

Blake and Esther Gibbs

It is such a joy for us to work alongside the remarkable team of missionaries, including all of our team in America and the amazing staff of Kenyan nationals the Lord has brought to Agape. They are a truly incredible group, and each new day makes us more aware of their dedication to the Lord. They use every skill and talent the Lord has equipped them with to serve Him and to minister to Kisumu's street children.

We wish there was a way we could show you all of them at work. The scope and magnitude of what they do is mind blowing. They are reaching out to children on the streets. They are sharing Jesus on the streets, on Agape's campus, and in the children's homes. They are counseling, mentoring, and teaching. They are reuniting children with their families. They are loving on the children, encouraging them, doing their very best to give them lives of hope and opportunity.

They are also keeping our children safe. They are cooking for them. They are keeping records and writing reports. They are meeting to discuss how we can better help each individual child. They are maintaining our facilities. They are working with officials in the Children's Services Department and the government. They are sharing what the Lord is doing in and through Agape with prayer and financial supporters. They are keeping our books and so much more. All to bring glory and honor to the Lord.

We are grateful to God for every member of our Agape team. Please pray for them regularly. The tasks they face each day are enormous. But, the Lord is more than sufficient to help them meet every challenge. Knowing you are faithfully, fervently lifting them to the Lord is a blessing to every one of them, and, it's essential in carrying out the ministry the Lord has placed on all of our hearts.

Blake & Esther

Jonathan and Andrea Dowell

It's been a busy, busy month! Jonathan spent some time in February in Kitale with a small team of Agape national staff, completing survey and census work on the streets. Agape is prayerfully considering expansion this year, and Kitale is a possible target location. The time in Kitale was full of meetings and planning and dreaming. During this week, Andrea stayed behind in Kisumu, working to keep the house standing and keep our rehabilitation process moving on the Kisumu campus. What a great picture of our strengths! Jonathan – ever the visionary – loved his time of dreaming and exploring and meeting and planning in Kitale. Andrea – ever the doer – enjoyed her week of continuing on in her work and completing tasks on campus and at home. What a dynamic pair we make, perfectly complimenting the strengths of the other. Agape will do another survey and street census in a second city, Nakuru, this month. Be praying for Agape as we seek God's will and direction for Agape in 2016 and consider the possibility of expanding!



Besides these exciting events, we also got a chance to take a small break in February and head to Mombasa with friends. It was a blessing to be able to step away for a few days and enjoy some beautiful sunshine and sandy beaches. We feel very fortunate to be able to enjoy time together exploring another part of Kenya. We know that God has big plans for Agape in 2016, and we feel refreshed and ready for the adventures that lie ahead!

Jonathan and Andrea

The Page Family



In February, Agape sent a street survey and census team for two weeks to the town of Kitale, the first step in discerning if God would have Agape expand its program into the city. While Kitale is only 100 miles north of Kisumu, the trip usually takes about 3 ½ hours by car because the roads are in such bad shape. As you drive to Kitale, you also gain a half mile in elevation; needless to say, Agape's staff froze when the temperatures dipped into the mid-50s at night! We were all so blessed by our time there. We were warmly received by Kitale's government officials, all of whom readily approved our census of their streets.

How do Kitale's streets compare to Kisumu's? A few observations: 1) Kitale's government lacks the infrastructure to properly deal with children's issues. 2) While there are a few Christian organizations that have rescued street children in Kitale in the past, no organizations are currently and/or regularly sharing the Gospel on Kitale's streets. 3) Hundreds of Kitale's street children are "day scholars," meaning that they live at home in Kitale's slums but come to the streets during the day instead of going to school. 4) While Kitale's street children have similar drug issues as Kisumu's, Kitale's streets are not as aggressive and violent as Kisumu's. 5) Some families are sending their children to Kitale's streets to find sponsorships from outside organizations.

Also in February, we met with local government officials in Nakuru, a city 120 miles to the east of Kisumu. We hope to conduct a similar street census and survey in Nakuru in the next two to three months. Please pray with us as we seek to know God's will concerning possible expansion into these two towns. 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

Eric and Lisa Kjeldgaard

February kept us moving! Besides all of the normal KJ life activities of school, wrestling, rodeo, basketball, and doctor's visits, Lisa was busy improving Agape's website and creating the Spring Quarterly newsletter. Eric is helping to coordinate a group visit to Kisumu, working with Agape's accounting firm to prepare the annual Compilation and Tax Return, and also preparing our very first official Missionary Intern to arrive in Kisumu, mid-May.

