape, other Kenyan children, and other missionary kids. Our family has had zero “culture shock” and no homesickness; it truly is amazing! To see how easily our family has assimilated into an entirely new culture, there is no doubt that our path here was paved with prayers from all of you! We are so encouraged by our experiences over the past month; God is so good!

As we complete our first month in Kenya, please be in prayer for the following:

- That our family can get fully settled in Kisumu.
- For wisdom to know God’s priorities in our work at Agape. There is a lot to do!
- That we will be able to find a reliable and reasonably priced vehicle for our family.
- For continued good health and safety. Driving here is like a scene from *Road Warrior*.
- For the boys at Agape and the boys that have been taken home to be with their families.
- For the upcoming Agape school term (beginning September 5).
- For Tammy as she begins her first foray into homeschooling in September.
- For the kids as they break-in their new teacher.



For those of you who haven’t seen our family’s blog yet, take a few moments to bookmark [www.theagapepages.blogspot.com](http://www.theagapepages.blogspot.com). We’ve been trying to update the blog multiple times a week to update friends and family on life here in Kenya. We’ve had a blast updating it, so we hope that you are enjoying it, as well.

Many thanks to all of you who are providing financial support for our family here in Kisumu; we could not be here helping these at-risk children without your generosity and financial sacrifice. Many thanks also to those of you who have been praying for us in our journey; as I mentioned earlier, your prayers have been such a blessing to us. God is so good!

God Bless,

The Pages

Chris, Tammy, Sutton, Connor, Seth, and Lyla

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