

The Agape Pages



December 2011

Jambo Sana (Hello very much)! Greetings to all of you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Happy (belated) Thanksgiving and Merry (early) Christmas! As I write this letter, we are preparing to celebrate Thanksgiving with the other American missionaries and NGO workers. Every year, the American expats meet together to celebrate Thanksgiving, so we're really looking forward to turkey and dressing (we definitely miss being with family, though). It's really easy to forget that the Christmas season is approaching, because it's in the mid 90's outside. We



all find it really amusing to see pictures of friends on Facebook bundled up in fall and winter clothing. You see a few indications of the coming season around Kisumu: Christmas decorations at the local shopping center and Coca-Cola ads with an African Santa Claus. We're really hoping that we can find a fake Christmas tree as there is a significant shortage of "real" Christmas trees in Kenya (unless you want to use a banana tree).

Life in Kenya continues to go well for the Page family, and work at Agape has gotten very busy! I think that the Lord kept me in a "bubble" for my first few months in Kenya to get acclimated to the new culture, but now that we're settled I really understand why 9 PM is missionary midnight; I'm about to pass out after we put the kids to bed at 8 PM every night!

As the director at Agape's main campus, my job has manifested into two roles: teacher and manager. This past month, I taught the Agape boys on Sundays from the books of 1 Samuel (David and Goliath) and Daniel (Babylonian captivity, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego). Many of our boys struggle terribly with fear; these fears stem from a backgrounds of superstition and witchcraft in their home villages, as well as from violence at home and/or from life on the street. I've been trying to instill in them the truth that, "if God is for us, who can be against us?" I'm using these Old Testament stories as examples of youths overcoming fear by trusting in the Lord. I've also been teaching the staff devotionals in the mornings during the week, as we delve into understanding scriptural support for Agape's Statement of Faith; amongst the staff our goal is to learn "why we believe what we believe." When not teaching, I have continued working to



understand the different processes and procedures at the main campus in order to begin to effectively help manage the operation at the main campus. Tammy has also been busy with ministry work by designing a kids' curriculum on the Fruits of the Spirit for the 50+ kids that show up on Sundays at Calvary Chapel Lakeside (the church we attend when I'm not teaching on Sundays at Agape). Whew, we've been busy!

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

2 Corinthians 13:14

Agape
Children's Ministry

Bringing hope to children at risk

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The Agape Pages continued

In Kenya, schools operate year round, with three one-month breaks in April, August, and December, so by the time you read this our Kisumu campus will be much quieter. As you know, we have around 180 students that attend school at our campus, 90 of which are former street boys that live at Agape (boarders, as they're called here). During December, the majority of these 90 boys will go home to live with parents or extended family (for the orphans) with 20 or so boys remaining on the campus throughout December (the 20 that remain either have really bad home situations or Agape hasn't been able to find the boys' homes yet). This practice came as a surprise to me when I began working at Agape. The question was asked: "If the boys can go home for a month, why can't they go home permanently?" Agape looks at school breaks as an opportunity to "test" for future reintegration opportunities. Of the 70 boys that will go home for break, we are hoping that 30 of these boys will be able to stay home permanently. In this past school term, we've been at capacity at Agape, housing 94 boys on our campus; there have been instances in the past few weeks where we have had to turn street boys away at the gates because we had no more beds for them. By reintegrating these 30 boys in December, we will hopefully provide extra space to take in more street boys in the coming months. Please pray that these 30 boys will go home and be able to stay home!



Life is busy, but life is very good. Praise God! Thank you for continuing to pray and financially support our family. We are so grateful for each of you and what you do for God's work here in Kisumu. We couldn't be here serving in this manner without you. For those of you who have considered financially supporting our family and the work we're doing, we welcome you with open arms as partners in this ministry. Our support last month was a little low, so we are truly grateful for the funds each of you has dedicated to God's work here in Kenya. God has really blessed our family, and we are so thankful for his provision.

Please know that all of you are in our thoughts and prayers! We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas! Kwaheri (Goodbye)!

God Bless,

The Pages

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

December 2011



They have arrived! Agape's 2012 calendars are here! 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 order your calendar, please indicate on the response card how many you would like to receive and Agape will promptly mail the calendar(s) to you. *Due to IRS regulations, the purchase of a calendar is not tax-deductible.*



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Ministry Support for:

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Payment Type:

- Check
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Please make payable to:

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PO Box 5062
Modesto, CA 95352-5062

- Credit Card
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See reverse for Credit Card Information
or to set up Automatic Payments.



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

Mailing Address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Automatic Bank Debit (ACH)

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Please deduct \$ _____ monthly on 5th / 20th (circle one) Effective date: _____

I (we) hereby authorize Agape Children's Ministry to initiate charges and to initiate, if necessary, adjustment entries for any errors to my (our) card/bank account listed here. This authority is to remain in full force and effect until Agape Children's Ministry has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Agape Children's Ministry and me (us) a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

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Please deduct a one time gift of: _____

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Recurrence:

Monthly on the 5th or 20th (circle one)

For _____ months

Until I contact you to discontinue

Effective date: _____

Agape's 2012 Calendar!



Mailing Address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Number of Calendars (\$10.00 each)

_____ Calendars x \$10.00 = _____

Total Amount: _____

Payment Type

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Check Please make checks payable to:

Agape Children's Ministry

PO Box 5062

Modesto, CA 95352-5062

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