



Blake and Esther Gibbs

It has been a little strange for us to be here in America and to not have our tickets already in hand to return to Kenya. We are used to being in Africa for anywhere from three to six months at a time, then returning to the U.S. for about three months, then heading right back to Africa.

That is not the case this time. We are still trying to get our minds around the fact that we are here in America, but aren't sure when we will be returning to Kenya.

There are two important reasons for our situation. First, the Lord has blessed Agape with a remarkable team of young missionaries who are doing an excellent job on the field (and in the U.S., too). In the past, we felt we needed to be in Kenya for longer periods of time to keep things on track and to train and equip our very gifted Kenyan staff. Now, because of the talent, skill, and heart of our missionary team, they are doing much of what we used to do. And, praise the Lord, they are doing it better. They are training and equipping. They are guiding and directing. We are grateful to the Lord they have taken on these responsibilities so well and are expanding the impact Agape is having on children's lives.

Second, because we have spent so much time in Africa we have not been able to share the remarkable things the Lord is doing through Agape as much as we would like with friends and supporters. We hope to do much more of that.

We just completed a two-week trip to Southern California, during which we had the privilege of getting together over lunch or dinner with a number of couples, most of whom we have known but have not been in contact with for more than forty years. Many of them have been praying and financially supporting the ministry for years. What a joy to share with them all the Lord is doing and to re-connect after so many, many years.

So, until we do return to Kenya, we intend to connect with as many of you as possible. We also hope to significantly expand the number of people who know about Agape and want to become part of our Agape family of prayer and financial supporters.

Though we are not in Africa right now, we want to assure you that we are still hard at work on a full-time basis for Agape. We are as busy here as we are in Kenya. In addition to visiting and connecting with Agape supporters around the country, we are still providing direction and encouragement for our missionary team and still actively seeking ways we can improve and grow the ministry. There are tens of millions of street children in the world. We are seeking ways Agape can reach more of them.

Thank you for your love and encouragement. Thank you for your prayers and faithful financial support for Agape and for us personally. We are truly privileged to serve the Lord as missionaries. Without your help we could not do so. Thank you.

Serving Him together, *Blake & Esther*

Jeremy and Leslie Hamilton

Jeremy and I are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Baby Boy Hamilton sometime around March 31st. Since being back in the US, we have hosted a handful of visitors at our house in Colorado, visited the east coast for a baby shower, and are now waiting. I am beyond thankful to spend my last trimester in cool Colorado weather, avoiding the 100-degree temperatures in Kisumu. Meanwhile, Jeremy is attacking some home maintenance projects and enjoying the beautiful Colorado outdoors (he can't help it that all of our visitors want to go skiing!). We are thankful for our time in the U.S. to spend with friends and family, but we are eager to return to Kisumu in June. We miss our Kenyan home, friends, staff, and the kids at Agape. Please pray for us as we adjust to life as parents and prepare to return to Kisumu as a family of three in June.

Jeremy and Leslie

The Page Family

Greetings in the name of our Savior, Jesus! After a whirlwind furlough at home with family and friends in the U.S.A., we are finally back at our second home in Kisumu, Kenya! Over three months, we stayed in 11 different places, moved 19 times, and shared about Agape with 17 different churches, Bible studies, schools, and homeschool groups. Whew! We are so grateful for all of you who hosted us, housed us, and fed us. We are so blessed to have friends and family like you!

Prior to leaving for the U.S.A., we moved houses in Kisumu, so the first thing we had to do upon our return to Kenya was to unpack both our bags from the USA and all of our boxes from our old house in Kisumu. One problem: Rats got into all of our stuff! It was an ugly mess, but we somehow persevered through it, and we are all better people because of it (at least that's what we tell ourselves). After being away for three months, it was also such a joy to reconnect with all of our Kisumu friends. At Agape, I was amazed when I only knew five of the children on campus; almost all of the 50+ children on campus were new and had arrived at Agape in the three months since we left for the U.S.A. in November. It's amazing to see how the Lord has enabled Agape to minister so effectively to former street children to be able to get them back to their families so quickly; keep these children in your prayers!

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support; we couldn't be serving here in Kenya without you!!! Kwaheri (Goodbye)!!!