Nick continues to compete in debate while at college and will participate in the Christian College National Tournament the first week of March. We call it our perfect storm weekend. From March 4-7, Nick will be competing at Point Loma, Jack will have a basketball game and a baseball practice in Oakdale, Chris will have a Rodeo event in Clovis, and we're hoping to have Matt compete in Bakersfield at the California High School Wrestling State Finals. February ended with a great once-every-four-years birthday celebration for Jack (February 29th). Is he 12 now or 3??? A trap shoot at our place with a BBQ sounded perfect for a kid who loves most sports and outdoor activities. I'll add a photo to the next newsletter.

Thanks for caring for us and loving what God is doing in Kenya with some amazing Kenyan staff members and street kids who need hope, forgiveness, and Jesus!

This month I've added a photo that was one of our last family photos before we left Kenya. It's been almost 3 1/2 years since we returned to the U.S. Even though it seems like so long ago that we were there together, all of our hearts still have a very special place for Kenya in them.

From my favorite book of the Bible, I leave you with this, "2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."
James 1:2-4

Eric and Lisa for the Kjs



Jeremy and Leslie Hamilton

Jeremy, Lincoln, and I are thankful for a time of rest with family, friends, and snow back in the U.S. over the holidays. We returned to Kenya in mid-January, ready to hit the ground running for a new year of ministry! I am currently working on finishing up our Nurture Group curriculum so we can add these classes to our afternoon schedule. Our staff received training on Nurture Groups last fall during our Trauma Competent Caregiver training. At Agape, Nurture Group includes 20 lessons that cover 10 topics such as Be Kind and Gentle; Use Your Words; No Hits, No Hurts; Stick Together, and Keep Your Promise. Through various activities and lessons, Nurture Group allows children the opportunity to learn and practice how to give care, seek and receive care, practice autonomy, and negotiate needs. These four skills are essential for developing and sustaining meaningful relationships. Please pray with us as we launch this new class, that it would have a long-term positive impact on our Agape children and their relationships.



Lincoln with his Kisumu baby friends!

Jeremy and Leslie

Steve and Dianne Warn



Recently I was sitting in the back seat of our vehicle with our 5-year-old granddaughter, and, as is our customary habit, Grandma read a story to pass the time. At the end of the feeding of the 5,000 the story line went, "What can you give Jesus?" Without missing a beat, Raquel looked up beaming, "I can give Him my love."

Wow, her response was so spontaneous it caught me off-guard. I wish that kind of answer would flow out of me so naturally. I usually get stuck on thinking about what I can DO for the Lord.

I wonder if that kind of childlike response is more like what Jesus was getting at when he said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27) When I'm loving the Lord freely like Raquel, the overflow of that is to love my neighbor more freely.

These past 9 months have been good for us--among other things we have experienced a "bit of a breather" from the day-to-day intense operation in Africa of interacting with the kids and all the demands and overwhelming needs. Instead of answering the phone 30 times a day and making countless trips to the gate to face the next crisis, we've found ourselves more often in the Word with time to talk to the Lord and meditate, soaking in His presence. It's been refreshing and renewing, more like "Raquel's overflow," and it brings an eagerness to jump back in. We've had great times with family and friends and many of you. That "oneness" (John 17) has energized us; now we are ready to go.

And that's a good thing because we will hit the pavement running back in Kenya this month! With all the exciting plans for expansion, staff training and empowerment play a vital role. Pray for us and our short-term team as we conduct a three-day VBS while our Agape staff undergo training. We are excited that Mike McDonald, a mixed martial arts professional fighter and his wife Rachel, a dancer, will be teaching some of their skills to our kids at Agape and loving on them. We'll also work to strengthen our Celebrate Recovery program! Pray for Julie Styles, as she comes alongside our Agape staff with her ten years of experience in Celebrate Recovery for children. Pray also for nurse John Kelley as he shares with those who are hurting.

Pray that we will all overflow like Raquel in loving Him so that we will love better.

Thanks so much for your support and love! We couldn't do it without you. *Steve and Dianne*