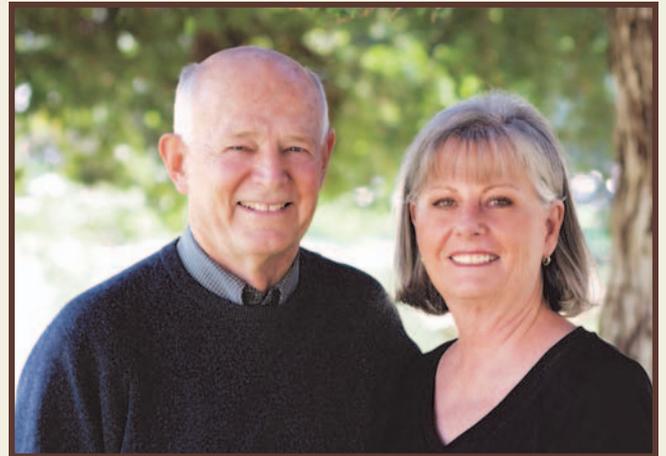




Agape's Goals for the Ministry....



Agape has four over-riding goals and objectives as a ministry. First, we want to bring glory and honor to the Lord in all we do. Second, we want to do what is right and just. Third, we endeavor to do what is best for each child on an individual basis. And, fourth, we want to pursue our four "R's" (Rescue, Redeem, Rehabilitate, and Re-integrate street children) as effectively and with as much effort as we possibly can.

In striving to meet our goals and objectives it is necessary to periodically step back from the day-to-day ministry long enough to evaluate where we are, what we are doing, and where we are going. It is necessary to take time to ask ourselves difficult and sometimes challenging questions. The questions are many and go to the heart of the ministry. Are we staying true to the vision the Lord has given us to bring the help and hope of Jesus to street children? Are we having the greatest spiritual impact we can on our children's lives? How can we do things better? What can we do to be more effective? Are there things we should no longer continue doing? Are there new things we should start doing? How can we reach more children for the Lord? How can we be better models of Christ to the children and to our staff?

As we write this newsletter we have just concluded the third of five sessions with our entire missionary team (except Don and Hughena Brennehan who are packing to return to Canada on furlough). We had two sessions this afternoon, one after dinner and two tomorrow morning. We are calling it a missionary "retreat" although it is being held right here on our residential compound in Kisumu. (The Page and Kjeldgaard kids are all staying at Chris and Tammy's place so we adults can have time to think and talk and pray together.) The purpose of our little retreat is for us to ask ourselves some of those challenging questions, to discuss how we can make Agape better and more effective.

It has already been a valuable and exciting time as we've shared our hearts together. We are looking forward to more of the same tomorrow.

This is a perfect opportunity for us to give you a glimpse of two things we have been discussing and what the Lord has lain on our hearts over the past several weeks about moving Agape forward and making Agape better.

One is that we have come to recognize that many of the boys living on our main Kisumu campus, and those coming off the streets, have emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs. Needs that are substantially greater than can be met by the counseling our House Parents and Teachers can provide, no matter how hard they try. As a result, we are developing a Counseling Team responsible for dealing directly with those emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs.

Initially, we plan on a three member team of full-time counselors. They will be trained to provide counseling from a spiritual perspective, from a clinical psychology perspective, and from an African cultural perspective.

Our first team member has already started and we are overwhelmed by the way in which the Lord is using him to dramatically affect our boys. We are seeing true miracles as this gentle man helps these children face their traumas and begin through Christ to emerge out of them. Please pray the Lord will bless this new Counseling Team and that He will use them to help transform badly wounded children into living testimonies of God's mercy and grace.

When Eric and Lisa Kjeldgaard and their family joined our Agape missionary team, they had no idea how the Lord planned to use them. When Eric and Lisa and their daughter Kate visited in 2010, Lisa was captured by the plight of the girls at Remand (Kenya's Juvenile Hall). As a result of her prodding, our Reintegration Team began working with these girls. So far, we have been able to reintegrate more than 60 girls. But the need goes beyond just reintegration and God has been at work in Lisa's heart and in the rest of our hearts as well. He has also been providing finances, directing planning efforts, and lining up just the right people.

Based upon lots of hard work researching, evaluating and planning by Lisa and a wonderful Kenyan woman, Hellen (yes, two l's), Agape's Board has given us the green light to launch a new, additional Agape---Agape Girls. We will start small and slowly, evaluating as we go and growing as the Lord leads.

In other areas, we are examining how to make the education we provide for our children more effective and more keenly focused towards their needs. We are also evaluating how we can improve the operation of our Home Department.

It is an exciting and humbling time for all of us as we seek the Lord's direction and ask for His wisdom, insight, and discernment. Please pray with us: that we will know the path He wants us to follow for Agape and that we will be faithful and obedient in following His path.

Thank you to those you gave extra in response to our May newsletter. Thanks to your generosity, we were not in the red for the month. We are grateful to you and to the Lord for His provision.

We are very excited that our son, Tyler, his wife Kris, and their children Connor and Ireland as well as Blake's cousin's daughter, Wendi, her husband Daniel, and their three daughters, Ellie, Lucy, and Markie, will be arriving in a couple of days. What a treat that will be!

Thank you for loving us, for praying for us, and for supporting us.

We love you very much.

Blake & Esther



Praise and Prayers >>>

We are grateful to the Lord for:

- *Safe travel for our family to and from Kisumu.*
- *A valuable time sharing and growing with our Missionary Retreat.*
- *The reintegration of more than 60 girls.*

Please pray the Lord will:

- *Continue to bless our new Counseling Team.*
- *Reveal even more effective ways to educate the boys that will more keenly focus on their needs.*
- *That He will fill us with wisdom, insight and discernment as He directs our paths here at Agape. Also, that our hearts will be faithful and obedient to follow.*



Bringing hope to children at risk

Agape Children's Ministry
PO Box 5062 Modesto, CA 95352
Local: 209.543.9255
Toll Free: 888.572.4273
www.AgapeChildren.org
agapekids@agapechildren.org

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:

- Check
- Money Order

Please make payable to:

Agape Children's Ministry
PO Box 5062
Modesto, CA 95352-5062

- Credit Card
 - Visa
 - Mastercard

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



Can we pray for you? Please let us know how we can help you.

Mailing Address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

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

Automatic Bank Debit (ACH)

Bank Name: _____ Branch: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Transit/ABA No. _____ Account No. _____

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

****Please include a check marked VOID with this completed form****

I/we hereby authorize Agape Children's Ministry to initiate charges and to initiate, if necessary, adjustment entries for any errors to my/our bank account listed here. This authority will remain in 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 a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

(Authorized Signature)

(Date)

Debit/Credit Card Authorization

Visa Mastercard

Name on Card: _____

Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Exp. Date: _____ / _____ V Code: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____

Please deduct a one time gift of \$ _____

Please deduct: \$ _____ monthly

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

For _____ months

Until I contact you to discontinue

Effective date: _____

Signature: _____