God Bless, The Pages



Steve and Dianne Warn

Looking back over the last 40 years, we'd have to say that for both of us it's been a grace case. According to 2 Corinthians 9:8-11, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: 'He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor, His righteousness endures forever. Now may He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for your food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.'" As we are making plans for leaving Africa (Lord willing...James 4:13-17) we thought to ourselves that yes, it will be hard to leave. We hope to meet up with many of you in 2015. THANK YOU each for praying and sharing with us and His work here at Agape.

Steve and Dianne

Psalm 33:20-22



Eric and Lisa Kjeldgaard

Agape is the real deal!

It's been five years since we learned about Agape. In that time we've seen every aspect of this ministry. We've watched the amazing Kenyan staff in action. We've followed them through the streets of Kenya, watching them stoop to help hurting kids and seeing them open their Bibles in the city park, speaking truth to kids who don't think God can love them. We've seen staff rejoice when children decide to give up street life, and we've seen them devastated when some children run back to the streets. We've watched staff teach kids to wash their clothes; we've seen them bind wounds, counsel hearts, and lead young ones to Christ. We've had the privilege to walk alongside true saints who serve as Agape missionaries. We've been challenged by them, reprimanded by them, comforted by them, and we've learned from them. We've seen God bring new missionaries to Agape who have extraordinary talents and who are taking all that Agape has learned in 20+ years of ministry and making it better. We've witnessed (and participated in!) the daily grind that happens in the U.S. office—patient answers to phone calls, the processing of donations, the creative process that produces prototypes for ornaments, newsletters, and calendars, the hours spent pouring over financials, and the carefully crafted communications to churches and donors. We've sat in board meetings with an incredible group of wise, talented people who give of their time to help steer Agape. We have seen Agape through and through. And we want you to know that Agape *is the real deal*. Agape is reaching hurting children with the hope of Jesus. Agape carefully stewards each dollar you donate. The missionaries and staff who make up Agape are here because they love the Lord, and they pour everything they have into serving Him. We just wanted you to know.

Lisa for the Kj's

Jonathan and Andrea Dowell

Every Friday afternoon on campus, you can count on a big celebration taking place between 2:45 – 3:30 pm. That is the time when students graduate from our transition class. Transition class is a month-long curriculum that our fantastic curriculum writer, Dianne Warn, developed with the help of our staff. The purpose of this curriculum is to start smoothing out the rough edges of these kids from straight off the streets and begin the process of recognizing the need for help and healing. It is twenty days of lessons in Bible stories, character building, life skills, and group counseling that students begin as soon as they come on campus. Through this class, they start to see the lessons God wants to teach us by looking carefully at some important stories from the Bible and seeing how they apply to us today. The gospel is presented clearly, and the life of Jesus is shared with the children so they might know the hope that comes from having a deep and true relationship with Jesus Christ. They learn how to develop positive character in themselves with God's help, how to be respectful and kind and honor others, including difficult people. They go through twenty group counseling sessions aimed at helping them to identify their feelings and to understand how to deal in healthy ways with both positive and negative emotions. And, they learn critical life skills like decision making, good nutrition habits, and the dangers of drugs and drug abuse. The transition class has made a deep impact on so many children. In this class, they start to see that the problems they faced at home that caused them to run away are the same for others sitting next to them. They start to open up and share about their fears and their concerns, the problems at home, the reasons why they ran away. Through this month-long process, we see children change drastically. They go from scared, sullen children who are filled with hate and anger to children who are emotionally stronger and able to share more about their lives. The process of healing begins. It is a long process, and this month-long class is in no way the end of their time at Agape or their time of healing. But, we've seen time and time again that this class opens the door to allow God's healing and restorative love to come into these children's lives.



That is why you can find us every Friday afternoon singing and clapping and cheering—because every Friday we have a reason to celebrate. Children who have finished the entire month of classes are recognized publicly and celebrated. A garland is placed around their necks. Their teachers share openly about how much they've seen each child change. Each graduate gets a chance to share some of the things they have learned. And, when we're all done, we get to share some juice and cookies together to celebrate the hard work of these graduates. Their work at Agape is not done yet. They still have time on campus for academic support, discipleship classes and individual counseling. There is still work to do. But, on Fridays, we celebrate because so much work has been already been done. They have come so far, and we're excited to recognize them for their accomplishments and to look forward together to what God will continue to do in their lives.

Jonathan and Andrea